





## From the Pastor

We enter Lent, a time in the church calendar traditionally given over to preparation and introspection. There are new small groups (*The Lord and His Prayer*) gathering on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings. In these groups, we will learn about prayer, we will pray together and for each other, and we will enjoy sharing time with each other. We have a mission project we'll be supporting through

Lent (a continuation of the Ilurisho Primary School project) with both the Easter offering and a Lenten collection being directed to bring water to an area that is experiencing life-threatening drought.

We also have some more pragmatic things taking place in our life together. On Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a meeting of the Presbytery of Detroit in our facility. Our building is just large enough to contain all the things that go into a Presbytery meeting. We will have our hands full finding parking and seating for everyone, accommodating the needs of the Presbytery during the meeting for things like video projection, Internet access and sound, and being gracious hosts to guests in our home. It will take many hands to meet these needs. We have some very practical work to be done in the midst of this season of spiritual preparation.

We are also in the final stages of refreshing some of the public spaces in our building. The tile is laid, the walls are painted and the furniture now welcomes guests in our narthex. The final piece of the project will be a Memorial Tree that will grace the wall of the narthex. The tree is entirely paid for from gifts given to the church by the Neuder family. The tree will be a reminder to all of us that we are building on a foundation we have received from others, and we are building for people yet unseen who will be part of us in the coming years. We both receive and pass on from one generation to the next.

It is sometimes difficult to understand the financial health of our church and the where and why of spending money. Our income and our operating

expenses are in balance (we had a small surplus last year). That means that we spent only what we received from you as gifts for our day to day operation. In addition, Southminster contributes about fourteen percent of our income to mission. Those dollars are expressed in everything from the crock pot cooking kits of last Christmas to the new school building in Kenya to which we contributed. Mission projects are normally funded through your gifts from the general fund. We assume that people want their dollars to be used to express God's love in these very practical ways.

Special gifts, surpluses from year to year, and funds acquired from the sale of assets have been saved or invested. These funds allow us to do important things like refresh part of our building without the need for a fund raising campaign. From time to time, we may through the Session decide to invest some of these funds in our church life or our community. Generous gifts and faithful stewardship have given us the flexibility to respond to God's voice and to needs around us. Thank you.

Faith communities are always a dance between the profound and the practical, things seen and things unseen. Both are our business, both are part of being an intentional follower of Jesus. Please join us this season as we journey together in preparation for Easter.

## Nurture

**Wendy Woodley / Marnie Winkleman**

Looking for a few more consistent volunteers to assist Marlene Jones in the Nursery during Discovery Zone or the worship service.

If you'd prefer watching a Veggie Tale movie during worship with children 4 through 7, we have available spots for you also. Please let Marnie or Wendy know if you can help in one of these areas.

Our Lenten Journey begins on Ash Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>. Lent is the season of repentance and reflection. As we are marked with the cross of ashes on our faces may we grow a closer relationship to the practice of living in the way of Jesus in our world.

On the first Sunday in Lent March 5<sup>th</sup> Pastor Clint will be leading a 5 week series *The Lord and His Prayer* for families during Discovery Zone at 10am. This hour is an interesting, fun way for families and individuals to learn about prayer and the Lord's Prayer in general. The course for adults on the Lord's Prayer will be offered on Tuesday evenings beginning February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and then again using a condensed version on Sunday morning during Discovery Zone through Lent. The adults will be using the book by N. T. Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*. May this course teach us to pray with understanding and confidence the prayer that Jesus taught.

Youth ministry coordinator, Gina Savastano has an outreach event planned for the middle school and high school youth of the church. March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, high school aged youth will go to Ronald McDonald House in Detroit. There they will serve lunch to the guests between 12:00 and 1:00pm and will return back to church around 2:30pm. March 12<sup>th</sup> the middle school youth will go to Ronald McDonald House and serve lunch during the same time frame as the high school youth did the previous week. This outreach provides lunch to families of sick children that stay at the Ronald McDonald House during their child's stay in the hospital.

The middle school aged youth group will meet for a regular meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30pm.

The high school aged youth group will meet for a regular meeting from 5:30-7:00pm on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

The confirmation class will be taking a funeral home tour on March 4<sup>th</sup>. They will also meet on March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 5:30pm

with Pastor Clint and Gina for regular meetings. Upon completion of classes and outings the group will then join the church on Easter Sunday.

## **Friends In Christ**

submitted by Pat Fraser

We will do bowling at Skore Lanes on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> starting at noon. For their \$8, they get 2 games of bowling, shoes, a hot dog and drink. They should plan to bring extra money if they want more food than that. Bowling can make us hungry. Please sign up on the bulletin board by March 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Expressions**

Michele Hintz / Kandi Wood

### Local Outreach

Grief Share is back in session at Southminster on Thursdays at 6:30pm. This is open to anyone who has lost a loved one – please share and invite anyone who may benefit from this opportunity as it is open to the community. There is no cost for this program but registration is helpful to plan for enough materials. For further information, please contact Kandi Wood or the church office.

\*\*\*Also, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to be in the building with Kandi while the session is running – you are welcome to participate in the program if you choose but are not required. We ask that you be available at the church for when she opens it up to welcome guests and to stay during the duration of the program and to help lock up. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for the upcoming weeks/dates that still need a volunteer to help fill the spot.

The Kinyon Elementary School project is now in full swing. We are aiding the school with hopefully both a reading and math assistance program. We currently have 5 Reading Advocates that are paired up with a student needing extra assistance with reading. Each Advocate meets with the student one day a week for a half hour session during school hours. The days and times vary; we are still looking for more volunteers. If you are available during the weekday and are interested in helping, please see Nancy Gillespie or Michele Hintz. You will need to get clearance via the school district, etc.... but we would love to have more Advocates to help!! We are excited to move forward and hope to expand more in the upcoming months.

Christ Child House Project – Expressions is sponsoring Filomena in her senior project for the Christ Child House – a home for behaviorally challenged boys that can't stay in foster homes. Among a number of one-on-one sessions to help these boys, she has asked the committee/congregation to help her by collecting a specific supply item each week that the home needs to care for these boys. The lists with the second round of items were handed out after church a few weeks ago, listing one item each week throughout March that would be focused on for collection. There is a bin in the Fellowship Hall by the Expressions Bulletin Board where anyone wishing to donate can drop their items off. There are extra lists pinned onto the bin as well – please help yourself to a new list. This project will run through late spring. Please see Filomena Savastano or Michele Hintz for more detailed information.

## International Outreach

### LENTEN/EASTER OUTREACH PROJECT: “LIVING RIVERS IN THE DESERT” -

For the Lenten/Easter Season, we will be launching on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> our *Living Rivers in the Desert* project. Continuing on in the Maasai Mari region in Africa, which includes the Ilturisho School that we have supported, a mission group from Montana has discovered a way to effectively bring water to the villages in the surrounding area. Due to gravity fed methods, water will soon be able to be delivered 3.5 KM (2.1 mi) in to these villages which previously required walking that distance to the main tap, and then carrying the water back home. The costs are ~\$10K; over \$3K has already been raised from other sources. As we see this as the Holy Spirit truly at work, we are excited to help assist with the build for clean water.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the committee plans to hand out collection boxes to any family who wishes to participate; we are asking that during each week of Lent, instead of eating out for one meal, that you take that money instead and put it in the collection box. On Easter, we will be collecting all the boxes, as well as the Easter Offering, and all will go to the “Living Rivers in the Desert” Project to help bring clean water to God’s people. Be sure to pick up your box! Any questions please see any member of the committee or Michele Hintz.

Prayers & Pictures for Ilturisho School – during March, the committee will be handing out sheets of paper that will have pictures and prayers on it for anyone to color or send messages to the children at the Ilturisho School. We want them to know we are thinking of them and praying for them; we have pictures of them, and we will send some photos of Southminster to share who

we are, as well as the prayers and colored pictures so they know we are thinking of them. We'll have colored pencils/crayons available after worship in the Fellowship Hall to work on while enjoying your coffee, or you can take them home to work on – we'll be sending them out sometime in April once we have them all compiled.

Next meeting: Committee Day – March 5<sup>th</sup> at 3pm – 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!

## Book Club

Joyce Rowley

Those who finished reading *Innocence* by Dean Koontz, did excellent work of explaining to the rest of us, the symbolism of the “Fogs” and the “Clears” as well as the ending of the story. We were very grateful to those who had read the book from start to finish!!

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

March 10 – The Whistler by John Grisham

**April 7 – No Meeting**

May 12 – The Light Between the Oceans

by M. L. Stedman

June 9 – Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

Sometime between March 10 and April 7 we plan to see the movie, “The Shack”, which was the first book to be read by the Southminster Book Club. Additional information will be available when we have a date, time, and location.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we always gather about 10:30, 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” 😊

## Deacons

submitted by Nancy Gillespie

Easter Basket requests for the needy have been on the decline over the past few years and Southminster has been donating our supplies to other food pantries in the area. This year the Deacons have voted to delete the Easter Baskets and replace them with other food projects to benefit the needy in our community.

When people in need come to our door during Church Office hours with a food request we always give them addresses and phone numbers of where they can go to get assistance. Many of these people are in dire need of something to eat immediately.

Two suggested projects for 2017:

The Deacons will make up several small boxes with food that can be eaten immediately to hand them along with the list of places they can go for a larger supply of food

The Deacons are asking permission from our Session to build and maintain an outdoor *Yard Based Food Pantry* with items that the needy can have access to 24 hours a day. It would be restocked with donations from our church family and eventually it will become a community supported pantry and a way that people can feel like they are making a difference.

## March Volunteers

Lay Liturgist

Communion Setup          Carla Long, Mary Cline

Pew Patrol                  Carla Long, Nancy Gillespie

Coffee Clean Up          Pat Tucker, Scott Barclay

Communion Clean Up      All Deacons

## Session Motions and Notes

Connie Dainus

February 19, 2017

Motioned by Michele Hintz and seconded to grant permission to the deacons to make up small boxes with food to hand to the needy who come to the church for help. Motion carried.

Motioned by Dale Simon and seconded to put together a task force for the Presbytery meeting. Motion carried.

Motioned by Wendy Woodley and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2017 Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation. Motion carried.

Motioned by Dale Simon to organize a Founder's Day to celebrate the Church's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the fall. Will ask Phyllis Fink, Mark Donnan, Dorothy Gillespie and Michele Hintz to organize the event. Motion carried.

Motioned by the Nurture committee that session approve the updated nursery policy. Motion carried.

Motioned by the Finance Committee to amend last month's motion to withdraw \$1500.00 from Morgan Stanley for seminary support by removing that sentence on page 1981 of the minutes register: " \$1,500 from our Morgan Stanley cash account to pay the seminary support payment", because the money was already allocated in the seminary support budget line item 5.1861. Motion carried.

Motioned by 2016 Audit Committee to receive the audit report. Motion carried.

Motioned by Expression’s committee to request that both the Easter Offering and a Lenten One Meal Collection be directed toward the “Clean Water Project” (will be renamed in future) for the school/village that we will be supporting in the future. Motion carried.

Motioned by Building and Grounds to remove the second from the last row of pews on the east side of the sanctuary. Motion carried.

Motioned by Building and Grounds to remove the chalkboard in the senior high classroom and replace with a dry erase board. Motion carried.

Motioned by Building and Grounds to accept the gift of a couch and chair from the Cozier’s for the teen room. Motion carried.

## Senior Luncheon

### Kay Snaddon

Please join us on Monday, March 13th at 12 Noon. The menu will be Corned Beef and Cabbage beverage and dessert. 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. We are starting to have your newsletter placed in the room where lunch is held and you can pick it up at the luncheon. This will help defray mailing costs.

Thank you!

**MENU for April 10<sup>th</sup>** will be Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, beverage and dessert.

## Calendar Notes

### March Birthday

Evelyn Langlands	3-3	Ryan Pratt	3-21
Marjorie Bernadine	3-9	Wayne Held	3-22
Ashley Aue	3-10	Mary Nowak	3-23
Darcy Matthies	3-12	Joan Watson	3-27

Elaine Ciarrocchi	3-14	Dave Fraser	3-27
Jack Maloney	3-17	Dominic Matthies	2-27

## March Wedding Anniversaries

Pat & Vorrey Holmes 3-2 54 Years  
 Greg & Jean Walker 3-4 28 Years  
 Gus & Mary Cline 3-12 40 Years

## Memorials

In Memory of Dorothy Jansen      Marilyn White

## Upcoming Dates

1. Mar.1 Ash Wednesday
2. Mar 2,9,16,23,30 Thursday Grief Share 6:30-8:00 p.m.
3. Mar 2 *Congregational Visioning*
4. Mar 4 Confirmation Class Noon-2:00 p.m.
5. Mar 4,18 Saturday Bowling 6:00 p.m.
6. Mar 5 Ronald McDonald House 11:00-2:30 p.m.
7. Mar 5 Sunday Committee Day 3:00-6:00 p.m.
8. Mar 6 Monday Rachel Circle Noon-1:00 p.m.
9. Mar 6 Confirmation 4:00-5:30 p.m.
10. Mar 7,14,21,28 *The Lord and His Prayer* 7:00-8:30 p.m.
11. Mar 8 Wed Ruth Circle 10:00-11:00 a.m.
12. Mar 9 Worship Committee Mtg. 6:30 p.m.
13. Mar 10 Friday Book Club 10:30-Noon
14. Mar 12 Sunday Daylight Savings Time
15. Mar 12 Ronald McDonald House 11:00-2:30 p.m.
16. Mar 12 Deacon Meeting 12:30-2:00 p.m.
17. Mar 13 Monday Senior Lunch Noon-1:00 p.m.
18. Mar 13 Confirmation Class
19. Mar 17 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
20. Mar 19 Sunday Session 3:00

21. Mar 19 Sunday Youth
22. Mar 22 Wednesday March Newsletter deadline
23. Mar 25 PRESBYTERY MEETING
24. Mar 26 Table Talk with Pastor Clint 12:30-1:30 p.m.
25. Mar 26 Youth 5:30-6:30 p.m.
26. Mar 26 Sunday Sarah Circle 6:30-8:30 p.m.
27. Mar 27 Confirmation Class 4:00-5:30 p.m.

## **Building and Grounds**

**Dave Bullion**

The renovations continue. We are taking steps to try and expedite the completion of the project. I know we are ALL anxious to see the finished product. On the positive side things are progressing : the classroom signage is in place ( Thanks Cathy and Mary ), issues with the doors are being addressed, the tile for the former choir room will arrive on 2-20-17 ( may even be installed by the time you are reading this ).

The “Memorial Tree” is progressing. The artist is making a full size drawing for us to hang in place. We can make changes to it if we need/ want to. I encourage EVERYONE to please keep an open mind and let me know what suggestions you may have as we go forward with this project. I would also ask that we keep an open mind as the tree is directly related to our mission project in Ilturisho.

Keep an eye on the B&G bulletin board in Fellowship hall. We have a number of projects in the works for this year. All of these we plan on doing ourselves (NO OUTSIDE CONTRACTS). Remember, “many hands make light work” .

# Youth

Giovanna Savastano

There are a few events scheduled for the month of March for the middle and high school youth. First we are taking a trip downtown to the Ronald McDonald House in Detroit, to serve a meal. We will leave the church at 11:00, which is during the service, and then return around 2:00. The high schoolers will be going on Sunday, March 5th, and the middle schoolers will be going the following Sunday, March 12th. The next two weeks will just be regular youth group meetings. First, Sunday, March 19th will be for 6th-8th graders from 5:30-6:30, then March 26th will be the 9th-12th graders at the same time.

## Prayers

### For those healing in the hospital:

Joan Watson (Oakwood, Taylor)

Revallee Hutchens (Oakwood, Taylor)

### We pray for those healing at home:

Vorrey Holmes, John Fields, Terri Donnan Ken Renner, Pat Morton, Mary Wright, Joyce Rowley, Nan Bouchard, Arnold Aue, Don Hardy, Elda Moore, Laurie and Tim Barclay, Nancy Gillespie, Sue Landis, 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 (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; 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); 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); Carol Politi, Carol Drumm(Shirley Aue friends); Paula Schultz (Laurie Barclay friend); Wayne Tetz (Terri Donnan family); Dave Consiglio (Sue Frederick friend); Andrea Green, Karen S. (Daniel Bartok friends); Jamie Crigger (Phyllis Hunt friend); William and Brenda Martnelli (Friends of Southminster); Sue Grove tests, Success and understanding and safe journeys to and from school Veronica Dor, Flora Kibong, Yvonne Ngong

**We pray for those who serve our country:**

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

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