

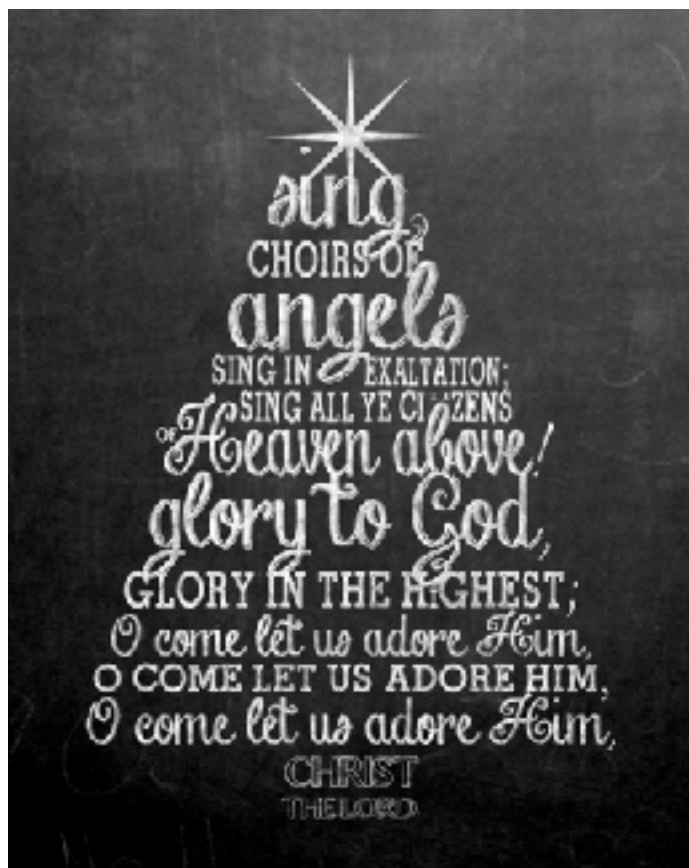


SOUTHMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2016

www.southminstertaylor.org



From the Pastor



The season of Advent calls us to understand the future by reflecting on the past. Advent is about God's coming into our lives and looks forward to a time when Jesus returns to set everything right by looking back at the events leading up to the birth Bethlehem's child. The implication is that the two Advents of Jesus are connected or even intertwined.

The birth stories found in Matthew and Luke are a cauldron of intrigue, paradox, scandal and surprise. The promised child born in Bethlehem's manger was missed by an anxious nation because they were looking somewhere else (Jerusalem) at someone else (Herod the Great) expecting something else (Herod's heir). Demons, the outcast and the dispossessed knew who Jesus was, but those closest to Him were oblivious to God's coming because they were looking in the wrong places for the wrong people doing the wrong things.

Advent encourages us to examine the nativity narratives from our perspective, knowing the outcome, because they teach us something about God's coming into our time and place both in the future and in the present. It's too easy to assume we know what God's messenger looks like or we understand what message they bring or the place where they will appear. If we learn anything from Matthew and Luke, it is that God often surprises us when we ask the simple questions of what, who and where. So in this season of Advent, let us join Joseph as we carefully listen to the angelic messenger and try to let the announcement of what God is doing in our world sink into our hearts and heads. Let us pause with Mary and Elizabeth and be overcome with the awe and splendor of God's coming to particular people in a particular time

and place. Let us be willing like the Magi to set out in search of God's presence believing that God will guide us along the journey. We don't have to know our endpoint to begin our travels. Let us learn from the shepherds the necessity of moving quickly at God's prompting so that we can see God's hand at work in our world.

My prayer for us as a community this Advent season is that we can each come to know the God who breaks into our lives. So may it be!

**...SERVE ONE
ANOTHER
WITH
WHATEVER
GIFT EACH OF
YOU HAS
RECEIVED.**



1 PETER 4:10

Nurture

Wendy Woodley / Marnie Winkleman

Discovery Zone has been going very well. The children and adults have been enjoying this learning time. The lesson of Jesus through Joseph's Eyes is the theme being used for the Advent series.

Children will be learning about the birth of Jesus through activities of Cooking, Games, Art and Drama. The Discovery Zone portion will not be held on Christmas or New Year's Day. On December 25th and January 1st there will be casual worship held at 10 a.m.

All young people are invited to join us on a visit to a nursing home for singing Christmas Carols. The date and time will be announced. The youth will come back to the church for hot cocoa and snacks after caroling. We'd also like to get a group together for swimming at the Romulus Rec. Center during Christmas break. All ages are welcome but the date and time will be determined. Contact Pat Fraser for more details.

Our new youth ministry coordinator, Giovanna Savastano, has been very busy setting an eventful schedule for the older youth of the church. Regular meetings have been set as well as outreach and fellowship activities. The middle school youth group will meet with Giovanna at the church for the regular meeting on December 4th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. December 10th all middle through high school youth will help out at Santa's Magic Forest in Heritage Park. This activity benefits Fish & Loaves Food Pantry. On December 16th the youth will have a sleepover here beginning at 7:00 p.m. until 10 a.m. on the 17th. These are always fun events and Giovanna has special games planned. The first outreach event of the New Year will be on January 5th when the youth will volunteer at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. They will leave the church at 8:15 a.m. and return around 1:00 p.m.

Pastor Clint will be forming a Confirmation class this month for youth wanting to join the church. The person should be old enough and mature enough to make their own decision about joining the church. The first meeting will be held on December 4th after church. A several month discussion and learning time will be conducted for confirmands. Giovanna Savastano will assist Pastor Clint in mentoring the class. Upon completion the youth will be joining the church in the spring. This age group will receive a NLT Teen Life Application Bible from the church. Please let Pastor Clint know if you have a young person interested in confirmation class.

Expression

Michele Hintz / Kandi Wood



As Christmas is a time of Wonder, A time of Celebration, A time with Family and Friends, we need to remember that some don't have the common necessities in life, and others are alone. Our Mission Project this Christmas is the "Season of Giving: ChristNet, Crockpots, Coins, & Cheer", working in cooperation with ChristNet & Fish and Loaves.

Crockpots: We are currently collecting Crockpots, spices, and spoons to create a Crock Pot package, which will also include a Crockpot Recipe packet and a Food Gift card, to be delivered to Fish & Loaves on Dec. 10th. Our goal was 50 Crockpots; thanks to Gardner White Furniture who donated 36 crockpots, combined with member's donations, to this date that number is 56 and growing strong!!!! If you wish to donate some of the items, or monetarily to help when we buy the food gift cards, please see the sign up list after church or contact Michele Hintz or Kandi Wood.

ChristNet: We are planning to provide support to Christnet in caring for the Downriver homeless during the week of Dec 11th. Journey of Hope, located on Pardee Rd just north of Wick, is hosting this week and we are assisting by providing meals and staffing the nights of Mon 12/12, Wed 12/14, and meal assistance only (pizza) on Fri 12/16. If you are interested in signing up for a time slot, please contact Michele or Kandi – we are looking to have minimally 2 men and 2 women each shift during the night (3 shifts/night) and we have plenty of slots still needing to be filled! Come find a time slot that works for you!!!

Coins: On December 3 and 11, we will be collecting quarters for Christnet – these are needed to do all the laundry that is generated and costs quite a bit. Quarters are essential to get the job done!

Additional request from ChristNet: If you know of anyone who may be willing to donate their time to provide haircuts to the clients.

Many wonderful opportunities are available to help the less fortunate and do God's work in the Community. Please consider helping out in any of the areas above – for questions or more information, contact Michele Hintz, Kandi Wood, or anyone from the Expressions Committee.

The Grief Share Program has currently completed its cycle. We will start the next session at Southminster in the spring 2017 – please watch for future details.

Kinyon School Project: We are still looking for volunteers willing to spend some time tutoring/reading with elementary students at Kinyon School. If you are interested, please see Michele or Kandi for more information on how to become involved.

Next meeting: Committee Day – Sunday, Dec 4th at 3 p.m. We would like to encourage anyone interested in joining the Expressions Committee to come to our next meeting and learn about how YOU can help spread God's plans for helping our community needs!

Fellowship

Bryan Gillespie

It's time to take a little hustle and bustle out of the season; relax and spend some fun time with friends so, Southminster will host a Christmas Dinner Party on Sunday, December 11th. There will be a social time at 4:30 p.m. with punch and hors d'oeuvres followed by a catered dinner serving at 5:15 p.m. Menu includes: Broasted Chicken, Beef Stroganoff, Red Skin potatoes, California vegetables, Mac n Cheese, Corn, fruit tarts. We will have holiday carols with a little help from our own talented Dave Calendine...(time permitting as he also has another event prior) & a visit from a very special guest! (Who could that be???)

Tickets are priced \$10 for ages 15 and up, \$5 ages 6 to 14; and 5 years and under are free. We are encouraging ticket purchase ahead of time to help determine an accurate count for food, but tickets will be sold at the door as well. To buy early, please see folks set up at a table in Fellowship Hall following Sunday services or the church office.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!!

Womens Circle

Jan Hinson

A Mitten Tree in the Fellowship Hall is up and ready to be decorated with donated hats, mittens and gloves sized for school aged children. This collection lasts through December and will

then be distributed to a local school and Fish & Loaves Food Pantry.

Thank You

Southminster would like to thank Marylyn Neuder for her gift of Stryker stock. The Neuder family has been very supportive and gracious over the years, and we are blessed that they still consider themselves a part of Southminster family.

Book Club

Joyce Rowley

We gathered on November 11th to discuss Small Great Things. Everyone would definitely recommend the book. We thought it was one of the best books that we have read. The author's writing tends to deal with relevant issues and it was agreed that the issue on which this novel was based was definitely relevant. The basis for this particular novel came from an actual incident in Flint, Michigan.

Note the order of the books that will be read in the coming months:

December 9 – A Christmas themed book of your choice

January 13 – Woman of God by James Patterson

February 10 – Innocence by Dean Koontz

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we always gather about 10:30 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, in either the Double Classroom or Fellowship Hall and are generally on our way by the Noon Hour. We are a very informal group and we always are happy to see new faces. Please remember it is not

necessary to have read the book – if you would like to join us, just to see what our discussions entail, we would welcome your presence. As we always say, “Give it a try – you may find you will like it”, or “life is too short not to try something new” 😊

December Volunteers

Lay Liturgist	Stephanie Pratt
Communion Setup	Mark & Terri Donnan
Pew Patrol	Pat Tucker
Coffee Clean Up	Mary Cline & Scott Barclay
Communion Clean Up	All Deacons

Session Motions and Notes

Connie Dainus

1. Motioned by Rich Pratt and seconded to schedule New Officer Ordination and Installation for Sunday January 8, 2017
2. Motioned by Rich Pratt and seconded to schedule the December 18 meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the Cozier household as a Session Christmas gathering. Motion carried
3. Motioned by Kandi Wood and seconded to accept into membership Mary Denise Wright by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak. By consent

4. Motioned by Rich Pratt and seconded to accept into membership Donald Hardy, Melissa Head and Eric Gillespie by Reaffirmation of Faith. Motion carried
5. The Nurture Committee moves that the current off site field trip driving policy be changed from “driver’s must be at least 25 years old or older” to “Church employee drivers must be at least 21 years or older” and volunteer drivers must be at least 25 years old, pending Church insurance verification. Motion carried
6. Motioned by the Finance Committee that the financing for the Narthex Tree will come from our Stryker stock (donated by Marily and William Neuder) and be dedicated to William and Marilyn Neuder. An engraving will be placed at the base of the tree to reflect this dedication. Motion carried
7. Motion by and seconded to approve the Christmas Offering in support of our Seasons of Giving Offering to be used to support the new ChristNet building. Motion carried
8. Motioned by Building and Grounds Committee to continue our contract for 2017 with Tru-Green Lawn Service, and to sign with McKay’s Lawn service to do parking lot snow removal for the 2016-17 season. Motion carried
9. Motioned by Building and Grounds and seconded to sell the extra pews. Motion carried

Senior Luncheon

Kay Snaddon

Please join us on Monday, December 12th at Noon. The menu will be roast beef, potatoes, vegetable, dessert and beverage. The

usual donation of \$3.00 is appreciated to help defray the cost. It is always nice to get together with our friends and share this wonderful meal.

Mark your calendars for lunch on January 9, 2017, at noon. The menu will be Spaghetti and the usual trimmings.

Calendar Notes

Birthdays December

Patricia Van Hook	12-6	Gary Cash	12-19
Susan Grove	12-7	Shirley Petlicki	12-20
Michelle Nutter	12-10	Scott Fraser	12-20
Tim Barclay	12-13	Andrea Held	12-25
Ken Renner	12-14	Shirley Aue	12-25
Bruce Aue	12-15		

Calendar Notes

Anniversaries December

William & Genevieve Cairns	64 Years
Ron & Dorothy Gillespie	50 Years

Memorials

In Memory of Norm Johnston:

Bill and Jenny Cairns, Arnold & Shirley Aue

Upcoming Dates

1. Committee Day Dec 4
2. Meet Charles Dickens Grosse Ile Pres. Dec. 7
3. Crock Pots delivered to Fish & Loaves Dec. 10
4. Southminster Christmas Dinner Party Dec 11
5. ChristNet Dec 12 & Dec 14



Prayers

For those healing in the hospital:

John Fields (Beaumont, Taylor)

We pray for those healing at home:

Ken Renner, Pat Morton, Sharilyn Bullion, Mary Wright, Joyce Rowley, Nan Bouchard, Arnold Aue, Don Hardy, Elda Moore, Laurie and Tim Barclay, Nancy Gillespie, David Grove

We pray for those needing long-term and emotional support:

Debra Creech, Patricia Kurish, Donna Clark, Joe Kurish (daughters and son of Elda Moore); Katherine Hutchinson; Laura Mount (daughter of Fred Mount); Jerry Pawelczyk (friend of Shirley Petlicki); Ralph Schall (uncle of Hope Lambrix); Kasey Morgan (daughter of Jackie Carlman); Sheila Morais; Dorothy Davies (friend of Judy Nowak); Barbara Willis and Ron Wilder (friends of Terri Donnan); Sue Landis; Kara Westra (awaiting liver transplant 15 yr.old); Tammy Lathrup & family, Mickey Corcoran & family (friends of Stephanie Pratt); Keith Oliver (Nancy Gillespie's grandson); Chuck Stevens; Carol Barnard; Vorrey Holmes; Darcy Matthies; Miriam Soln (niece of Nan Bouchard); Ed Schenken (friend of Jean Page); Brian (friend of Gloria Olsowy); Linda Solis (Sue Grove friend); John Ciado (nephew of Nan Bouchard); Ann Rowley Smith (Joyce's daughter); Brenda Price (Cash family); Michelle Sample (Dale and Vicki Simon's daughter); Sandy Tipshus (Vicki Simon sister); Nancy (Marlene Jones family) Jay Warren (Dave Calendine friend) Patricia Epperson & Phyllis Marken (Pat Tucker family); Kathy Jacobi (Karen Miller sister); Brendon Cozier-school God's perfect & peaceful plan; Kristy McMillan (Patty Lalinsky friend); Alicia Bertine, Ron Torella, (Kandi Wood friends,); Carol Politi Carol Drumm (Shirley Aue friends); Paula Schultz (Laurie Barclay

friend); Wayne Tetz (Terri Donnan family); Linda Dingman (Barb MacDonald friend); Dave Consiglio (Sue Frederick friend); Andrea Green, Karen S. (Daniel Bartok friends); Jamie Crigger (Phyllis Hunt friend); William and Brenda Martnelli (Friends of Southminster)

We pray for those who serve our country:

Our President Elect and Officials; President, Robert Fraser
Bradley Schleicher II, Kevin Moody



Youth

Giovanna Savastano

There are a few different events planned for the youth this month that are especially fun and festive for the Christmas season!

12/4- Meeting at the church for 6th-8th grades at 4:00 p.m. to hang out and have some good conversations as well as look at a lesson from the Bible.

12/10- Youth grades 6th-12th will be going to help out at Santa's Magic Forest to benefit Fish and Loaves! Time is TBD as of right now, but if you are interested please let me know so that we can then let the people at Fish & Loaves know how many to expect!

12/16-12/17- Christmas Sleep-Over! Another event for all of the youth in 6th-12th grade. We will come to the church at 7:00 p.m. Friday night, and spend the evening/night playing games, watching Christmas movies, baking cookies, and just hanging out with each other. It will last until 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. If you are interested in attending or chaperoning, please let me know so that I can make sure there is enough pizza for dinner!

As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please ask!
Thanks guys, and Merry Christmas!

Giovanna

Southminster Presbyterian Church
21845 Wick Road
Taylor, MI 48180

Weekly Worship Schedule:

Family Worship Service	11 am
Discovery Zone (Learning Time)	10 am
Middle and High School Groups	10 am

Return Service Requested

Contains Time Sensitive Information
Please Do Not Delay Delivery