



Morning Messenger

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
an Inclusive Spiritual Community Exploring an Expansive Christianity
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Advent 3 – White Gift Sunday

December 11, 2011

Welcome to Southminster-Steinhauer United Church

As you enter this gathering, we welcome you and hope that you will feel at home in this time and place.

- Washrooms are available in the hallway off the foyer across from the entrance to the kitchen.
- Infants and children up to 3 years of age inclusive are welcome to be cared for in the baby care room off the foyer, just outside the Large Hall doors. If you prefer, infants and toddlers are also welcome to remain with you in the Large Hall.
- There are groups for children pre-school through Grade 6 in the Small Hall, and Jr. and Sr. high in the lower level.
- Any of today's greeters will be pleased to answer your questions and assist you in any way. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can help. We hope that you will find nurture for your spirit and companionship for your journey in this time we share together.

TODAY, Sunday, December 11

- Spiritual Gathering, Circle Groups for children, Youth Café and Baby Care, 10:00 am
 Theme: *Expanding Our Hearts Beyond Our Fears*
- Second Sunday Brunch, 11:30 am

THROUGH THE WEEK:

Tuesday, December 13

- Food Bank, 5:30 pm, Foyer

Wednesday, December 14

- Afternoon Fun & Games, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Small Hall
- Blue Christmas Service, 7:30 pm, Large Hall

Thursday, December 15

- Adult Choir, 7:15 pm, Large Hall

Saturday December 17

- Instrumental Ensemble, 8:30 am
- Adult Choir Practice, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Large Hall
- Silvertones, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Music Room

Sunday, December 18

- Spiritual Gathering, Learning Circles for Children, and Baby Care, 10:00 am
 Theme: *Christmas in Story and Song*
- Seniors Lunch, 11:30 am, Large Hall
- Ensemble Practice, 11:30 am, Music Room
- "Deep Winter Song" Concert, 7:00 pm, Large Hall

"Deep Winter Song"

Sunday, December 18, 7:30 pm
Southminster-Steinhauer United

A magical evening of music and song with rEvolve. Four musical acts. Storytelling and poetry. Deep song and meditation. Tickets available in the church office and at Earth's General Store. Ticket cost: in advance \$20; at the door \$25.

Church Office

The church office will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am to noon. The office will be open at other times, but please call before you come to make sure the office is staffed.

Youth Skating Event

Friday, December 9, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Victoria Park Skating Oval

Please join us for an evening of fun. Hot chocolate and good times for all. Victoria Park is located at 11130 River Valley Road.

White Gifts for Bissell Centre ~ December 11

Please bring your unwrapped "white gifts" for Bissell Centre to our morning gathering this Sunday. Items needed include: • New toys for all ages • New clothing for all ages • New adult socks & undergarments • Water/wind-proof hats & gloves • Kids toques & mitts • Coats & sweaters • Towels, blankets, & sleeping bags • Snowsuits & boots for children • New personal hygiene items • Baby formula, lotions, shampoos, baby wipes, diapers & pull-ups. Thank you for supporting this important work.

Christmas Opportunities to Gather in Community

- **Blue Christmas, Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 pm** ~ For those for whom Christmas is a difficult time, this is a quiet and reflective gathering to honour the challenge of this season.
- **Solstice Celebration and Labyrinth Walk, Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 pm** ~ A time to mark the darkest night of the year and welcome new light. The gathering is followed by a spacious time where you might choose to walk our indoor labyrinth at your own pace.
- **Christmas Eve Celebrations, Saturday, December 24**
4:00 pm ~ A gathering for young families with an interactive experience of story, song, crafts and a safe candlelight service.
7:00 pm ~ A gathering for all ages, including songs of the season, a theme time for children and thought provoking reflection, with a candlelight experience.
11:00 pm ~ A reflective service of carols, candles and communion.

No Room in the Inn

This year's Christmas offering will assist WINGS of Providence with their "Our Home Next Door" project which will provide affordable housing for women with children who have experienced family violence.

Ring Out the Old! Ring in the New! NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY POTLUCK

Saturday, December 31, 6:00-10:00 pm, Fun for One and All!
 There'll be dancing, games, and, of course, food. Bring yourself, your family, a food dish to share [and your own dishes, cutlery etc. to make clean-up easier]. Cost: \$2 per adult; children free. Sign-up sheet in the foyer.

Cookie Walk 2011 is a Wrap!

The Cookie Walk was a wonderful success with the final tally of cookies baked surpassing our goal, at 1007 dozen! The room was full of eager church and community folk, and our last tray of cookies went out forty minutes after the doors opened. The unofficial dollar figure after expenses was \$3,545. The success of the event was in great part due to an inspiring spirit of generosity, cooperation and camaraderie on the part of many. Sincere thanks to all who were involved. One final housekeeping detail, there are still several cookie tins which are presently cluttering the library, so please pick yours up as soon as possible.

Missed a Reflection? Want to Hear One Again?

Visit our website www.smsuc.com and click on 'Sunday Spiritual Gatherings,' then on 'Reflections.' You can also find the *Morning Messenger* on our website.



Scented Products

In order to honour our commitment to inclusivity and to provide a safe environment for all, the Board is requesting that we refrain from the use of scented products to create a scent-free space for all of us to gather safely at the church.

Large Print Orders of Service

The order of service is available every week in large print. Please see an usher for a copy.

Hearing Enhancement Devices Available

If a hearing enhancement device would be helpful to you, please request one from the sound technician before the service. These devices amplify the sound that is coming through our microphones.

AN AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Southminster-Steinhauer is an **Affirming Congregation**, a designation that signals our commitment to be a Christian community that is inclusive of all people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, their families and friends.

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, a special opportunity for fellowship is offered, referred to as the **"Second Sunday Brunch."** All are welcome. For more **information**, please call **the church office at (780) 435-2028.**

Outreach Needs

There are families in need of an artificial Christmas tree (3 feet or smaller), boy's boots and shoes sized 13 to 3, boys' winter clothes sized 7-10, and girls' winter clothes, size 3. Winter coats, mitts, and hats for girls ages 1-3 are also needed

Operation Friendship Christmas Luncheon

Friday, December 16, 11:45 am

Boyle McCauley Drop-In, 9626-106 Avenue

Our Christmas Luncheon celebration for seniors in the inner city will be Friday, December 16. We are expecting 180 to 200 guests. Also, seniors always appreciate mandarin oranges and all kinds of pickles. We also need money to buy cakes – \$20 per cake for ten cakes. Look for the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Volunteers are needed to come to the drop-in the day of the party to help serve the meal or just visit with the seniors. Most love sharing their stories.

Outside Bookings at Southminster-Steinhauer

Friday, December 16

➤ AA Meeting, 8:00 pm, Small Hall

No Longer Receiving the Morning Messenger?

If you were receiving an email version of the Morning Messenger which has somehow mysteriously quit arriving, please contact the church office to get your name back on the list. We apologize for some technical difficulties with our list server.

Silvertones Choir – Christmas Schedule

December 10 – Practice and singing at care centres, bag lunch

December 17 – Regular practice including practice with adult choir

December 18 – Participation: Christmas in Story and Song

Tuesday Connection

The Tuesday Connection Group is taking a Christmas break. Meetings will commence on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 9:15 am.

Wednesday Afternoon Fun and Games

Wednesday, December 14, 1:00 pm, Small Hall

Join Us for the 2011 Wrap-up and Christmas Social!

For more information, please contact: Bernie Hardin (780-244-0848) or Sandra Lockhart (780-434-4797).

Buchanan-Eastwood Legacy Celebration

Sunday, December 11, 3:00 pm

Beverly United Church, 11910-40 Street

Recycle!

This is a friendly reminder from your Earth Charter Committee. Old Christmas lights and anything with cords and a plug can be taken to the Eco Station for recycling! Thanks!

Interested in a Winter Yoga Class?

Yoga was a big success this fall, and some folks have requested that we continue in the new year. If you would be interested in attending an 8-week yoga class beginning on Wednesday evening, January 11, please sign the sheet in the foyer. It's only \$5 per class, and we need 20 people in order to meet expenses.

Taoist Tai Chi Society Classes at SMSUC

Beginning on Monday, January 9, 7:00-9:00 pm, Southminster-Steinhauer will be a new Southside site for the Taoist Tai Chi Society's classes. Registration is \$20. Monthly Society dues are \$45 for adults and \$30 for seniors. For more information, see the website: western.canada.taoist.org.

Southminster-Steinhauer Food Bank

Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer to indicate your commitment to help with the Food Bank. Thank you for your support. For more information, call the church office (780-435-2028). **Please donate your clean egg cartons and plastic grocery bags. These can be left at the church with the Food Bank boxes. Thanks for your assistance!**

Seniors' Christmas Luncheon

December 18, 11:30 am, Large Hall

Following the Spiritual Gathering next Sunday, all seniors are invited to share food and fellowship. The Silvertones Choir will have special music to share. The cost for lunch will be \$5 per person.

Annual Christmas Open House

St. Stephen's College

Monday, December 12, 4:00-6:00 pm

8810 – 112 Street – University of Alberta Campus

Edmonton Youth Choir: Star Light, Star Bright

December 17, 7:30 pm

McDougall United Church, 10025 – 101 Street

All are welcome. Adult tickets \$20.00 Senior & Students \$15.00 Children 9 and under free.

Jubiloso: Bells of Concordia

Saturday, December 17, 7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 10025-105 Street

Tickets: \$12, adults; \$10, seniors, students, children; available at the door, in advance at Tix on the Square or at Concordia (479-9313).