



# SOUTHMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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December 2019

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BLESSED  
BE THE LORD,  
THE GOD OF ISRAEL.

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**WHO ALONE DOES WONDROUS THINGS.  
PSALM 72:18, NRSV**



## From The Pastor

### Advent 2019

Our theme this Advent season will be *Common Graces*. Along with the miraculous stories of angelic announcements, signs in the heavens, the virgin birth, and prophecy both given and fulfilled by Simeon and Anna, there are also stories of people who experience God's presence in the ordinary daily stuff of their lives. If we're fortunate, we experience God in miraculous ways during our journey. Occasionally we sense or know God's presence and even God's direction for our lives in ways that are out of the ordinary, even miraculous. But the stories of angels appearing to Mary and Joseph and the shepherds only serve to highlight the other reality: most of the time we experience God in ordinary contexts, in our day-to-day activities; most of the time we experience God's guidance in our lives through a very normal decision making process or through no apparent decision at all.

I find that I experience the Advent season in different ways depending on my larger context. Some years, Fall has a slower pace and I approach Advent with the time and energy needed to contemplate, to look for and even seek out the more immediate coming of God into my life. In those contexts, the miraculous nature of the Advent stories has particular resonance for me, the stories speak to my story. At other times, Fall is hurried and rushed, it feels as though Advent comes way too soon. Sometimes I don't always feel ready for God's coming into my life. Over time, I've come to appreciate the two "kinds" of stories that are woven into the coming of Bethlehem's child: those who experienced God in the special moments, and those who experienced God in the ordinary, common moments and events.

Some of you have seen a vision calling you to Bethlehem this season; you have heard angel voices calling you to the manger. For others, Advent is just a busy season to be completed with a series of rather large tasks demanding your attention. You find yourself swept up with the crowd, moving to the manger through no distinct choice or intention of your own. What matters in the end isn't why we find ourselves at the manger,

but that we raise our eyes from our own journey long enough to see the larger story unfolding in front of us, to see and worship the child.

Grace and Peace

## Nurture

Wendy Woodley

Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Thank you so much to all of the volunteers that do so much to support the Nurture committee, without your support help it would be impossible to do youth programming.

December 1st is the beginning of Advent and the rotation.org series Jesus is Born will be studied through December 22nd. Youth will be learning the events of Jesus' birth taken from Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-7. Discovery Zone will not be held on December 29th or January 5th 2020, as our church will be hosting Christnet warming center for the homeless.

In January, Pastor Clint will be stepping back from leading the 10am Discovery Zone hour and adult Sunday school. The adult group will self-facilitate and are doing a study on the book of Acts by N.T. Wright. The Nurture committee will take over curriculum selection and the organization of the opening for youth Sunday school. Thank you Pastor Clint for leading us in this family learning time! We appreciate the preparation, the thought, time and energy that was required to run this program.

We appreciate the volunteers that have signed up to assist our child care worker Marlene Jones in the nursery. Many weeks, your help has not been necessary due to the lack of nursery aged children in attendance, but please don't stop volunteering. The requirement is for one additional person from 10-11am and one additional person from 11am-12pm, assist Marlene. If you are willing to share one hour a month with our littlest members, there is a sign-up sheet available in fellowship hall on the Nurture board, opportunities to help are still available. Please sign up for the remainder of December and January.

Appreciation also goes out to those volunteers that have signed up to help with the children at the back table during worship. Children under second grade move to the back table after children's time in the worship service at 11am. It is suggested that two people team up and supervise them at the table. Learning materials such as work sheets, coloring pages and simple crafts are provided for you each week. Sign up for your week in fellowship hall on the Nurture board, additional opportunities are still available. Youth volunteers may also sign up to assist our volunteers at the back table one week a month. Please sign up on the board in fellowship hall for December and January.

Sunday evening youth group meetings for the middle and high school aged youth are from 6-7:30pm. Rich Pratt has taken the lead as youth group director. The youth group has named itself the "Daring Disciples." A youth group t-shirt fundraiser kicked off last month and there were over 30 pre-sale orders taken. 50 shirts have been ordered, in white with the logo set upon them. The price will be \$20. each. For those wanting tie dyed shirts, the youth will meet with Nik Stiles and Brittany Drumm for a tie dye session. The color of flames red, yellow and orange will be used for the tie dye shirts.

The youth group is planning outreach activities with the Goodfellows, a back pack food pantry or Santa's Magic Forest this month. Dates and times to be announced.

A winter break swim party at the Romulus Rec Center is in the planning stages. It will be either the last week of December or first few days of the New Year. Usually a day during the week from 1-3pm, meet at the church to carpool, and all ages are invited! Pizza to follow swim time. Date to be announced.

The Women's circles are hosting a bake sale on the first Sunday of each month. Their combined mission project this year has been to provide socks and underwear for children in need at McDowell Elementary School. Sarah Circle meets the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:30pm in the Donnans's home. Rachel circle meets the first Monday of the month at noon, and Ruth circle meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10am.

The next Nurture meeting is December 1st, at 3:00pm. Anyone interested in Christian education or youth activities is encouraged

to attend, all are welcome.

## Expressions

Michele Hintz - Denise Wright

Christmas in the Neighborhood: This year we will again be focusing on being God's Disciples in our church's neighborhood by adopting up to 6 families in need that have children attending the neighborhood elementary schools. We are working with Kinyon and McDowell to receive information for some families that need help at this time (and aren't receiving help from other groups).

We will help in the form of clothing, food, toys, toiletries, crock pots, and any other specific item, such as pet food if they own a pet, if it is needed. This would encompass the entire family – adults included. We are planning to have the names and information out by early December - please watch for updates. We will ask for items to be returned back to the church by Thursday, Dec 19th, with delivery sometime the following weekend. Please let anyone on the Expressions team know if you would like to help in more depth with this project.

Inside/Out Christmas Dinner: On behalf of the Expressions & Church Life Committees, we would like to extend an invitation to the entire Southminster Family to the Christmas Dinner on Sun, Dec 15th.

This year we would like to try something a little different. Out of all times of the year, the holidays can be particularly challenging for many. What we would like each person or family to do, is to spend some time thinking about someone you know who may be having a difficult time right now.

Maybe they are having some financial struggles, or maybe some emotional struggles; Maybe spiritual struggles, or some current physical struggles; Maybe they don't have any family in the area or any support circle... or someone who is just lonely.

Consider inviting that person or family to share our Christmas meal with them.

We would ask that you host them at your table for the meal together. If you can offer a bright spot in that person's journey right now, that may mean the world to them. That's doing the work of God in His kingdom.

So please consider who you may want to invite: it may be a family member, co-worker, neighbor, friend...or even someone within this church family who could use a friend to share a meal with.

There will be a social time starting at 5pm, with dinner following at 5:30pm and the evening will include kids crafts and a special Christmas time story. Cost for the dinner is \$15/person or \$30/family. If you are not able to cover that cost, and/or the cost of your guest, please just let someone on either committee know and plan to come & share a meal anyways. We are asking the Southminster family if anyone may want to sponsor another guest or family, we will be accepting donations to help cover the overall cost of the meal. Hope to see you and a guest at the dinner!

**CHRISTNET:** Southminster will be **HOSTING** Christnet this year for the week of Dec 29th. There was a huge need to have this week filled and we feel Southminster will be able to do God's service by providing shelter for these clients. Allen Park Church & Journey of Hope will also be helping us for this week as we will be assisting them for their hosting week.

Please keep these dates on your calendar and consider now how you can help make someone's holiday a bit brighter with providing shelter, food and conversation. We will have many hours to cover for this week; maybe you will want to help prepare food, or possibly you have a talent for cutting hair and want to donate your time and services one evening for the clients? Maybe you are a crafty person and would like to sponsor an activity one evening, or other hobbies that you might like to share with others? We are open for any suggestions – please see anyone on the Expressions committee if you would like to participate.

We will be organizing a Christnet Core Team to run this project due to all it encompasses – we are hoping many of Southminster's congregation will be willing to help in some form once we have tasks outlined. Please Save the Date for this week!

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 in our Neighborhood!! Hope to see you there!

Next Meeting – Committee Day – Sun, December 1st @ 3pm

## **Downriver Clothing Connection**

Michele Hintz

**EXCITING NEWS!!!:** The room over at Allen Park is completed and bins are labeled and ready to go! We are hosting an Open House/Sorting Party on Wednesday, December 4th from 6-8pm. During this time, you can come check out the room design and also... we have TONS of clothes to sort through and place in bins. If you have some extra time that evening, we would welcome the help of sorting and organizing the clothes we currently have on hand.

There will also be refreshments in their Social Room – Note: for those that can't do the stairs up to the room, we will have a live stream on the TVs in the Social room from the activities on the floor above!! We are grateful to the group that designed the room and put all the work into building it and organizing it – it is much appreciated and we can't THANK YOU enough for all that work!!!!!! Please come out and check out what God is doing in YOUR neighborhood!!!!

**Volunteers:** We are still asking for anyone willing to volunteer their time to help with the DCC – we will soon be filling orders from Kinyon and McDowell out of there, and also another school in Allen Park. Jobs entail sorting clothes, washing clothes, filling orders and delivery to schools – please let Michele Hintz know if you are willing to help or check the box on the tear off tab on the weekly bulletin.

We are still accepting donations of children's clothes only, and any adult sized clothes that a young person would wear. If you bring the clothes laundered already, please note that on the bag so we don't go through the time and expense of washing everything again. The DCC drop off box is in the coat room @ Southminster.

Supplies Donations: We will start also accepting donations of large hand sanitizer bottles and tissue boxes – these are items we will be helping supply as well and the schools always have a need for these!!! Please drop them by the clothing box.



## Book Club

Joyce Rowley

We gathered on November 8th to discuss *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. This was an interesting true story of Trevor Noah, a story that illustrated survival and innovation of a young boy growing up in South Africa in the 1980's. The story followed themes of race, language, family, growing up, history, violence, and masculinity.

The following books were chosen for future reads:

December 13th – *The Girl They Left Behind* – by Roxanne Veletzos

January 10th – *Finding Chika* by Mitch Album

February 14th – *When You're Gone* by Brooke Harris

Please join us, helping us make decisions regarding future books we would enjoy reading in the following months. We are always looking for something new and different to be reading.

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" ☺

## Session Motions

Connie Dainus

October 2019

Motioned by Rich Pratt and seconded to accept with regret Dave Calendine's email of resignation. Motion carried.

Motioned by Dave Bullion and seconded to call a congregational meeting (as per bylaws) on the final Sunday of the month (Oct.27) for the purpose of electing church officers for the coming year. Motion carried.

Motioned by Rich Pratt and seconded to invite the Committee on Ministry to make Southminster available as a neutral pulpit on Sunday morning, October 27. Motion carried.

Motion from the Nurture committee to approve a t-shirt sale youth group fundraiser. Motion carried.

Motion from Nurture committee to allow a youth lock in for middle school and high school aged students on Friday November 1st until 10am Saturday morning November 2nd. Tentatively requesting a raised fire pit bonfire in a location agreed upon by the building and grounds committee. A variance from the Child Safety Policy is requested. Motion carried.

Motioned by Building and Grounds committee to accept the bid (\$125 salt per application. Plowing \$135 2in+/\$215 over 6 in.) from Northern Grounds for our snow removal needs for the 2019/2020 season. Motion carried.

## Building & Grounds

Dave Bullion

Merry Christmas everyone. We on building & grounds are currently formulating our projects for next year. There are no pressing issues so we will be addressing smaller scale projects.

## December Sanctuary Duties

Rich Pratt

### Communion

### Greeters

### Clean Up

Dec 1	Nancy Gillespie	Donnans
Dec 24	Nancy Gillespie	
Dec 8		Bill & Jenny Cairns
Dec 15		Amy DeMattio
Dec 22		Nancy Gillespie
Dec 29		Mary Wright

### Church Life

Gus Cline

Sunday, December 15 at 5:30 pm will be our Inside/Out Christmas dinner for our Church Family and invited friends. Your cost will be \$15.00 per person or \$30.00 family.

This year besides reaching out to local schools and organizations for families who would enjoy a nice evening of food and fellowship, we would like to get you involved in the "Ask" process too. If you have any friends, family, neighbors, and/or co-workers that you might like to invite, please let the church office know. More to come on this on upcoming Sundays. The night of Dec 15th is one you won't want to miss!

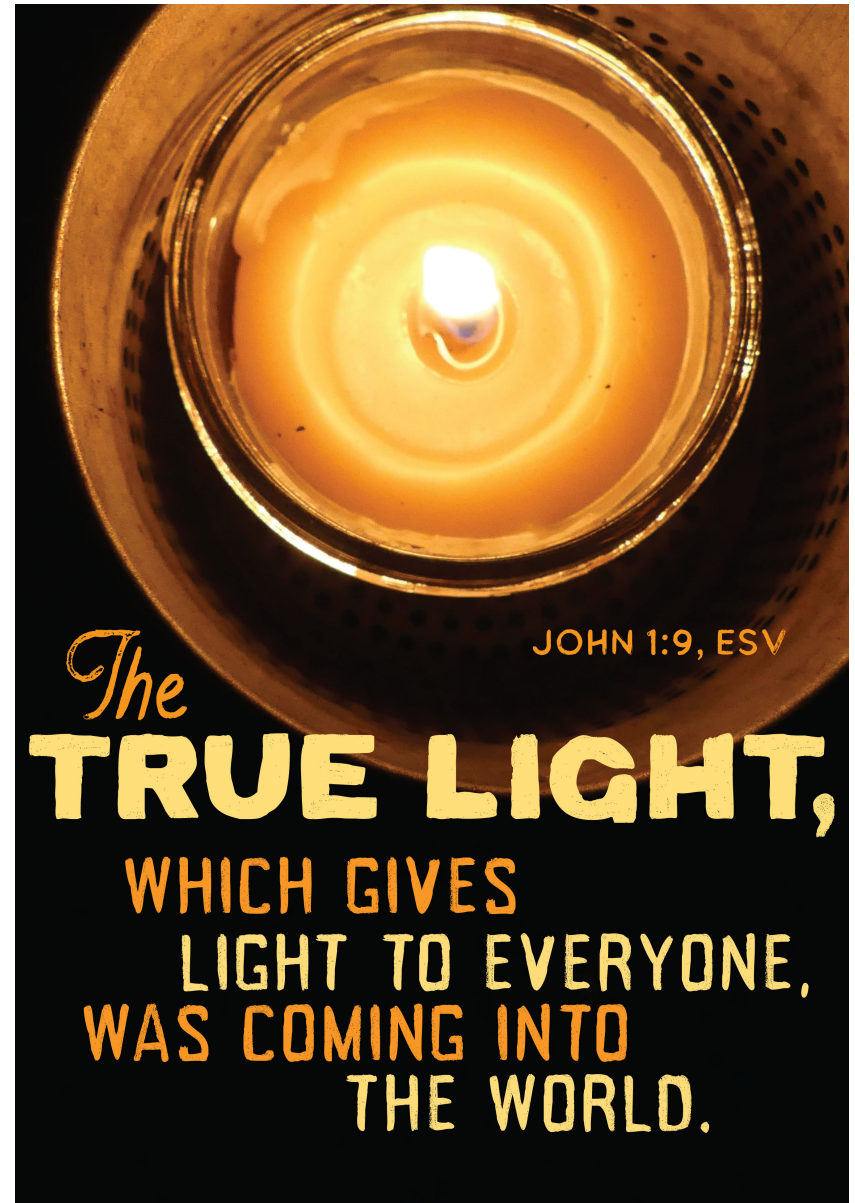
### Senior Lunch

Kay Snaddon



Senior Luncheon

Join us for Senior Lunch December 9<sup>th</sup> at noon when our menu will be Roast Beef with all the trimmings for \$3.00. This is open to all Seniors 55 and older. Plan to attend and bring your friends!



Southminster Presbyterian Church  
21845 Wick Road

Taylor, MI 48180

**Weekly Worship Schedule:**

Family Worship Service 11 am

Discovery Zone (Learning Time) 10 am  
High School Groups 10 a.m.

**Return Service Requested**

Contains Time Sensitive Information  
Please Do Not Delay Delivery