

The Spire

Monthly Newsletter

www.spcch.org

February 2019



Southminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February Worship

February 10

"Is Jesus Really God?"

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

February 17

"Is the Bible Reliable?"

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

February 24

"Can I Know God Personally?"

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

exploreGodTM | 7 WEEKS
CHICAGO | 2019
JAN-FEB



Explore!

In December of 1911, an expedition led by Roald Amundsen was the first to reach the South Pole. Amundsen and his team arrived five weeks before another team, led by Robert Falcon Scott, reached the South Pole. One team survived, the other did not. Amundsen, due mainly to his experience in polar conditions, understood that explorers need to be flexible, willing to adapt, and above all, cautious. Scott, on the other hand, being a Naval officer, did not have experience in polar conditions and, as a result, made strategic, logistical, and personnel mistakes. In the end, Amundsen and his team made it to the South Pole and back without loss of life, whereas Scott and his entire team while making it to the South Pole, all died on their return. The story of Amundsen and Scott highlights the importance of both preparation and leadership.

As we near the end of our Explore God series, I thought this story was appropriate because we've become explorers ourselves, trekking to the extreme depths of Christianity and wrestling with questions that require us to navigate the difficult conditions of life and faith. Much like a trek to the South Pole, the way we prepared for the trek in will determine our trek out. In the case of Explore God, our hope was that your trek out will lead you closer to God and therefore to a deeper faith.



What do we do after a trek like Explore God? When Amundsen and his team returned from the South Pole, he shared his triumph by writing a book about the expedition. When we finish our trek through Explore God, you'll have the opportunity to share your story as well. On Sunday, March 3, there will be a time for storytelling where we will be inviting you to share your stories of Explore God, if you feel led. The only thing we ask is that you keep your story to 2-3 minutes. We will hear as many stories as time allows. If you are a discussion group leader, please invite your groups to worship on March 3 so we can celebrate our Explore God journey together. All are welcome and we hope to see you there! Also, stay tuned for our follow up to Explore God, including a special series called "Images." More info coming soon!

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

Fighting Cancer Every Step of the Way

Join us when we welcome breast cancer survivor Leslie to share the story of her pilgrimage to the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. Born and raised in Indiana, Leslie now lives in Hawthorn Woods with her husband and their three children and is member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Barrington.

Leslie was diagnosed with Stage IV lobular breast cancer in November 2017 when abnormalities were found during a routine bone density scan. Her cancer was not visible on either a mammogram or a sonogram, as is often the case with lobular cancer hiding in dense breast tissue. This is a failure of the current technology. Leslie now seeks to make a positive impact in advancing the next major breakthrough in breast cancer screening so that more women with breast cancer become survivors. Fundraising during her Camino de Santiago walk in the fall of 2018 was her first means to that end.



Camino de Santiago means "the way of St. James." It is a network of trails through Europe to the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela, where legend has it that the bones of St James, the apostle of Jesus, are kept. Pilgrims from all over the world travel the caminos to reach the Cathedral, walking for personal, health, and spiritual reasons.

Leslie walked the Frances Way, the most heavily traveled camino, 500 miles from where it starts in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, France, to where it ends at the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Traversing the Pyrenees and winding through many villages along the way, Leslie completed the walk in 40 days.

You are invited to join us when we welcome Leslie to Southminster to share the story of her Pilgrimage on Tuesday, February 12, in the Peterson Chapel at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to attend, please rsvp to Jim Peterson at jpmusic23@gmail.com.

It's your road and yours alone. Others may walk it with you, but no one can walk it for you.

~ Rumi



Dear Friends,

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

As we move into February, 2019 is off to an exciting start! The Explore God initiative has caught like wildfire, and we have more people participating in SPC small group discussions than we have in the past five years! God is indeed on the move, as we have welcomed our new Pastor Matt Gearke and are engaging our community by inviting them to our church to explore seven hard questions about our faith! If you haven't participated in a small group yet, it's not too late. Discussions take place each Sunday at 10:05 in the chapel, so come in and join the conversation. You can also see a complete listing of all the small groups being offered in this issue of *The Spire*.

This month we'll strengthen our faith, and next month is Mission month when we'll learn how SPC puts its faith into action. We'll have great speakers who will talk about how we use our feet and our funds to help those in need. It may be cold outside, but your soul will be warmed here on Sundays. So, you won't want to miss a service or anything that's happening!

In Christ's care,

The Reverend Elizabeth Nickerson
Associate Pastor

New Explore God Small Group is forming NOW!

Beginning Thursday, February 14, at 10:30 a.m. in the Activity Room at Church Creek Retirement Community, 1250 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights. 847.506.3200. The group facilitator is John Riggs, and the SPC Recruiter is George Egner. If you are interested in joining this group, call George at 847.506.7218.

exploreGod™

Who Is God?

What seems clear is that to discover if God exists—and, if so, who he is—we must start by seeking him.

Those who come to believe in the existence of an infinite, all-powerful God have all asked questions: Who is God? Is he personal? How can I know him?

For God to be a personal God, he must be knowable and he must be interested in relationship—that's the very definition of "personal." In the Christian understanding, God is indelibly interested in a relationship with every person on earth—God actually pursues these relationships.

Countless stories tell of adamant atheists and skeptics—C. S. Lewis, Lee Strobel, Francis Collins, just to name a few—who have established a connection with God after having felt relentlessly pursued by him. Many of these men and women have felt that God wanted to be known by them.

Have you ever looked back on your life and realized that if x and y hadn't happened at exactly the right time, you never would have made it to z? Perhaps God was involved in these situations. Perhaps while we aren't looking—or even are actively seeking not to see God—God is looking for us.

Perhaps the key to knowing God rests in simply making a decision to seek him in return.

Consider This:

1. What about God intrigues you the most?
2. Do you find yourself unwilling to look for God? If so, why is that?

Take Action:

Make an effort to keep your mind open to the possibility that God exists and is knowable. Write down the things that are standing in the way of you doing so and be conscious of them.



Dear Friends,

The SPC Youth are really excited about our upcoming retreat this February when we'll go to Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva to enjoy a winter wonderland weekend full of outdoor and indoor fun. This year's Winter Camp theme is *Expedition!*

"Expeditions are awesome!

There is adventure, and risk, and challenge. Expeditions require a bunch of different people to do a bunch of different jobs, all to accomplish a common purpose. And this is what Jesus invites us into. This is what Jesus invites you into."

~ Mark LaMaster, staff at Covenant Harbor

We will be joining other youth groups in the area and exploring outdoor activities, like ziplining, broomball (which is hockey with a broom instead of a hockey stick on the frozen waters of Lake Geneva), curling, sledding, tubing as well as indoor fun, including a climbing wall, mini golf, and a game room.

We hope members of our church family can also find an expedition of their own that's made up of something exciting and adventurous and requires you to work together to further God's Kingdom here!

In Christ,

Karí

Youth Ministry Director



A Sub-tacular Success!



Our SPC Youth had so much fun building Super Bowl Subs for you all to enjoy. Thank you so much for supporting us! Our fundraisers help us with our mission work and the costs of trips and retreats.



Over 8 hours of prep!

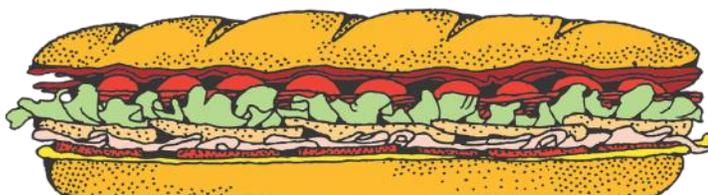


Over 100 subs ordered!



Over \$800 raised!

Thank You!



*Southminster's Youth Ministry
invites you to an all-church event!*



Sears Centre Arena

Friday, March 15, 2019

Doors Open 6:00 p.m.

Game Time 7:00 p.m.

Southminster Faith and Family Night

Tickets \$20.00

includes lower-level ticket & voucher for a hot dog, chips, & a drink

Parking \$10.00

per vehicle at all lots (CASH ONLY)

Enjoy a concert after the game and
see Southminster's name up on the Jumbotron!

Select your seat location and pay online.
Use the following link to order your tickets
from our block of reserved seats.

<https://groupmatics.events/event/SMPChurch2019>

For more information, email Kari@spcah.org | 847.392.1060

Sears Centre has added new security measures at the arena for your safety. All patrons will be screened with metal detectors prior to entry and all bags will be subject to search. For your convenience, and to expedite security screening, please leave any unnecessary bags or purses at home.



Dear Friends and Families,

Southminster's Children's program is vibrant with all kinds of fun activities. We have current and upcoming opportunities for families to join. So let's begin with prayer and go from there . . .

Benefits of Bedtime Prayer



1. Saying Bedtime Prayers Help Reduce Stress

Studies show that spending some time each night on self-reflection and prayer reduces stress levels, increases feelings of calmness and wellness, and nullifies negative effects of stress on physical health.



2. Praying Helps with Self-control

Research finds that people who pray regularly have better discipline and self-control than people who do not pray and that children who pray regularly are less likely to throw tantrums and are more disciplined.



3. Praying Makes You Compassionate

Studies show that regular prayer makes people more kind and compassionate, reduces aggressive behavior, and prevents angry outbursts. Praying for others makes children more empathetic and sensitive to others' feelings. Overall, praying makes kids nicer.



4. Praying Helps Develop Trust

Praying with your child improves the bond of trust between you and your child and strengthens the unity between you two. Praying with family members can help your child get closer to them.



5. Praying Makes You More Forgiving

Adults and children who pray regularly are found to be more willing to forgive others and are less inclined to hold grudges.

<https://parenting.firstcry.com/articles/10-popular-bedtime-prayers-for-children/>

Here are some simple bedtime prayers for toddlers and young children

Thank You, God!

"Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you, God, for everything!"

God, Grant Me the Serenity

"God, grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And wisdom to know the difference."

Hi, It's Me!

"Hi, it's me, just come to pray
And thank you for a fun-filled day!
You've been with me, so I know you've seen
All the great exciting things.
But also when I'm sad or cross
I know you love me, no matter what!
So help me rest and go to sleep
And feel the peace of your love for me."

Father, We Thank Thee

"Father, We thank thee for the night,
And for the pleasant morning light;
For rest and food and loving care,
And all that makes the day so fair.
Help us to do the things we should,
To be to others kind and good;
In all we do, in work or play,
To grow more loving every day."

Angels Bless

"Angels bless, and angels keep
Angels guard me while I sleep
Bless my heart and bless my home
Bless my spirit as I roam
Guide and guard me through the night
and wake me with the morning's light."

Lord in Heaven

"Lord in heaven, hear my prayer, keep me in your loving care.
Be my guide in all I do. Bless all those who love me, too."



Thrown Elements - FUNdriaser - **Paint Your Own Keepsake**



Thrown Elements Pottery is coming to Southminster, and we hope you can come too! This is an event for the whole family—all ages are welcome! Too little to hold a paintbrush? No problem! Adults will be there to help you.

So drop in to Southminster's Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, March 9, any time between 10:00 a.m. and Noon** to pick, design and paint your own ceramic piece. Thrown Elements will provide everything and even fire your piece. You can pick up your finished keepsake at the church a few weeks later.

This is a Southminster Children & Families Fundraiser. The cost of items runs between \$10-\$50, and 20% goes to Southminster's Children's & Families' mission and programs. For more info or to RSVP, email jill@spcah.org.

Sunday School Observer

This is the easiest contribution you can make to Southminster's Children's program.

This is NOT a teaching position. We have a teacher each week, but because two adults are required to be in the 4-11 year-olds' classroom, we just need someone to be the second grown-up in the room. There's no prep. No teaching experience needed. The Sunday school teacher will do everything.

Here's what you'll do:

Meet Ms. Jill in worship. When children are called for Sunday school, you'll walk upstairs together. Then you'll stay to observe the short Sunday school lesson, craft, and brief playtime until the parents pick-up their children at the end of worship. That's it! Your job is just to watch and enjoy the kiddos having fun and learning about God. (If you'd like to help or offer your creativity, you're always welcome to do so, but it's not mandatory.)

Volunteer times: 9:15-10:10 or 11:15- 12:10. To volunteer or hear more info, email Jill Schiltz at jill@spcah.org.



Stronghold Family Camp – SAVE THE DATES – July 26 - 28



Stronghold is a Conference, Retreat, and Camping center operated as a ministry of the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Presbyterian Church (USA). At stronghold, kids experience a safe, caring, Christian community where they learn and grow in their relationship with God and with each other while getting acquainted with the beauty of the natural environment.

Bring your entire family and enjoy a weekend together full of games, crafts, swimming, campfires, and fellowship in the beautiful, natural surroundings of Oregon, Illinois, just 1 ½ hours from Southminster. At Stronghold Family Camp, your family will stay in a beautiful retreat building. Pricing includes lodging, food, activities, and programs for ages 3 – 103. There is no charge for infants and toddlers, and childcare is provided for them. Give your family the gift of a wonderful weekend spent together in God's beauty.

Interested in learning more about this great family opportunity? Email jill@spcah.org.
www.strongholdcenter.org/intergenerationalcamps.html



Stronghold FAQs:

I'm not Presbyterian. Can I still attend and feel comfortable? Certainly. All faith traditions and no faith traditions are welcome

Can I visit camp before we go? Absolutely! Call 847.732.6111 to schedule a visit.

Is financial assistance available? Yes. Call 847.732.6111 for more info.

Do you have medical staff on duty. Yes! 24/7. And all staff is CPR and First Aid certified.

Can you accommodate special dietary needs? Definitely. Just let us know on the health/registration form.

When does camp start? Registration is 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on the Family Camp's starting date.

Family Fun Night Photos

On Wednesday, February 6, about 80 guests joined us for our Family Fun Night pajama party.

It may have been cold and blustery outside, but it was warm and welcoming inside.

Families ate, played games, posed for pictures, made crafts, enjoyed fellowship, and watched Peppa Pig.



If you missed it, join us at the next Family Fun Night in May.



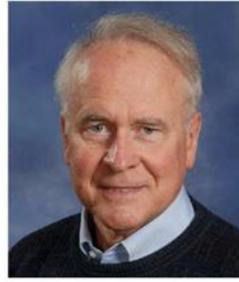
Doorways Class Offered



You're invited to learn more about Southminster and the Presbyterian faith at our Doorways Class in February. We will provide a brief history of the Presbyterian Church, talk about how the church is governed, and how as disciples, we can connect, grow, and serve others.

If you're interested in attending this two-session class, please email Pastor Liz at liz@spsc.org or Linda North at omanorth@yahoo.com, or call Linda at 847.308.5421

Congratulations, Keith McNabb



Please join us in congratulating Dr. Keith McNabb for his 25 years as organist and pianist here at Southminster. Keith's expertise allows the rich tones of the Buzard organ to sing forth in accompaniment with the choir and congregation, as well as in solo for all to enjoy. We have all been blessed with his extraordinary talent and his ability to create fine music that enhances our worship experience.

Join us for a formal celebration of Keith's anniversary that will be held next month. Thank you, Keith, for your outstanding service!

Upcoming Book Study



Southminster's Justice/Faith in Action Team invites you to a book discussion on *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis, president and founder of Sojourners, a faith-based organization. This discussion meets in the church library from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19 and April 2 and explores what it will take to achieve racial justice, healing, and reconciliation in our community and across the country.

Justice/Faith in Action members will lead a Scripturally-based study that includes video clips, selected passages from the book, discussion questions, prayer, and follow-up action steps. This study builds on our racism discussion group of two years ago.

Beginning Sunday, February 17, you can sign up between services, and purchase the book for \$6. For more information, email Cindy Greenwood at cngnwood@gmail.com.

The Night Ministry Now Collecting Through February



The Night Ministry includes a traveling outreach effort that helps homeless and poverty-stricken people by traveling to where they are on the streets of Chicago. Please help Southminster's efforts to support The Night Ministry by donating the following small, trial-sized products now and throughout February. Please place your donations in the Mission Collection Boxes located in the church foyer by the elevator and outside the library.

TRAVEL AND SAMPLE-SIZED ITEMS ONLY:

Shampoo & conditioner	comb and/or brush	hand lotion	lip balm
toothbrush & toothpaste	mouthwash	deodorant	soap
disposable razor	shaving cream	washcloth	pre-moistened towelettes

"The Night Ministry compassionately provides housing, health care, outreach, spiritual care, and social services to adults and youth who struggle with homelessness, poverty, and loneliness. We accept individuals as they are and offer support as they seek to improve their lives. We invite others to join this hope-filled work."

For more information, visit www.thenightministry.org. To help Southminster's with this or our other charitable partners, please email Sandy Pifer at lucille111@aol.com or Jean Walker at jw13pr4@aol.com.

explore God™ 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 Parents' Day Out Registration - Fall 2019!

Parents' Day Out . . .

where children learn and play . . .

day by day!



Parents' Day Out is celebrating 22 years of nurturing the young child!

PDO registration for the 2019-2020 school year for currently enrolled children and members of Southminster is on **Saturday, April 27, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. at the church.** Southminster members receive 25% off tuition.

PDO is available Tuesdays through Fridays, 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and is a day filled with learning, playing, music, and fun! We offer classes for children between the ages of 12 months and 5 years old. You are invited to visit PDO any time class is in session to see the children in action.

For more information, email PDO Director Tricia at tdking61@aol.com or visit the Southminster website at www.spcah.org, and click on Parents' Day Out under the CHILDREN/YOUTH option on the menu at the top of the page.

Parents' Day Out Shares the Warmth



During the month of December, PDO families generously donated mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats to our Mitten Tree. We collected over 65 warm items to share with The Kids' Pantry in Mount Prospect. Special thanks to Wayne Ahlquist for our handcrafted Mitten tree.

We hope to make this a PDO tradition of sharing the warmth with local children in need.

Thank you to all who donated!

Tricia Ondracek
Parent's Day Out Director

Save the Earth – One Cap at a Time

Now through June 7, please drop off clean plastic bottle caps in the colorful boxes located by the stairs at the Parents' Day Out entrance. We will reuse or recycle them before they end up in a landfill. Thanks for helping to keep our environment clean – one cap at a time!



Heart's Place – Becoming a Reality



Now being built in Arlington Heights on Boeger Drive just south of Dundee Road is Heart's Place, an 18-unit building for people with mental and physical disabilities. Foundation work is moving ahead, and completion is expected in summer/fall 2019.

Heart's Place is an initiative of the Arlington Heights' Faith in Action Team, which is made up of representatives from seven Arlington Heights' churches, including Southminster, that work to bring permanent supportive housing for people with mental and physical disabilities. Our group effort helped support the unanimous decision of Arlington

Heights' Mayor and Trustees to allow Heart's Place to be built in Arlington Heights.

Southminster's Faith in Action Representative is Linda Waycie. If you would like to get involved with Southminster's Faith in Justice efforts, please email Linda at lwaycie@wowway.com.

Thank you, Feed My Starving Children January Packers



On January 15, a group of Southminster volunteers helped pack 132 boxes for hungry children around the world! That's 28,512 meals that will feed 78 kids for a year at a cost of \$6,272.64.

Thanks to all who participated. This mission is a GREAT way to care for others, by feeding those who don't always have food on their table.

Please join us for our next packing event in March. Look for the FMSC sign up in the coming weeks.

Way to go, Southminster!

Hello Friends of the Food Pantry

Hello Friends of the Food Pantry,

In February, the month of love, we're focusing on "Pantry Pairs." Please consider donating some of these items:



Food & Drink

Fruit & Juice
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Pasta & Sauce
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Tuna & Noodles

Paper & Personal Essentials

Diapers & Wipes
Tissues & Toilet Paper
Paper Towels & Napkins
Shampoo & Conditioner
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes

We **love** and appreciate each & every donation. Happy Valentine's Day! ♥

stephen MINISTRY

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

~ 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Interfaith Dialogue

The Interfaith Dialogue group is a combined interest of the Southminster's Discipling Team and the Faith in Action Team and some members of the Islamic Society of the Northwest Suburbs. We have been meeting twice a month for a year, alternating at each other's place of worship, and have all grown to respect and trust each other, sharing our personal journeys in faith as well as our love of God. We have discovered that there are many similarities in our faiths, although definite differences as well, and soon we'll be diving deeper into our respective religions and sharing more about our faiths. This is a wonderful group. We are becoming good friends with each other, and we look forward to learning something new each time we meet.

Linda Waycie and Dennis Rich



Arabic greeting: السلام عليكم. English pronunciation: Assalamu Alaikom. Meaning: Peace be upon you.

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## Care Ministry / Deacons for February

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 deacon of the month who can connect you with our caring ministry and your deacon.

**Ellen Riggs is your Care Minister / Deacon for February**



Ellen Riggs  
847.660.4999

## For Your Marriage



Have you gone on a date with your spouse recently? It doesn't have to be fancy or super-creative, but scheduling dates affirms your desire to keep your relationship strong.

~ [foryourmarriage.org](http://foryourmarriage.org)