**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Baptism of the Lord**

**January 8, 2023**

**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: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized:
 Lord, When You Came to Jordan; All Hail to God’s Anointed;
 Come, All You Servants of the Lord; Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice*

Our Photo Story today is “Water Scenes.”

 Welcome and Announcements

  Prelude

 Lighting the Candles (Matthew 11:28)

**Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.**

 Hymn 726: *Will You Come and Follow Me* (verse 1)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

 **People: for his steadfast love endures forever.**

  Leader: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so;
 those he redeemed from trouble

 **People: and gathered in from the lands,**  **from the east and from the west,**

 Leader: from the north and from the south.

 **All:** **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

 Hymn 482: *Baptized in Water* (all 3 verses)

 Hymn 480: *Take Me to the Water* (all 4 verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord, we wander from you. We leave you out of our goals, our decisions, our lives—out of our stories. We make life about us, putting you and others in the background, leaving others’ stories out of ours. Forgive our self-centered way and help us to make your story ours. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 The Good News of Jesus Christ

 Leader: For by grace you have been saved through faith,
 and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

 **People: It is not the result of works, so that no one may boast.**

 **All: For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus
 for good works, which God prepared beforehand
 so that we may walk in them.**

 Response 623: *I’ve Got Peace Like a River* (verse 1)

**I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Dr. Blair Nelson

 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

 *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons: Matthew 3:1-12  Pew Bible, p. 2, (N.T.)

 Matthew 3:13-17 Pew Bible, p. 3 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Whose Story Is This?” Dr. Blair Nelson

 Singing What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith

 Hymn 481: *I Believe in God the Father* (all 3 verses)

**I believe in God the Father, merciful and mighty Lord,**

**Maker of the earth and heaven, whom we worship and adore.**

**And in Jesus Christ the Son, only Savior, sovereign one,**

**By the Holy Spirit given, born of Mary, blessed virgin.**

**Under Pilate, Jesus suffered, faithful to his final breath.**

**He was crucified and buried, and descended into death.**

**From the grave he did arise; he ascended through the skies;**

**Now enthroned with God in heaven, he will judge the dead and living.**

**I believe in God the Spirit, and the church in every place;**

**Saints in glorious communion, all forgiven, full of grace;**

**Flesh and blood will live again; life in Christ will never end.**

**Holy Spirit, Son and Father: I will praise your name forever.**

Tune: Public domain

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 Hymn: *Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King* (vs. 1 & 2 +chorus) pg. 10, blue worship supplement

 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: *God of the Promise* Elevation Worship

 \**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.**

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 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Hymn 475:  *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (all verses)

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

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

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Dr. Blair Nelson preaching
Liturgist: Angela Smith
Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Louanne Jourdan
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich

Flowers today are given in appreciation of our staff, elders, and deacons.

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** has been taking a break through the holidays. We will begin meeting again today at 11:15 a.m. in person with Blair in the Parlor/Library or online at Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>.

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. Heart to heart will resume after January 12, when our pastor and the mission team return from Cuba.

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. Watch this space for an invitation to share photos for later dates.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Adult Education**: After taking a few weeks off, our study resumes today at 11:15 a.m. on Google Meet. Join us online here: [https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye](https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) or if you’re here in person for worship, enjoy some fellowship time and then join Blair in the library. We are working our way through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

**Youth**: Happy New Year! Let’s celebrate with **Pizza & Games**! Come today from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for fun and spiritual enrichment, and bring $5 if you intend to eat. Let Blair know that you are coming—gotta be sure we have food for all. Then plan to join us the rest of the Sundays this month: Jan. 15, 22, and 29.

 **Meet the Artists this afternoon (January 8)**Have you ever noticed the ever-changing art that decorates our main hallway? From the beginning Linda and Hal Ellinghausen were responsible for this exhibition of beauty. Linda still finds the artists and coordinates the timing of their showings, she makes sure information about the artists and their works is published in the Dialog, and she acts as a go-between when people want to buy the artwork. Hal is no longer with us; he always faithfully helped hang the works where Linda (or the artist) told him to.

Linda and the deacons are hosting a reception in our narthex for the  artists whose work is currently on display in the main hallway. Please come today (January 8) between 3:00 and 4:30 p.m. to meet our artists. Refreshments will be served.

**Easter Celebration Task Force:** All are welcome to attend the 2023 organizational meeting of the Easter Celebration Task Force next Sunday, January 15, at 10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Decisions to be made include whether to return to some or all of the indoor events (crafts, story, photo booth and/or breakfast) this year, or to keep everything outside as has been done for the past couple of years.

**From the Finance Ministry**
**2023 offering envelopes** are available for pick-up inside the front entrance. You may pick up your own, and if there are some you could deliver (for family members, friends, or neighbors), get theirs, too. If you would like envelopes but there is no box prepared for you, please contact Jay Lerch, Tom Frey, or the church office.

**From the Worship Ministry**
**Flowers for 2023**: The flower chart for the first half of this year is posted in the Narthex, and there are many dates available. 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.
The Worship Ministry is also seeking your participation; we are recruiting liturgists, ushers, and musicians. Here is contact information:
Would you like to be a liturgist? Contact Sarah Allen: (630-988-8231 or
 ridesrowdy@aol.com)
Ushers? Contact Lanny Russell: (630-738-3600 or lansonrussell@aol.com)
Musicians (singers or instrumentalists)? Contact Tom Anderson: (651-246-5029 or
 tomanderson101@gmail.com)

**From the Mission Ministry**
Our 12th annual **Luminaria Sunday**, when we honor and remember those whose lives have been touched by cancer, will be held on February 26. Luminaria bags will be available for $10 for each person honored or remembered from January 29-February 12. Look for details in the January *Dialog* or in bulletins later in the month.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet Wednesday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to discuss *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. To join the book discussion, use the following link:

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09) Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865

**Women’s Circle**
In January the Presbyterian Women’s Circle meeting features Steve Henkels and Julie Storey as they tell us about their experiences volunteering at World Relief. **ALL women are invited to join us in the parlor at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, January 20,** for refreshments, devotions, and a short business meeting before our speakers begin.

February brings the return of the bi-annual **used book sale** on the 19th. This is our only fund-raiser this year. Monies raised will be used to help the missions we support. We will begin collecting donated books, CDs, and DVDs on February 5; please wait until them to bring in your donated items. See the January *Dialog* for additional details about the sale and about PW’s mission giving in 2022.

**Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey): **Order today!**
Today, January 8, is a Jubilee Bucks order date! This year we are going to be placing orders for Jubilee Bucks just once a month, so today is your only opportunity in January. (Most months it will be the first Sunday of the month.) Orders must be placed no later than 9:00 this evening; email your orders to bobbifrey@aol.com. and let her know merchant, value of card, number wanted, and total value of order.
The gift cards will be distributed the next Sunday in church and payment can be made at that time. If you want them earlier, arrangements can be made to drop them off at your house. If you have questions, please contact Bobbi Frey.
Our next order date will be February 5.
 **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
We will continue our weekly donations to PRC. Our continued support of food, personal care items, and cleaning supplies is greatly appreciated and needed. Collection bins continue to be inside the main entryway, or donations can be dropped off on the Freys’ front porch.
 **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 given in appreciation of our staff and officers: elders and deacons. **We celebrate joys**:
 - Our mission team is visiting our sister church in Cuba!
 - From Jack Thorne: Penelope turning 8 years old; Jack’s grandson preaching on Christmas Day
  - Deb Bohi’s brother, Tom, is home from the hospital and settled into a new routine.
 - Dan Bohi is home from the hospital.
  - Kurt Parent and Meagan Nielson had a successful scans.
**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, lifting 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.** - Jeff and Angela Smith on the death of Jeff’s mother, Rose, who died January 4
 - Becky and Josh, Barb’s daughter and son-in-law; Josh’s father, Marc, died early Friday morning after a long struggle with multiple health issues - the Petersen family on the death of Bryan, nephew of Pete and Matt
**We pray for those who are near death and their families and caregivers.
We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems:**
  - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, Dan Bohi, Peggy, Najla Brannin, Tracy J., Tracy Nelson, Rod Boehmer, Tammy Grey, Jan Mazur, Margaret Rolando, 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.**
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges:**
 - Max Lindberg, child of our Christmas Eve guests
  - Gail Johnston, in hospice care
 - Barb’s Aunt Ruth is now in memory care
  - Bob Welsh, Cathy Hoffman, Vicki, the Kevorkian family, Bill L., Barb’s cousin Linda Murray
 - 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 January, call Deacon Angela Smith (630-235-1376).

Pastor Wendy Boden and the SPC mission team are in Cuba until Wednesday. If you need **pastoral care** before she returns, 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).

**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:**
**Pastor Wendy Boden and several Southminster members are on a mission**
 **trip** to visit our sister church in Guanabacoa, Cuba. They are scheduled to
 return on Wednesday, January 11. **Sunday, January 8**
 **Order Jubilee Bucks** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com by 9:00 p.m. We are only
 ordering once per month now, so this is your only opportunity in January.
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 Dr. Blair Nelson will preach.
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship.
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either by Google Meet or by joining Blair in
 the McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Reception for the Artists** from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the Narthex
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. **Tuesday, January 10
The January deacon and Session meetings have each been delayed a week**
 because of the mission trip to Cuba..
 **Knitting Circle** meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, January 11
 eNotes go out**
 **Mission Team** returns from Cuba
 **Property Ministry** meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor/Library
**Thursday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart resumes** on Facebook live
 at 4:20 p.m. She will return to Tuesday-Friday Heart to Hearts next week. **Friday, January 13** A.A. at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Sunday, January 15**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship.
 **Easter Celebration Task Force** organizational meeting at 10:45 a.m. in
 Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested is invited.
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either by Google Meet or by joining Blair in
 the McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Bearing Fruit – January 8, 2023**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Cuba!**
It may sound like vacation, but our trips to Cuba are in fact a ministry of reconciliation. Through our sister church relationship with Guanabacoa, Cuba, we are sharing Christ’s love with sisters and brothers of faith. Our visits encourage them in their witness and lives together. Yes, we do see some of Cuba and meet interesting people and places, but the focus of the visit is with building and encouraging our sister church. We not only attend worship, sharing greetings from Southminster Presbyterian Church to the Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Guanabacoa, but also go to Bible studies, a session meeting, a presentation to a senior community group, and have numerous visits to people in their homes.

Do not think this is a one-sided relationship. Ours is a ministry or presence. Our sister church not only prays for us every Sunday, they also genuinely love us. When we are there, we are blessed by their love, joy, hope, and shared sense of peace. Please take a look at their Facebook page while we are there (or any time). Love, joy, hope, and peace will be evident in their posts.

Please pray for our ambassadors from Southminster: the Johnson women, Nalani and Roxane, Sarah Allen, and Gretchen Fleming, along with Pastor Wendy Boden. They left early (2:45 a.m.!) on Wednesday, January 4, and are coming home next Wednesday, January 11. Our last visit was in January of 2020. At that time, we had no idea that we would not be able to return until now, three years later. Thank you for supporting our ministry and helping us bring Christmas to Cuba, which they celebrate with gifts on January 6, Epiphany.

With our pastor away, our own Blair Nelson, Minister to Youth and Adult Discipleship, is preaching today. Dr. Nelson has a genuine love of youth and young people. The youth program that he administers at Southminster includes Sunday evening youth events, various special and service events, and culminates in an annual work-camp each summer helping disadvantaged and elderly people. He coordinates events for our young adults and leads a Sunday morning adult Bible study. He is an historian of science, as well as an ordained North American Baptist pastor. Blair brings a wide knowledge of history, culture, and religion, and has skills as a college educator working as an adjunct professor at Wheaton College and Benedictine University.