



Morning Messenger

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
an Inclusive Spiritual Community Exploring an Expansive Christianity
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Advent 4

December 18, 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 Circle Groups for children pre-school through Grade 6 in the Small Hall. Jr. and Sr. high meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the Youth Room on 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 18

- Spiritual Gathering, Circle Groups for children and Baby Care, 10:00 am
 Theme: *Christmas in Story and Song*
- Seniors' Christmas Luncheon, 11:30 am, Large Hall
- "Deep Winter Song" with rEvoLve, 7:00 pm, Large Hall

THROUGH THE WEEK:

Monday, December 19

- GEA Seniors' Team, 12:00-3:00 pm, Small Hall

Tuesday, December 20

- Food Bank, 5:30 pm, Foyer

Wednesday, December 21

- Solstice Gathering and Labyrinth Walk, 7:00 pm, Large Hall

Thursday, December 22

- Adult Choir, 7:15 pm, Large Hall

Saturday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- **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

NEXT WEEK...

Sunday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

- Please join our friends at Millwoods United Church for their service at 10:30 am. Millwoods United is located at 15 Grand Meadow Crescent.

Wednesday, December 28

- Food Bank, 5:30 pm, Foyer

Saturday, December 31 ~ New Year's Eve

- New Year's Eve Family Potluck, 6:00-10:00 pm, Large Hall

FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY 2012...

Sunday, January 1 ~ New Year's Day

- Spiritual Gathering, 10:00 am. Led by Debra Morris.

Tuesday, January 3

- Food Bank, 5:30 pm, Foyer
- Affirming Committee, 7:00 pm, Lounge

Wednesday, January 4

- Congregational Care Committee, 1:15 pm, Lounge
- Earth Charter Committee, 5:30 pm, Lounge
- Sacred Circle Dance, 7:30 pm, Large Hall

Thursday, January 5

- Adult Choir, 7:15 pm, Large Hall

Sunday, January 8

- Spiritual Gathering with Communion, Dedication of the Baptismal Fountain, Learning Circles, Youth Café, and Baby Care, 10:00 am
- Appreciation Lunch for Set-up Teams, 11:30 am, Large Hall

Seniors' Christmas Luncheon

December 18, 11:30 am, Large Hall

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

"Deep Winter Song"

Sunday, December 18, 7:30 pm

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church

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.

Christmas Opportunities to Gather in Community

- **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. Your generosity is appreciated.

Ring Out the Old! Ring In the New! New Year's Eve Family Potluck and Party

Saturday, December 31, 6:00-10:00 pm, Fun for One and All!

There will 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.

Children's Circle Group Small-Group Leaders

Much gratitude to the many volunteers who have helped with small group leadership this season. If you would like to be part of our children's program (preschool-grade 6) in one month commitments January through May, please sign up or speak to Chris.

Church Office Hours

The church office will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am to noon this week. The office will be open at other times, but please call before you come to make sure the office is staffed. **The office will be closed from December 24 until January 3 for the holiday season.**

Operation Friendship Christmas Luncheon

Friday, December 16, 11:45 am

Boyle McCauley Drop-In, 9626-106 Avenue

Our Christmas Luncheon for seniors in the inner city is Friday, December 16. We are expecting 180-200 guests. 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.



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.

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), boys' 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.

Outside Bookings at Southminster-Steinhauer

Friday, December 23, December 30, and January 6

➤ AA Meeting, 8:00 pm, Small Hall

Thursday, January 5

➤ Edmonton Calligraphic Society, 6:00 pm, Small Hall

No Longer Receiving the *Morning Messenger*?

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

Tuesday Connection

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

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.

The *Morning Messenger*

The next publication of the *Morning Messenger* will be January 6 with information and news for the week of January 8, 2012.

Watch for Start Up of New Movie Club in January!

Details for the first meeting of our new "Movie Club" will be forthcoming in the next *Morning Messenger*.

New Year's Resolutions? Join Our SMSUC Yoga Class!

If you are interested in attending an 8-week yoga class beginning on Wednesday evening, January 11, at 7:00 pm, please sign the sheet in the foyer. Only \$5 per class! Drop-ins are welcome. Note: We need approximately 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. **Please note that we need 1 volunteer for January 3 and 2 for successive Tuesdays.** 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!**

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).

Edmonton Youth Choir: Star Light, Star Bright

Saturday, December 17, 7:30 pm

McDougall United Church, 10025 - 101 Street

All are welcome. Adult tickets \$20; Senior & Students \$15; Children 9 and under are free.

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.