



# Southminster News

Open Hearts  
Open Minds  
Open Doors

September 2025

*Office Hours*  
**Monday - Friday**  
*9am to 4pm*



1011 – 4 Avenue South, Lethbridge, AB T1J 0P7  
Phone: 403 327-3404 \* Fax: 403 320-9863  
Email: [smunited@shaw.ca](mailto:smunited@shaw.ca)  
Webpage: [southminsterunited.org](http://southminsterunited.org)

Find us on Facebook



**Sunday Worship Services**  
**10:30 a.m.**  
*In person or live streamed on Facebook*

## Minister's Message:

It has been a whirlwind summer for me. The 45th General Council of The United Church of Canada was held in Calgary, where I served as the chair of the Planning Committee. The culmination of 22 months of preparation: 80 meetings on Zoom and over 1400 emails! Although not all of the business of the meeting was able to be attended to, most commissioners left rejuvenated by this meeting of the national church, and with a very positive impression of southern Alberta. You'll find an additional article in this month's newsletter (page 5) with details about what happened at General Council 45.

It was very fulfilling work, but also very tiring, I felt like I ran a marathon each of those five days in Calgary. When I returned to Lethbridge, Southminster was hosting Camp Caravan, our joint Vacation Bible School with the other United Churches in the city. I felt like I was only able to offer very minimal support that week, so I want to offer a huge thank you to everyone who took on a role to host the camp, especially Amy, Carol, Joyce, and the staff who were sent to us by Chinook Winds Regional Council.

I was grateful to have an opportunity to recharge my mental batteries with a week in Waterton staying at the United Church. Thank you to everyone from Southminster and Fort Macleod who came out to worship with us. I hope you also enjoyed your time in Waterton. Thank you again to Barb and Dave, and the rest of the board of Waterton United Church for your invitation, MiYeon and I look forward to joining you again next summer.

Looking ahead to our new pastoral year after the Labour Day weekend, we resume our regular programming here at Southminster on Sunday, September 7 with Holy Communion. Our annual "Welcome Back Barbeque" will be the next week on Sunday, September 14 at the Elk's Compound at the river-bottom following worship. The Men's Club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs for us, the rest of the congregation is invited to bring side-dishes, salads, or desserts along with your own plate and utensils to use. It is sure to be an extra special occasion that Sunday, as once our barbeque concludes we will be baptizing two new members in the Old Man River!

Sunday School will also be resuming on September 14, and YOUNited Youth programming will also resume shortly in the fall, keep an eye out for new events at: [www.younitedyouth.ca](http://www.younitedyouth.ca)

At this time of year my thoughts are always with our members with children that are returning back to school, starting school for the first time, or are moving away from home for post-secondary education. September is a paradoxical season of returning to routine or a dramatic change in many people's household; therefore, may God's peace be upon each of your houses this fall.

- Rev. Taylor



## Tuesday Book Club

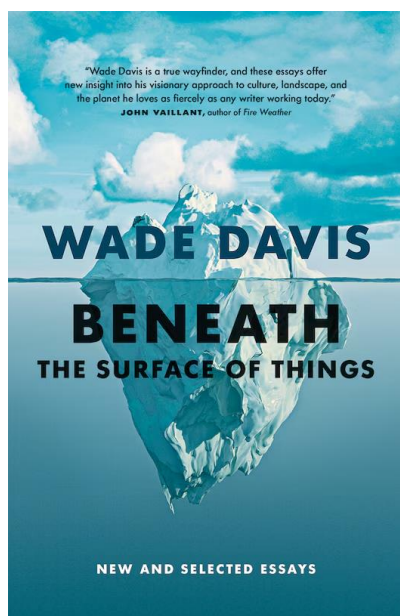
will return from their summer break on

**Tuesday, September 9 at 4pm**  
with conversation on

**“Beneath the Surface of Things”**  
by Wade Davis

In the first session on Sep. 9 at 4pm, they'll discuss the **Intro and Chapters 1-2**, through to page 53.

There will be an option to join via Zoom for anyone who wants to participate remotely. Please contact the office if you require a link for this.



## Recreational Pickleball at Southminster

**Mondays at 4:15pm to 5:45pm**

**All equipment provided!**  
**Ted Coatham will offer a short lesson in the beginning of the class, followed by actual play time.**

**We are offering this court time for FREE! Come and try it out. It's fun!**

## Tad Talks of 2025-2026 begin on

**Saturday, September 20, at 10:30 AM**

During the Church Year 2025 - 26, Tad-Talk will go back to **BIBLE STUDY**. As a starter, we will read "Miracles Stories" in the Bible for a few months. All religions have Miracle Stories as part of their faith. Many people say that is the reason why they do not believe in religion. Let us deal with this problem.

On September 20, we will begin by sharing our own opinions about "Miracles". *Do you believe in Miracles?*

Did Jesus really walk on water?

If not, how do you explain your position about the Bible?



## Fit 4 Life Fridays at 10 am

New  
instructors!

**Group Fitness Class** for all fitness levels, ages and genders. Classes run for about 45 minutes. Exercises are designed to be easily modified if needed, while listening to fun music. All equipment provided, just come wearing indoor shoes and comfortable clothes.

This fall, our fitness class leaders are our own **Gabrielle Dumont** and her co-coach **Nancy** who are willing to share this role.

Starting September 5th, Gabrielle will do the first and third Fridays; and Nancy will do the second and fourth. On any months where we have a fifth Friday, Gabrielle will do Zumba or stretching. Sounds like so much fun – please tell a friend!

The classes will always be a mix of strength and cardio, using different equipment, and appropriate for all fitness levels including seated. The ladies are looking forward to getting started.

by Donation - suggested \$5/person, pay what you can



## *High Tea at the Noble Tea House in High River*

**UCW (United Church Women) has reserved 20 spots on the ground floor for *Saturday, September 13th at 2:30*. Cost is \$60 plus tip.**

**Two spots have recently become available, so if you are interested, you can still sign up on the sheet in the main hallway at the church.**

**If you are driving and have room for others in your vehicle, please let me know. If you have signed up and need a ride, please let me know. Some are planning to make a day of it and go earlier or stay later to check out the shops in the area. It promises to be a fun day!**

**For more information call:  
Wanda Henderson at 403-382-8391**



**We are very pleased to announce the *new* Property Committee Chair, Graham Argyle!**

Pictured above are members of the committee: Russ Henderson, Jason Stone, Mark Stolte, Dave Heatherington, Graham Argyle and Rev. Taylor (ex officio). Missing Doug Doughty.

**A big thank you to Little Caesars Pizza, Taylor Gal for providing pizza lunch on the last day of Camp Caravan.**

Our children and adults enjoyed every slice. If you are thinking of ordering pizza maybe your next order could be from one of their stores, located on the North, South and West Side.

Also thank you for the crazy bread coupons for our kids birthdays this last year.



*Southminster United Church*  
Regular Office hours  
Monday to Friday 9 am to 4 pm



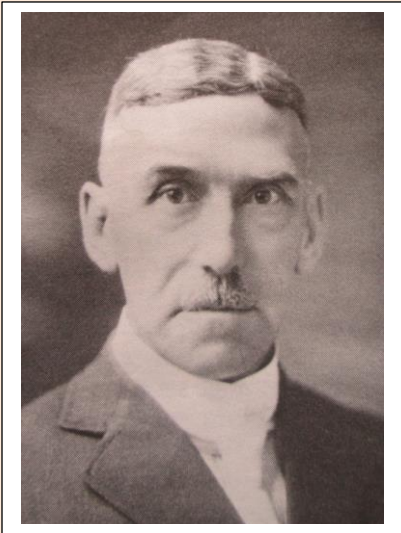
Sunday worship at  
**Waterton United Church**  
on Aug. 24, 2025.

Worship leaders were Rev. MiYeon and Rev. Taylor. Beautiful music was made by the United Church choirs from Trinity UC and Southminster! Thank you to Kade and Chris for the music leadership!



## WALTER GALBRAITH AND THE METHODIST & UNITED CHURCHES

Archives Corner  
by Trish Purkis



**Dr. Walter Stuart Galbraith, a longtime town physician, was a member of the three Wesley Methodist Churches, the Wesley United and Southminster Churches in Lethbridge.**

He was born in Ontario in 1866 and came to Lethbridge for the first time in 1891 as a pharmacist working for Higginbotham's Drugstore. He also assisted Dr. Frank Mewburn, the first doctor in town, with his surgeries. Walter was advised by Dr. Mewburn to return to Ontario and take medical courses at McGill University. He did so in 1895, graduating in 1898 as a medical doctor and returning to Lethbridge soon after to set up his practise.

Walter Galbraith joined the **first Methodist Church** [1886-1904] when he arrived in 1891. When he returned seven years later, he continued his membership in the **second Methodist church** [1905-1913] as a member of the Board of Trustees. He continued his role on the Board of Trustees and it's building committee when the **third Wesley Church** was built [1913]. An interesting fact is that he was chosen to lay the cornerstones for the 2nd & 3rd churches.

Dr. Galbraith was a member of the official board when the congregations of Wesley Methodist and Knox Presbyterian became united churches under the banner of the United Church of Canada [1925]. Another role during his years as a church member was as an elder beginning in September of 1925.

Dr. Walter Galbraith also held many community offices during his lifetime. He was on the public-school board 1904-1912, and medical supervisor for the Public School 1934-39. He was mayor in 1907 and counsellor 1928-1932. He was the first president of the Y.M.C.A., Board of Trade president 1928. The Galbraith School on the northside, which was opened in 1913, was named in his honor.

Dr. Walter Galbraith died in 1939 at the age of 73 years.

### **SOUTHMINSTER UCW TEA & BAZAAR Sat. Nov. 15, 2025 2-4pm** **Planning is on for this year's event!**

**TEA:** *Fancy sandwiches, cookies & squares are served with your choice of tea, coffee or juice \$12*

**BAZAAR:** *\*Baking \*Christmas Surprises \*Jewelry \*Attic Treasures \*Crafts*

- If you are a "Crafter" and have items that you would be willing to donate, please leave them at the church office with your name and suggested prices. Any unsold items will be returned to you.
- If you have items you are willing to donate to "Christmas Surprises" or "Jewelry", please leave them at the church office and indicate on the parcel that they are for the Bazaar.
- Donations of baking are most welcome for the "Bake Table". These can be brought to the kitchen door of the church by noon on Bazaar day for marking. Please label your baking so folks know what they are buying.
- For more information, please call Carol Romses @ 403-327-1345 or Joyce Boisvenue @ 403-359-9323.

*Mark your calendar, plan to attend and invite a friend to come with you!*



General Council is the national governing body of The United Church of Canada.



The 45th General Council was hosted by Chinook Winds Regional Council and held on August 7-11, 2025 in Calgary, Alberta

*Meeting in the centennial year of United Church union, the theme of the 45th General Council was selected by the Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne:*

***Visions and Dreams***

*"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your children shall prophesy, and your young people shall see visions, and your elders shall dream dreams." — Acts 2:17*



**GC45 saw the largest ever Youth Forum at a General Council**  
with 94 participants, 60% of which identified as people of colour. A sign of the changing character of The United Church of Canada.



On Friday, August 8, The United Church of Canada acknowledged and apologized for the many shortcomings and the harm the church has caused to the Two Spirit & LGBTQIA+ communities.



Rev. Taylor served as the Chair of the GC45 Planning Committee. His term ended with the installation of the new Moderator.

## End of July 2025 Financials - by Lori O'Leary, our talented treasurer & gardener!

2025		YTD	YTD	7	Budget	
<i>Southminster United Church</i>	<i>31-Jul</i>	<i>Average per month</i>	<i>Average per day</i>	<i>2025 Budget</i>	<i>Budget per month</i>	<i>Budget Daily</i>
Congregational Collections	80,369	11,481	383	157,000	13,083	436
Designated Recoveries	10,933	1,562	52	22,375	1,865	62
Rentals & Other Income	121,620	17,374	579	188,550	15,713	524
<b>Total Funds In</b>	<b>212,922</b>	<b>30,417</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>367,925</b>	<b>30,660</b>	<b>1,022</b>
Staffing Costs	147,245	21,035	701	264,241	22,020	734
Operating Costs (Office etc)	29,223	4,175	139	52,725	4,394	146
Facility Upgrades	12,543	1,792	256	19,500	1,625	54
Building Upkeep	16,750	1,792	256	20,000	1,667	56
Utilities	23,653	3,379	113	35,750	2,979	99
Committees	3,064	438	15	8,625	719	24
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>232,478</b>	<b>32,610</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>400,841</b>	<b>33,403</b>	<b>1,113</b>
<b>Current Net</b>	<b>(19,556)</b>	<b>(2,193)</b>	<b>(466)</b>	<b>(32,916)</b>	<b>(2,743)</b>	<b>(91)</b>



The gifts of God on your life are not for you; they're for others to benefit through you. You carry what God wants others to have.

You can steward your gift at any given time in one or three ways :

- You can use it to build the Kingdom.
- You can use it to benefit yourself.
- You can neglect it by not using it at all.

~ John Bevere «You Are Called» ~



**Thursday morning Coffee and Conversation in the Lounge**

***continues weekly***

***at 10:30am***

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



## **Canyon Church Camp Update** *By Christina Whittmire, president, Canyon Church Camp*

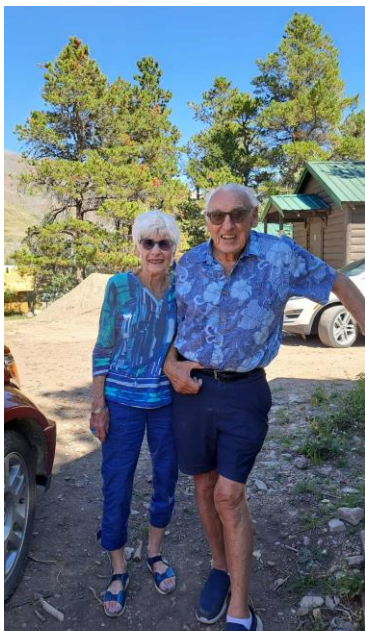
The construction at camp has been amazing this summer. All of the buildings are now up, with metal roofs and hardieboard siding. The generators are running and the craft shack garage door is in place. There are so many exciting updates!

Last week we had a painting day and 10 people worked all day priming the interiors of the upper cabins. There is more painting to be done yet - priming of the lower buildings and 2 coats of paint in each. We also will need to build bunk beds before we can have camps. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me at [whittmirefamily@gmail.com](mailto:whittmirefamily@gmail.com). I would love to take a group of Southminster folks out to paint. Let me know when you are available and we will make it happen! Thank you to Taina and Jason for priming cabin 4 on Sunday! I hope those that were able to tour camp in August are just as excited as I am.

We are still accepting donations for the rebuild. If you know any businesses that might like to sponsor our rebuild or our camp programming, please reach out. We would love to get more organizations involved.

For questions, volunteering, or if you would like to tour camp, contact me. I would love to share the importance of camp with you!

Christina



# September 2025 at Southminster

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship at Southminster 2pm Ken Rogers (S) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)	 <b>Office Closed</b> 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 5-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7-9pm Aurora Choral (UH) 6:30-9 Playgoers (L)	2 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	3 11:45am-2:15pm Musaeus (Ch) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 9-11am Sportball (UH) 6:30-7:30pm Ethel (L) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 6:30-9 Playgoers (L) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	4 9:30 am Line Dancers SMH 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 11:45am-2:15pm Musaeus (Ch) 5:30 pm It's About Music (Ch) 6:45-8:45pm String Orch. (SMH)	5 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 6:30-9 Playgoers (UH)	6 7pm Ken Rogers (SMH)
7 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship at Southminster 2pm Ken Rogers (S) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)	8 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 5-10pm Symphony (SMH) 7-9pm Aurora Choral (UH) 6:30-9 Playgoers (L)	9 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	10 9-11am Sportball (UH) 6:30-7:30pm Ethel (L) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 6:30-9 Playgoers (L) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	11 9-11am Sportball (UH) 9-11am Firefighters' Memorial (S) 10:30 Coffee & Conversation (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:30-6:30pm Sportball (UH) 5:30 pm It's About Music (Ch) 6:45-8:45pm String Orch. (SMH) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	12 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 6:30-9 Playgoers (UH)	13 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) UCW Noble Tea House trip
14 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S) Picnic at Elks Compound after worship	15 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH) 6:30-9 Playgoers (L)	16 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5pm 100 Women Who Care SMH 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	17 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-5:30pm Music Together (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	18 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 4:30-6:30pm Sportball (UH) 5pm Symphony (BR) 6:45-8:45pm String Orch. (SMH) 7-9 pm Symphony AGM (Ch) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	19 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 4:30-6:30pm Sportball (UH) 5pm Symphony (BR) 6:45-8:45pm String Orch. (SMH) 7-9 pm Symphony AGM (Ch) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	20 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 9am Men's Club Breakfast Saturdays at Ten-Thirty— 7pm Ken Rogers (SMH)
21 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) 2pm Ken Rogers (S) 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)	22 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH)	23 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	24 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-5:30pm Music Together (UH) 7-9pm Choir Practice (S) 7-9pm Roberts Academy (SMH) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	25 9-11am Sportball (UH) 11 am-1 pm Blankets for Canada 10:30-12 pm Coffee and Conv. (L) 4:30-6:30pm Sportball (UH) 6:45-8:45pm String Orch. (SMH) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)	26 9-11am Sportball (UH) 10-10:45am Fit for Life (SMH) 1-4pm Private Booking (Ch) 5pm Wedding Reh. (S)	27 8:45-11:45am Sportball (UH) 10am-12pm Musaeus (S) 2pm Wedding (S) 4pm Musaeus (S) Saturdays at Ten-Thirty— Tad Talk?
28 9:45-11:45 am Lutherans (Ch) 10:30 am Worship (S, SMH) Truth and Reconciliation Sunday 6:30-8:30 pm Community Band (SMH)	29 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4:30-7pm Sportball (UH) 6:30-10pm Symphony (SMH) 6:30-9 Playgoers (L)	30 9-11am Sportball (UH) 4pm Book Club (L) 4:30-6:45pm Sportball (UH) 5:30-7pm It's About Music (Ch) 7-9pm Vox Musica (S) 8-9pm Kickboxing (UH)				Southminster Hall (SMH) Sanctuary (S) Upper Hall (UH) Lounge (L) Wesley Room (W) Chapel (Ch) Board Room (BR) Kitchen (K)