**Bearing Fruit – July 11, 2021**

**Welcome Rev. Lesley Weir**

Until recently Rev. Lesley Weir was the pastor at St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church in Downers Grove. She is now honorably retired and enjoying her next season of life with her husband. We thank Lesley for bringing us the message today. Please enjoy this morning’s slideshow not only as a way for you to prepare for worship, but also to get to know Lesley through photos.

Prior to Covid, Lesley and our pastor, Wendy Boden, met monthly with other Presbyterian clergywomen in the area to give support, insight, and fellowship. All of them are looking forward to meeting together again in the near future.

Fun fact, Caroline Linde, today’s liturgist, knew Lesley before she was ordained. Lesley was a frequent visitor to Caroline’s family’s Christmas Eve gatherings.

Thinking of Christmas, we are singing *Joy to the World* today. Did you know that it was originally meant to be an Easter hymn? In either case, it is one of Caroline’s favorite hymns. Will you get to have one of your favorite hymns sung in worship if you serve as a liturgist? It’s a strong possibility. Just ask Elder Sarah Allen, Moderator of the Worship Ministry.

Our offertory was recorded for us by Sara Vanderford. Sara and all the Vanderford family were deeply involved in life at Southminster… and then they relocated to Florida. But they’ve stayed in close contact with us both online and in person – in fact, Sara, and her brother, David, just joined the Youth Mission Team for the week of workcamp in South Dakota. We may not have a slideshow featuring Sara, but if you go back to the *Dialog* that went out this week, you’ll find her in the Youth Mission Team photos. Look on page 10, upper right photo, and you’ll find Sara armed with a paint brush and a big smile.

We thank all those who have helped make this worship service possible. “We are the church together.”