

The Spire

Monthly Newsletter
March 2019

www.speah.org
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Southminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Lenten Worship Series

Images of God

March 10

Creator

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Genesis 1 and 2; Job 38: 1-18

March 17

Potter

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Romans 12: 1-2; Jeremiah 18: 1-12

March 24

Parent

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Hosea 13: 4-8, 14: 9; Luke 15: 11-32

March 31

Watchful Guide

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Psalm 91; Exodus 13: 17-22 and 14: 10-1



Images of God

What is your favorite image of God? I've always loved God as Creator. Every time I stare up at the stars, I think of the vast power and beauty of God. While in seminary in northern California, I would kayak on the Russian River, bike the hills around San Anselmo, or hike through Muir Woods, and every time, I could physically feel the comfort and peace of God. As a result, God's creation has had a huge impact on my faith. How does your image of God impact your faith? I ask because throughout Lent we will be looking at all sorts of images of God from the Bible—Creator, Potter, Parent, Watchful Guide, and Comforter. These images are great companions for us as we journey through Lent. Each image of God gives us insight into God's character while at the same time inviting us to know and depend on God in more intimate ways. To fully grasp the power of any image of God requires us to deny ourselves and to rely on God completely, which is what Lent is all about! So as we move into the season of fasting, self-reflection, and prayer, I want to invite you to come and see for yourself who God is. After all, to know God means we must experience God for ourselves.

May God's blessings be upon you as we enter together this season of Lent.

P.S. Thank you again for your warm welcome these last couple of months. I've really enjoyed getting to know all of you and look forward to getting to know you and Southminster better in the future!

In Christ,

Pastor Matt



Come listen to our line-up of speakers during March's Adult Education Hour where you'll learn about the great work some of Southminster's mission partners and others are doing with your mission dollars. And look in this issue of *The Spire* for opportunities on how you can get involved with mission at Southminster.

Sundays at 10:10 a.m. in the Chapel

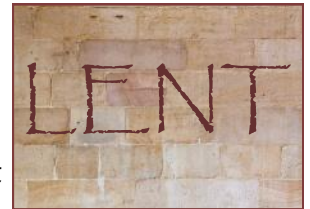
- March 3** Char Schuman, *Faith in Practice*
- March 10** Katie Thomson, *African Mission Trip*
- March 17** James Crockett & Natalie Berg, *C 24/7*
- March 24** Jane Reinschmidt, *Dominican Republic*
- March 31** Carina Santa Maria, *The Shelter*



Dear Friends,

This is how God's love was revealed among us: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ~ 1 John 4:9

Few times in the Christian year call us to reflect on transformational change like Lent leading us toward Easter. Lent begins this year on March 6 with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. It is hard for us to fathom the level of sacrifice and commitment that Jesus displayed in his forty days, yet Lent provides us with an opportunity to deepen our spirituality by engaging in regular disciplines from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. Traditionally, people have given something up for Lent as a way to participate in the sacrifice Christ made for us. But you can also add something during Lent that will help you grow closer to God. What new spiritual practice will you begin this Lent to help you draw closer to God? We have a wonderful Lenten Family Devotion, appropriate for singles, families, and children of all ages. It has a Lenten practice for each week to help you draw closer to God in this season: Giving, Serving, Listening, Loving, Watching, Risking, and Telling. So pick one up at the Ash Wednesday service, or on a Sunday in the Welcome Area, and draw closer to God, as God draws closer to you in this important season.



In Christ's care,

The Reverend Elizabeth Nickerson

exploreGod™

Worship with us Sunday, March 3, and hear stories from discussion Participants about how Explore God has affected their lives & faith journey.

Justice/Faith in Action 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.

Books are available for \$5. Sign up between services Sunday, March 3. For more information, email Cindy Greenwood at cngrnwood@gmail.com.

For Your Marriage



Vulnerability is a great gift spouses give each other. When your spouse is vulnerable, be sure to be gentle. It takes courage and humility to trust someone with your deepest fears or hurts

~ foryourmarriage.org



Dear Friends,

For the past few weeks, the youth have been learning about the importance of fellowship and community. Some of this was taught while on our recent retreat to Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva. We experienced a lot in a short time and had such a fun, amazing trip! We learned about ourselves, our faith, and even a bit about our faith community. One of the speakers shared with us stories of his faith journey and his younger life, which were not easy for him to talk about. I believe he touched the youth with his vulnerability, and they realized that it was ok to share yourself with others this way. Our lives are often not what they seem to be, and many of us hold things inside, too afraid to share what is really going on. After that session, the kids realized that it's safer to share these things in a faith community rather than at school or with friends, who might not understand and be judgmental.

When we got back, our next Confirmation lesson was *"Will you devote yourself to the Church's fellowship?"* We shared our experiences with those youth who couldn't go on the retreat and learned what it meant for Christ to wash the dirty, sandal-wearing feet of the apostles and care for them and serve them in a very vulnerable way! What a great example of the importance of a church community. Often, we struggle with choices, overscheduled lives, and commitments. One thing we learned was that the Church offers us something that these other things do not—a safe place to be ourselves where we can share our faith, our pain, our joy, and our questions!

In Christ,

Kari

Youth Ministry Director

Fun and Faith at Covenant Harbor

The wintry weather didn't slow us down on our two-night/three-day EXPEDITION to Covenant Harbor! We enjoyed sledding, tubing, axe throwing, basketball, games, a bonfire with s'mores and hot chocolate, playing in the snow, and even a walk out onto frozen Lake Geneva to watch a polar-bear dip! We also experienced, a sacred spaces prayer walk, great worship, and an exploration of our own faith journeys.





Stronghold Summer Camps for Families

Stronghold Summer Camps is where many friendships and memories are born. The goal of Stronghold is to provide a safe, nurturing, Christian experience for youth as a caring community in a natural environment. Stronghold Summer Camps offer youth opportunities to grow in their relationships with God and one another and to increase their understanding and appreciation for the nature world around them. We hope you'll join us!

Stronghold is a ministry of the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Presbyterian Church (USA). But you don't have to be Presbyterian to attend the camp. People of different faiths or no faith have fun at Camp Stronghold. Register online using the links below, or request a brochure. Call Stronghold at 815.732.6111 for more details or visit them at www.strongholdcenter.org

For more information, email Jill@spcah.org. To learn more about Stronghold and the summer camp programs, click here: <https://www.strongholdcenter.org/intergenerationalcamps.html>.



Family Camp July 26 - 28

Thinking about a fun family trip? Join Children's Ministry Director Ms. Jill and her family this summer at Stronghold Family Summer Camp!

- \$150/\$70 each adult
- \$100/\$55 children age 3 and up (ask about toddlers and infants. They can come too!)
- \$75/\$40 each additional child

Click on the links to register for Family Camp:

Adult registration form: https://www.strongholdcenter.org/documents/FamilyCampAdultFORM_004.pdf

Child registration form: https://www.strongholdcenter.org/documents/FamilyCampChildFORM_001.pdf

Grandparents Camp June 7 - 9

Stronghold also has a great bonding experience for grandparents and their grandkids!

- \$150/\$175/\$200 each grandparent
- \$100/\$125/\$150 first grandchild
- \$75/\$75/\$100 each additional grandchild

Click on the links to register for Grandparents Camp:

Grandparent registration form:

https://www.strongholdcenter.org/documents/GrandparentFORM_000.pdf

Child registration form:

https://www.strongholdcenter.org/documents/GrandchildFORM_000.pdf



Paint Your Own Keepsake - An SPC Children's & Families Fundraiser



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.

Drop in to Southminster's Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, March 9, any time between 10:00 a.m. and Noon**. Thrown Elements provides everything and even fires your piece.

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.

And Their Light Shines On

On Sunday, March 24, our Children's Ministries Director Jill Schiltz gave the invocation for Southminster's Cub Scout Pack 129's promotion from fifth grade Webelos to Boy Scouts at the Boy Scouts Blue and Gold Ceremony. Boy Scout Blue stands for truth and spirituality, steadfastness, loyalty, and the sky above. Boy Scout Gold stands for warm sunlight, good cheer, and happiness.

This ceremony awarded the boys with the highest award in Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light. The seven rays of the arrow symbolize the Boy Scout slogan, "Do a good turn every day." These Scouts have completed activity badges, participated in camp outs and Scouting activities, and have memorized the Scout Oath and the Scout law, committing themselves to live by its principles.

Congratulations, boys, on receiving the Arrow of Light and bridging over to Boy Scouts!



Graduating Webelos from Southminster's Cub Scout Pack 129

Join in the Noisy Offering!



It's not too late to pick up a bank, join in the Noisy Offering, and help Southminster purchase meals for children around the world through Feed My Starving Children. If you don't yet have a collection bank, you can pick one up at church in the Welcome Area or email Sue Peterson at speterson403@comcast.net.

Place your bank in your kitchen and drop change in it at meal times. Return your bank on Sunday, March 17, and then help us pack at FMSC on Tuesday, March 19, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Sign up on the Welcome Area kiosk.

Please Note: Feed My Starving Children has moved. Their new address is 740 Wiley Farm Court, Schaumburg.

Save the Date for the Crop Hunger Walk - 50th Anniversary



You're invited to this all-church event on **October 20, 2019**. We begin at 1:00 p.m. with registration and lunch, and start our walk at 2:00 p.m. right from Southminster.

This is the **50th anniversary** of Church World Services' annual Crop Hunger walk, which occurs all over the United States and Canada. Southminster is hosting this event for our area this year, and we want to make this walk the best one ever!

So save the date and join us in a 1K or 5K walk through the neighborhood. It'll be a day of fun, food, activities, music, and exercise all to raise money to feed people in developing countries as well as supply our local food banks.

Come out this October and help us stomp out hunger!

Care Ministry / Deacons for March

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.



Nan Gregory
847.392.6763



Bob Haas
773.792.0549

Nan Gregory and Bob Haas are your Care Ministers / Deacons for March

Volunteer for Spring of Life Habitat



Habitat for Humanity's Spring of Life Partnership is beginning work on their 17th house! **Southminster's work days are Saturdays, March 16, 30, April 13 and 27.** Volunteers are needed of all skill levels, and no previous experience is required. We begin about 8:00 a.m. and work until mid-afternoon. Lunch is provided. **The house is at 559 S. Edison Street in Elgin.**

If you're interested in volunteering or would like more information, please email Tom Snyder at thomaspsnyder@hotmail.com.

Good News Partners Work Day



Join other Southminster volunteers to work at Good News Partners (GNP) on **Saturday, March 23.** We'll leave together from Southminster at 8:00 a.m. for a **9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. work day** of cleaning and painting. Please let us know if you can join us by emailing Jean Walker at jw13pr4@aol.com or Sandy Pifer at lucille111@aol.com.

Good News Partners Mission: To end homelessness and hopelessness with everyone God brings us – to foster justice, and build bridges of reconciliation. For more information about GNP, visit www.goodnewpartners.org.

Save the Earth – One Cap at a Time

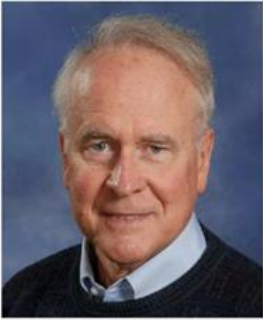
Now through June 7, please drop off clean plastic bottle caps in the colorful boxes located by the stairs at the Parents' Day Out entrance. We will reuse or recycle them before they end up in a landfill. Thanks for helping to keep our environment clean – one cap at a time!



stephen MINISTRY

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he will be with you and will be in you.

~ John 14:16-17



Join us to celebrate Keith McNabb's 25 years with SPC


Keith's affiliation with Southminster began with a stroke of luck . . .

At the Eastman School of Music in New York, Keith spent years working at a doctorate in organ performance with the goal of making a living in music. However, an organist's options are limited, and instead, he landed a job in 1982 in the booming new world of computer software at the GM electronics division in Santa Barbara, California. But he still got to play a lot on the side as organist for the Santa Barbara Choral Society, harpsichordist for the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, and substitute organist all over town.

Having settled in the Chicago area, it was late 1993 when he had verbally committed to be associate organist at First Presbyterian of Deerfield. His tax preparer, a member of Southminster, spoke to him about her church's wonderful new organ. Keith dropped by to take a look and learned that Southminster was looking for an organist. He agreed to fill in at Southminster as substitute organist from Thanksgiving until the first Sunday in 1994, at which time his position at Deerfield would begin.

Long story short, Deerfield never happened. "And I'm still sorry about having disappointed the Director of Music at First Presbyterian of Deerfield, a guy by the name of Lee Nelson (you may have heard of Lee?)." But Keith had never experienced such an inviting, friendly bunch of people in any church since his childhood at First Presbyterian of Morrilton, Arkansas, where his father was choir director. Some of you may remember hearing Keith's dad sing solos at Southminster in the late '90s.

Keith feels so lucky to have found such an ideal spot to pursue his love of the organ. "After all," he says, "you don't need a doctorate to play for a modestly-sized suburban church, and it's rare to find such a fine pipe organ in a church of our size. It's also rare to be able to play an organ like ours without committing to a much heavier schedule of rehearsals, services, and concerts – too much on top of a full-time job." But most important, Keith goes back to his first experience coming to Southminster. Back to that special something that Southminster offers, "Visitors notice it; I still notice it. What a bunch of friendly, inviting people. Thank you, Southminster, for 25 wonderful years!"



We hope you'll join us on Sunday, March 3,
at the 9:00 a.m. service when we'll recognize
organist Keith McNabb for his 25 years of service.

Afterward, you are welcome to a celebration
in the church library at 10:00 a.m.
when we'll congratulate Keith with coffee and cake.

*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.

Heart of a Woman – 2018 Annual Report

Heart of a Woman consists of approximately 12 women who meet to study the Lord's word on Tuesday afternoons from 1:15 to 3:00 pm. In addition to our weekly discussions, we continue to sponsor two children through World Vision, a mission we've supported for many years. We are so sorry to have experienced the loss of two good friends this year, Louise Gray, who went home to be with the Lord, and Carol Wilcher, who has moved to Indiana.

We finished studying Ephesians last spring and voted to study Romans next. Because this was at the end of our study season, when we gathered again in the fall, we continued with Romans until we were given the opportunity to be a part of the Explore God initiative. During this study, our group was named "Coffee and Conversation with Women." When Explore God concludes, we will resume our study of Romans and would be delighted to have more women join us.

Jean Ward, Facilitator

Neighborhood Connect – 2018 Annual Report

In 2018, O Place Team changed its name to Neighborhood Connect. Our purpose is to provide a ministry of hospitality and friendship to our neighbors, co-workers, and community. This may be done on a one-on-one basis or by inviting a few neighbors over for a barbeque or game night. For those interested, Neighborhood Connect discussion groups provide a safe place for conversations with people who have questions or different views on God, life, and the Bible.

This past summer, some of us at Southminster connected with our neighbors by planning a one-time "Summer Social" event that included 2-3 people from church and 2-6 people from our community. These small groups made for great conversation and gave us a chance to listen, ask questions, and learn about people. It is also a way to demonstrate God's love to others with no strings attached. In June during our Sunday Adult Education time, five people shared their experiences of connecting with neighbors.

Neighborhood Connect Small Groups

Small groups are not just for Christians. Below is a description of each of the many Neighborhood Connect small groups:

- Muslim-Christian Interfaith Dialogue meets every second Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Islamic Society of the Northwest Suburbs in Rolling Meadows, and every fourth Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Southminster. This group has been meeting twice every month since January 2018. During our September Adult Education time, group members from Southminster shared their experiences.
- Spiritual Fitness for Women meets every other Wednesday night at 7:15 in the church library and discusses questions about life, God, and the Bible. This group currently discusses *Proverbs: Wisdom for Life*.
- Ladies Night In is strictly a social group that meets monthly in neighbors' homes or while attending community events.
- During the fall, Neighborhood Connect has been preparing for Explore God. Our responsibility included providing facilitators for the Explore God discussion groups for "7 Big Questions." We recruited, trained and supported eight small groups that met at various locations.

Thank you to all who opened their hearts to people in the community and have extended God's love to them.

Discipling Elder: Chuck Tossman / Team Leader: Kathy Erickson

Neighborhood Connect Team: Bob Erickson, Kathy Erickson, Dennis Rich, Chuck Tossman & Jean Ward. Staff: The Reverend Liz Nickerson