

Elders/ Session Members

2022	2023
Dr. George Brooks, Jr. Doris Lewis Ron Meekins Patricia Berry Dr. Karen Hardin	Lillie Lindsay Pearl Williams Cecil Patterson Reginald Vickers

Deacon Members

2022	2023
Franchelle Frazier Angela Brooks Darla Vickers	Mae Burnett Moses Jones Stacia Holmes Marlene Hannsberry Sandra Ross

Ministry Areas

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Elder Patricia Berry	MUSIC & WORSHIP Elder Reginald Vickers	WOMAN'S GUILD Pearl Williams
DEACONS Darla Vickers	MEN'S CLUB Elder Floyd Jones	HOSPITALITY & USHERS Elder Katherine Alford Elder Patricia Hillman

Church Staff

Clerk of Session— Elder Katherine Alford

Interim Treasurer— Elder Patricia Hillman

Committee / Chairs

Nominating— Elder Dr. Karen Hardin

Co-Chair— Elder Katherine Alford

Mission— Elder Dr. George Brooks, Jr.

Budget & Finance Chair— Elder Doris Lewis

Property - Elder Hubert Ross

Tech Team —Elder Dr. George Brooks, Jr.

Personnel—Elder Pearl Williams, Acting Chair

Pastor / Moderator— Rev. Reginald Ragland

Admin. Assistant— Donna Hilliker

Facilities Manager - Deacon Moses Jones

Part Time Church Housekeeping— Karen Kierna

Music Director— Hui Zhou

Southminster Presbyterian Church
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www.southminpc.org

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Southminster@smpc.phxcoxmail.com

Office Hours: Wednesday - Thursday 9AM– 2PM

Please call to schedule an appointment



Pastor's Office hours:

Wednesday 10AM-2PM

Friday 10AM– 1PM

Southminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 27, 2022

HOPE



Message:

“Laying Aside Darkness and Putting on the
Armor of Light”

Rev. Reginald Ragland

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PLEASE STAND WHEN YOU SEE RED STAR

PRELUDE: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"..... Hui Zhou

STATEMENT OF FOCUS Rev. Reginald Ragland

Today, we begin Advent. The people of God are to watch for the coming of the Lord in the many ways God may show up and sometimes show out. We are to be ready for the unexpected, and readiness takes preparation. Think of the unexpected ways the Lord appears in our lives. To watch means to live in expectation. How does such anticipation affect the routine course of the day? The story is told that In Noah's day a flood overtook the people and swept them away. Watch and be ready!

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 122)** Rev. Reginald Ragland

LEADER: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

PEOPLE: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."

LEADER: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

PEOPLE: Our feet are standing with your gates, O Jerusalem. Peace be within your walls.

LEADER: Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates"By Birmingham Community Mass Choir

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION: Dr. Nikia Meekins

The day is coming, O Lord, when people will say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that you may teach us your ways and we may walk in your paths. As swords are beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." In anticipation of the shalom Christ brings to all people we come now before your throne of grace to give you our praise and thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Deacon Franchelle Frazier / Congregation

Unison: God of forgiveness and mercy, hear our prayer as we confess our sin. With moments so critical we let time go by. With deliverance so near we linger in the darkness. With Christ as our armor, we yet fear the unknown foe. With the night having passed, we still hesitate to greet the new day. O God, lead us forth, that we may meet the moment you graciously give us. Dispel the shadows, so that your will may be clear. Clothed with light and new life in Christ, let us go forth as those awake to your will.

Please let us observe a moment of personal silence and repentance Deacon Franchelle Frazier

Offering Tally For 11/20/2022

Online Attendance:9 / In Person Attendance:31

Amount From Last Sunday Offering

\$4,326.80



The Prayer Line is actively functioning; requests for special prayers should be directed to:

Deacon Darla Vickers at (480) 343-3574. If no answer, please leave a message or send a text.

Recent Prayer Request: Please continue to keep Larry Copeland and family in your prayers. His sister Savannah is ill and her daughter, His niece Sharmel Holmes is currently in critical condition in ICU. Please also continue to lift up Rev. Eve-Lynn Garnett, Craig Ealy, and Alex Johnson in your prayers.

Ongoing Prayer Needs: Mary Kyles and Family, Jenna Holloway, Sean Morris, Danton Robert Thompson, Mary Reese, Jada Humdy, Karen Kierna, Joni McCray, Savannah Lamar, Stefan Lukaszewski, Joseph Betts, Angela and Amila, Pat Hillman, and Dawn Sherwood. The Warren Family, and the Ross Family. The Wilhoite, Brooks, Hurt Family, & Pearlie Jones' Family, Jennie Lasher, Judy Jones and Family, and Ray Williams and Clovis Campbell Jr.





For your convenience you can give your tithes, offerings, pledges and donations online www.southminpc.org or call the church office (602) 276-2582.



Website

Online Giving

Internet Login & Passwords

Wifi Name: Sanctuary 2.4g

Password: 02871868

Wifi Name: Sanctuary 5g

Password: 02871868

MESSAGE NOTES

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Deacon Franchelle Frazier
 Jesus said that anyone who hears what he says and trusts in God has eternal life. The time is coming; indeed, it is already here. All who heed God’s voice shall have life and that, indeed, eternal. Rest in the assurance of God’s grace made known to us in Jesus the Christ.

HYMN OF HUMILITY: “O Come Let Us Adore Him” Chancel Choir

*** WELCOME / RECOGNITION OF VISITORS** Rev. Reginald Ragland

ADVENT MEDITATION: Elder Doris Lewis & James Lewis

Parent (s): On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place. Some call the first candle the Hope Candle, or the Expectation Candle. It reminded believers that God had promised throughout the Old Testament that he would send a Messiah, the Shepherd King, to save his people.

Child (ren): With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

Both: (Lighting the candle) The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!

Prayer: Peacemaker, Pain-bearer, restore the shalom of the earth burdened by the pollution of our sin, and guide all nations in the way of your wholeness. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: Elder Susan Brooks-Morris

PASTOR: The Peace of Christ be with you.

RESPONSE: **And also with you.**

CHORAL RESPONSE: “Blessed Be the Tide that Binds” Hui Zhou / Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: Rev. Reginald Ragland
 Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 (NRSV) Rev. Reginald Ragland
 Psalm 122:1-9 (NRSV) Dr. Nikia Meekins
 Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14 (NRSV) Deacon Franchelle Frazier
 Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44 (NRSV) Dr. Nikia Meekins

LITURGIST: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

TESTIMONY IN SONG: "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Elder Susan Brooks-Morris / Hui Zhou

MESSAGE: "Laying Aside Darkness and Putting on the Armor of Light" Rev. Reginald Ragland

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Rev. Reginald Ragland / Congregation

IN UNISON: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYER OF PRAISE: Rev. Reginald Ragland

THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Reginald Ragland / Congregation

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING Deacon Franchelle Frazier

God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvelous deeds. As stewards, we raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

* **DOXOLOGY** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Chancel Choir

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Rev. Reginald Ragland

O God, your will is revealed in hidden places. We are told to be ready, for your Son comes at times we do not expect. We are told to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and visit those in prison. Quiet our fears, so that we may venture confidently into the unknown and minister to strangers in our midst.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED / ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Nikia Meekins

***CLOSING HYMN-** "Comfort Ye My People" By Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Reginald Ragland

* **THREE-FOLD AMEN**– Amen, Amen, Amen.

POSTLUDE Hui Zhou

Announcements: Please submit any new announcements the Monday prior to Sunday's Worship service to be included in the bulletin. Thank you.

Prayer Requests: Please contact Rev. Reginald Ragland or Deacon Darla Vickers about prayer requests.

- Good Morning and Welcome to Sunday Worship Service!
- Pastor Ragland is seeking help from individuals interested in supporting 20 families during the Holiday season. Five families will come from Shellie's Preschool. Seven of the families will come from the ML King School and eight families will come from a group home in the area. We will be responsible for purchasing clothes, school supplies and toys for boys and girls. His goal is to have all gifts ready by December 21 and delivered by December 23. Cash donation will be accepted and can be provided to Southminster PC with a note designating as "Christmas gifts for adopted Children".
- Pastor Ragland has agreed to assist in promoting the food distribution program at South Phoenix Baptist Church. Food from the St. Mary's Food Bank is provided to the community at not cost each Thursday from 7am to 12 noon. The address is 2006 E. Broadway Rd, Phoenix, AZ. No identification or qualifying conditions is required. Pass the word. This is good gossip.
- Just a reminder that all are invited to join the Advent Bible study every Wednesday at 12:00 PM through December 21, 2022. The themes of Hope–Peace–Joy–Love will guide our thoughts as Church leaders are invited to come and participate in the continuing dialogue around change and action related to the future of African American congregations. A weekly Zoom link reminder will be sent each week.
- Please join the Christian Education Ministry for prayer and Biblical study each Wednesday evening. The study will focus on the Book of Ephesians. Prayer begins at 6:30pm and the study will follow at 7pm. All are welcomed to participate and to invite a friend. Pastor Ragland will provide leadership for the study and the Christian Education ministry will assign a prayer leader each week. The weekly Zoom link provided for worship will also be utilized for the weekly study.
- Online giving is conveniently available by clicking on the DONATE link on the website, or by scanning the QR code in the bulletin. Offerings may also be mailed to PO BOX 8764, Phoenix, AZ 85066, or brought to the office on Wednesday or Thursday between the hours of 9AM-2PM. You may also contact the church office during business hours and request your offerings be picked up from your home.

Stewardship Pledge Goal



CURRENT

\$81,430.00

GOAL

\$100,000.00

November Meetings:

Every Wednesday– Budget and Finance Committee Mtg.

11/27 Worship Committee Mtg.

11/27- Deacon's Mtg.