

The Spire

June 2019 www.spcah.org

Southminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship in June

June 2

Cornerstone & Head of the Church

Pastor Matt

Colossians 1: 15-20; 1 Peter 2: 4-8

June 9

Fire (Pentecost)

Pastor Matt

John 14: 8-17, 25-27; Acts 2: 1-21

June 16

Breath of Life

Pastor Matt

Genesis 1: 26-31; Ezekiel 37: 1-14

June 23

Wise Counselor

Guest preacher: *Kjirstin Almos*

Ephesians 1: 11-14

June 30

Seal

Pastor Liz

John 14: 15-27



All that Jazz

On Pentecost Sunday, the Bruce Blanck Trio will once again be jazzing up worship. Jazz music isn't something I came to enjoy until the last few years. I discovered the joy of jazz music while cooking dinner for my family. There's something about listening to Cole Porter, John Coltrane, and Miles Davis while chopping onions, frying pork chops, or making spaghetti sauce that relaxes the soul.

There's also something about jazz music that parallels Pentecost. Jazz music thrives on improvisation, making it seem chaotic at times. The scene in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit came couldn't have been much different. The disciples were enjoying time together and then suddenly a violent wind, divided tongues of fire, and the noise of all sorts of different languages being spoken at once filled the room. The bewildered crowd that gathered outside the house and Peter's improvisation of a sermon that converts many in the crowd both highlight the chaos that ensued. As Presbyterians, we're taught that everything must be done decently and in good order. However, the Holy Spirit didn't come decently and in good order. The coming of the Holy Spirit caused chaos to ensue. The implication being that churches filled with the Holy Spirit understand that chaos is a way of life, which means a defining skill for the church is improvisation. In other words, like jazz, Pentecost reflects both the beauty and messiness of human beings. That's what makes jazz both so profound and yet divisive. Of all the genres of music, none are perhaps as divisive as jazz. You either love it or you hate it.

The crowd responded to the coming of the Holy Spirit the same way. Some were amazed and made into believers while others sneered and dismissed what was happening, thinking the disciples were drunk. The messiness of human beings and the timing of God are never decent and in good order. In fact, the chaos of life is why we need the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the chaos that disrupts life's chaos by bringing God's intended order and purpose for our lives. So jazz up your life, and welcome the chaos of the Holy Spirit!

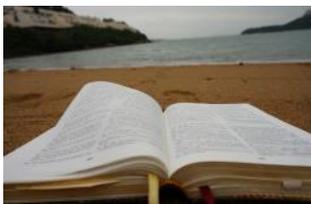
In Christ,
Pastor Matt



Special Guest Summer Bible Series

Hello! It's been a little while since I was the Children and Youth Ministry Director at Southminster, and a few things have changed for me. I completed my chaplaincy residency year at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, and I now work as the evening chaplain at Lurie Children's Hospital.

Another change in my life is that I am under care of the Presbytery of Chicago, meaning that I am working towards ordination to the word and sacrament. A part of the ordination process is a requirement to take a Christian education course. To complete this course, I will be leading an adult education series during the month of July at Southminster. I will be leading a course on the book of... Leviticus!



- July 7: Overview and orientation**
- July 14: Sacrificial system and The Day of Atonement**
- July 21: The Holiness Code**
- July 28: The Year of Jubilee and Festivals**

Leviticus may seem like an odd choice. When I told family, friends, and even my professor that I wanted to do Leviticus, I often got a raised eyebrow and a questioning "Really?" Some folks have even suggested that people may not want to come because of the topic! During my undergraduate degree, I had the chance to engage in a deep study of the Book of Leviticus. I was amazed to discover how this book reveals God's love for the people of Israel then and how it affirmed my faith today. I've had an itch to share this with others ever since, and I'm excited to do this for all of you this summer! I hope that in our time together we will learn and gain an understanding of the Book of Leviticus while also seeing how it applies to our faith journeys today.

See you all soon, and God bless!
Kjirstin Almos



Dear Friends,

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

~ John 15:9-10 (NRSV)

Summer is a wonderful time to watch the world around us come alive. The vivid colors of nature, the smells of barbecue and suntan lotion, and the sounds of children laughing as they run through backyard sprinklers are some of my favorite summer images. Over Memorial Day weekend, I preached a sermon on what it means to abide in Jesus. One of the ways that we abide in Jesus is by following his command to love our neighbors. Summer is a great time to do this because we are no longer stuck inside. We are finally free to hang out outside where we can actually see our neighbors and even run into them. Theologian Frederick Buechner explains, "If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else, we must first see our neighbors." So this summer, pay extra attention to those around you. Who needs an encouraging word? What simple act of kindness can you do for a neighbor or someone who seems to be having a bad day? How can you bring the love of Christ to them? Let's draw closer and abide in Jesus this summer by taking the time to notice and care for our neighbors.



In Christ's Care,
The Reverend Elizabeth Nickerson

Text Your Offering



Looking for a convenient way to keep up with your church offerings? **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. It's that easy!

You can also give a gift by going to spcah.org, clicking on the About tab along the top of the Home page, and choosing Online Giving - New.



For Your Marriage



Thank your spouse for something s/he does for you, especially on a daily basis. A mid-day text or a welcome home "Thank you" goes a long way.

~ foryourmarriage.org



Dear Friends and Church Family

The month of May is always crazy-busy for Youth families—with concerts, sporting events, graduations, proms, and parties. Once June starts, we will be ready to slow down a bit, enjoy the warmth of summer, and participate in our Annual CAR WASH on Sunday, June 2 (rain date June 9). This is a fundraiser for Youth Ministry at Southminster, and a fun way for the Youth to clean your cars and make them sparkly.

We are also looking forward to a new series on Sundays this summer. Our time together in the Suite will focus on Movies as Prayers. We started in May with *Avatar*, and will continue with *Black Panther*, *Iron Man*, and *Star Wars – The Return of the Jedi*. While viewing these movies, we will seek the spiritual messages in the secular world. Realizing that God speaks to us everywhere, every moment of our lives, opens us up to seeking God down so many new avenues. An article about *Black Panther* says, “God can use almost anything to make Himself better known to those who need Him, even sometimes a silly superhero movie.” So, let’s stop and smell the summer roses, and seek God in everything we experience!



In Christ,
Kari
Youth Ministries Director

Congratulations to our 2019 Graduates!

Join us when we celebrate our graduates at the 10:00 a.m. summer service on June 9. Please congratulate the following youth on their achievements, and wish them well on their future plans.

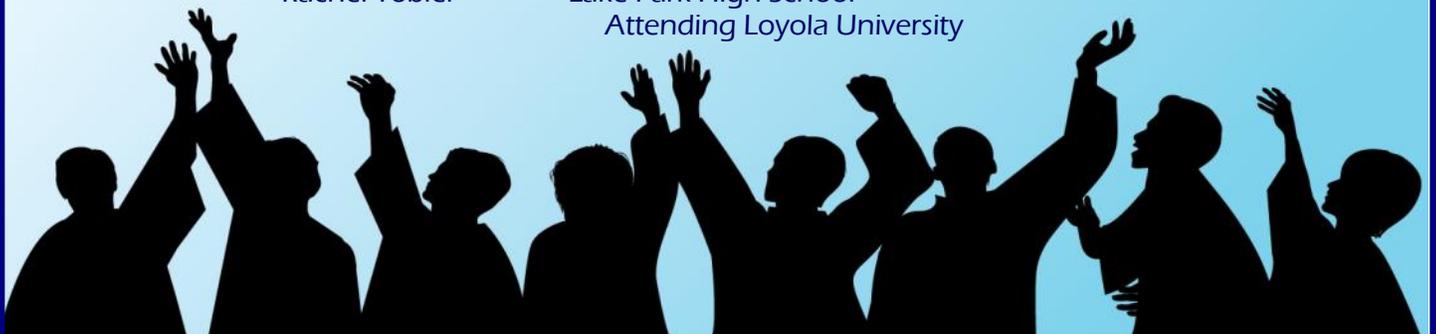


College

Gillian Bourke	Hope College, Michigan
Andy Rueger	University of Iowa
Christine Rueger	Northern Illinois University
Kate Speedy	Eastern Illinois University

High School

Elise Cooke	Rolling Meadows High School Attending Northeastern University, Boston
Micaela Johnson	Rolling Meadows High School Attending Western Michigan University
Melina Suzuki	Rolling Meadows High School Attending U of I Chicago
Rachel Tobler	Lake Park High School Attending Loyola University



Party Animals—our last Family Fun Night of the school year

was a fantastic success with a great turnout of families, hedgehogs, guinea pigs, snakes, rats, and lizards!



Our Youth traveled to New Shelter in Rogers Park a few weeks ago,

and we had a great time! We brought homemade cookies for all to enjoy while we made Mother's Day crafts and cards. Some of us also cleaned out their playroom and organized it into a kids' library. With the help of Rebecca Fahnoe, who hosted a book drive at Thomas Middle School (she is a librarian there), the youth gathered books to donate and made it a huge success. At the end of our visit, we surprised the kids with the new library, and they were really excited about so many new books and such a great space to enjoy them in.





Dear Friends

We're busy planning summer fun at Southminster! If you're worried about bored kids this summer, look no further! We have lots of fun activities to fill your long summer days. Check out our list of summer activities below. Camps fill up fast, so make sure to register for those while space is still available.

Summer Sunday School - All children are welcome:

Sunday mornings June 2 – August 25 at 10:00 a.m. No registration required. Infants through Preschool play in our Nursery with Ms. Wendy, and big kids grades K - 5 do activities with Ms. Jill. (Sorry, no Sunday school July 26. It's Family Camp. We're off eating s'mores!)



Movers-and-Shakers – Parents & 0 – 4 year olds:

Sunday mornings in June from 11:10 - Noon. Music and movement FUN for parents and their little ones. \$10 per family. Drop-ins welcome. Don't miss this limited time offer.



Setting-the Stage Greatest Showman Bootcamp – grades 2 - 8:

June 11 - 14 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Final rehearsal and performance at FUMCAH (First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights) on Friday, June 14. Register here <https://spcah.org/musical-theater-summer-camp/>



Setting-the Stage Frozen Jr – ages 4 - 6:

July 9, 11, 16, 18 from 1:00 - 1:45 p.m. Kids will present a short performance during worship on Sunday, July 21. Register here <https://spcah.org/musical-theater-summer-camp/>



Family Camp – REGISTER NOW!

July 26 - 28 at Stronghold Camp in Oregon, IL. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.strongholdcenter.org/intergenerationalcamps.html>



Family Outdoor Movie Night

SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, August 1, Pack a family picnic and lawn chairs. It's a Family Fun Night outside! Beginning at 5:30 p.m. we'll enjoy music, bubbles, and games on Southminster's front lawn. Movie around 8:15. FREE POPCORN! Please RSVP—it really helps us plan). Sign-up on the Education Wing bulletin board or email jill@spcah.org.



Yoga Summer Camp at Southminster – Ages 3-10:

August 5 - 9 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Prayer, Meditation, and play! A new yoga theme each day: Monday-Peace, Tuesday-Kindness, Wednesday-Gratitude, Thursday-Balance, Friday-Service. On Friday, campers will work on a service project. Parents and family members are welcome to join us Friday morning. <https://www.mknamaste.com/summer-camp-1>

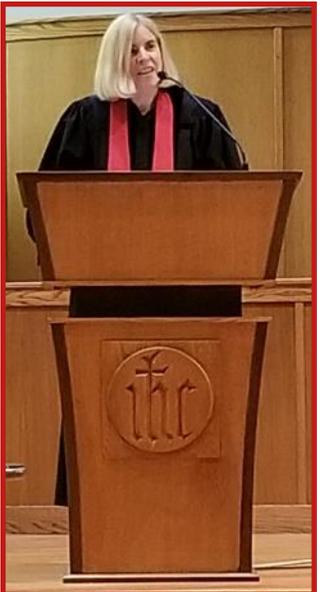
Blessings,

Jill

Director of Children's Ministry

Congratulations to Pastor Matt on his Installation

It was a beautiful spring day May 19 when we celebrated the Installation of The Reverend Matt Gearke as Senior Pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church. In attendance were many our of congregation as well as clergy from the Chicago Presbytery and local churches. Immediately following the service we enjoyed fellowship and a wonderful array of food, snacks, and cake. Thank you to all who helped celebrate this special day with Pastor Matt.



Come Help Out SPC Youth



It's time for our Annual Youth Car Wash Fundraiser! Youth will begin washing cars at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 2, (rain date - Sunday, June 9). Just pull in the church parking lot and get your car in line. First come, first served! We will do our best to accommodate every vehicle and clean it so it sparkles. This is a free-will offering fundraiser with donations supporting Southminster Youth Ministry programs. Questions? Email Kari@spcah.org.

June ArtNet Meetup

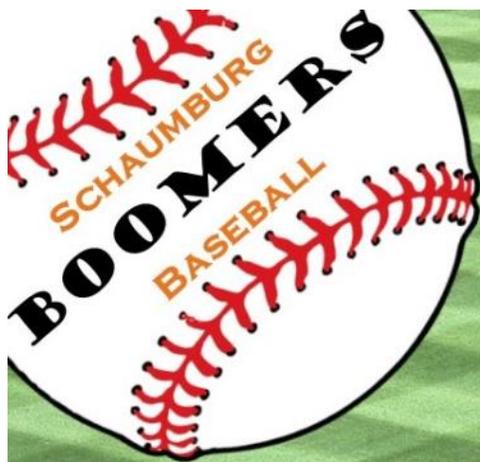


On Tuesday, June 25, Debra Downs will have us work with Alcohol Inks. We will create two projects, one on glass and one on foil. Be sure to wear old clothes or bring your art apron. And please bring a friend or two, just remember to sign up as soon as possible so we can plan for supplies.

Meet at Southminster between 6:30 and 7:05. Please enter through the double-door sanctuary entrance (off the parking lot). From there, you can either take the elevator down or go up the short set of stairs, turn left, and take the stairs down to the Community Room. **NOTE: For security**

reasons, the doors will be locked at 7:05. If you arrive later, you will need to call the number posted on the door to be let in.

We also have "Show & Tell" at each meeting, so feel free to bring samples of your work or your work-in progress pieces for critique.



**JOIN US FOR A
NIGHT AT THE PARK**

*Friday, August 16
beginning at 6:30 p.m.*

- \$9 Tickets
- \$5 Food Voucher (optional)
 - * hot dog, chips, soda
- Free Parking
- Postgame Fireworks

For more info or to order tickets, call Garland 847.226.6539 or email him gbr1020@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATE

A Community Hike to End Hunger

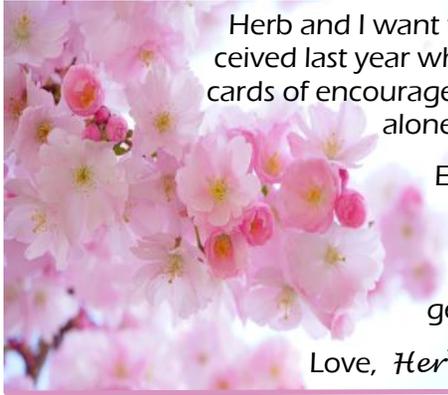
Hosted by Southminster

Walk with us

October 20, 2019

Church World Services - Crop Hunger Walk - Ending Hunger One Step at a Time

Dear Friends at Southminster,



Herb and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the support we received last year when we were presented with so many challenges. Thank you for the MANY cards of encouragement, the meals that you provided, and the many hugs. We never felt alone when we were going through the health crises.

Especially, thank you for your prayers. Our prayers have been answered. Herb is not 100%, but he continues to improve, according to his personal trainer. He looks wonderful and has developed more confidence since he started therapy and received extra support from his trainer. He still gets both, and it is helping him. I'm so grateful! God Bless each one of you!

Love, *Herb and Jean*

Care Ministry / Deacons for June

Every member and friend of Southminster is assigned 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.

Sue Ziegler and Barb Taylor are your Care Ministers / Deacons for June



Sue Ziegler
847-259-2430



Barb Taylor
847-303-9301

What is a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

Since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than 13,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers.

If you or someone you know would like the assistance of a Stephen Minister, please email Pastor Liz liz@spcah.org and she can help you connect with a Southminster Stephen Minister.

~ www.stephenministries.org