



Morning Messenger

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
an Inclusive Spiritual Community Exploring an Expansive Christianity
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January 22, 2012

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, January 22

- Spiritual Gathering with Circle Groups, Youth Café, and Baby Care, 10:00 am
Theme: *Path of Wisdom: Breath*
- FMSR Coordinator's Meeting, 11:30 am, Lounge
- Ensemble Practice, 11:30 am, Music Room

THROUGH THE WEEK:

Tuesday, January 24

- Tuesday Connection (Women's Group), 9:15 am, Small Hall
- Food Bank, 5:30 pm, Foyer

Wednesday, January 25

- Afternoon Fun and Games, 1:00 pm, Small Hall

Thursday, January 26

- Stewardship Potluck, 5:30 pm, Small Hall
- Adult Choir, 7:30 pm, Large Hall (**Note time change**)

Saturday, January 28

- Ancient Stories, Current Struggles ~ Travel Study/Global Exposure Group, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, Lounge
- Movie Club, 7:00 pm, Lounge

Sunday, January 29

- Spiritual Gathering, Circle Groups, and Baby Care, 10:00 am
Theme: *Path of Wisdom: Fire*
- Celebration of the 13th Anniversary of our congregation becoming an affirming ministry
- Second Sunday Brunch, 11:30 am, Large Hall

Pre-Annual General Meetings

This is an opportunity to gather in smaller groups to share our hopes and dreams for the coming year. It is an opportunity to ask questions regarding any matters pertaining to our life and work. A couple of board members will be present at each meeting to respond to your questions. We encourage you to attend whichever one of the two meetings is most convenient for you.

Sunday, February 12, 11:30 am, Small Hall

Thursday, February 16, 7:30 pm, Lounge

Please indicate your intention to attend on the sign-up sheet.



Annual General Meeting Southminster-Steinhauer United Church Sunday, February 26, 11:30 am, Large Hall

You are invited to share in a review of our life and work over the past year and help us plan for the coming year. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Pick-me-up lunch: Last names ending in: (please bring)

A-G: sandwiches, veggies, etc.; H-Z: fruit, cookies, squares.

Childcare will be provided.

Community Pictures on the Web?

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church has been submitting pictures from church functions to the Observer In-Contact Blog. Pictures from our events therefore have been getting wider exposure via the Internet. In order to have our pictures on this blog, permission is needed from anyone who is in the pictures. If you DO NOT wish your picture to be submitted to the blog, please provide your name to the Church Office.

Appreciation Luncheon for Set-Up Teams February 5, 11:30, Large Hall

There will be an appreciation luncheon on February 5 following our spiritual gathering for all involved in our weekly set-up teams. All set-up teams please plan to attend.

Youth News

The next Youth Café will take place this Sunday, January 22, at 10:00 am. Youth will continue watching and discussing the movie *Invictus*, the life and influences of Nelson Mandela.

Youth Spirit 2012

This is a program of spiritual learning and deeper understanding for Jr. and Sr. High youth to take their spiritual walk to the next level of commitment. Three sessions in March with a retreat March 30-31. Contact Nancy or Chris or sign the sheet with your interest.

Youth City-Wide Ski Trip

February 3-5; Marmot Basin, Jasper

Registration is limited to 32 youth and 6 leaders...so download the registration form and get it in now if you'd like to go. Cost is \$175. And as always, if cost is an issue and would prevent you from considering, email Chris – there are ways! More details and the form are at www.smsuc.com/youth.

Easter Choir Anyone?

Want to sing but can't commit to every Thursday night? Consider joining the Easter Choir. The choir will rehearse at 8:00 pm the four (4) Thursday evenings leading up to singing Good Friday (April 6) and Easter Sunday (April 8).

Second Sunday Brunch

Second Sunday Brunch will take place next Sunday, January 29 as part of the celebration of the 13th Anniversary of SMSUC becoming an affirming ministry!

Exploring Our Faith

Wednesday Evenings, February 1, 15, 29, 7:00 pm, Lounge

This is an opportunity for those who are considering formalizing their relationship with the congregation in membership. We will gather for three sessions to explore some of our understandings of the foundation and practice of the faith we share and the story of the United Church of Canada. Whether you are transferring your membership from another congregation, considering membership here or just curious, you are welcome to join us. Please sign the sheet in the foyer. We look forward to exploring our faith together.

We Need Your Photos

In preparation for the AGM, a request is being made for photographs of events and activities related to 2011. These photos will be used for a presentation for the members who attend the meeting. Thanks for your assistance.

Make Tax Time Pay

We will again be offering a free tax preparation service for low income families during the months of March and April. We need volunteers to prepare taxes, act as greeters, give information on benefit programs they may qualify for and arrange appointments. Training will be available in the first part of February. If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, please call the church office.

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 boys' boots and shoes sized 13 to 6, boys' winter clothes sized 8-12, and girls' winter clothes, sizes 3 and 12-16.

Outside Bookings at Southminster-Steinhauer

Monday, January 23

➤ Tai Chi Society, Beginners, Class, 7:00 pm, Large Hall

Friday, January 27

➤ AA Meeting, 8:00 pm, Small Hall

You Can Do Something to End Hunger

NAIT recently joined a SIFE Hunger Project, *Let's Can Hunger*, and created this impactful *Hand Over Hunger* video to raise awareness and spur individuals to take small actions. For more info, see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIrFZywT6QI&feature=share>

Duggan Elementary Needs Reading Buddies!

CHIRP (Community Helpers Impacting Readers Program) will be launched in March and continue for 12 weeks. You only need commit 30 minutes, 1 day a week. You will be partnered with one child with whom you can develop a relationship. Help make a difference in the life of a child! Please call 780-433-3347.

Widening Embrace

A Circle for Women of All Ages with Carolyn McDade
Friday, March 2, 7:00-9:00 pm; Saturday, March 3, 9:00-4:00

You are invited to come together and create a holy space... for inspiration, sustenance, and celebration... In gratitude we sing, deepening our experience of living as planetary and cosmic beings in the long story of the universe in creation... to allow song, reflection, and simple ritual to open us to the stirrings within that call us to deeper attentiveness, resonance and awe, a *widening embrace*...

Registration forms are on the table in the foyer.

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.

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.

Taoist Tai Chi Society Classes at SMSUC

Beginning on Monday, January 9, 7:00-9:00 pm, Southminster-Steinhauer is 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: www.western.canada.taoist.org.

Opportunities for Young Adults at Naramata Centre

Your Voice, Your Power, Your Gifts: Young Adult Leadership Program runs from February 5-25, 2012. Please apply by January 18. Summer Staff applications are now available online. Applications are due February 17, 2012. For more information about either of these opportunities please visit www.naramatacentre.net.

WEBINAR: Continuing Education Opportunity

"Emerging Church: A Model for Change & a Map for Renewal"

Four Evenings with Bruce Sanguin

January 31, February 7, 14, 21

Tuesdays, 8:00-9:30 pm (EST)

All you need is a computer with an internet connection and a telephone. Cost: \$80 per person or \$200 or a group of 3 or more from the same congregation. For more information, please see www.united-in-learning.com/sanguin.

Celebrate Black History Month with this WEBINAR

"Sankofa: The Histories and Heritages of Black People in the United Church of Canada"

Four Evenings with Adele Halliday

February 6, 13, 20, 27

Mondays, 8:00-9:30 (EST)

Cost: Free! Sign up as individuals or in groups. For more information, please see www.united-in-learning.com/blackhistory.

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 31 and 1 for February 7 as well as 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!

Annual Reports Due January 27

A reminder to all committees that annual reports are due on Friday, January 27. Please email reports to info@smsuc.com.

Film Buffs Unite ~ First Meeting January 28!

The SMSUC Movie Club is launching with an organizational meeting and short film on Saturday, January 28, at 7:00 pm, in the Lounge. This self-organizing group will watch and discuss films of interest, chosen by the participants themselves. Everyone is welcome! Popcorn provided.

**Join Our SMSUC Yoga Class! Drop-ins Welcome!
No Yoga Class on January 25**

Please note that there will not be a class this Wednesday, January 25. Join us on successive Wednesday evenings, February 1 – March 7, at 7:00 pm, in the Lower Level Hall. Only \$5 per class or pay what you can. Drop-ins are welcome.

Do You Love to Sing?

If one of your new year's resolutions is to get involved, Thursday evenings might be the place for you to plug in! Join the choir and meet new friends.

Our senior's choir, *The Silvertones*, might be the place for you too. New members are always welcome. Rehearsals begin at 10:00 am on January 21, February 4 and 18, Music Room, Lower Level.

Church Office Hours

The church office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm this week. The office will be open at other times, but please call before you come to make sure the office is staffed.

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.

Hearing Enhancement Devices Available



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

Large Print Orders of Service

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