**Bearing Fruit – August 29, 2021**

**Forgiveness and Prayer of Confession**

Along with our worship bulletin, Southminster has been offering “Bearing Fruit” to our church family and friends every Sunday since 2011. Bearing Fruit began as part of our Jubilee, a yearlong celebration of our 50th anniversary to honor what God has done and is doing at Southminster. Together we bear the fruit of God’s love for our community, one another, and our Lord.

Today’s Bearing Fruit is a bit of a departure. Generally, we talk about “doing” for others or doing for one another, but what if we do something no one can see or touch? Christ’s community, the church, is composed of flawed people who intentionally seek to live the values of heaven. We are to bring heaven to earth in our daily lives. One way we do this is by the quality of life we share. Jesus said that people would know us by our love. We begin by embracing God’s grace for ourselves and others.

Ephesians 4:32 reminds us that we are to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven us. Together we pray our Prayer of Confession. We have a moment of silence following the prayer so we can offer to God what may weigh on our hearts and minds. Do you need to forgive someone? Do you need to apologize to someone? Do you need to begin again? Do you need God to help you to try again? Our Prayer of Confession is one place during worship where we can intentionally pause and begin the work of being a faithful disciple. Forgiving is one of the ways we bear the fruit of God’s love.