**Bearing Fruit – March 14, 2021**

**March Mission Madness (MMM)**

In 2020 there was no March Madness! There was no Sweet Sixteen, no Final Four, and no champions. For the first time since 1938, there was no NCAA Tournament.

Last year on Selection Sunday, a little more than 72 hours away from the men’s first-round games scheduled to begin that Tuesday, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) executed the most stunning March moment of all time in terminating one of the nation’s most beloved traditions. The cancellation impacted all winter and spring NCAA championships, including the women’s basketball tournament and College World Series, which was scheduled for June.

As a result, for the first time since 2014 there was no March Mission Madness at Southminster Presbyterian Church (SPC)! For six years during the month of March, the MMM event raised funds for the missions of SPC… until 2020. But this year MMM is back, and our “winners” will be able to choose to support one of these missions:

Bridge Communities, Cuba Sister Church, DuPage PADS, Metropolitan Family Services (formerly Family Shelter Service), Rebuilding Together Aurora, People’s Resource Center, Walk-In Ministry, World Relief, and the Youth Mission Trip.

Please take a look at our announcements for information on how to participate in the fun! You can begin filling in your bracket(s) as soon as the teams are announced tonight, but you must have them completed no later than **10:00 a.m. this Thursday, March 18**.

The entry is a minimum $15 donation per tournament bracket, but there’s nothing saying that you can’t donate more or create multiple tournament brackets at $15 each. The individuals with the four highest point totals will each determine which SPC mission from the list above will get their share of the pool of the money donated. The overall winner gets unfettered bragging rights and the opportunity to have their school’s fight song played in worship. It’s not gambling, so anyone of any age can join in. Friends and extended family are welcome, too. You don’t need to be a sports fan to get in on this fun.

The best basketball minds in the world are known for lousy bracket picks. You choose however you like. Some people pick purely by how the teams are seeded, what conference they’re from, others by the name of the team, others by the color of the uniforms, others by how cute the mascot is. You can’t go wrong – because some of our SPC missions will be the real winners, so join in on the fun! Who will keep score of all the entries? We will use the ESPN website. You will need to create an account on ESPN.go.com. Ugh, that sounds like a hassle. Don’t worry, it’s a simple process. We sent out instructions in an eBlast on Friday, but if you need help, contact our Master of the Madness Troy Hammer by email at hammer.troy@gmail.com or by phone at 415-310-3456.

In all of this fun we have the joy of bearing God’s love.