

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

The ascension story comes both at the end of the gospel of Luke and at the beginning of the book of Acts... He (Luke) takes ascension as the end and the beginning. It's the lynchpin around which the whole story goes... It's a central moment. ~ Edwin Chr. van Driel ~

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 in loving memory of C.J. and Dee Matthiessen and Carol Klein by Marilee, Steve, and James Kline.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS: If you would like to donate flowers for our services, there are openings available in June and going forward. Please let us know by emailing pdobbins15228@gmail.com or calling the church office.

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. There will not be Sunday School on May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend).

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.

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

ADULT SUNDAY SEMINAR: This class meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel and is open to all adults and high school students. On May 12th Judy Sutton will lead a discussion entitled, "Why Book Banning?" On May 19th Sarah Cannon will lead a discussion of the new worship banners in our sanctuary and their meaning. The last day of Sunday School is May 19th. There will be no Sunday School on May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend) and throughout the summer.

LISTENING SESSIONS: Session members have come to understand that changes in leadership have been very troubling for many at Southminster. In order to address some of the distress our members feel, Session would like to invite members to small group meetings where we can listen as you share your concerns. Meetings will be led by session members and be a place where you can share your concerns so that we as a Congregation can heal and move forward together. To sign up for a group, please contact Paula Iannotta: paula@spchurch.org or 412-343-8900.

OUR MAY MISSION OPPORTUNITY: Southminster plans to join with the Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Foundation of Hope to provide bibles to the Allegheny County Jail. Our Outreach Committee has committed to provide 50 of these bibles and is inviting the congregation to provide additional funding to match this contribution. You can make a donation using a pew envelope noting that it is for bibles, write a check with bibles in the memo line, or online indicating bibles in the Notes section. We are excited about this opportunity to provide an instructive and encouraging resource to incarcerated individuals, and the particular version selected is the Life Recovery Bible. There are copies outside the Worship spaces if you would like to take a look.



A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday May 19 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. This annual meeting will include the 2023 Financial Report and the Election of Elders and Deacons.

THE MONTHLY “LUNCH BUNCH”: Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy our next outing, on May 26 and on the 4th Sunday of each month. Anyone interested can 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. (Everyone will pay for their own meal.)



*** OUR ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST** will be held between the services on Sunday, June 2, at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please come to enjoy a delicious meal and get to know your church family. RSVP’s are appreciated but not required. You can let us know if you’re planning to attend by calling the church office at 412-343-8900 or send an email to info@spchurch.org. (Sunday School classes will not be meeting this day.)

ADULT INTEREST CENTER: The Adult Interest Center (AIC) is an outreach to seniors in the South Hills which meets 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 catered meal is at Noon for the cost of \$9.00). On June 7th we will have guest speaker Gail Griffith giving a talk about “Foods of Pittsburgh”. On June 21st we will be entertained by saxophone player Robbie Klein. We will not meet in July or August but will kick off the fall with a 50th anniversary celebration in September. For more information contact Fred Barnes at fred@spchurch.org.

JESUS AND JOE MEN’S FELLOWSHIP: This time of men’s fellowship meets every Friday morning from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. in Southminster House. We are starting a new study by on Jesus’ “I Am” statements. Come join us as we discuss what it means as Jesus declares himself to be the light of the world and the bread of life. This fellowship is open to all men of the church but is open to friends as well. It is always a diverse and spirited discussion. Try it out! Any questions can be directed to Fred Barnes at fred@spchurch.org.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! Save the dates for “The Great Jungle Journey” themed program: July 22 – 26 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Exciting details to come! If you are interested in volunteering, please email Jennifer at jennifer@spchurch.org or register using the following link: <https://southminster2024vbs.myanswers.com/jungle-journey/>. **Registration for kids opens May 23.**

*** SOUTHMINSTER CHILD CARE CENTER** is looking for energetic staff to join their team in the Toddler and Preschool classrooms. We offer comprehensive learning experiences that promote the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development of each child in a nurturing and loving environment. SCCC provides competitive wages with PTO and paid holidays. We are also offering a sign-on bonus after the completion of a probationary period. Health insurance assistance is also available. If you are interested, you may call 412-571-9229 or email childcare@spchurch.org.

*** SOUTHMINSTER EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY** is currently enrolling students ages 1 year to Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are interested in registering your student or would like more information, please contact Lori Guenther at lori@spchurch.org or 412-770-8095.

FOOD PANTRY HELPERS: The Southminster Food Pantry has an urgent need for drivers to make deliveries to recipients in local communities. There are also other tasks for which help is needed including organizing and scheduling the deliveries, and shopping for and assembling the donation bags. Please consider volunteering some time to this valuable ministry. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Nancy Clifton: nancyclifton@aol.com or 412-561-1913.

*** EMAIL NEWSLETTER AND UPDATES:** If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter and periodic church updates, please let us know with an email to info@spchurch.org. We’d love to hear from you to get you signed up to stay in touch.

*** NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**