**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**13th Sunday after Pentecost or the 76th Sunday of Covid**

**August 22, 2021**

**9:30 a.m.**

Find the link for the service on one of these sites:

1) our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>
2) our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/worship-videos>
3) our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos>

If the video feed is interrupted during the service, we will continue to record and then post the full video on Facebook and our web site as soon as possible.

 Gathering Music: *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy;
 God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us; You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!;
 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me; O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer*

Our slideshow today is “Youth Mission Trip”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!**

 Prelude

 Call to Worship (Ephesians 2:8)

 Leader: We are saved by grace!

 **People: It is not our doing!**

 **All:** **Grace is a gift from God to all who have faith. Let us worship God!**

 Hymn:   *Grace Alone*

**Ev’ry promise we can make, ev’ry prayer and step of faith,**

**Ev’ry difference we will make is only by His grace.**

**Ev’re mountain we will climb, ev’ry ray of hope we shine,**

**Ev’ry blessing left behind is only by His grace.**

**Grace alone, which God supplies,**

**Strength alone He will provide.**

**Christ in us our cornerstone;**

**We will go forth in grace alone.**

**Ev’ry soul we long to reach, ev’ry heart we hope to teach,**

**Ev’rywhere we share His peace is only by His grace.**

**Ev’ry loving word we say, ev’ry tear we wipe away,**

**Ev’ry sorrow turned to praise is only by His grace.**

**Grace alone, which God supplies,**

**Strength alone He will provide.**

**Christ in us our cornerstone;**

**We will go forth in grace alone.**

 Prayer of Confession:

**Lord God, you came to us in the Son Jesus Christ. Through him we have received grace upon grace and are called to a new way of life marked by love and forgiveness toward all, everyone, no exceptions. To say we struggle with grace is to put it mildly. Through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, create in us new life that embraces what we have received from you. Help us to extend it to others. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. who is both savior and Lord. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of the Grace of God/Assurance of Pardon (Titus 3:4-6, NRSV, edited)

 Leader: Through the loving kindness of God our Savior, we are saved.

 **People: Not by our righteousness, but by God’s mercy.**

 Leader: The Holy Spirit has been poured on us through Jesus Christ.

 **People: We are forgiven!**

 **All: Thanks be to God!**

 Response 582: *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,**

**And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,**

**And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Youth Mission Report

 For children worshiping in the sanctuary, please stay with your families during the Word
 with Children. When our Covid rules change, we will welcome you back up front.

 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons: Colossians 3:12-17

 Luke 17:4-10

 Sermon: Misunderstandings of Biblical Proportions: *“Forgiveness”*

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)

from *The Confession of Belhar* (10.3)

**We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain[.]**

 Hymn 445: *God, How Can We Forgive* (verses 1, 3)

**God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?**

**How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?**

**When human loving fails and every hope is gone,**

**Your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.**

**When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,**

**How can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?**

**The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.**

**A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.**

 Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

 **People**: **hear our prayers.**

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

 Offertory: *It’s Quiet Uptown* Lin-Manuel Miranda

 \**Doxology* Hymnal #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Hymn 611: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*  (verses 1, 3)

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!**

**Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.**

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.**

**Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.**

**Love divine is reigning o’er us, joining all in heaven’s plan.**

**Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.**

**Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,
 **People: For we are blessed to be a blessing!
 All: Alleluia! Amen!**

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgists: Lois Stevenson, Blair Nelson

Musicians: Tom Anderson; Offertory: Laurel Bacote, Kaleb Cruz, and Madeline Johnson,
 accompanied by Karen Archbold

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Ron Birchall, Steve Henkels, Chris Kozich

The flowers today are given in honor of Wendy Boden and Blair Nelson’s 29th wedding anniversary.

If you are present for worship, following the service you are invited by the deacons to gather for **in-person fellowship** of beverages and conversation out in front of the building. Please wait until you are outside to visit.

If you are online, join us for **Zoom fellowship** at 10:30 a.m. following the worship service. Heidi Shierry is hosting this week. Join Zoom Meeting:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87217989949?pwd=cVByMWtVaXhKZG9TR1dZZXFIOS9wQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87217989949?pwd=cVByMWtVaXhKZG9TR1dZZXFIOS9wQT09" \t "_blank)
Meeting ID: 872 1798 9949        Passcode: 728773

**Wendy needs help today at 11:30** to move a very large plant from the Rogers’ home to her home till they return. She has a man with a truck (thank you, Victor King), but she needs a few strong people to get the plant in and out of the truck.

You are invited to join us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>), where we have a live sharing of “**Heart to Heart**” with Pastor Wendy Boden Tuesday through Friday at 4:16 p.m..

Even though we have returned to in-person worship, we will also continue to be live on **Sunday morning for worship** at 9:30 a.m. (slideshow beginning at 9:15)
at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>
*If for any reason the feed falters, rest assured that a recording will be posted to Facebook and You Tube as soon as possible.*

You can also find links to recordings of the weekday sessions, special services, and Sunday worship posted on our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/worship-videos> or by going to our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos>
 **Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study – 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.** We have resumed our study of Micah, and then soon we move on to 1st John. Join us at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82920574961?pwd=dEwxU2NhaFM5VWhPSzBtYkZvUld2dz09>
Meeting ID: 829 2057 4961 Passcode: 537355

**Slideshows help us feel connected! Please help us by sharing your photos and your ideas.** Here are some ideas we’ve had, but what else can you suggest? Sunflowers, Crosstown Rivalry, State Connections (we’ve had Iowa and have Ohio scheduled), First Day of School… what else would you like to see?

**You can help with this upcoming slideshow**:
**August 29:  Ohio Buckeye Connections.** We need you folks who have connections, any connections, with Ohio to send your pictures to Sue Knisely by Thursday noon, August 26:sueknisely@gmail.com

If you have skill with PowerPoint, please connect with Wendy at Wendy@southminsterpc.org.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Youth: Fox River Naval Battle** is today. We meet at Ayer’s Landing at 1:45 p.m. - 3494 E. 2089th Rd, Wedron, IL 60557. Cost is $60/canoe, cash or check only. Bring a towel or two, water (and maybe a snack), sunscreen and bug juice, and the biggest water gun that you can find. Obviously, we are going to get wet! We will be done by about 4:30, depending on how big the battle gets. You need to watch the safety videos on their website (<http://www.ayerslandingcanoerental.com/>) and sign a waiver saying that you did so.

Coming up: Our **Family Camp Out** at Devil’s Lake in Wisconsin on Sept. 11th and 12th. Get it on your calendar - it is going to be great!

 **From the Worship Ministry
Flowers for worship:** Do you have a person or an occasion you would like to honor with a flower arrangement for a worship service? We have openings coming up on September 12 and 19. Sign up on the flower chart in the narthex, reply to this message, or contact Sarah Allen: 630-988-8231 or ridesrowdy@aol.com

Worship is seeking **liturgists**. If you have never done so, take a leap of faith and try it! Wendy and seasoned liturgists will train/assist you. The sanctuary congregation is very small, very friendly, and after seeing how easy it is—hopefully, you will feel comfortable to keep on, even with a fuller congregation. It is a truly wonderful way to serve Him! Contact Sarah Allen (phone and email listed in the paragraph above) or Pastor Wendy.

Worship is also seeking **ushers** comfortable being back in the sanctuary. If interested, please contact Lanny Russell. (630-738-3600 or lansonrussell@aol.com)

If you have **musical talent,** we need you! If you can serve Him in this capacity, please contact Tom Anderson, Music Director. (651-246-5029 or tomanderson101@gmail.com).

**From the Mission Ministry**
**Save your gently-worn shoes**! In September Mission will be collecting used shoes of all kinds – children’s, men’s, women’s, sandals, and boots. Beginning the first Sunday of September there will be a collection box in the entryway of our church. You’ll also find rubber bands there; please band together each pair of shoes before putting them in the box. The shoe collection will continue September 5-26.

**Jubilee Bucks gift cards for PRC**: If you do not want to actually go shopping and drop off food at church for PRC, you can buy Jubilee Bucks and indicate that the gift card will go to PRC. Any $25 gas cards are welcome. $25 gift cards to Walmart, Target, Walgreens, and CVS are most appreciated; if they so choose, clients can use these gift cards for prescriptions or over-the-counter medications. See Jubilee Bucks info below.

 **Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):Thanks to all who order gift cards. **Today (Sunday, August 22) is an order date**! Orders need to be emailed to Bobbi today by 9:00 p.m.: bobbifrey@aol.com. Order forms are always available at church, on the church website, and attached on Fridays to the emails with the bulletins. Remember to note merchant, amount of card, number of cards wanted, and total for your order. Cards will be delivered to you on Tuesday or Wednesday.

The Mission Notes above suggest purchasing Jubilee Bucks gift cards for PRC. If you would like to do that, please let Bobbi know when ordering which cards are to be so designated, and she will set those aside to go directly to PRC.

After August 22, we’ll skip Labor Day weekend, and then we’ll order again on September 12. These are 3-week intervals instead of the normal 2-week intervals, so plan ahead.

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
It is very impressive how people have donated to PRC since the beginning of the pandemic! Your donations have really been appreciated! The last 3 weeks of July you also dropped off school supplies for their Back-to-School event that provides filled backpacks for 1000 children! The school supply drive is completed, but food and paper products are still a constant need. The box is now in the entry way at church.

The Mission Notes above also suggest donating gift cards to PRC, which you can order through Jubilee Bucks.

**Care Notes:**“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” -Philippians 4:6
Generally, we share our prayer requests at worship services on blue slips, but since we are not all meeting together, we’re missing our blue slips. We are still collecting prayer requests! Please leave a message on our answering machine at 630-469-9149.

***Friends, with our new communication style the eNotes Joys and Concerns (sent most Wednesdays) will include new information and members’ ongoing concerns. For the eNotes/Dialog (sent on the first Wednesday of the month) and Sunday bulletins our list will be full and complete.***

 **Joys and Concerns**
 - Flowers today celebrate Wendy and Blair’s 29th wedding anniversary
 - Shelayne Larson, a friend of Angela Smith, diagnosed with lung cancer
 - the Lerch family is clear of Covid (!), but prayers continue for the Parks: Jessica has Covid and is quarantining; dad and kids are negative.
 - the people of Haiti after the recent earthquake
 - those who are in danger in Afghanistan and those who are fleeing after the takeover by the Taliban
 - Marie, who is continuing in care
  - Bill and Gretchen, and Gretchen’s niece, Kate
  - ongoing concerns for the Rogers’ health and the water damage done to their home
 - all who are affected by wildfires raging in the western U.S., Canada, and Greece
  - Pray for an end to gun violence in our nation.
 - We pray for our sister church in Cuba and for the Cuban people in this time of political protest and very difficult economic conditions in that country. In addition, they are experiencing a surge in COVID cases and cannot obtain enough syringes to vaccinate people rapidly.
  - prayers for Haiti, Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, India, Palestine, Brazil, Greece
  - We continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land.
**We pray for those who mourn.** - Doug Carlson and Jenifer Merritt on the death of Bob Carlson, who died August 6. His ashes were scattered in the Memorial Garden after worship last Sunday. **We pray for all who are infected with and/or affected by COVID:**
 - Prayers of thanksgiving for Mary, who has finally returned home after her 3-1/2 month hospital stay from Covid. Also, prayers for Mary’s caregiver mother, Eufelia.
  - Prayers for all who are trying to navigate reopening activities, and all those who are still feeling vulnerable.
  - those facing unforeseen consequences from the pandemic
**We pray for all who are dealing with mental or physical health challenges.**
 - those who struggle with depression
  - Betsy Rogers, health concerns
  - Judith, a friend of the Ellsworths, who has continuing health and financial issues
  - people struggling with difficult family concerns
**We pray for all who are affected by cancer:**
  - Dan Bohi
  - Haley Jablonski
 - Continuing prayers for Parveen Werner, for a successful nano knife procedure on September 3rd to eradicate her pancreatic cancer. She also needs prayers that she can stay positive, and that prior to this procedure, she will regain some of the strength and weight that she has recently lost.
**We pray for those who are far from home:**
 - Luke
  - for the reunion of children and parents at the U.S.-Mexican border

**We continue to pray for our friends and family in the health fields**: **nurses, doctors, and all other health care workers.**
**Food Pantries**: Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, People’s Resource Center, Lakeview Food Pantry, and our members Bobbi Frey and Anna Nelson, who work with them

**Local government bodies/boards**: Prayers for the DuPage County Board, the Village of Glen Ellyn Board, and the boards of the local school districts: 41, 87, 89, 200, COD

**Caring for you!**Our **Congregational Care Committee** is ready to assist in time of need. If you need assistance from the Congregational Care Ministry or Helping Hands during August call Deacon Angela Smith (630-235-1376). You may **call Pastor Wendy Boden** on her cell or home phone (if she has shared the numbers with you) or leave a message for her at the church office: 630-469-9149. Email Wendy at wendy@southminsterpc.org. (Please note that she can only read email when she is in the office.) You may also **call your deacon** if you need help from the church.

Barb is back in the office most Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings (8:45-11:00 most days) now that her son has resumed part-time attendance at his day program.

Remember that we love God and neighbor. Our address is 680 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 if you would like to set up an online account with your bank or mail in your pledge. Grace and peace to you!

***Prayer requests***