



Morning Messenger

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
an Inclusive Spiritual Community Exploring an Expansive Christianity
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Black History Sunday

February 19, 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, February 19

- Spiritual Gathering for All Ages, and Baby Care, 10:00 am
Black History Sunday
- Seniors' Lunch, 11:30 am, Large Hall
- Ensemble Practice, 11:30 am, Music Room
- Set-Up Team Leaders Meeting, 11:30 am, Lounge

THROUGH THE WEEK:

Monday, February 20

- Book Club (*The Murder*, Louise Penney), 1:00 pm, Lounge

Tuesday, February 21

- Tuesday Connection, 9:15 am, Small Hall
- Mardi Gras Pancake Supper, 5:00 to 6:30 pm, Large Hall

Wednesday, February 22

- Afternoon Fun & Games, 3:00 pm, Small Hall
- Yoga, 7:00 pm, Lower Hall

Thursday, February 23

- Adult Choir, 7:15 pm, Large Hall

Saturday, February 25

- Movie Club, 7:00 pm, Youth Room

Sunday, February 26

- Spiritual Gathering and Baby Care, 10:00 am
- Pick-me-Up Lunch, 11:30 am, Large Hall
- Annual General Meeting, 11:30 am, Large Hall

Movie Club

Saturday Feb. 25, 7:00 pm

The Movie Club will watch and discuss "Good Night and Good Luck" (2005): the true story of news anchor Edward R. Murrow's (David Strathairn) attempts to report the truth during the paranoia and propaganda of the McCarthy communist witch hunts in the 1950's U.S. Directed by and also starring George Clooney. BYO snacks!

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: **A-G:** bring sandwiches, veggies, etc.; **H-Z:** fruit, cookies, squares. **Childcare will be provided.**

Youth News

Upcoming Youth Cafés: Sunday February 26 and March 11. All youth are invited for planning and preparation for the St. Patrick's Day beverage bar and our Rent-a-Youth Auction.

Seniors' Potluck Luncheon

Today, February 19, 11:30 am, Large Hall

Persons whose surname begins with A-I, please bring sandwiches or veggies and dip. All others please bring cookies, squares or fruit.

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 date to be planned. Contact Nancy or Chris or sign the sheet with your interest.

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 Thursday evenings leading up to singing Good Friday (April 6) and Easter Sunday (April 8).

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21, Drop in 5:00-6:30pm

Come dressed in masks, hats and your best 'masquerade' attire for a fun party and dinner. Face painting available for all! If you have a griddle to lend please contact Jim.

Operation Friendship

Thank you to all casserole makers for our February Luncheon which was served on Friday, February 17. Our next work bee is Thursday, March 8 at 1:00 pm in the church kitchen to prepare ground beef and potato casseroles for Friday, March 16 at the drop-in. Please speak to Jean if you can help.

Save the Date! Bridge Club

Keep June 9 open for the Bridge Club's wind-up party. Details to come.

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 early February. If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, please call or email Don.

Lunch & Learn: Engaging our world

Join us on two Sundays in March after the spiritual gathering for stories and slide shows about soul-enriching journeys by SMSUC members

March 4: Sherry Ann Chapman updates news and perceptions from peace monitoring in Israel and Palestine.

March 11: Gordon McFadyen shares highlights of his 4-month spiritual quest through Asia. Everyone is welcome!

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.

Baby Care

If you would like to volunteer to care for our little ones, please call or e-mail Tanis or the church office. If you have been on the list and can't continue or have times that you are going to be away for a few weeks, contact Tanis as well.

Out of the Office

Nancy is on vacation from February 16th to 24th. She will be back for Sunday, February 26th.

Small-Group Leaders for Children's Circle Groups

Leaders are required. If you would like to be part of our children's program (preschool-grade 6) as a small group leader in one month commitments in April or May, please speak to Chris.

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 a clothes dryer and couches. If you can help, call Carolor the church office. Campbell's Soup Labels for Steinhauer School can be left in mailbox #231.

Joyce is in need of a double bed with bedding. Please contact the church office if you can help.

Outside Bookings at Southminster-Steinhauer

Friday, February 24

➤ St. Stephen's College, 7:00 pm, Large Hall

➤ AA Meeting, 8:00 pm, Small Hall

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.

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.

St. Stephen's College, Wisdom's Well Series

"Growing Food Security in Alberta:

How Communities Are Creating Local Food Systems"

Presenter: Susan Roberts

Friday, February 24, 7:00 pm, Southminster-Steinhauer

Local food is on the minds of many these days. This session will introduce participants to food security, food sovereignty and the innovative S.E.L.R.S. initiative that focuses on creating a Sustainable, Equitable, Local and Regional System for food in central Alberta. Cost: No Charge. Register with the College by calling 780-439-7311 or e-mail: st.stephens@ualberta.ca

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! Contact Gina Shimoda at 780-433-3347 or ginashimoda@hotmail.com.

An Evening of Singing with Carolyn McDade

Wednesday, March 7, 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Unitarian Church of Edmonton, 10804-119 Street

An evening of song, both old and new. All are welcome! Admission is by donation; proceeds to go to the Widening Embrace Project. For more information email Sara McEwan at hisaram@gmail.com or call (780) 426-7748.

Providence Renewal Centre

How Deep the Peace: A Lenten Evening of Musical Refreshment and Prayer

Thursday, February 23, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Join Linnea Good and David Jonnson for this musical evening: the candles will be progressively lit, the lights will be dimmed and the songs will be deepened, allowing us to sink more fully and prayerfully into this holy time of Lent. \$20.00 in advance \$30.00 at the door. Call (780) 701-1854 or email retreats@providencerenewal.ca.

The Healing Journey through Lent

Friday, February 24, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Lent is a wonderful time to allow the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to heal us. Through guided spiritual practices, prayer and heart-warming chant and song, Nancy and Linnea will invite us to open our hearts and minds to explore whatever it is that keeps us bound. \$95.00 (with buffet lunch), \$85.00 (without lunch). Call (780) 701-1854 or email retreats@providencerenewal.ca, www.providencerenewal.ca.

Large Print Orders of Service

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

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!*

"The Unknown Holy Land"

A Lecture Series by Louis Buff Parry

Tuesday evenings beginning February 7, 7:00-9:00 pm

St Stephen's College, University of Alberta Campus

Tickets: \$10 per lecture (students \$5)

This six-part lecture series will focus on the understated and highly inventive array of contributions the East has made to the Western world. **Guest Lecturers** include: Imam Dr. Usama Al-Atar, Professor Dr. Michael Frishkopf, Nadir Bellahmer.

February 21 – "The Sorcerer's Apprentice and Big-Bang Diffusionism: Orientalism and the Transmission of Islamic Civilization to the West"

March 6 – "The Shi'a Contribution to Western Civilization"

March 13 – "Islamic Design Motifs & Music in the West: Part I"

March 20 – "Islamic Design Motifs & Music in the West: Part II"

For more information call 780-429-2378.

To purchase tickets call 780-439-7311.own Holy Land"

Join Our SMSUC Yoga Class! Drop-ins Welcome!

Join us on Wednesday evenings until March 7, at 7:00 pm, in the Lower Level Hall. Only \$5 per class or pay what you can.

Garage Sale Update

Saturday, May 12

Yes, there will be a clothing boutique at this year's sale and Kim Boyes is in charge! Clothes must be clean and pressed and brought on wire hangers, if possible, or folded in boxes. Please do not put the clothes in garbage bags. We are looking for portable clothing racks to borrow and donations of wire hangers can be brought to the church the week of the sale.

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.



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.