



The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian Church
November 29, 2018

Volume LVVII No. 20
www.southminsterpres.com



Advent and Christmas at Southminster

Sundays in Advent

- The Lighting of the Advent Candles
- Beautiful musical offerings of the season by the Chancel Choir, Bells of Peace, and guest performers.
- The Word Proclaimed—This year we focus on Advent as a time “in-between,” miracles that have already occurred and God’s work that is still to come.
- Hymnody of Advent and Christmas

Sunday, December 9

- Community Carol Sing at 5:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to come sing Christmas music for an hour.

Wednesday, December 12 at 12:30 p.m.

- Take a mid-day break to enjoy musical favorites of the Christmas Season, presented by musicians of Southminster Church. Performers include pastors Jeff and Karen, Nicola Juricak, soprano, Larry Williams, viola, and Mark Ball, piano and organ. All are welcome. There is no admission charge.

Sunday, December 17th

- All-Church Family Christmas Party at 5:00 pm featuring light finger food, a holiday story for the kids, favorite carols, and songs of the season by members of the congregation.

Christmas Eve – December 24th

- The Lighting of the Christ Candle
- 5:00 PM -- A Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service including an interactive nativity for children.
- 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, December 30th

- One Worship Service only at 11:00 AM. Coffee Hour at 10:00 AM. No Church School.

INDEX

Advent & Christmas at Southminster 1
 Journey to Bethlehem 2
 Joys and Concerns 2
 Christmas Giving Opportunities 2
 Coffee Hour Hosts/Attendance 2
 Many Thanks 2
 December Birthdays 2
 From the Pastor... 3
 December 2018 Calendar 4
 Advent Devotionals for Households 5
 Money Matters 5
 Book Club 5
 SPW News... 5
 Seekers Class 5
 Inquiring Spirits 5
 Congregational Meeting 5
 Harvesters 5
 Community Carol Sing 6
 Red and Green Breakfast 6
 A Special Christmas Tree 6

The MESSENGER

Jeffrey C. Clayton, Pastor
 Karen Wright, Associate Pastor
 Mark Ball,
 Director of Music/Organist
 Lynn Tolson, Church Secretary

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Christmas Joy Offering envelopes will be available on December 9th for those wishing to contribute.

Christmas Eve Offering

Another offering that is taken at Christmas time is the Christmas Eve offering. All monies collected at our Christmas Eve services go to the Board of Deacons to be used for folks in our community in need, whether it be a tank of gas, a month's rent or some groceries until the next paycheck. Please do NOT use the "Christmas Offering" envelope in your box of pledge envelopes for this offering as the monies are distributed differently (see below).

Special Christmas Offering Envelope

The final Christmas giving opportunity is in your box of pledge envelopes. The white envelope with green and red lettering marked "Christmas Offering" is for over-and-above giving to Southminster. Any monies in that envelope will be used to meet the expenses of the church at yearend.

Have a blessed holiday.



Journey to Bethlehem
Fri., Nov. 30, 6-8 pm
Sat., Dec. 1, 5-8 pm

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Witness to the Resurrection for **Bob Andersen** will be held Friday, December 14th at 2:00 at Southminster. The Christian sympathy of the church is extended to **Betty Jane Robinson** on the death of her husband Warren. Prayers for **Gary Kowaleski** who is recuperating from knee replacement surgery. Continued prayers for **B.J. Diedrich, Walt Gelbach, Bill Kadyk, Jim Klamm, Jim Dollins, Emibel Bruning** and **Suzanne Webb** who are residing in care centers.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

- Dec. 2 - Esther Circle
- Dec. 9 - Christian Ed.
- Dec. 16 - Personnel
- Dec. 23 - Family Life
- Dec. 30 - Rachel Circle

ATTENDANCE

Nov.	11	15 (Morning Light)
		153 (11:00 am)
Nov.	18	32 (Morning Light)
		133 (11:00 am)
Nov.	25	18 (Morning Light)
		59 (11:00 am)



Tom and I want to express our gratitude for Jeff's visit and all the prayers and offers of help from our wonderful church family. Our friends and pastors at church give us incredible support and love. We are so grateful. Thank you so much.

Susan Anderson



December Birthdays

- 1 - Brandy Treaster
- 2 - Don Sallaz
- 4 - Wayne Wilson
- 5 - Erin Hill
- 9 - Pam Nitsche
- 11 - Tori Fry
- 12 - Jacob Vance
- 13 - Kate Shoemaker, Violette Harman
- 15 - Bob Levitt
- 16 - Taylor Fry, Grace Birch
- 20 - Anne Huxtable
- 21 - Calvin Kiefer
- 22 - Steve Hull, Cheryl Ellis
- 23 - Bryan Johnson
Katie Jorgenson, Katie Hughes
- 24 - Nancy Colley,
- 25 - Matt Birch
- 26 - Fritz Hasler
- 27 - Nicole Cunningham
- 28 - Paige Birch
- 29 - Joy Warner, Margaret Miller, Elliott Scorza, Ted Athon Jordan Herring
- 30 - Bill McCrea, Grant Treaster

From the Pastor...

Fear and Hope in Advent

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary..."
--Luke 1:30

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid..."
--Luke 2:9-10

The angelic word during Advent is—Do not fear! Easy for an angel to say, we might think. There are always experiences and events in our lives and in our world that give cause for fear—worries about a loved one who is struggling with serious disease or is facing a difficult challenge; continued turmoil on the world scene and wars that seem to never end; language from leaders that tempts us to fear those who are different in some way than we are—refugees, immigrants, people of a different race or ethnicity or faith.

Yet it is to us, people of faith, that the angelic word comes this Advent—Do not be afraid! And why should we not be afraid. Because the Christmas gospel proclaims that in Christ Jesus, the one who made heaven and earth, the one who has created us and called us by name, has become flesh and dwells among us. This does not mean that we do not feel scared from time to time, or that we do not experience anxiety...such is our lot as human beings. But it does mean that a fear that threatens to overwhelm us and paralyze our life can be overcome when we open our lives and spirits to the one who love us in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God With Us.

The first Epistle of John puts it this way:

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment... We love because he first loved us.
--1 John 4:18-19


The one who came among us as one of us has revealed to us the perfect love of God. And because we are confident that God is with us, understands us, has tasted the fullness of human life, though there are many things that are fearful, we are not overwhelmed by fear. Instead we are inspired by hope and strengthened by the confident faith that God is with us through all things.

There are many voices in our culture and in our world that would seek to create paralyzing fear within us. But the angelic voice, the voice of God, rings out clearly for those who have ears to hear: ***Do not be afraid! God is with us!*** Listen!





December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00 am Family Life (Susan Fiser's) 5-8 pm Journey
2 8:30am Morning Light 9:00 am Joyful Noise 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Called Session, 11:00 am Worship Noon Cong. Mtg. 5:00 pm Club 4-5-6 6:00 pm Youth Group	3 7:00 pm Bells of Peace	4 10:00 SPW Coord. Team (Bev Morris') 6:15 pm Sing & Shout	5 7:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	6 6:30 pm C.E. (Ruth Ann's) 7:00 pm Evangelism (Toni Wood's) B. & G. (Chris Calkins)	7	8 9:00 am 2nd Sat. Breakfast (RJ's) 10:00 am Personnel (Bev Morris')
9 8:30am Morning Light 9:00 am Joyful Noise 9:15 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Comm. Sing 6:00 pm Youth Group	10 7:00 pm Stewardship (Larry McDonald's) Bells of Peace	11 9:30 am Harvesters 6:15 pm Sing & Shout 7:00 pm Deacons (Andy Haun's)	12 7:00 am Red & Green Breakfast 12:30pm Christmas Prog. 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	13 7:00 pm Worship (Liz Thompson's) Book Club (Ruth Ann's)	14	15
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">IHN Host Week 12/9-12/16</div>						
16 8:30am Morning Light 9:00 am Joyful Noise 9:15 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Worship 5:00 pm All-Church Christmas Party 6:00 pm Youth Group	17 Messenger Items Due	18 7:00 am Rachel Circle (1st Watch-Fairway) 10:00 am Lakeview	19 7:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	20 6:30 pm Administration 7:00 pm Session	21	22
23 8:30am Morning Light 9:15 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Worship No Youth Group	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Friends & Family Candlelight Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25  Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27	28	29
30 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Worship No Youth Group	31					



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS FOR HOUSEHOLDS

The Christian Education Committee has purchased devotionals, "God Lifts the Lowly," for households to use during the season of Advent. They were handed after worship on 11/18, but extra copies may be picked up at the Welcome Center in the entry to the sanctuary. May this devotional be a blessing to you.

MONEY MATTERS

Last Day for 2018 Donations

The last day of 2018 falls on a Monday. We will accept donations for 2018 through NOON on Monday, 12/31/2018. Monies received after noon on Monday, 12/31/2018, will be credited on your 2019 statement. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Appreciated Assets

If you would like to make a donation to the church in the form of appreciated assets, such as stocks or mutual funds, please contact treasurer, Pam Nitsche, pnitsche@kc.rr.com, (913)831-2262.



Book Club

The Southminster Book Club will meet **December 13, 7:00 p.m.**, at the home of

Ruth Ann Unruh. We will discuss Letters from Skye by Jessica Brockmole. Please join us! All are welcome and happy reading!



SPW News...

- The next board meeting will be **December 4, 10:00 am** brunch at the home of Bev Morris.
- **2nd Saturday Breakfast**-December 8 at 9:00 am at RJ's, 5835 Lamar, Mission. KS
- **Rachel Circle**-December 18 at 7:00 am, First Watch, Fairway.



Seekers Class East dining rooms (*12/2 choir loft)

December 2* - "Carols Old and New" led by Mark Ball (in the choir loft) We would never do the seasons of Advent and Christmas without "O Come, Emmanuel" and "Silent Night" – but our *Glory to God* hymnal has 26 Advent hymns, and 46 Christmas hymns and carols, many of them written in recent years. Come and enjoy singing and exploring the music, poetry, and rich theology of less familiar Advent and Christmas songs – songs that may become the "old favorites" a century from now.

December 9, 16, 23 – "Incarnation: What does it mean that God took on human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ?" We will talk about incarnation and why it was so scandalous and what it means for us today. Leadership by Pastor Karen.

Inquiring Spirits led by Pastor Jeff December and January Northwest dining room

Now through January 6/13: "The Dead Sea Scrolls and Sacred Scripture" This study will examine the impact of the extraordinary discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls on the understanding of the origin of Christianity out of its Jewish matrix. We will also consider how the discovery of ancient scrolls of books of the Hebrew Bible that pre-dated anything previously available by 700 years has impacted scriptural translation and interpretation.

Beginning January 13/20: "Who Was the Apostle Paul and Why Should We Care"

This study will examine the life of the apostle Paul by studying passages from the Acts of the Apostles about Paul's missionary work and relating that to specific passages in his letters to various churches in early Christianity.

New card tables: The Christian Education Committee has purchased four new light-weight white card tables for the Seekers Class to use in the east dining rooms. These most certainly can be borrowed for other occasions around the church, but we appreciate their use for Seekers' church school on Sunday morning. Thanks!



Sunday, December 2nd at noon for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the report of the 2018 Nominating Committee and electing Elders, Deacons, and Trustees for the Class of 2021.



HARVESTERS

Our next day for working at Harvesters is Tuesday, **December 11**. Meet at church at **9:30 am** to carpool; we will work 10:00-12:00. Please contact Pam Nitsche, (913) 963-5006 (cell), pnitsche@kc.rr.com if you would like to join us on December 11. Hope you can join us.



COMMUNITY CAROL...SING

Sunday, December 9 at 5 p.m.
The music of Christmas is best when it is shared by everyone. Come together for an afternoon of beautiful singing where EVERYONE is the choir. We will sing an hour of favorite carols. Children are welcome. Everyone is welcome. There is no admission charge.

Mark Ball – Song Enlivener

Carols and More Carols!

Everyone is Welcome

Nothing But Carols!

Bring a Friend or A Whole Party of Friends

Singing Carols Makes the Season Brighter

**Mark Your Calendar!
Men's Annual Red & Green**

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

**7:00 a.m. Wed., Dec. 12th
At Perkins Restaurant
11200 West 87th St.
Lenexa, KS 66215**

This year's speaker will be Joe Lauria, the weekend meteorologist for FOX4 news.

A Special Christmas Tree

The IHN Christmas tree will be in the lounge during Journey to Bethlehem and Dec. 2, the first Sunday in Advent. Please consider donating toward \$10 or \$20 gift cards for our current IHN guests and graduates recovering from their homelessness. These will be given Dec. 8 at a special Christmas party sponsored by the local Interfaith Hospitality Network to help provide a few holiday surprises or funds for outgrown clothes and personal needs. Checks may be made out to Southminster with "IHN gift card" on the memo line. Thanks for considering this gift of hope and joy.



RETURN SERVICE REQUEST

Southminster Presbyterian Church
6306 Roe Avenue
Prairie Village, KS 66208