

Welcome to Southminster

Christ's love is here for YOU!

Prayer Requests:

Edie and O. B. Chaffee, Mildred Cunard, Dot Dodgen, Golda Fuller, Dennis Grimm, Helen James, Mike Kerns, Bill and Lottie Kershaw, the Kibaara family, Beverly Larsen, Earl Lavender, Chris LaVine, Pete Logan, Florence Mandi, Bill Pearce, Eugene Shaffer, Tom Shaffer, SPC Stewardship Committee, Eleanor and Archie Shelor, Ricky Tanner, Patrick Wiley, Becky Willingham and the new Elders elect.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Neal and Betty Cheek in the death last week of his uncle and her grandnephew.

Cherokee Presbytery Calendar, December 23—

General Assembly Leaders: Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick, General Assembly Moderator Joan Gray, and Executive Director of General Assembly Council Linda Valentine

This Week's Calendar:

Today	Dec. 23	9:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday school
		11:00 a.m.	Worship
		12:15 p.m.	Lunch Bunch @ Italian Oven
Monday	Dec. 24	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion Service
Tuesday	Dec. 25		Christ the Savior is born!
Thursday	Dec. 27	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Sunday	Dec. 30	11:00 a.m.	Worship/Christmas Carol Singing

Pat Mukora extends her appreciation to everyone who helped in last Sunday's pageant and those who continue to serve in the children's ministry. The children captured our hearts and minds with their portrayal of the birth of the baby Jesus so long ago in that little town of Bethlehem. Once again, we felt the joy and miracle of that first Christmas as we were reminded of that wondrous gift from God. Let us look past the tinsel and glitter as we all watch and wait for the coming of our Lord. May we all have a joyous Christmas filled with God's blessings!

TODAY'S NURSERY ATTENDANT – Jan Boehm

Southminster Presbyterian Church



Welcome! There's a place for YOU at Southminster!

The Reverend Peter M. Paulsen, Minister

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Southminster Presbyterian Church

December 23, 2007, 11:00 a.m. – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Please use the time before the service begins to review the announcements in the bulletin and to quietly prepare your heart for the worship of God.

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

GREETINGS, WELCOME, AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE Rosalie Morgan and Family

***CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 98:1-3, 9**

Leader: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim

People: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

People: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

Leader: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

People: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

People: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

Leader: And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

People: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

***HYMN No. 38**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

The beautiful Poinsettias that decorate the sanctuary are placed in memory and honor of loved ones by the following families:

Charles and Shirley Allen	in memory of:	Jean and Earl Mann
Jan Boehm	in memory of:	Ann Louise Leibrick
Candace Brisbane	in memory of: in memory of:	Ronnie M. Calhoun Blanche Goodwyn
Pat Dunn	in memory of:	Milton and Kenneth Ross
Bill and Lottie Kershaw	in memory of: in memory of:	Joan Kershaw Thomas Shaffer
Pamela Moseley	in honor of: in memory of: in honor of:	Mary Sue Moseley William J. Moseley Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Farris
Pete and Beth Paulsen	in memory of:	Christopher Paulsen
Bob and Jean Shelor	in honor of: in memory of: in memory of:	Shelby Elizabeth Crawford Conrad Spencer Parham Imogene Roe Shelor
Linwood and Connie Swain	In honor of:	J. T. Tolbert
Ruth Webb	in memory of: in memory of:	Eleanor Webb Miller Presbyterian Village Friends

Response to the Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from The Heidelberg Catechism - 1562)

Leader: What do you understand by the providence of God?

All: The almighty and ever-present power of God whereby he still upholds, as it were by his own hand, heaven and earth together with all creatures, and rules in such a way that leaves and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and unfruitful years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, and everything else, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (unison)

Hymn 592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER SONG

*All your anxiety, all your care, Bring to the Mercy Seat and leave it there,
Never a burden He doth not bear, Never a friend like Jesus.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER (traditional)

Hymnal page 16

Sending

*HYMN No. 41 (vs. 1 and 2)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Hymn 41 (vs. 3)

POSTLUDE

Assisting in Worship: Pam Hudson – Music Director; Frank Kibaara – Pulpit Assistant
Rev. Paulsen – Children's Time; Dave Markle – Song Leader

*All who are able, please stand.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you are both tender and mighty—a shepherd we can trust. You call to us and gather us. You feed us and bid us rest in your care. Still we fear the world around us and fail to seek your help when we are lost. Still we struggle stupidly against you—refusing your comfort and ignoring your commands. Renew and restore us, Lord of hosts. Show us the light of your face, that we may be saved. Hear us now, O Lord, as we continue to pray silently...

(Please use these moments of silence to offer your personal prayer of confession.) Amen

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

People: Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

*GLORIA PATRI (unison)

Hymn 579

* THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Please exchange greetings of peace with those near you.

THE LAW

The Word

*HYMN No. 49

"Once in Royal David's City"

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

CHILDREN'S TIME

DISMISSAL SONG

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Children ages three years through fifth grade are dismissed to Sunday school.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

Pew Bible, page 636

CHOIR/SOLOIST

"That Beautiful Name"

Dr. Markle

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Pew Bible, page 1

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Two Versions of Christmas"

Rev. Paulsen