

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

We are created for community, fashioned for fellowship, and formed for a family, and none of us can fulfill God's purposes by ourselves ... Authentic fellowship ... happens when people get honest about who they are and what is happening in their lives. They share their hurts, reveal their feelings, confess their failures, disclose their doubts, admit their fears, acknowledge their weaknesses, and ask for help and prayer.

~ Rick Warren ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to this Celebration of Worship. May we, by the power of the Holy Spirit, experience a close communion with God and a warm fellowship with one another.

THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Gwen Hepler in loving memory of three wonderful friends: Carol Miller, Giny Lutz, and Nancy Chaplin.

CHILDCARE SUNDAY MORNINGS is available for infants to 4 years from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Childcare Room of the Kingdom Keepers Wing which is located off the Rec Hall.

CHILDREN'S PRAISE PACKS, containing coloring pages and other activities for kids to learn about today's message, are available at the Sanctuary entrances and at the Crossings worship service. Please return the bags at the end of the worship service.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Families of little ones, we are excited to announce that instead of having the "Time with the Young Church" during worship (except for Communion Sundays), children will be given their own message in one of the Kingdom Keepers Wing classrooms during the time of the sermon, then return to the service. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Stampfel at jennifer@spchurch.org.

THE SOUTHMINSTER CAFÉ is open from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Rec Hall. Please come in for donuts, bagels, fruit, coffee, tea, or juice, anytime throughout the morning.

ADULT SUNDAY SEMINAR: This class meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel and is open to all adults and high school students. Pastor Doug will be leading the class in April to explore the life and writings of C.S. Lewis, whose faith and writings are still contemporary, encourage us in our own lives, and challenge us to grow in our faith. Please join us!



APRIL MISSION OPPORTUNITY: The April Hunger Offering will be collected to purchase McDonald's Gift Cards to be included in the winter kits of warm outerwear that we offer to homeless individuals in Pittsburgh. The Hunger Offering will be received at the worship services throughout the month of April. You can use the designated envelopes available at the crossings table and in the Narthex, write a check with "Hunger Offering" in the memo line, or make your donation online.

*** LISTENING SESSIONS:** We as session members have come to understand that changes in leadership have been very troubling for many of us at Southminster.

In order to address some of the pain our members feel, Session would like to invite members to small group meetings where we can listen as you share your concerns. In a few days, you will have an opportunity to register to attend a listening meeting that will suit your schedule. Meetings will be led by session members, consist of 10 or fewer individuals, be a place where you can share your concerns so that we as a Congregation can heal and move forward together.

BLOOD DRIVE: Southminster will be hosting a Blood Drive on Sunday, April 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Rec Hall. To schedule an appointment to donate: Go to vitalant.org and search with Account Code UG0010147, or call 877-25VITAL (877-258-4825). Walk-Ins are also welcome.



THE MONTHLY "LUNCH BUNCH": Please join us on April 28 for our next outing to get to know other members of our church family. Meet at the front of the Sanctuary right after the 11:00 a.m. service. Names will be randomly picked to form groups of 4-8 people. You'll meet your group, decide where to go, and head out for lunch. (Everyone will pay for their own meal.)

MOVIE NIGHT! Please join us on Monday, April 29 for "Dream Horse 2020", a Welsh film based on a true story. We'll begin with pizza at 6:00 p.m. and the movie will start around 6:45, followed by an insightful discussion led by Elaine Wertheim. RSVP's are encouraged: spchurchlife@gmail.com. There is no charge but a freewill offering will be taken.

ADULT INTEREST CENTER: The Adult Interest Center hosts a gathering for South Hills seniors on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please join us and invite a friend to enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food! (The meal is at Noon for the cost of \$9.00). On May 3rd we will have the Vintage Radio Players perform an old time radio show. On May 17th speaker Andy Quinn will present a "History of Kennywood". For more information email Fred Barnes at fred@spchurch.org.

SARAH'S CIRCLE: Please join us on Tuesday, April 23 at 1:00 p.m. at Southminster House for our monthly Sarah's Circle meeting for women. Pastor Doug Marshall will share pictures and stories of his pilgrimages to the Holy Land. There will also be refreshments and time for fellowship. Please feel free to bring a friend. If you have any questions or plan to bring a guest, please email eileen@spchurch.org.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Join us for our annual Women's Retreat May 10 & 11 with Elaine Wertheim and Jennifer Stampfel leading an exploration and discussion of the crucial role that Mary Magdalene played in Jesus' ministry. We'll be meeting at Sandscreech in Wheeling West Virginia from 6:00 p.m. Friday to Noon on Saturday. Please RSVP by May 3 to Gwen Hepler: eslgwen@yahoo.com to allow for planning and preparation. The fee is \$160, which can be paid by check mailed to the church with "Women's Retreat" in the memo line, or online with "Women's Retreat" indicated in the Notes section. Hope to see you there!

*** PARENTS NIGHT OUT:** On Friday, May 5 from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m. Kids through fifth grade are invited for a fun night with dinner, a movie, and craft activities. (Children must be potty-trained to attend.) The event is to be held in Fellowship Hall and there is no charge. RSVP with the names and ages of the kids to Cecile Usner at dino@alumni.psu.edu or call the church office, 412-343-8900.

ATTENTION MIDDLE SCHOOLERS: Join your friends before school for a free pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 25 at 7:00 a.m. No reservations are necessary, and guests are welcome! If you have any questions, please call the church office 412-343-8900.



CALLING ALL BAKERS! As part of our Scottish Sunday worship service and celebration we will be offering Scottish shortbread along with our usual refreshments. Donations of this traditional treat are requested from members or friends who wish to share their gifts with the congregation in this way. For more information, please feel free to contact Shannon Neemes at shannon_neemes@yahoo.com or 412-759-2679.

SCOTTISH SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS: We're looking for volunteers to assist with the refreshments on Scottish Sunday. There are several ways you can help on this occasion, whether assisting in the set-up, serving, or clean-up after the refreshments are served. Please let us know if you're available by calling the church or emailing info@spchurch.org.

ELDER AND DEACON NOMINATIONS: The Nominating Committee is looking for church members who feel a calling to serve the church as deacons and elders. If you are interested, or if you would like to recommend someone, please contact Chris Porretta at chrisporretta@yahoo.com.

*** NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**