**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**14th Sunday after Pentecost or the 77th Sunday of Covid**

**August 29, 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

Our slideshow today is “Buckeye Connections”

 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 (Revelation 1:17-18)

 Leader: “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,” says the Lord.

 **People: “I am the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever.”**

 **All:** **The Lord has the keys of Death and of Hades. Let us worship God.**

 Hymn 370:   *This Is My Father’s World*  (verse 2)

**This is my Father’s world. O let me ne’er forget**

**That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.**

**This is my Father’s world. The battle is not done:**

**Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.**

 Prayer of Confession:

**Lord Jesus Christ, you are the beginning and the end. You reveal God to us, but even so we rarely acknowledge your presence and your work in the world. Forgive us and lead us; we are lost without you. Through your Holy Spirit alive in our hearts, help us to not only see your presence but be living water in a world that is dying of thirst. 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.**

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Jessica Parks

 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: Revelation 1:1-6

 Revelation 22:1-5

 Sermon: Misunderstandings of Biblical Proportions:
 *“The Book of Revelation is not for me.”*

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)

from *The Confession of 1967* (9.29)

**The Bible is to be interpreted in the light of its witness to God’s work of reconciliation in Christ. The Scriptures, given under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are nevertheless the words of humans, conditioned by the language, thought forms, and literary fashions of the places and times at which they were written. They reflect views of life, history, and the cosmos which were then current. The church, therefore, has an obligation to approach the Scriptures with literary and historical understanding. As God has spoken his word in diverse cultural situations, the church is confident that he will continue to speak through the Scriptures in a changing world and in every form of human culture.**

 Hymn 374: *O Holy City, Seen of John* (verses 1, 3)

**O holy city, seen of John,**

**where Christ, the Lamb, does reign,**

**within whose four-square walls shall come**

**no night, nor need, nor pain,**

**and where the tears are wiped from eyes**

**that shall not weep again!**

**Give us, O God, the strength to build**

**the city that has stood**

**too long a dream; where laws are love,**

**whose ways are servanthood,**

**and where the sun that shines becomes**

**your grace for human good.**

 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: *How Great Is Our God* Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash

 \**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 377: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  (verse 3)

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ;
I want to follow Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.**

**In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart Lord Jesus.**

CCLI Song # 89848

Kathleen Thomerson © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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 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

Liturgist: Blair Nelson

Musicians: Tom Anderson, David Kozich

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Ron Birchall, Steve Henkels, Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Heidi and Steve Shierry in memory of the birthday of Heidi’s father, Stuart Yoos.

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. Paul Jeziorski is hosting this week. Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4927264659>
No Meeting ID or Passcode needed.

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.** Last week we found some hope in Micah. This week we may stumble into Christmas! Join us to figure that one out by following this link at 11:15 a.m.: <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.** Please call/text/email Wendy with your suggestions.

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

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Youth:** Our next event is the **Family Camp Out** at Devil’s Lake, WI, Sept. 11-12. Be sure that Blair knows that your family is coming. Blair will be in contact to plan meals, etc.

 **From the Worship Ministry
We need flowers for worship on September 12 and 19!** Do you have a person or an occasion you would like to honor on one of those dates with a flower arrangement for a worship service? Sign up on the flower chart in the narthex 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):So far this year we have earned $1,205.84 in “free money” with the purchase of gift cards. This is an easy way to prepay for your groceries or household supplies and also benefit our church. The order form is available at church and included every Friday with the bulletin. Order the cards by email, and they are delivered to you. The next date to order is Sept. 12 with delivery 2-3 days later.

Also, as mentioned in the Mission Notes (above), Jubilee Bucks cards can be ordered for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund or for PRC. Last Sunday’s order included $250 in gift cards for PRC!

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
I am amazed at the support that is given weekly with donations of food and household supplies to PRC! The collection box is now in the entrance at the 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 are from Heidi and Steve Shierry in memory of the birthday of Heidi’s father, Stuart Yoos.
 - Lynn, sister of Steve Sanders and mother of Traci Smith, who has health concerns
 - Shelayne Larson, a friend of Angela Smith, diagnosed with lung cancer
 - the Lerch and Parks families are clear of Covid!
 - the people of Haiti after the recent earthquake and upgrade in Covid concerns
 - Marie, who is continuing in care
  - Bill and Gretchen, and Gretchen’s niece, Kate
 - Betsy’s health
 - those who are in danger in Afghanistan and those who are fleeing after the takeover by the Taliban
 - 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 all who are affected by cancer:**
  - Haley Jablonski, who is now in hospice care. Boldly pray for a miracle!
  - Dan Bohi
 - Continuing prayers for Parveen Werner, who in addition to fighting pancreatic cancer is now diagnosed with sepsis and is hospitalized in the ICU with a stone in her gallbladder. She is receiving antibiotics, and the initial response has been positive. Parveen keeps fighting; please keep praying.

**We pray for those who mourn.**
**We pray for all who are infected with and/or affected by COVID:**
  - Prayers for all who are trying to navigate reopening of school and other 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
  - Judith, a friend of the Ellsworths, who has continuing health and financial issues
  - people struggling with difficult family concerns

**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***