**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**December 18, 2022**

**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: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night;*  *Still, Still, Still; Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light;
 Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

Our Photo Story today is “Christmas Trees.”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

  Lighting the Advent Wreath (Isaiah 7:14)

 Leader: As the Lord says, “The Lord will give you a sign,
 Look, the young woman is with child.”

 **All: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.**

 Hymn 314:  *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* (verse 1)

 *(Christ, Be Our Light)*

 Prelude: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

 Call to Worship (Isaiah 7:14)

 Leader: The Lord will give you a sign,
 Look, the young woman is with child.

 **People:** **She shall bear him a son,
 and name him Emmanuel: “God is with us.”**

 **All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

 Hymn 104: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* (verses 1, 2)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Wondrous God, your love is wider than our sight; your grace is more wonderful than we can sing. You chose to visit us as a child in a manger, and love us as a friend. We admit that there is much in us that is not ready to receive you. Help us to pause in your presence long enough that we might hear a song that lights our hearts, that we might find you in our common tasks. Come; give us a heart of praise and a song of gladness, in Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 The Good News of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 40:4-5)

 Leader: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain made low.
 Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
 for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

 **All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
 Thanks be to God.**

 Response 84: *Creator of the Stars of Night* (verse 1)

**Creator of the stars of night,
Your people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
We pray you, hear us when we call.
Amen.**

Public domain

 The Passing of the Peace

 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

[The offering plate is at the back of the sanctuary. Please leave your gift or pledge
in the plate on your way into or out of worship.]

 Offertory Anthem: *Bethlehem Wind* Joseph M. Martin

 Response: *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* Hymnal #314, verse 5

**Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

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 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Carol 88:  *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verses 1, 2)

 Prayer for Illumination

 First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-6

  Carol 119:  *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (all 3 verses)

 Verse 1: children

 Verse 2: children and choir

 Verse 3: children, choir, and congregation

 Second Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38

 Duet: *Breath of Heaven*

 Third Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

 Solo: *Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child*

 Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-15

 Trio: *Lullay Alleluia*

 Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:16-20

 Carol 122: *Silent Night* (verses 1-3)

 Verse 1: children

 Verse 2: children and choir

 Verse 3: children, choir, and congregation

 Carol 136: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (all 3 verses)

 Sixth Lesson: John 1:1-14 (read responsively)

 Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word
 was with God, and the Word was God.

 **People: He was in the beginning with God.
 All things came into being through him,**

 Leader: and without him not one thing came into being.
 What has come into being in him was life, and the life
 was the light of all people.

 **People: The light shines in the darkness,
 and the darkness did not overcome it.**

 Leader: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all
 might believe through him. He himself was not the light,
 but he came to testify to the light.

 **People: The true light, which enlightens everyone,
 was coming into the world.**

 Leader: He was in the world, and the world came into being
 through him; yet the world did not know him.

 **People: He came to what was his own, and his own people
 did not accept him.**

 Leader: But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
 he gave power to become children of God, who were born,
 not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man,
 but of God.

 **All: And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
 and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son,
 full of grace and truth.**

 Carol 134: *Joy to the World* (verse 1)

[Children return to their seats in the front. Please stay seated
through the Postlude to watch Julie signing *O Holy Night*.]

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

 **All: For we are blessed to be a blessing!
 Alleluia, amen!**

 Postlude: *O Holy Night*

**[Please, no applause. The postlude is a time for reflection and prayer.
When you are ready, we invite you to the narthex for a time of fellowship.]**

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Pastor Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Francine Long
Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Angela Smith
Musicians: Tom Anderson; David Kozich; Max Lerch; Southminster Choir; Southminster’s Children
Advent Wreath: Southminster’s Children
Readers: Jake Falkman, Samantha Falkman, Luke Anderson, Kayla Schmidt, Gracie Sarther

Signer: Julie Long
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

Flowers today are from the Parks family celebrating Elspeth’s birthday.

If you are present for worship, following the service and the meeting, you are invited by the deacons to gather for **in-person fellowship** in the narthex. Coffee and bottled beverages will be served; masks and social distancing are at your discretion.

If you are online, we’re glad to have you! Note that we no longer offer Zoom fellowship.
 **Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study** is taking a break through the holidays. We will begin meeting again on January 8.

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 at 4:20 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday.

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>

**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us feel connected!**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us prepare for worship, connect with one another, and make sure that our at-home people get both sound and sight. You’re invited to share your photos for these dates:
 **December 24: “Nativity Scenes”** Send photos by this Wednesday, December 21.
 **January 1, 2023: “Winter Nature Scenes”** Send photos by Thursday, Dec. 29.
 **January 8: “Water Scenes”** (That Sunday is Baptism of the Lord.) Send photos by
 Thursday, January 5.

**Send photos to our new dedicated email address, just for photos:** **PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org****.** *Please include the date and Photo Story/PowerPoint title for which your photos are to be used.*

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Adult Education**: Our Sunday morning adult Bible study is taking a hiatus for Christmas. Our next class will be January 8 at 11:15 a.m. You can join us then either in the Library/Parlor or online through the Google Meet link that will be in the bulletin. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and see you then.

**Youth**: This Sunday in the Christmas Program. We need our scripture readers in the Sanctuary by 8:30 a.m. All youth and families, please be sure to check the email from Blair about January and February youth events and this summer’s mission trip.

**Presbyterian Women’s Christmas Salad Luncheon** is today in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. All women are invited! Even if you didn’t sign up in advance or bring a salad, ***please join us***. Karen Archbold and her daughters will delight us with Christmas music, and we will enjoy the fellowship of our church sisters. Drinks will be provided. A free will offering will be taken to cover the cost of the entertainment.

**From the Worship Ministry**
Join us for these special worship services:
 - If you are looking for a quiet prayerful time of reflection or know a friend who might
 benefit, please join us on **this** **Wednesday, December 21, at 7:30 p.m.** for our  **Longest Night service**. Refreshments will be served after the service. (This service
 will not be streamed but will be recorded and can be watched here: our web site
 <https://www.southminsterpc.org/worship-videos> or our YouTube channel:
 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos>.)

 - **Christmas Eve** service (**Saturday, December 24**) - **new time: 4:30 p.m.**, with
 familiar Scripture readings, carols, choir, and the traditional candlelighting.

 - **Christmas Day**, **December 25,** is on Sunday this year. Please join us at our usual
 Sunday worship time: 9:30 a.m. We will be serving cocoa and cider while we sing
 many of our favorite carols. Attire is casual- Christmas sweaters and PJs!

***Both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be live streamed and will also be recorded and available on our website and You Tube channel – the links are above.***

Thanks to everyone who ordered poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Please take them home after services on Sunday, December 25, or pick them up in the narthex on Monday, December 26, from 10-11:00 a.m. (Sarah Allen will be at church.) If unable to pick up, please arrange for someone else to do so.

**Flowers for 2023**: Look for the sign-up sheet that will be posted in the Narthex. The florist we have used for years is under new management, and we don’t yet know what that might mean. For now, the price stays the same: $35. When you sign up, please write in your name and to whom/for what occasion the flowers are dedicated and mark an X next to your entry if you want to donate the flowers rather than taking them home yourself.

**From the Mission Ministry**
**Special Christmas Offerings**
As we enter this joyous time of year, we have the opportunity to help our neighbors in need. We at Southminster collect two special offerings. One is our ***Southminster Local Mission Offering*** that stays at Southminster to be used by our Mission Ministry to help our local missions: 75% goes to the Mission budget and 25% goes to this year’s designee chosen by the Mission Ministry: Bridge Communities.

The other one, the ***Christmas Joy Offering***, goes to the Presbyterian Church (USA) to be used to support current and retired church workers with critical financial needs and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to help support communities of color.

You may contribute to either one by writing a check to Southminster and designating on the memo line which offering you are supporting (or you can always support both). These offerings will be dedicated on Christmas Eve.

**Collection of items for our sister church in Cuba**: A team of five people from our church will be visiting our sister church in Guanabacoa Cuba, from January 4-11, 2023. They will take with them items that have been requested by the pastor in Guanabacoa. The list of those items was attached to the Friday email with the bulletin, it’s on our web site, and copies on blue paper are in the Narthex next to the suitcase and on the shelf across from the office. Please have donations at the church by December 23.

The **2022 Church Financial Records** must be closed promptly at the endof this month. Any deposits, donations or pledges that need to be recorded in calendar year 2022 or bills to be paid from the 2022 budget must be into the church office no later than noon on Tuesday, January 3. If you have any questions, please contact Treasurer Tom Frey.

**All women invited: First Wednesday Women’s Breakfast!
Mark your calendars…** our next informal women’s breakfast will be held on Wednesday, January 4, at Danby’s Station at 8:30 a.m. Call, text, or email Gretchen Fleming—(630) 517-0926; gretchen\_fleming@yahoo.com—if you have any questions. (But you’ll have to reach her before the 4th, because she’ll be on her way to Cuba rather than at the breakfast.) As always, all women are invited to join us!

**Jubilee Bucks and Share the Spirit** (from Bobbi Frey):
Thanks to all who have ordered gift cards this year! Your orders resulted in **$1,940.45 in “free” money for Southminster**! (Remember, Southminster receives as a rebate a small percentage of the value of every gift card purchased. We call that “free” money.) Your next opportunity to order will be Sunday, January 8.
 **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
Our weekly donations are greatly appreciated by PRC! They have seen an increase of clients since the pandemic began. It is still on the rise! They are presently serving over 500 clients each week. Our donations of food, personal care items, and cleaning products are very greatly appreciated! Donations can be left in the front entry at church or on the Freys’ front porch – no contribution is too small.
 **Care Notes:**“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” -Philippians 4:6
Even though we aren’t all together for worship, we are still collecting prayer requests! Please email or leave a message on our answering machine at 630-469-9149 if you won’t be present to fill out a prayer request slip.
 **Joys and Concerns**
**The flowers today** are from the Parks family celebrating Elspeth’s birthday.  **We celebrate joys**:
 - Dan Bohi has returned home from the hospital.
  - Kurt Parent had a successful scan.
**We pray to the Lord of the Harvest for a harvest and workers for the harvest.
We pray for the Jeremiah 29 discernment task force as they seek God’s will for Southminster in the 21st century.
We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
  - The people of Ukraine, the Holy Land, Pakistan, and Iran as they face war, civil unrest, and the fight for civil rights
 - The people of Cuba and our Cuba church as they face severe shortages.
 - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation: we lift up all communities where lives have been lost to gun violence.
  - We pray for Hope Presbyterian in Wheaton in their search process for an interim pastor.
**We pray for those who mourn. Please lift up grieving families and friends.** - Jan Kaskovich and her family on the death of her mother, Norma, who was 98 years old
 - Joel Volle passed away on December 3. He and his wife, Joan, ministered at the DuPage Care Center for 37 years.
**We pray for those who are near death and their families and caregivers:**  - Nan-c Hilpert, Wendy’s cousin
**We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems:** - Sandy Lopata requests prayers for Margaret Rolando
  - Tracey J., having treatment to cancerous lung tumor, and also for her husband, Paul, and mother, Ida
  - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, Dan Bohi, Peggy, Najla Brannin, Tracy Nelson, Rod Boehmer, Tammy Grey, Jan Mazur, Meagan Nielson, Charlene Simpson, Jim Sundquist, Connie Vernon, Beverly Webb, and others we name in our hearts.
**We pray for all who are infected with and/or affected by Covid.**
 - Barb’s grandson, Clark (8 months old) and his parents (Barb’s daughter and son-in-law), beginning to feel better
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges:**
 - Lois Stevenson, home recuperating from pneumonia
 - Bryan Petersen, nephew of Pete and Matt Petersen, in hospice care
 - Jack Harris, friend of many at SPC
 - Caroline Cruz and other teens who try to harm themselves
 - Robert, the father of Louanne Jourdan’s children, recovering from heart surgery. Pray for his well-being.
  - Gail Johnston, now in hospice care
  - Deb Bohi’s brother, Tom, hospitalized with a serious infection
  - Sandy Phee, Barb’s Aunt Ruth, Bob Welsh, Cathy Hoffman, Linda H., Vicki, the Kevorkian family, Linda M., Bill L.
 - victims of identity theft
  - Those who have chronic or progressive illnesses  - People receiving new treatments
  - People waiting for surgery
  - People giving up addictions
  - People struggling with difficult family concerns/marital circumstances
  - Prayers for personal peace
  - The many people who struggle with depression
**We pray for those who are far from home.**
**We continue to pray for our friends and family who work in the health fields**: nurses, doctors, and all other health care workers.
**Food Pantries**: Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, People’s Resource Center, and our members who serve them
**Local government bodies/boards**: Prayers for the DuPage County Board, the Village of Glen Ellyn Board, the Village of Glen Ellyn Task Force on Affordable Housing, the boards of the local school districts: 41, 44, 87, 89, 200, COD, and our library boards

 **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) in December or January, call 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.

**Office Schedule:** Barb’s regular schedule is to be in the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays full days (approx. 8:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) while her son attends his day program full time on those days. Mondays and Wednesdays she works from home.

Grace and peace to you! 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. Online giving through Vanco is also now an option – see the June Dialog for details or contact Ron Birchall. ***(Note that when signing up at Vanco, the correct church phone number to enter is 630-469-9149.)***

**Dates to remember this week:**
**Sunday, December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent** **Choir**, please be here by 8:15, **readers** by 8:30, **children** by 8:45 (Readers and
 children, be seated at the front of the sanctuary.)
 **Worship/Christmas Program** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship.
 **Staff meeting** in the Sanctuary 11:00-11:15 a.m.
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** is on hiatus until January 8
 **Women’s Christmas Salad Luncheon** at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Monday, December 19 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday, December 20**
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, December 21**
 **eNotes go out
 Presbyterian Readers** are not meeting this month
 **Longest Night Service** at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by fellowship in the Narthex. *This service will not be live streamed but will be recorded and available on the church web site and You Tube channel.*
 **Choir rehearsal** after the service **Friday, December 23** A.A. at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, December 24 – *Christmas Eve*
 Candlelight Service** at 4:30 p.m.**Sunday, December 25 – *Christmas Day***
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook. Wear your Christmas sweaters or PJs. We’ll sing favorite carols and sip hot cider, cocoa, or coffee.
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship.

**Looking ahead!**Pastor Wendy Boden, Blair Nelson, and Barb Doppelt will all be **away the week between Christmas and New Year**. The church office will be closed, though Tom Frey will be in to handle the year-end contributions and bills so the books can be closed at the end of 2022.

Wendy will be back in the office one day before leaving for Cuba (January 4-11). If you need **pastoral care** during her vacation and mission trip time, you may call the Rev. Grayson Van Camp at 630-471-4643. You can always call your deacon or Congregational Care/Helping Hands (contact information above).

There will be **no eNotes on Wednesday, December 28, but that day will still be the deadline for the January *Dialog***. The January issue should go out on Thursday the 5th ***if*** Barb has everything she needs to publish when the office opens on Tuesday the 3rd.

**Bearing Fruit – December 18, 2022
Welcoming the Christ Child**
We offer this week several ways to meet the Christ Child. Today we have the Christmas Program. In preparation, the children have been practicing playing hand chimes. The choir will be “suited up.” It was at the Christmas program 2019 that we first saw the new choir robes, but by March 2020 the choir wasn’t meeting! Do we need to say why? (Remember Covid lockdown?! That was March 2020.)

We last had new choir robes in 1991 when the sanctuary was expanded. Why have robes at all? Robes help singers to be unified. The robes represent identity, that of a choir and together they are one musical body. Individuals become a choir. Choirs don’t have to have robes, but it is hoped that our choir feels the love and appreciation of the whole congregation and, in particular, the love and appreciation of the Engdahl family, Jerry and Marge. The choir robe fund was started with monies given in memory of Jerry Engdahl, who loved and enjoyed the choir and the worship of Southminster. Other memorial gifts were added until we finally had enough to move forward. Not one cent of our operating budget was spent on the new robes. Every dollar spent for robes came from memorial funds that had been designated by the donors as being for robes. We give deep thanks to Sue Knisely and Lynn Ferino, who moved heaven and earth to get this done. Sue and Lynn also created the plaid choir stoles. As you prepare for worship or as you leave worship, please take a moment to give thanks for our Music Ministry

We also meet the Christ Child in our dark moments. This Wednesday, December 21, the Longest Night Service at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary is a special service for those facing challenges during the holidays, when Christmas may not be “merry.”

Of course, there is Christmas Eve at a new time for us – 4:30 in the afternoon! This time change allows members and the choir to gather with their families later that evening. We hope this change encourages members to come to the sanctuary that day. This will be a traditional service including Scripture, carols, choir, and candle lighting.

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day Service of Carols. Come in your Christmas sweaters or PJs and enjoy hot cider and cocoa. There will be lots of singing!

There is one more important way to meet the Christ Child this year. We have a team of people who will be bringing Christmas to our sister church in Cuba. Our sisters and brothers there have been hard hit by the pandemic. Please go to the website under Sister Church and there will be a list of items that they dearly need. That list was also attached to the email with the bulletin; copies are available in the narthex by the suitcase.

Today we ask you to remember the story of Christ’s Advent by participating in our Christmas Program or Pageant. You will participate by preparing your heart as we join in the call to worship, the prayer of confession, the prayers of the people, and the offering, as well as in the congregational singing.

Do you remember ever being in a Christmas program? How does that memory influence your understanding of the Christ story? How does the hearing and singing of familiar scripture and hymns ignite your memory? We best live as God’s people by remembering where we have been and trusting God with our future as we aim to live faithfully.

Our service is multigenerational. The adult choir joins with the children in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ as well as a variety of singers and readers of all ages from our church family.

We praise God for our Worship Arts Team – Sarah Allen, Sue Knisely, Linda Ellinghausen, and Kathy Sanders – for their talented efforts in 2022! We bear the fruit of God’s love as we worship together.