**Bearing Fruit–February 14, 2021**

**Luminaria Sunday**

Southminster has its own “liturgical calendar” with special Sundays.

Since 2011 Southminster Presbyterian Church has held a ***Luminaria Sunday***. ***Luminaria Sunday – Honors and Remembers*** those who have been touched by cancer.

On this Sunday we set aside a time to concretely express our love for those who have fought cancer and are now with the Lord and for those who continue the fight. We pray for all the individuals named on the bags. In one sense each bag is a prayer of thanksgiving and a prayer of hope. Each luminary represents $10 toward the American Cancer Society for research. In the past decade we have donated close to $10,000!

This Sunday is also the final Sunday of Epiphany, which means “Revelation.” We will hear about the Christ’s Transfiguration from Luke 9:28-36. Christ is revealed again as God’s beloved son as he is “transfigured” before the three of his disciples. Christ in one sense is baptized in bright light. We are called to bring Christ’s light into the world, and Luminaria Sunday is one of the ways that we carry Christ’s light into the world and bear the fruit of God’s love.

As we bear the fruit of God’s love let us remember God’s promise from the prophet Isaiah 61:3:

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

We will read the names of those remembered and honored (the list is a separate attachment) during the Prayers of the People.