

The Spire

Monthly Newsletter

www.spcch.org

January 2019

Southminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January Worship

January 13

"Does Life Have a Purpose?"

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; Matthew 6:25-34

January 20

"Is there a God?"

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Psalms 19:1-4a; Romans 1:19-20, 2:14-15

January 27

"Why does God allow pain & suffering?"

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Job 1:1-12, 13-22

exploreGodTM | 7 WEEKS
CHICAGO | 2019
JAN-FEB



F.R.O.G.

A little over six years ago during my installation service as pastor of Calvary Presbyterian, I received a green frog. The frog was on a spring, and if you pressed its hand, it would bounce all over the place. The frog was given to me by the pastor who preached at my installation service as part of his message on always fully relying on God or F.R.O.G. The acronym was a message to both me and the congregation, as we began our journey together, that no matter the hurdles, the challenges, or even the blessings, to fully rely on God no matter what. I now have that same frog sitting in my office at Southminster, and once again, F.R.O.G. is fresh on my mind as we begin our journey together.

Even though I don't yet have an entire week under my belt, I'm finding myself both giddy and reserved about the future that God has planned for us. Giddy because I'm excited about all the possibilities God could have in store for our journey together, and reserved because we're just getting to know each other, and we don't know just yet where God is going to take us. Regardless, as we all know, it's in God's hands, and our job is to fully rely on God to show us the way. However, one thing I can say that I already very much appreciate about everyone at Southminster is the kind and supportive welcome you've given me, especially in light of my dad passing away. Thank you for all your condolences and support during this difficult time. My family and I feel so loved.

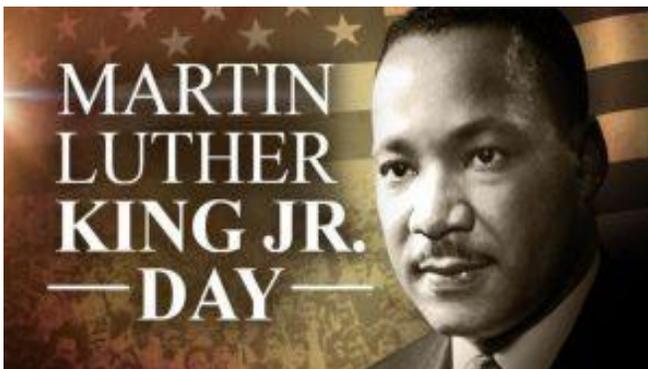
Thank you so much. It's been amazing so far! So, as we begin our journey together, I'm excited and look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you, our church, and what God has in store for us. In the meantime, remember to F.R.O.G.! By the way, the pastor who preached at my installation and gave me the green frog was Steve Pierce.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt Gearke



Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly



Everyone is invited to meet Southminster's Faith in Action Team at First United Methodist Church at 1903 E. Euclid Ave. in Arlington Heights on Monday, January 21 at 7:15 a.m. when we'll board a free shuttle to take part in the Martin Luther King Jr. Faith in Action Assembly in Chicago hosted by the Community Renewal Society (CRS).

Worship with congregations from all over Chicagoland; take part in a Chicago Mayoral Candidates Forum; hear about the new Cook County State's Attorney's justice commitments; and learn about CRS's platform for renewal.

The bus will leave First United Methodist Church promptly at 7:30 a.m. If you're interested in going, please email [Linda Waycie](#) or [Cindy Greenwood](#) so they can save you a seat on the bus.



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! It is a time to reflect on our goals for 2019. What do we need to add to our lives, and what do we need to subtract? The following is from Cathy Irvin, a writer for CBN (Christian Broadcasting Network): "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending" (Author Unknown). After reading this, I really began to think about it. The conclusion is that we don't start over, but we can begin again, right where we are, making things better in our lives. For believers in Christ, it is not about saying I will do this and I won't do that. It is about asking Jesus what he needs from us in this new year. By doing this, our focus will be set on the goals of God.

No matter where we are in our relationship with God, our relationship can always be strengthened. As Explore God starts this month, join a discussion group so you can draw closer to God and discover how you can serve his purposes in this new year. Serving God, rather than ourselves, is truly the way to make this year the best year yet.

In Christ,

Elizabeth (Liz) Nickerson
Associate Pastor



exploreGod™

He Will Do Great Things Through You!

In the 1998 film *Good Will Hunting*, the main character is a twenty-year-old janitor at MIT. He mops the hallways traveled by brilliant mathematicians like Professor Gerald Lambeau. Lambeau finds out that Will, the troubled young man, is a genius. At one point, Lambeau tells Will that he can accomplish things that Lambeau could never do. It's powerful when a teacher says that to a student.

Jesus told his followers they would do even greater things than he did. Imagine how inspiring that would have been. They saw him heal people, perform miracles, confront corrupt leaders, and teach thousands. Jesus did astounding things.

When he walked the earth, he healed many individuals. Since then, his followers have created hospitals that have healed millions. Jesus confronted corrupt leaders. His followers have done the same during some of the most terrifying events in history, such as World War II or the genocide in Rwanda. Jesus educated thousands and closely mentored a dozen. His followers created schools and universities that have shaped culture all over the world in his name.

You never know what Jesus might empower you to do, but you can be sure that wherever you are today, whatever your tasks may be, he desires to live through you to accomplish great things. Believe it!

Consider This:

1. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "They will do even greater things than these"?
2. Do you believe that God will do great things through you?

Take Action:

Set your focus on something that God is calling you to do. Then do it!



Dear Friends,

After a long break from school and activities, families are adjusting to the back-to-school routine this week while the rest of winter lies ahead. But even though we haven't had too much snow and cold since November's winter blast, winter can still seem long and hard, even for kids. Sometimes without snow, the fun part of winter is gone! And while I've seen quite a few kids out enjoying a bike ride, the gloomy, grey days can take a toll on your spirit.

But winter can also be a time to nurture ourselves, our faith, and our families in preparation for the busy spring. For our youth, this is important because self-nurturing is often absent from their daily routine. Their activities are mostly centered around doing things—homework, sports, social media, and getting together with friends. I hope parents and kids alike can find some alone time to enjoy the solace of winter and center themselves in the Holy Spirit. This can include some quiet meditation, reading a book in the Bible, or perhaps writing in a journal.



But winter also has its fun celebrations, and one that's coming up really soon is the Super Bowl! As is tradition, our youth will be making their famous Super Bowl Subs that will be available for pick up after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on February 3. This is a wonderful (and delicious!) way to support our Youth that makes your celebrating even easier. So look for the order forms coming soon!

In Christ,

Kari

Youth Ministry Director

Super Bowl Sub Order Form

Southminster Super Bowl Subs Specials

Sub 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 inch	<input type="checkbox"/> Salami	<input type="checkbox"/> Ham	<input type="checkbox"/> Swiss Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce	<input type="checkbox"/> Pickle	<input type="checkbox"/> Sauce	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 inch	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey		<input type="checkbox"/> Am. Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Tomato	<input type="checkbox"/> Onion		Price: _____
Sub 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 inch	<input type="checkbox"/> Salami	<input type="checkbox"/> Ham	<input type="checkbox"/> Swiss Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce	<input type="checkbox"/> Pickle	<input type="checkbox"/> Sauce	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 inch	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey		<input type="checkbox"/> Am. Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Tomato	<input type="checkbox"/> Onion		Price: _____
Sub 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 inch	<input type="checkbox"/> Salami	<input type="checkbox"/> Ham	<input type="checkbox"/> Swiss Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce	<input type="checkbox"/> Pickle	<input type="checkbox"/> Sauce	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 inch	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey		<input type="checkbox"/> Am. Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Tomato	<input type="checkbox"/> Onion		Price: _____
Sub 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 inch	<input type="checkbox"/> Salami	<input type="checkbox"/> Ham	<input type="checkbox"/> Swiss Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce	<input type="checkbox"/> Pickle	<input type="checkbox"/> Sauce	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 inch	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey		<input type="checkbox"/> Am. Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Tomato	<input type="checkbox"/> Onion		Price: _____

Pick your size, pick your meat, pick your cheese, pick your veggies. Special sauce served on the side.

Total: _____

12 inch sub - \$8.00, 2 for \$15.00

6 inch sub - \$5.00, 2 for \$9.00

Place this order form in Super Sub Order Form Deposit Box in the Welcome Area.

Sub pick-up will be on Sunday Feb. 5, 2017



**Youth Ministry
Fundraiser**

Name: _____

Phone: _____



Dear friends and families,

Dear God,

As we look back over the past year, I pray you see actions that you would be pleased to have us repeat. Help us avoid the mistakes we may have made. Give us the strength and courage to be friendly, to adjust to new surroundings, and be grateful for all you have given us. Amen

"Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way." Deuteronomy 8:2, NIV

Ms. Jill

Children's Ministry Director

A Look Back at Family Ministry 2018



Christmas Pageant



Family Fun Nights



EGGseLent Celebration



Parents' Day Out



Church Picnic

And Looking Ahead to 2019 . . .

Don't miss out on our February Family Fun Night Pajama Party!

Mark your calendar for February 6, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. for a family-friendly dinner followed by activities and fun!

Everyone is invited to Family Fun Night—a night when you don't have to worry about cooking or cleaning up! We begin with a soft start at 5:30 when we'll have dinner (gluten-free option available) and then an activity—sometimes it's a movie; sometimes it's a craft, but it's always something for the whole family to enjoy doing together.

You get to decide when your family shows up and how long you'll stay. **It's okay if you can just stay for dinner or if you can only come for the activities.** Just come as you are, come for the food, come for the fun, and come enjoy yourselves!

For more information, email jill@spscah.org.



explore GodTM CHICAGO

7 WEEKS
2019
JAN-FEB

You're invited to join in a small group discussion that asks the tough questions we all wonder about

Does Life Have a Purpose? Is There a God? Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering? Is Christianity Too Narrow? Is Jesus Really God? Is the Bible Reliable? Can I Know God Personally?

The 7 Big Questions

Southminster Presbyterian Church - in the chapel
10:10 - 10:55 a.m. Sundays, January 13 through February 24, 2019
For information, email Bob at Lievph@aol.com or call 847.312.1649

Coffee and Conversation for Women

Southminster Presbyterian Church - in the chapel
1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Tuesdays, January 8 through February 19, 2019
For information, email Jean jeanlward6107@wowway.com or call 847.271.8087

Explore With Us

Mt. Prospect Historical Education Center
101 S Maple, Mt Prospect (Parking & Entrance Off Busse Road)
7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, January 8 through February 19, 2019
For information, email Dennis dennis.rich007@att.net or call 224.520.2831
or email Jim Bork at jamestbork@gmail.com.

Tuesday Nights for Women

Southminster Presbyterian - The Oasis (2nd floor)
6:30 p.m. a light dinner will be served after yoga / 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Explore God
Tuesdays, January 8 through February 19, 2019
For information, email Kathy at kagudonis@gmail.com or call 847.287.8518

SPC's Thursday Night Men Exploring God

Southminster Presbyterian Church - in the chapel
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, January 10 through February 21, 2019
For information, email Dennis at dennis.rich007@att.net or call 224.520.2831

The Bible Bums Explore God

Southminster Presbyterian Church - in the Loft (downstairs)
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Mondays, January 7 through February 18, 2019
For information, email Ed at egud1@aol.com or call 847.732.5627



Southminster's Mission Team invites everyone to join them on Tuesday, January 15, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. when we'll pack meals at FMSC in Schaumburg at 1072 National Parkway.

Feed My Starving Children's mission is to solve hunger in all third-world countries. Our mission is to pack as many meals as we can in one-and-a-half hours! We always have fun, and the more the merrier. So, sign up with your family and friends, and start the year out by helping others.

Sign up on the kiosk in the church's Welcome Area or call Sue Peterson at 847.508.1996 or email her at speterson403@comcast.net

Hello Friends of the Food Pantry

Happy New Year! When shopping this month, please consider buying the following needed items to help our neighbors in need:



- Beverages (juice, juice boxes, coffee, tea)
- Flavored potatoes (au gratin, scalloped, etc.)
- Peanut Butter
- Rice (plain or flavored)
- Tuna

In 2018, the Wheeling Township food pantry served 5,022 families, equaling 10,438 people! We could not have done it without generous donors, like you. We really appreciate your ongoing support. You embody our mission of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Thanks a million!

Julie Villarreal, MA

Director of General Assistance for Wheeling Township

stephen
MINISTRY. **HELP
HOPE
HEALING**

Are you going through a difficult time?
A Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through a difficult time.
To learn more, contact a pastor or Stephen Leader.

Family-to-Family Christmas Cheer



Thank you, Southminster, for generously supporting our Family-to-Family Christmas project. We provided Christmas presents and Christmas dinner to 24 families (100 people)! A huge thank you to all of our Deacons for their effort in getting everything ready for delivery. Without their help, it couldn't have happened. A special thanks to Thomas Von Oesen, who as Southminster's Santa delivered all the gifts to the Christopher House location with a smile on his face and joy in his heart. Thanks also to Jean Boekenhauer, who is always there to help.

Thank you, Southminster, for another great Christopher House Christmas!



Lemons of Love

A small but mighty group from Southminster finished up some work at Lemons of Love in addition to work done during GEM. Lemons of Love's new location is in Mt. Prospect on the corner of Central and Northwest Highway. During our Gem day, a group of teachers worked at sealing the basement floor and putting together furniture. Thanks to them for their efforts that helped this wonderful charity.

What is Lemons of Love?

Lemons of Love takes inspiration from the expression "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." But when the lemons are a cancer diagnosis and chemotherapy, making lemonade isn't always so easy. Lemons of Love is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that creates, fills, and delivers chemo care packages two doors down, across the country, and even overseas. We know about the little day-to-day challenges that chemotherapy patients are faced with, so we send care packages with a range of goods to help ease the short-term chemo effects. Sending a Lemons of Love chemo-care package is a great way to show someone your support.

For more information, visit <http://lemonsoflove.org/>



Care Ministry / Deacons for January

Every member and friend of Southminster is assigned to a parish, which is overseen by 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.



David McCallum
847.797.1778



Karey Bourke
847.758.1195

David McCallum and Karey Bourke are your Care Minister / Deacons for January

For Your Marriage



It's easy to fall victim to the isolation cold weather can bring. And winter's short days can make you feel sluggish and even depressed, negatively affecting your marriage. But try to break the winter-weather blues by spending some time outdoors on sunny days. Take a walk together to your favorite coffee shop or surrender your stress to a stroll through a forest preserve. Keeping your house well lit also helps keep spirits up. ~ foryourmarriage.org