

The Spire

September 2018

www.spcch.org

Southminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship in September

September 16

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
The Reverend Barbara Gorski
Call of Abraham
Genesis 12:1-9



Sunday, September 16, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Family, Friends and Fellowship Picnic
Under the tent at SPC and hosted by Chicagoland Pilgrimage

Join fellow Christians from all over the Northwest suburbs for an afternoon of faith, food,
and fellowship, and learn about attending Pilgrimage Renewal Weekend 2019.
Come share in Christ's love!

September 23

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
The Reverend Barbara Gorski
Joseph in Prison
Genesis 39:1-23

September 30

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
The Reverend Barbara Gorski
Rescue at the Sea
Exodus 14:5-7; 10-14; 21-29



Dear Friends,

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

I want to begin by saying thank you for giving me such a warm welcome to SPCA. Thank you for greeting me following worship and taking the time to stop by my office to say hi. What an exciting time for our church. Together, I feel we are already living into a future with great hope! There is a growing excitement in the air, and plans are in motion for our fall kick off. We have so many ways you can spiritually challenge yourself, and I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities to grow in your faith. Say yes to attending a bible study or say yes to serving the church in a new way; say yes to joining the discipleship group, say yes to God! Thank you for being a part of the future that we are creating right now, and thank you for believing that even in this in-between time, God is at work. I continue to feel "called" to be here with you at this time, and I hope you will find the time to visit me so we can know each other better.

In just a couple of weeks I will be facilitating a women's mini-retreat on Centering Prayer (for more information, see the article below). Perhaps you will consider coming and engaging in a time of quiet reflection. Sometimes we need to pull away from all that keeps us buried in business and simply spend time with God. God is waiting!

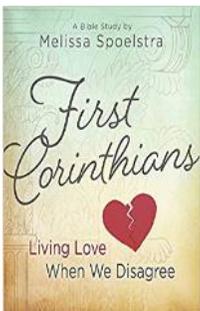
Blessings abound,
Barbara



Are you overwhelmed? Feeling exhausted? Finding it difficult to just be? Would you like your life to slow down for a little while? Then come to Southminster and join us to experience contemplative and centering prayer—an inward meditation—on Saturday, September 22, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Give yourself some time this beautiful fall season to make God present in your life. The Chartres labyrinth will also be available downstairs in Fellowship Hall for you to walk between 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. To RSVP, please email Pastor Barbara at barbara@spcah.org.

Adult Discipling



Today's society exhibits so much disagreement. We witness people not only pressuring others to disagree with another's viewpoint but also wanting them to disdain that viewpoint. We hear this discord every day regarding politics and religion. But can Christians who also disagree on various topics show the world that there is a better way to interact with each other? Our Discipling Team invites you to find out.

Various topics show the world that there is a better way to interact with each other? Our Discipling Team invites you to find out.

Beginning September 23 at 10:10 a.m., join us in the Chapel to hear what Paul had to say to the church in Corinth about their squabbles and disagreements. We'll read excerpts from *1 Corinthians: Living Love When We Disagree* by Melissa Spoelstra, a graduate in Bible Theology from Moody Bible Institute and author of five Bible studies.



Are you looking for a convenient way to keep up with your church offerings? **Just text 73256, type SPCA, and press Send.** The reply text you receive will provide a secure link where you can enter the amount of your gift. Yes, it really is that easy!

You can also give a **gift from your home computer by visiting <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/memberlogin>**. Just enter your email, create a password, and click Sign Up. You will be directed to a secure website where you can give your gift, choose a future time to give your gift/offering, or schedule recurring dates and times when Southminster will receive your gifts/offering.

You can also **access Online Giving from our website at www.spcah.org** by clicking on the About tab along the top of the Home page and choosing Online Giving.

Thank you for your continued, generous support of Southminster's ministry and mission!



Dear Friends,

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

As the evenings get shorter and the air becomes crisper, it is time to welcome a new season. We return to two services this month, and there are lots of exciting opportunities this fall to serve God and those in need.

In my sermon from September 9, we discovered that God created us to be connected to God, to the earth, and to each other. The church is the powerful presence of Christ on earth, and we bring Christ's light to a world in need! If you missed the service, please listen to the message on our web page, and learn how we were created for connection.

Here is a list of a few of Southminster's upcoming opportunities for you to connect: Moms will have the opportunity to connect through a new MOPS group, which will meet the first and third Mondays of the month, beginning October 1 from 10:00-11:15 a.m. Youth will connect at a packing event at Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, September 29. The whole church will connect with our community for a GEM weekend when we will serve our neighbors in need, so save the date for November 3 and 4.

There are many more opportunities for you to connect with God, creation, and each other, so take a look inside this issue of *The Spire* to see all that is happening. How will you connect with your church family this season?

In Christ,

The Reverend Elizabeth Nickerson
Associate Pastor



FIND YOUR FIRE

Join Southminster's New MOPS Group

Join us for an informational meeting,
and find out what MOPS is all about!

Monday, October 1, at 10:00 a.m.

Childcare provided

RSVP to Pastor Liz Nickerson at liz@spcah.org

Get ready to become a woman whose passion and patience inspire those you love the most!

Whether you're a soon-to-be mom, first-time mom, or seventh-time mom, you are welcome here.
Whether you are an adoptive mom, young mom, seasoned mom, foster mom, stepmom,
or any other type of mom, you are welcome here.

www.mops.org/groups/-http--wwwmopsorg-groups-southminster



Dear Friends,

The school year brings a time of transition for families, including new schedules for school, lessons, sports, and other obligations. Gone is the less structured time, as moms breathe a sigh of relief and teachers gear up for a new year. I have planned a whole year of lessons for the SPC Youth that will have several themes, but the main theme this year is learning about Confirmation since we have a large class of Confirmands this year! We will start with the series *Conversations with God for Teens*, then we will go to a series called *Big God, Big Questions*. We will also have some lessons on Bible Journaling and close the year out with another series called *Movies are Prayers*. It's an exciting year ahead for the Youth, with plenty of fun events and retreats planned as well!

I would also like to mention that it really is the perfect time for Pastor Barbara to be leading a mini-retreat for women that focuses on centering ourselves through prayer, as it is a beautiful contemplative practice, like meditation! I especially recommend it for the mothers of our Children and Youth. It will be on Saturday, September 22, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, so mark your calendars!

In Christ,

Kari

Youth Ministry Director

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth have some fun, upcoming events scheduled that you want to make sure you mark on your calendars!



Youth Night

Game Night at SPC

Sunday, September 16, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Special Youth-Only Event

Feed My Starving Children

Schaumburg location

Saturday, September 29, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Help Support SPC Girl Scout Jaclyn Neukirch

Jaclyn Neukirch, daughter of Scot and Ghida Neukirch, needs your help as she works toward her Girl Scout Cadette Silver Award. The Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. It proves leadership, organization, determination, and dedication to improving one's community.

Throughout the month of September, Jaclyn is collecting donations of old pet toys, t-shirts, and blankets to help support two local animal shelters. You can drop off your donations in the box provided in the church's front entryway near the elevator. Thank you for your donations and for supporting Jaclyn in her achievement!





Dear friends and families,

Excitement is in the air! Summer is fading into autumn, and we're all starting to focus on our busy school calendars and homework assignments. Summer camps have been replaced with after-school activities, and families are meeting new teachers, experiencing new schools, and buying new clothes and classroom supplies. There are just all sorts of changes. Remember that transitions can be stressful, especially for kids. Let us be mindful that children need to be eased into this bustling new fall season. Make sure you give your family and yourself some one-on-one time to talk about these changes. Schedule family time when you can all be together to talk about your day and what will be happening in days to come. Answer questions your children may have about their new activities. Ask open-ended questions, and let them express their concerns about these unknowns. It will help everyone transition better.



Something new at Southminster are our monthly **Family Fun Nights**, starting in October. These Wednesday evenings will provide family-fun fellowship activities along with easy, casual, kid-friendly pasta dinners. (There will also be a gluten-free option.) Family Fun Nights will be ideal opportunities for families and friends to schedule time to be together. We meet at SPC from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. All ages are invited for all or part of the evening, whatever fits your Wednesday night schedule. I hope you can take advantage of this fun.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Grace and Peace,

Jill
Children's Ministry Director

Movers & Shakers for 0-4 year-olds



**A Movement, Literature, and Music Class
that Enriches Young Minds**

**Saturday mornings 10:00 a.m.
October 6 - November 17**

Children and their parents/guardians are invited to join this unique Class that improves children's motor skills, language skills, and critical thinking.

7-week session = \$70.00 - scholarships are available

For more information, email Jill - jill@spcch.org

Children and Youth



Jill Schiltz · Children's Director



Kari Sealund · Youth Director

Youth Labyrinth Trip

On August 12, the Youth took a trip to the Earth Wisdom Labyrinth in Elgin, the largest outdoor labyrinth in

Illinois. It was a hot day, but we really enjoyed our picnic under the large tree and the labyrinth out in the country surrounded by forest, prairie plants, and cornfields. The kids even decided they wanted to walk it a second time.



A Great Moana Performance

During service on August 5, our congregation was entertained by SPC and community children who took part in one of our Summer Musical Theater Productions, Moana Medley Bootcamp. They were pumped and ready to perform, and they put on a fabulous show for us! Their talent, energy, and spirit shone through! Hard work + dedication = success for this great bunch of kids!

Below is a sampling of pictures from their week-long bootcamp session. To view more, go to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SPCAH and look at the Moana Medley Photo Album.



Reflections on SPC's Interfaith Group

You are invited to our next Neighborhood Connect **discussion on Sunday, September 16, during the 10:10 a.m. Adult Education hour** when SPC members reflect on their involvement in the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Dialogue.

Did you know that seven of your fellow SPC members have been involved in an interfaith small group with a similar number of Muslims who attend ISNS (Islamic Society of Northwest Suburbs)? We started last December and have been meeting twice a month, alternating meetings at SPC and ISNS, and we've gotten to know each other. Here are some of the topics we've shared:

- Expectations and/or fears of this interfaith group
- Basic identities (birthplace, family, vocation, etc.)
- Passions and/or hobbies
- Information about our families, including photos, influences, and how we've grown
- Favorite verses from our respective Holy Books
- Faith journeys



The goal of this interfaith small group is to break down walls, create genuine friendships, and better understand each other's faiths. In the future we will move deeper into discussing our different faiths and plan one or more social and service events.

We hope you'll join us, hear what we've learned, and see if you might be interested in joining such a group in the future.

Peace & Global Witness Special Offerings



Now may the Lord of peace... give you peace at all times in all ways.
2 Thessalonians 3:16

The second letter to the Thessalonians was written on the same theme as the first: the imminent return of Jesus, and the triumphal resolution of God's plan for all creation. However, the need for a second letter arose from growing uneasiness, frustration, and fear within the church from those who thought this was supposed to have happened already.

God's time was not the Thessalonian's time. Fear and hopelessness gripped the church, resulting in dismay that began to sap the church of its vibrant ministry. Paul wrote to encourage their continued faith and sure hope. In the midst of divisions and discord, he claims a God of peace who can bring peace at all times, in all ways.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering builds on the Presbyterian Commitment to Peacemaking established in 1980. **This offering is traditionally dedicated on World Communion Sunday (October 7) an ecumenical celebration bringing churches together in Christian unity.** If you wish to contribute please mark your gift "Peace Offering."

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals Begin

Sanctuary choir rehearsals begin in September on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. in the choir rehearsal room on the lower level. We welcome anyone who loves to sing and enjoys fellowship with other musicians. We usually enjoy one Sunday off a month, and we prepare music for worship in many styles. Please join us and sing to the Lord a new song! For more information, email Director of Music, Lee Nelson, at leeathomevh@aol.com.



Peace at All Times, In All Ways

Please join us at our Tuesday, September 18, Presbytery Assembly meeting 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church in Naperville. This meeting is going to be a little different. Oriented around the Peace & Global Witness Offering, there will be a variety of enrichment opportunities available before assembly begins for you to engage in dialogue with our community partners and deepen your understanding of peacemaking in Chicagoland and beyond.

This year's meeting is at Knox Presbyterian Church, 1105 Catalpa Lane, Naperville, Illinois 60540. If you'd like to attend the workshops and are interested in carpooling, email Cindy Greenwood at cngrnwood@gmail.com.

For workshop times and more information about the day's events, click here: [Presbytery Assembly Workshops](#).



Journey to the Stations of the Cross

Journey with us to Indiana on a beautiful autumn morning to walk the 12 stations of the cross with friends and a community of faith. Hosted by the Chicagoland Presbyterian pilgrimage community, the Stations of the Cross trip begins at The Shrine of Christ's Passion where we journey on an interactive half-mile winding pathway that begins with the Last Supper and Garden of Gethsemane. When you step onto the Prayer Trail at The Shrine of Christ's Passion, it's as though you've been transported back 2000 years.

On Saturday, October 13, at 10:00 a.m. we'll meet at The Shrine of Christ's Passion and begin our experience through the stations of the cross:



- Forty life-size bronze statues
- Listening station at each setting
- Background music throughout your journey plays on 180 speakers
- Illuminated pathway allows for early evening use
- There is no charge to experience The Shrine of Christ's Passion

After our walk, we'll gather for a meal together. You can bring your own lunch or visit the cafe'. The Shrine of Christ's Passion is located at 10630 Wicker Ave. (U.S. 41) in St. John, Indiana, (35 miles south of Chicago). All are welcome and carpooling is suggested.

For more information, email Jim Peterson at JPMusic23@Comcast.net or call 847.394.1545.

Explore God



Get ready for *Explore God Chicago 2019* by attending either of these two free launch events designed for every Christian who wants to influence others for Christ. This includes pastors, small groups, children, student ministry, prayer leaders, and YOU! You'll receive training and resources to have spiritual conversations where you live, work, and play; share stories in a natural way; explain the gospel clearly; and respond to questions people have about God.

Special guest: Mark Mittelberg, author of the course "Becoming a Contagious Christian."

- **Wednesday, September 19, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., The Compass Church, Wheaton, Illinois**
- **Saturday, October 13, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Moody Bible Institute, Chicago**

Carpooling is available and everyone is welcome to attend. To register and receive your free entry ticket, RSVP to Kathy Erickson at lievph@aol.com or sign up on the kiosk today. You can also learn more by picking up an information postcard in SPC's Welcome Area.

Click on the link to listen to your [launch invite](#)

Small Group Bible Studies - There's Something for Everyone

While life can be full of happiness, it's also challenging and confusing. Do you have questions? Come join an SPC Bible study. Share your thoughts with others just like you, and learn how God works in your life.

Bible Bums Group

You are invited to join the Bible Bums on **Mondays 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., beginning September 10 in Southminster's "Loft" located downstairs.** We provide nourishment for the mind, body, and the soul in a relaxed, casual atmosphere, discussing Scripture, enjoying fellowship, and sharing stories. We're never sure where some of the discussion may lead, but rest assured it's always interesting. We don't follow a script—just Scripture! We hope you'll join us and bring a friend. For more information, email Ed Gudonis egud1@aol.com.

Bible Boys Bible Study

All men are welcome to join the Bible Boys when they resume meeting on **Thursdays 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on September 13 in the Church library.** Our Biblical knowledge goes from beginner to those with many years contemplating the Bible and how it applies to our lives. Each week we start with the Bible, but the conversation soon goes into practical ways we can apply these teachings in our lives. For more information, call Dennis at 224.520.2831 or email dennis.rich007@att.net.

Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study

You are invited to join this group of men made up of all ages and who have a wide range of both Bible and life experiences. They meet **every Wednesday morning from 7:00 – 8:00 at Southminster,** with the goal of learning more about the Bible and how each of them tries to follow Christ in their daily lives. They openly acknowledge their shortcomings, trusting that God's love and grace will cover their faults and help them live lives closer to how Jesus wants them to be. If you have questions or need more information, email Keith North kanorth12@gmail.com.

Growing in Grace Bible Study

Growing in Grace Bible Study returns from summer break, beginning **Tuesday, September 18, and will meet every other Tuesday morning 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. in Southminster's Chapel.** You are invited to join our fall Beth Moore study, *David: Seeking a Heart Like His*. If you've ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, family problems, or personal inconsistencies, this study is for you. This study walks us through the first moments of David's life to his last breath. We learn so much along the way and as the title reflects we can never stray so far that we cannot seek him and his grace to restore us to a heart like his. We hope you can join us for coffee, fellowship, DVD, and discussion. No Bible experience needed. Workbooks are \$10.00. Childcare is available upon request. If you have questions or need more information, call Kathy Erickson at 847.297.8360 or email Lievph@aol.com.

Heart of a Woman Bible Study

Heart of a Woman is a group of women who enjoy each other's company and who always welcome new faces. Please join them when they resume their meetings on **September 18 and every Tuesday 1:15 – 3:00 p.m.** They are continuing their study on the book of Romans. They're only on Chapter 2, so it's not too late to jump right in. You don't need any experience with the Bible or Scripture. These women are very friendly and encouraging, and they want you to enjoy the experience of being in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Come learn how Christ works in your life. If you have questions or need more information, please call Jean Ward at 847.259.6255 or email jeanlward6107@wowway.com.

Spiritual Fitness for Women – NEW!

All women are invited to join this new group to gain wisdom on how to manage the challenges that life throws our way. We will be looking into *Proverbs: Wisdom for Life*, a bible study discussing topics that include choices, friendship, family, and being a woman of integrity. We will meet **every other Wednesday 7:15 – 8:45 p.m. in the church library, beginning September 26.** Books are \$5.00. No Bible experience is needed. For more information, call Kathy Erickson at 847.297.8360 or email lievph@aol.com.

Southminster Annual Shoe Drive

Southminster is collecting new or gently used shoes for its annual Share Your Soles Shoe Drive throughout September. Acceptable shoes must not have holes; still have soles, not worn off on the bottom; clean and can withstand heavy wear.



Shoes of all types and sizes are needed:

Athletic shoes, sandals, school shoes, dress shoes, work shoes, snow boots, flip flops, walking shoes, slippers, soccer cleats, football cleats, wrestling shoes, high heels, etc. The greatest need is always children's shoes.

Shoes can be dropped off through September in the collection boxes located at the front doors by the elevator and outside the church library.

Share Your Soles is a charitable organization dedicated to donating shoes to those in greatest need around the world. They have shipped over 2 million pairs of shoes to over 40 locations in the U.S. and worldwide.

Stomp Out Hunger Worldwide



Southminster's efforts to stop hunger continue this October! Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is in our lifetime, and you can help make it happen.

Please join us to walk on a beautiful fall day to stomp out hunger worldwide. This year's CROP Hunger Walk is **Sunday, October 21, at Kingswood United Methodist Church, 401 W. Dundee Road, Buffalo Grove. Registration is at 12:00 p.m. and the walk begins at 1:00 p.m.**

The SPC Mission Team will be available between and after services on September 30, October 7 and 14 to sign people up to walk. If you are unable to attend the walk, you can still make a donation by going online to www.crophungerwalk.org/arlingtonheightsil and clicking "donate" to help raise funds for our SPC team. Last year, 15 people walked. Let's make it 30 this year! Thank you for helping to end hunger.

What's the CROP Hunger Walk all about?

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

- Stand with neighbors in your community who rely on food assistance program
- Partner with parents worldwide as they ensure a bright future for their children
- Support those struggling with poverty and open up new opportunities for them

If you have questions or need more information, please email Sandy Pifer at lucille111@aol.com. To read more about the CROP Hunger Walk, visit www.crophungerwalk.org.



November 2, 3, and 4

GEM₄ weekend begins with dinner on Friday evening, when everyone gathers to learn about the following day's activities. We then enjoy breakfast at the church on Saturday before going off to do much-needed maintenance on local homes owned by low-income and senior residents. Worship on Sunday includes homeowner testimonials and church member experiences.

Southminster members Jean Walker and Sandy Pifer will again be project co-chairs of this wonderful event. Sandy believes, "We are truly spreading God's love to our community." And Jean says, "The people we help are so appreciative and a real joy to get to know." We hope you'll join this amazing Mission Project weekend. For more information, please email Jean Walker at jw13pr4@aol.com or Sandy Pifer at lucille111@aol.com.

Support charities with a chuckle this September

**HAVE A LAUGH,
HELP A CHILD!**

Shelter, Inc.

**50% OF YOUR TICKET GOES DIRECTLY TO SHELTER, INC.
HELPING CHILDREN AND TEENS WHO ARE ABUSED,
NEGLECTED, DEPENDENT, OR IN NEED OF SUPERVISION!**

If you love comedy and you love helping charities, we have 2 wonderful opportunities for you!

The Shelter is hosting their fall fundraiser on Thursday, September 13, at the Laugh-Out-Loud Theater in Schaumburg. If you would like to help support them, call for tickets at 847.590.6188. Ten dollars of your ticket price will be donated to The Shelter.

Faith Community Homes is hosting their fall fundraiser *Giving Hope* on Sunday, September 30, at Rolling Green Country Club (see their flier in this issue of *The Spire*). It's an afternoon of comedy by standup comedian Kevin Bozeman. Tickets are \$60, and Mary Kay Walsh has reserved SPC a table for eight. If you can join Mary Kay, please call the Faith Community Homes office for tickets at 847.342.0846 or email bit.ly/givinghope18 and let them know you want to sit at the Southminster table. Then please email Mary Kay at mwalsh1018@aol.com or call her at 847.255.5941 to let her know you are coming.

It'll be a wonderful afternoon in support of a great cause!

Habitat Annual Fundraising Event



Spring of Life will hold its fourth annual fundraising event to fund our latest construction project. Our new construction project will provide a home for a family in Elgin. This will be our 16th home.



Sidney Friedman

Multi-Faceted, Internationally
Acclaimed Mega-Mentalist and Musician

"Friedman's show is dynamite!"

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Mentalist to the Stars"

FORBES magazine

"We love Sidney!"

TODAY SHOW

This event is Saturday, September 29, at Harper College.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to our website: www.springoflifehabitat.org
or email Tom Snyder thomaspsnyder@hotmail.com.

Neighborhood Connect

Neighborhood Connect Summer Socials Stories

Below are a few stories and pictures from this summer's Neighborhood Connect Summer Social gatherings:

This summer, Ed and Kathy Gudonis hosted their first ever block party in their neighborhood. Here's what Kathy had to say about the experience: "Everyone loved it! Connections were made, good fellowship was enjoyed, and good food was shared. We surely felt God's hand in this! Honestly, we've lived here 13 years and did not know many of the folks on our block, and the same went for many of them. Plans are being made for more gatherings, and we are grateful to your team for suggesting we reach out and be the love!"

Kathy Erickson's Tea Party Open House

My neighborhood friend Kerin asked to me help her host a Sunday afternoon Tea Party on July 8. We passed flyers around the neighborhood and sent out e-mail invites. Each person was asked to bring a song, poem, story, or artwork to share and talk about. We hosted over 20 people! We shared refreshments and listened to each other's stories.



Different people from different backgrounds found things in common and exchanged phone numbers. I loved the diversity as well as people really listening and learning about one another. God blessed it big time! **Here are some of the thank yous we received:**

I have been missing that type of social interaction with people that believe as I do and have such good hearts. I believe this tea party came together when I needed people like you to be placed in my path. I left Des Plaines in such a good place, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally! What a gift!

Thank you to everyone! I had a wonderful time. What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Thanks again for inviting me to the tea. It was lovely, and I enjoyed meeting all the women (and men) and hearing some of their personal stories.

Kathy Gudonis' Yoga Gathering

We may be "neighbors" on the yoga mat, but now we're neighbors in Christ who know each other a little better! On Tuesday, August 7, seven members of Grace Unfolding Yoga's evening class went to dinner at Armand's in Arlington Heights. Our purpose: to deepen our connection and enjoy good conversation, food, and fellowship. Three women were from Southminster and four from the community. Plans are in the works for more gatherings!



Loving Hands Stitchers

Our **Loving Hands Stitchers** ministry has resumed regular monthly meetings. Our next meeting is Saturday, October 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. Please note: Our November meeting is canceled due to our GEM₄ weekend.

As many of you know, we are a group of ladies who knit, crochet, and sew items for pediatric patients at St. Alexius Hospital; families and new parents at Chris House; the homeless; and cancer patients through Lemons of Love, based in Mount Prospect. We appreciate all the support and donations of fabric and yarn we've received. We can always use yarn and children's **100% cotton fabric**, but we are not collecting plastic bags or accepting wedding gowns at this time. If you or someone you know would like to join our group, please call Jan Tossman at 847.259.2679 or email silkpalette@gmail.com. We would love to have you on our team!



Located directly across from the sanctuary is the Barnabus Room, where you'll find prayer shawls and eventually other items for ailing adults and hospitalized children, who would find comfort in receiving a special blanket, quilt, pressure pillow, or pillowcase. Please feel free to take any of these items and fill out the form provided. You can also call Jan Tossman to let our group know of any special need.

A Win for Justice

We are pleased to report that HB 5341, also known as the F.A.T.E. (Fair Access To Employment) Bill, was signed into law by Governor Bruce Rauner on Friday, August 10. This legislation clarifies that outstanding legal financial obligations like fines, fees, and court costs cannot be considered when reviewing a petition to have criminal records sealed.

A big thank you to all the Southminster members who helped advocate for this law by calling and visiting our state representatives in Springfield and locally.

Effective immediately, as Public Act 100-0776, this bill passed the Illinois General Assembly with bipartisan support led by the Restoring Rights and Opportunities Coalition of Illinois (RROCI) Southminster is part of RROCI through our partnership with the Community Renewal Society.

In 2017, RROCI championed one of the most expansive record sealing laws in the country. But, individuals in Illinois were still facing barriers to sealing their records because of excessive fines, fees, and court costs that they were unable to pay. HB 5341 offered a common sense solution to allow individuals to seal their records and obtain employment to pay their outstanding financial obligations.

William, a CRS leader who will be directly impacted by this legislation says, "This bill will be a tremendous help in my life. As a person with a criminal record, I'm worried about how to pay off the fines, because it's difficult trying to get employment. But thanks to this bill getting passed, I can look forward to a better life after getting my record sealed."

Cindy Greenwood and Linda Waycie
Co-Leaders, Faith in Action Team



Thank you, Southminster

To my dear friends and fellow parishioners at Southminster, just a word of thanks for the honored time in the service on July 29, the gift bestowed on me, and the kind words.

I so gladly shared of whatever minor talents I had with all of you over the years and, frankly, never thought of it as anything special – just enjoyable!

As I embark on my new phase in life, which unfortunately does not include the close proximity to any of you, it is a sad farewell for me. Thank you all for the hugs, kisses, and well wishes.

Yours in His Fellowship
Carol Wilcher



Thank You, Southminster Friends

It's hard to believe that it was nearly one month ago that we moved into our apartment. This move required a leap of faith, as the builder delayed the move-in date from one-two months to eventually six months. But it has definitely been worth the wait! We have our very own washer and dryer and an elevator that eases the burden of carrying groceries.

I would like to share my deepest gratitude to the friends and members of Southminster who saw our challenging two-part move through to the end: Mark Nokes and his crew, Marshall and Sue Hjertstedt, David Abt, Dave and Maureen Cooke, and long-time friend Pat Rehusch. It is a blessing to remain in a great community and have a beautiful place to live. Thank you all for your prayers. Jeremiah 29:11-13

Sincerely,
Amy & Milena Suzuki

Thank you, Volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers who delivered Meals on Wheels in August. It was a hot month with construction work at one of our primary stops!

A huge thank you goes out to Ruth Van Witzenburg, Jeanine Milner Ann Shibayama, John Erickson, Steve Kruse and his son Chris, Pat Mayo, Judy Kating, Marta Mayer, Don Wright, David and Vicki Robery, John and Sue Ziegler, Marie Ann Maytum, and Karey Bourke.

Your efforts and energy made a great difference in the lives of those served!

The “After” People: Stephen Ministers Provide Care in Life’s Crises

Just call Stephen Ministers the “after” people— . . . after you find the pink slip in what’s now your final paycheck; . . . after the doctors have said there’s nothing more they can do; . . . after the relationship ends but the wounds are still bleeding; . . . after family and friends have heard your story one too many times but you still need to talk it out. That’s when the Stephen Ministers step in. Stephen Ministers are congregation members who have been trained to offer Christian support to people struggling through a difficult time.



“A Stephen Minister is somebody who’s going to walk beside you during a time of need,” said Mary Watts, a parish nurse and Stephen Leader at First Baptist Church of Kingsport. “They’re going to hold your hand the whole way. If you want to talk, they’ll listen. If you want prayer, they’ll pray. If you just want to sit there and cry, that’s fine too.”

“Stephen Ministers are there to listen and care—not to try to ‘fix things’ or tell you what to do,” said Bill Crawford, a Stephen Leader at First Broad Street United Methodist Church. “We are the care givers; God is the cure giver,” Crawford said.

*Excerpted from an article by Jessica Fischer and published in Kingsport Tennessee Times News
www.stephenministries.org*

Eat ‘n’ Earn for Chris House



Southminster, in partnership with First Presbyterian Church, invite you to support Christopher House and Eat ‘n’ Earn all day on September 26 and 27 at California Pizza Kitchen in downtown Arlington Heights (Campbell and Evergreen streets).

Print the coupon on the right, and show it to your server to receive 20% of your check, which, in turn, will be donated to Christopher House programs and schools. You can also print the coupon by going to www.spcah.org and going to the “Community Service” page under the “Serving” tab on the Home page.

Dine in, take out, or cater your meal and all beverages. If you have questions, email Judy Kating Jkating@aol.com. Thank you for your support of Christopher House.

SPC Mission Team and C.H. Auxiliary Reps

Pizza with a purpose.

Bring in this flyer or show on your mobile device, present it to your server, and we’ll donate 20% of your check to the organization listed below. **Purchases include Dine In, Take Out, Catering, and ALL Beverages.**

**FUNdraiser in support of:
Christopher House**

Wednesday, September 26th
Thursday, September 27th
(All Day)

Valid at the following location:

California Pizza Kitchen
3 S. Evergreen Road
Arlington Heights, IL, 60005
847.590.0801

Join the **Pizza Dough™ Rewards program** on your next visit or at cpk.com and receive a **free Small Plate** for registering.

FUNdraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profits schools are eligible to participate in CPK’s FUNdraiser program. CPK will donate twenty percent of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine in, take out, online, catering or curbside orders. Not valid for delivery orders. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the FUNdraiser, please contact the organization directly.



Illinois State Legislature CANDIDATE FORUM

hosted by **Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**
1234 N. Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights
Sunday, September 23 from 4:00 to 6:00pm



The forums will be conducted in a nonpartisan manner and with ground rules.

Questions will be posed by moderator **Father Corey Brost of St. Viator's**, and equal time allocated for both Republican and Democrat candidates for each position.

Special attention will be given to topics such as human services, the environment, and poverty.

Following the formal portion of the forum, enjoy an informal opportunity for participants to engage candidates in conversation over coffee.

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Invited Candidates

District 27 Illinois State Senate Candidates
Tom Rooney (R) and Ann Gillespie (D)



District 53 Illinois State House Candidates
Eddie Corrigan (R) and Mark Walker (D)



District 54 Illinois State House Candidates
Tom Morrison (R) and Maggie Trevor (D)



Faith Community Homes presents

GIVING HOPE

annual fall fundraiser

ROLLING GREEN COUNTRY CLUB

2525 E. RAND ROAD ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH • 3-6 PM

join us for an afternoon featuring

STAND-UP COMEDY PERFORMANCE BY KEVIN BOZEMAN
APPETIZERS • SILENT AUCTIONS • RAFFLES • AND MORE!

\$60 PER TICKET

RESERVE A TABLE: 8 TICKETS FOR \$450

TO PURCHASE VISIT: BIT.LY/GIVINGHOPE18

OR CALL FCH OFFICE: 847-342-0846

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Text Your Offering



Are you looking for a convenient way to keep up with your church offerings? Did you know that you can give your gift right from your phone? **Just text 73256, type SPCAH, and press Send.** The reply text you receive will provide a secure link where you can enter the amount of your gift. Yes, it really is that easy!

You can also give a **gift from your home computer by visiting <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/memberlogin>**. Just enter your email, create a password, and click Sign Up. You will be directed to a secure website where you can give your gift, choose a future time to give your gift/offering, or schedule recurring dates and times when Southminster will receive your gifts/offering. You can also access Online Giving from our website at www.spcah.org by clicking on the About tab along the top of the Home page and choosing Online Giving.

Care Ministry / Deacons for September

Every member and friend of Southminster is assigned to a parish, which is overseen by two deacons. Deacons can bring meals to you when you're sick, help provide transportation if needed, pray with you about a concern, or connect you with other resources at the church. Please call the deacons of the month who can connect you with our caring ministry and your deacon.



Nan Gregory
847.392.6763



Bob Haas
773.792.0549

Nan Gregory and Bob Haas are your Care Ministers / Deacons for September

Hello, Friends of the Food Pantry



When shopping this September, please consider donating these needed items:

- Beverages: juice, coffee, tea
- Jelly: strawberry or grape
- Peanut Butter
- Boxed potatoes: mashed, au gratin, scalloped, etc.
- Tuna

As always, thank you for your generous donations. The hungry in our community really appreciate your thoughtfulness. For your convenience, we have also collection bins at Olympic Pool and Pioneer Park.

For Your Marriage:



How Much Does Faith Matter?

Mary's faith has always been very important to her. Her husband, Ted, was raised Christian but now considers himself an agnostic. He's not anti-God; he just doesn't know that God has anything to do with his life here on earth.

This didn't bother Mary when they first got married, but now they have a child who is preparing for Confirmation and asking why Dad doesn't join them at church. Mary also finds herself a little resentful that she and their son go to church every Sunday while Ted sleeps in or plays golf. She feels that they would have a more cohesive family if they could share faith and go to church together. What should Mary do? To read more, go to <https://spcah.org/for-your-marriage/> *Foryourmarriage.com*