

Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario

May 10, 2026

Christian Family Sunday

Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller

Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook

Reader: Aidan MacNaull

**Prelude: Chorale Prelude on Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten Sein
by Johann Pachelbel**

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we are worshipping on the unceded land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. We do so because we are committed to the path of reconciliation.

The Moosehide Campaign is an Indigenous-led effort to stop violence against women and children. When we wear a pin with a square of moose hide, we are showing that we support this work, and that we care for all families. We invite others to join First Nations, Inuit and Metis people in standing up against harm to women and children.

As we gather as Southminster United Church, we commit ourselves to the work of truth and reconciliation, pledging ourselves also to the work of equality and justice.

Lighting of the Candles

We light this candle to celebrate the light of Christ, the one who showed us how to live in relationship with everyone and everything in Creation.

We light the Affirming candle to remind us that everyone is welcome here. We value our relationships and our community includes people of all cultural backgrounds, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. God loves all of us.

Call to Worship

Creator, parent of the human family,
we gather to worship you.

In baptism, we are called beloved children of God, as such,
we gather to worship you.

Friends, neighbours, siblings in faith,
**we gather to worship in song, in prayer, in readings from your story/our story,
in thoughts and reflections.**

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you.

We come as individuals, we come in family units, we come as neighbours and friends.

We come here where we are known by name, welcomed with all our fragilities and strengths.

We gather with kindred spirits who long to live faithful to your calling.

Guide us, inspire us, challenge us, comfort us, and nurture us in this time of worship

so that we might be enabled to return to our daily lives ready to engage fully

with all of your creation. We pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn: I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry (VU 644)

Scripture Reading

John 14:15-21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Anthem: Create in Me a Clean Heart by Arnold B. Sherman

Reflection: Christian Family Sunday

Hymn: Are You a Shepherd? (MV 126)

Invitation of Offering

God has blessed our lives with relationships—joy inspiring and challenging.

In response to God’s blessings in our lives, we are now invited to share our offerings.

Presentation of the Offering: Grant US, God, the Grace (VU 540)

Offering Prayer

Creator God, you have blessed our lives with relationships that both inspire and challenge.

We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships

with one another and with your whole creation.

Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people.

We pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Our faith blesses us with stories of others who have sought to live in life-giving relationships. As we remember these siblings in faith, remind us of your guidance and presence with us. Let us pray—

God of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam; God of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus; God of siblings who cared for one another, offered support and challenge, celebrated together, worked together, argued together, and grieved together. We are thankful for their witness. As they have done may we also seek to live in life-giving relationships with those we would name as siblings.

God of Eli, Hannah, and Samuel, cross-generational colleagues, mentors, and trusted leaders in faith, remind us of the opportunities we have to nurture and care, mentor and discern with one another in this faith community. May we embrace the trust that is offered and shared with respect, care, and humility.

God of Ruth and Naomi, who embraced each other despite differences of race and cultural traditions and chose to be family for one another. For all who choose to be family, may your love and hope be sustained day by day.

God of Simon and Andrew and James and John, who left the familiar to build new community with Jesus and his followers. Though faithful, they had moments of doubt, of fear, of denial. In our moments of doubt, fear, and denial, may we remember to trust and to take one step at a time.

God of Hagar, Abraham, and Ishmael; God of Sarah, Abraham, and Isaac; God of the complicated, and the jealous, and the broken, remind us that this too is real and that you walk with us through these troubling times.

God of Mary and John, called to relationships that stretch beyond blood, to care for one another. You invite us too to reach out in welcome, support, and care for one another.

God of the past, God of the present, God of tomorrow, help us to live in relationships that seek justice, love kindness, and ground ourselves in your love for us.

And we continue in prayer together, sharing in a paraphrase of the prayer Jesus taught the disciples

The Prayer of Jesus - VU 959

**Our Creator in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

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Announcements

Closing Hymn: Would You Bless Our Homes and Families (VU 556)

Benediction and Sending Forth

Be the living expression of God's kindness:

kindness in your face,

kindness in your eyes,

kindness in your smile,

kindness in your warm greeting.

In the slums we are the light of God's kindness to the poor.

To children, to the poor, to all who suffer and are lonely,
give always a happy smile.

Give them not only your care,

But also your heart.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

**Postlude: Sonata in C minor op. 17, no.2 III by Johann Christian
Bach**

Coffee Time

Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) of the Bible. Many of the prayers in today's service are from Jackie Harper's "Kin to One Another - Worship Resources for Christian Family Sunday" (2018 United Church of Canada)

Coffee Host:
Ushers/Counters: Gerald Ohashi/ Sandra Black

As the people of Southminster United Church, we affirm and actively support the life experience of all. All persons are invited to take part in every aspect of church life including membership, leadership, celebration of life passages and marriage. We are committed to following Jesus' example as we embrace people of all ages, racialized groups, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities, ethnic origins, economic circumstances and differing abilities and challenges in the ministry and life of Southminster United Church.



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Southminster United Church
15 Aylmer Ave. Ottawa ON K1S 3X1
613-730-6874
admin@southminsterunitedchurch.com
southminsterunitedchurch.com