**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 12, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

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

1) on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>
2) our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

3) our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/>

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: *Psalm 34:9-22; To Bless the Earth;
 O God, What You Ordain Is Right; Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones;
 For the Fruit of All Creation: We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

Our Photo Story today is “Favorite Sports Teams.”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

  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 626: *As the Deer* (all)

 Hymn 627: *I Love You, Lord* (sing twice)

 Call to Worship  (Psalm 51:15)

 Leader: O Lord, open our lips

 **All:** **And our mouths will proclaim your praise.**

 Hymn 468: *In My Life (Lord, Be Glorified)* (all)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Almighty God we confess that we get judgmental when we forget your saving grace. Replace our faultfinding with the awareness of just how much grace you have poured into our own lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is both savior and Lord. 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 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 Blair Baldwin

 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 13:24-30  Pew Bible, p. 14, (N.T.)

 Matthew 13:31-34 Pew Bible, p. 14-15 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Do not despise small things.”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) (Romans 14:1, 13)

**Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother or sister.**

 Hymn: *Your Labor Is Not in Vain* (all)

 The music for this song is on the last page of the bulletin.

 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: *He Hideth My Soul/I’d Rather Have Jesus*

 \**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 611: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (all 3 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**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Gretchen Fleming
Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Nick Kaskovich
Musicians: Tom Anderson, David Kozich, Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich

Flowers today are given by Rita Boserup Zapel in honor of Southminster administration and support staff.

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 canned 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, 11:15 a.m.:** Join us by using this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>. If you’re already at church and wish to join us, find Blair at his computer in the parlor/library.

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) on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>

If you are watching from home on Facebook, please check in and say hello so we can see that you have joined us. This is one way to make worship less “remote” and strengthen community at Southminster.

*The live video will appear about 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.*

*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/> 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 the next opportunity to share your photos.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Adult Education Bible Study**: The Sermon on the Mount has shaped Christian thinking, behavior, and attitudes for all of church history. Join us at 11:15 either in the Parlor or through this Google Meets link: [https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye](https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). That is one way to store up treasures in heaven.

**Youth:** No youth event this weekend. Enjoy the Super Bowl. Pizza & Games will return next Sunday, February 19.

**Chili Cook Off:  DATE CHANGE!!** The Chili Cook Off will not be on February 19 but on **March 19**! Of course, that gives you time to work up and upgrade your recipe. We are expecting huge competition this year!!!!

**From the Mission Ministry**
**Today is the deadline for luminaria bags!**
On February 26 we will hold our annual Luminaria Sunday service, when we honor and remember those touched by cancer. Luminaria bags will light the sanctuary during the worship service and the names of those remembered and honored will be read and prayed for during the Prayers of the People.

Today is the last day that luminaria bags will be available; they are $10 apiece for each person honored or remembered. Please **write your check to the American Cancer Society** and make sure we have it at church today. Print the name(s) of those you wish to honor (those living who have cancer or have had cancer) and those remembered (those who are deceased who had cancer). For each name, please indicate if the person is to be honored or remembered. Example: “John Jones, remembered, $10. Jane Smith, honored, $10. Total: $20.” If you aren’t here for worship, you can mail your check and the names to Southminster Presbyterian Church, 680 S. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137, or drop it off at church at your convenience by February 12.

Note: SCARCE is no longer collecting used (zero balance) gift cards, so we will stop collecting them, but we are still collecting bread tags.

**From the Christian Education Ministry**

**Let’s celebrate the “Souper Bowl” all month!**

The Christian Ed. Ministry is sponsoring the “**Souper Bowl**” collection of canned goods for the People’s Resource Center (PRC) on Super Bowl Sunday. We collect donations for the PRC throughout the year, but this is a special effort related to a nationwide food drive called “the Souper Bowl of Caring.” Donations of soup or other canned goods will be accepted at church through all of February. The donation container is in the entryway near the box that’s always out for PRC contributions. Let’s fill them both!

**Easter Celebration – Preparations are Underway!**

The Easter Celebration is coming, and you can help!

For now:

> Check in the nursery for take-home projects to help us prepare

> Donate items from our wish list (pick up this week's list on the name tag table near
the entrance)

> Place donations in the basket outside of the nursery

The Easter Celebration Task Force thanks you!

**From the Worship Ministry**
**Ash Wednesday – February 22** – marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, a yearly spiritual journey culminating with Easter. Southminster will observe Ash Wednesday with a Taizé Prayer Service at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

 **Flowers for 2023**: The **flower chart for the first half of 2023** is posted in the narthex. Sign up to provide flowers in memory or in honor of someone, a special occasion, or simply in thanks for God’s grace—the flower arrangements are $35. If you’re not at church to sign up, contact Sarah Allen (630-988-8231 or ridesrowdy@aol.com) and let her know the date(s) you want and who/what you wish to honor. There are still dates available in March (the last 2 weeks); check the chart or talk to Sarah to reserve a date.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet this Wednesday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom. This month’s book is *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World* by Vicki Myron and Bret Witter. It is the story of how a bedraggled orange fur ball became “Dewey Readmore Books,” an enchantingly irresistible library mascot capable of bringing international attention to a small midwestern town and melting the heart of even the most curmudgeonly visitor. (Pay attention to the book’s edition; there are several grade school versions of this book available, which we don’t want.)

We will need to choose books for March, April, and May, so bring your suggestions.

Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting using this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09>
Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865

 **Used Book Sale**: The Presbyterian Women’s Circle will hold their bi-annual used book sale on February 19-26 in the hallway between the office and the narthex. Collection boxes are located in the church for you to deposit your donated books. You may bring them any time up through this Wednesday, February 15. This year for the first time we are also accepting CDs and DVDs. If you have questions, please email Gretchen Fleming at gretchen\_fleming@yahoo.com.

**Presbyterian Women’s Circle** will meet in the parlor this Friday, February 17, at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments, devotions, and a business meeting before spending the rest of the morning in the hall perusing (and buying!) items from those that will be going on sale on Sunday, February 19. All women are invited.

**Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):
Thanks to all who order Jubilee Bucks. So far this year we have earned $152.91 in “free money” for Southminster. (Southminster receives a rebate from the sale of each card, which we call “free money.”)
Your next opportunity to purchase gift cards will be Sunday, March 5.
 **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
We started the year with a trunk full of food, personal care items, and cleaning products for our weekly delivery to PRC. The number of families utilizing their services is growing weekly. Any donation is greatly appreciated! Many thanks for all the contributions.
 **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 Rita Boserup Zapel in honor of Southminster administration and support staff. **We celebrate joys**:
  - Sue Knisely came through her surgery well last Thursday and is recuperating at home. Please, no visitors at this time, but she would welcome cards.
 - Eugenia, one of our international students from Ghana who studied at COD, just had a baby girl.
 - Floyd Rogers’ 80th birthday last week and the Zoom visit some of us were able to have with him
 - Barb Doppelt’s cousin, Linda Murray, just completed 6 weeks of radiation treatments. Pray that follow-up MRIs show the treatments were successful.
 - Wheaton Hope Presbyterian in the hiring of their transition pastor: Rev. Tassie Green. **We pray for the Jeremiah 29 discernment task force as they seek God’s will for Southminster in the 21st century.** May we reach out beyond our doors to invite people to share in our spiritual journey with Jesus Christ. **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
  - All those affected by the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria and the rescue workers rushing to their aid. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with partners on the ground in the area and is inviting churches and everyone interested in helping to donate at [PDA DR999999](https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR999999/).
  - 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 and runaway inflation.
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation: we lift up communities where lives have been lost to gun violence.
 - Prayers for our nation after another traffic stop death, and for the family of Tyre Nichols.
 - We remember the victims of the Holocaust and pray for a growth in love over hate in the world.
**We pray for those who mourn. Please lift up grieving families and friends.** - Jill Stoffels, Rita Zapel’s neighbor and friend to many at Southminster, on the sudden death of her twin sister, Linda, Monday night
 - John and Alicia Rasnic on the death of John’s brother-in-law, John Nelson McCabe Jr. and traveling mercies as they go to Florida for the celebration of his life.
  - The family and many friends of Dan Bohi, and especially Deb, Jessica and Megan and their spouses, and all the grandchildren.
  - Marge Engdahl on the death of her daughter, Kristen Huber, on January 11.
  - former member Lois Dahlquist died on January 20
**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:**
 - Niki Petersen Mendoza was diagnosed with thymoma. She is the daughter of Pete and Pam Petersen, married to Alex Mendoza, and mother to two young children
 - Sam Cvengross, Marta Sundquist’s cousin, for a successful cancer treatment. Sam is the mother of 5.
 - John and Alicia Rasnic’s friend, Steve, who has cancer
 - Cameron Anthony, Peggy, Tracy J., Tracy Nelson, Rod Boehmer, Tammy Grey, Jan Mazur, Margaret Rolando, Charlene Simpson, Jim Sundquist, Jon Sutherland, Connie Vernon, Beverly Webb, and others we name in our hearts.
**We pray for all who are infected with and/or affected by Covid:** - Ed and Joan Koska
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges:** - All during February, American Heart Month, we emphasize heart health and pray for a cure for heart disease.
 - Continuing prayers for Linda Wolf Jeziorski as she rests at home
 - Donna Marton’s brother, Richard, who had a medical emergency
 - Jim, undergoing tests
 - Felicita, who had surgery this week. She is the mother of Maykel, our translator in Cuba.
  - Gail Johnston, in hospice care
  - Bob Welsh, Cathy Hoffman, Vicki, the Kevorkian family, Bill L.
  - Those who have chronic or progressive illnesses
  - People receiving new treatments
  - 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); in February/March, call Heidi Shierry (630-853-6836). 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 from approximately 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. while her son attends his day program 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 –for details contact Ron Birchall.

**Dates to remember this week:**
**Sunday, February 12
 Luminaria bags** will be available before and after worship for a donation**.** *Today is the last day to order*. Luminaria Sunday is February 26.
 **Bring in used books, CDs, and DVDs for the Used Book Sale, canned
 goods for the Souper Bowl collection, and donations for the Easter
 Saturday Celebration**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **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
 **Youth:** no activity today – enjoy the Super Bowl instead!
**Monday, February 13 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.  **Tuesday, February 14** - *Happy Valentine’s Day!* **Knitting Circle** meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor/Library **Deacons** meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor/Library
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, February 15**
 **Presbyterian Readers** meet at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
**Thursday, February 16
 Session Docket deadline is at noon;** Session meets Feb. 21 **Friday, February 17
 Women’s Circle** meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor/Library
 A.A. at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Sunday, February 19
 Used Book Sale** before and after worship
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **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
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Bearing Fruit – February 12, 2023**

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - Earthquake**

This week there was a devastating earthquake in Syria and Turkey. At this writing the death toll is over 20,000! Thousands more are injured, and the number will continue to rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria. This is all happening in winter, as well.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas through long-standing partners in Syria, in addition to ACT Alliance members in Syria and Turkey, all of whom are already on the ground. PDA will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR999999-ST earthquake. Gifts can be made online by going online to <https://pda.pcusa.org/>, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “DR999999-ST Earthquake” written on the memo line and mailed to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

You can also make a check out to Southminster with “Earthquake Relief” on the memo line, and we will collect the donations and send them to Presbyterian Mission.

We bear the fruit of God’s love when we direct our concern through prayer and support.

