**Bearing Fruit – April 25, 2021**

**Christine Olfelt**

# Our preacher today is Dr. Christine Olfelt, who has been our Minister of Christian Education and Discipleship for the past three years. Today is her farewell Sunday, though she will be working till the end of the month – Friday, April 30.

# Christine came to us in April 2018 fresh from her doctoral program in Christian Education at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston. Her dissertation was “How Can the Formation of Faith in Adults be Encouraged through Relevant, Life-Giving Engagement with the Bible?”

# Last year, when the pandemic hit, Southminster was particularly appreciative of her skills with an online Bible study for adults, helping the Women’s Morning Circle learn to Zoom, and creating Sunday activity pages for the children. We hear that some adults enjoy those pages, as well.

Over the past three years Christine has been discerning God’s call toward pastoral ministry. She is leaving us in order to continue that process by accepting a ministry position in her home congregation, North Park Covenant Church, Chicago. Her commute will be shorter–just a walk down the street, and she will be able to worship with her family. Her task will be to facilitate relationships and activities that promote Christian formation; work in partnership with existing ministries, and create new ones in order to encourage growth in Christian discipleship for both young and old at North Park Covenant Church and within the surrounding community.

Today, between 1 and 2:00 p.m., the deacons are hosting a Drive-Through Send Off for Christine to thank her for her service to Southminster over the last three years. Cars will come into the circle drive so the driver's side faces the portico, where Christine will be greeting people. Deacons will be there to help direct you. You will have an opportunity to thank Christine for her contributions, wish her good luck on her new opportunity, and pick up packaged treats to celebrate. Thank you, Christine, for the ways that you helped us bear the fruit of God’s love.

*God’s mercy is rich for us who have been blessed to fear God   
from generation to generation.*

-Luke 1:50