**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**1st Sunday in Lent, Luminaria Sunday**

**February 26, 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: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley;
 There Is a Balm in Gilead; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot;
 Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*

Our Photo Story today is “Luminaria Sunday.”

 Welcome and Announcements

  Prelude

 Remembering Our Baptism (Isaiah 12:2-3)

**“Behold, God is my salvation;
    I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the Lord God is my strength and my song,
    and he has become my salvation.”
With joy, you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

 Hymn 834: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (all)

 Hymn 835: *Just a Coser Walk with Thee* (all)

 Call to Worship  (Psalm 27)

 Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation.

 **People: Whom then shall we fear?**

 Leader: The Lord is the strength of our lives! Wait for the Lord!

 **All:** **Be strong, take heart, and wait for the Lord.**

 Hymn: *He Knows My Name* (all) pg. 16, blue worship supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Loving God, we adore you for the way you demonstrated real love for us in word and in action. You have showed us just how we should love one another and become the servant of others. There are times when we simply don’t want to. We don’t like being servants. We want things our way! And we find it hard to love others. Forgive us and help us. As we journey through Lent, turn us again to your example. Help us to soak up your teaching and imitate you in our love and service for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and savior. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 The Good News of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:34)

 Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

 **People: Only Christ and Christ died for us!**

 Leader: Christ rose for us!

 **People: Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

 Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

 **All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

 Response: *Kyrie* pg. 2, blue worship supplement

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

 (The words are Greek for *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.*)

CCLI Song # 2691048

Antonin Leopold Dvorak | Ruth Elaine Schram

© Words: Public Domain

Music: 1998, 2014 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. (Admin. by Jubilate Music Group, LLC)

For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](https://songselect.ccli.com/about/termsofuse). All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

CCLI License # 21214429

 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Deb Bohi

 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.**

Public domain

 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lesson: Matthew 18:15-35  Pew Bible, p. 20, (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Living Light”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) (Colossians 3:12-14, NRSV)

**Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you,
so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

 Hymn 817: *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* (all)

 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: *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*  arr. C. Marion Fewell

 \**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.**

Public domain

 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Hymn: *Shine on Us* (all) pg. 36, blue worship supplement

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,
 **People: For we are blessed to be a blessing!**

Leader:  The cross, **All:  We shall take it.**
  Leader:  The bread, **All:  We shall break it.**
  Leader:  The pain, **All:  We shall bear it.**
  Leader:  The joy, **All:  We shall share it.**
  Leader:  The Gospel, **All:  We shall live it.**  Leader:  The love, **All:  We shall give it.**
  Leader:  The light, **All:  We shall cherish it.**  Leader:  The darkness, **All:  God shall perish it.**  Leader:  For Jesus’ sake. **All:  Amen.**

 Postlude: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Sarah Allen
Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Barb Zink
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

Flowers today are given in recognition of all those who have fought or are now fighting cancer and the loving supporters who faithfully walk alongside them.

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. You’re invited to share your photos for this date:
 **March 12: “March Madness!”** We’re getting ready for March Mission Madness, when we use the NCAA championship basketball tournaments (men’s and women’s this year!) to raise money for Southminster missions. We need photos of basketball fans – wearing team gear, holding signs for your favorite teams, attending games… you know – basketball fan shots. Please send us your photos by Thursday, March 9.

**Send photos to our new dedicated email address, just for photos:** **PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org****.**

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**

**Adult Education Bible Study**: Our Sunday after-worship adult Bible class is studying the post-exilic prophet, Zechariah. Come and see what the prophet had to say to the restored Jewish community. Join us at 11:15 either in the Parlor or online 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).

**Youth:** Up for food and fun today Come to **Pizza & Games** in Fellowship Hall from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Be sure to let Blair know that you are coming. Bring a friend. Bring $5 (if you plan to eat). Bring a smile and a joke. Bring a curiosity about God and our faith. See you there! Remember that Chili Cook-Off is March 19 and the Talent Show is in April, so we need to be working on those grand events.

**Chili Cook-Off:** OK, so we did not starve during the pandemic, but we did miss eating together as a congregation. So, it is time to get together and share a meal. What better way to do that than adding in a bit of competition. Our annual **Chili Cook-Off** is coming March 19th, so cook up a batch of your best chili; bring it to church on March 19th (to the Fellowship Hall kitchen); join us for a wonderful meal after worship, and vote on the best batch of chili. Aren’t a chili cook? No problem, you can still eat and judge. On top of that, you can donate toward our Youth Mission Team, who are heading to a workcamp in Imperial, PA, this June. Sign-up sheets for those who cook and those who eat will be in the Narthex.

**Used Book Sale**: The Presbyterian Women’s Circle is holding their bi-annual used book sale through today in the hallway between the office and the narthex. Browse the collection to find books that you would like to take home with you. The prices are low, and the proceeds will go to missions that PW supports.
 **From the Easter Celebration Task Force: It’s Egg Stuffing Time!**

**What can you do to help?**

* Check in the toddler room (across from the church office) for Easter eggs to be stuffed at home (stuffed eggs should be returned to the toddler room)
* Donate candy to fill the Easter eggs – wrapped candy that can fit in a plastic egg, but please:  ***no nuts, no peanut butter, no chewing gum, and no hard candy***
* Donate craft materials - Dollar Tree tissue paper (mixed bright colors), and paper bags with handles (such as grocery bags from Trader Joe’s)

Please place your donations in the basket outside the toddler room

Looking forward:  Next Sunday, **March 5**, join us in the Narthex after worship for a **group egg stuffing workshop.**

The **March *Dialog*** goes out this Wednesday, March 1. If you have something you need to have published in that issue, you need to have it sent in by tomorrow morning!

**Women’s Breakfast** meets the first Wednesday of every month, which means this Wednesday, March 1. All women are invited to meet at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station, 750 Roosevelt Rd., Glen Ellyn. Call, text, or email Gretchen Fleming—(630) 517-0926; gretchen\_fleming@yahoo.com—if you have any questions.

**From Session**

Session has voted to have the **annual meeting of the congregation and corporation** on Sunday, March 26. That means that the annual reports booklets must be available on March 19. ***Staff and moderators, please note: Narrative reports for the annual report booklets are due no later than Tuesday, March 7***.

**From the Mission Ministry**
Coming soon – **March Mission Madness**, in which your competitive spirit benefits the missions that Southminster sponsors! Keep your eye on NCAA basketball (this year we will follow both the men’s and women’s tournaments!) and watch for upcoming Dialog and eBlast information about how you can join the fun.

SCARCE is no longer collecting used (zero balance) gift cards, so we will stop collecting them, but we are still collecting bread tags and buttons. The jars are on the shelf in the main hallway opposite the pastor’s office.

**From the Worship Ministry**
It’s time to think about **Easter flowers!** We would love to have at least **10 Easter lilies** (2 stem plants @ $32 each) and **10 pink azalea plants** (6” pots @ $28 each) to beautify the sanctuary on Easter. Sign up at church or contact Sarah Allen (630-988-8231 or [ridesrowdy@aol.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5COwner%5CDesktop%5C2020%20Pandemic%2001-28-22%20update%5CDialog%5CFebruary%202022%5Cridesrowdy%40aol.com)); the deadline for orders is March 19. Checks should be made to SPC with “Easter flowers” on the memo line. Thanks to everyone who will help fill our sanctuary with color and beauty on Easter morning.
The **flower chart for the first half of 2023** is posted in the narthex. Flower arrangements are $35. *We have the last two Sundays in March still available!* If you’re not at church to sign up, contact Sarah Allen (contact information above).

**Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):
Thanks to all who order Jubilee Bucks. So far this year we have earned $193.41 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 next 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 given in recognition of all those who have fought or are now fighting cancer and the loving supporters who faithfully walk alongside them. **We celebrate joys**:
 - 60 Congolese refugees entered the USA through O’Hare this week. Adeline was one – she was greeted and transported home by Steve Henkels.
  - Sue Knisely came through her surgery well and is recuperating at home. Please, no visitors at this time, but she would welcome cards.
  - Felicita is recovering nicely from surgery. She is the mother of Maykel, our translator in Cuba.
  - Eugenia, one of our international students from Ghana who studied at COD, had a baby girl, Petera **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
  - Former President Jimmy Carter and his family, as he is now under in-home hospice care
  - All those affected by devastating earthquakes 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 by going to this site: <https://pda.pcusa.org/>.
  - The people of Ukraine, the Holy Land, Pakistan, and Iran as they face war, civil unrest, and the fight for civil rights
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation:
Nine children [were shot at Georgia gas station](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/02/20/nine-children-shot-georgia-gas-station-columbus/11303328002/).
Six people [were killed in a Mississippi town](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/02/17/mississippi-shooting-6-killed-suspect-custody-police-say/11283340002/).
Eleven people [were shot in Memphis](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/local/2023/02/19/memphis-11-shot-one-dead-in-live-lounge-whitehaven-shooting-police-say/69920514007/).
Five people [were injured near a parade in New Orleans](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/02/20/new-orleans-parade-shooting-mardi-gras/11303278002/).
Six people [were shot on a Chicago expressway](https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-chicago-i-57-shooting-20230220-vm42tv4fmjappakhw37z6tshve-story.html).
That's just half of the reported mass shooting violence over the weekend.
There were 10 [mass shootings](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/06/05/mass-shooting-defined-meaning/7481731001/) from Feb. 17 through Feb. 19 – the most of any weekend so far this year, according to [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting). That’s considering all shootings from Friday to Sunday in which four or more people were shot, not including the shooter or shooters.  **We pray for those who mourn. Please lift up grieving families and friends.** -We pray for the comfort of our sister church in the death of Jose Luis, a longtime member
  - Jill Stoffels, Rita Zapel’s neighbor and friend to many at Southminster, on the sudden death of her twin sister, Linda, last week
  - The family and many friends of Dan Bohi, and especially Deb, Jessica and Megan and their spouses, and all the grandchildren.
**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:**
  - Helen Shierry, Steve’s mother, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer
  - Continuing prayers for Linda Wolf Jeziorski as she rests at home
  - Nikki Petersen Mendoza, Sam Cvengross, Steve, 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.**
**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.
  - Jim, undergoing tests
  - Our members who are in long term care: Ed Koska at Tabor Hills, Gail Johnston, in hospice care at Du Page Convalescent Center (If you send a card, please send to Andrea Schmidt, whose address is in the directory.), and Grace Van Beveren at Oak Brook 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 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 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 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:**
**If you have anything you want to have included in the March *Dialog* (going out on Wednesday), you need to email it to the church no later than tomorrow morning!** [**admin@southminsterpc.org**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cttt%5CDownloads%5Cadmin%40southminsterpc.org) **Sunday, February 26 – *1st Sunday in Lent,* Luminaria Sunday
 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.
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either by Google Meet or by joining Blair in
 the McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Nominating** at 11:15 a.m. in the Stevenson Choir Room
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
**Monday, February 27 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.  **Tuesday, February 28**
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, March 1**
 **the March *Dialog* goes out**
 **Women’s Breakfast** at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station **Thursday, March 2
 Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary **Friday, March 3**
 A.A. at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next Sunday, March 5 – *2nd Sunday in Lent,* Communion**
**Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com before 9 p.m.
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship.
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary
 **Egg Stuffing Workshop** after worship in the Narthex
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either by Google Meet or by joining Blair in
 the McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth:**  either **Photo Scavenger Hunt** at Yorktown Mall from 3:00-5:00 p.m.
 or **Pizza & Games** at church from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Keep in touch with Blair to
 know which it will be!

**Bearing Fruit – February 26, 2023**

**Light out of darkness**

Southminster has its own “liturgical calendar” with special Sundays. For the 12th year we are celebrating ***Luminaria Sunday – Honoring and Remembering*** those who have been touched by cancer. Rather than have a photo story, we will be live broadcasting the lighted luminaria bags. We will line the center aisle of the sanctuary and the organ loft shelf. During the Prayers of the People, we will pray for all the individuals named on the bags.

As you arrive in worship, please enter the sanctuary prayerfully. The lights will be low so that you can better see the luminarias.

This is a way for us to set aside a particular Sunday to express concretely our love for those who have fought cancer and are now with the Lord and for those who continue the fight. We also give our support to those who care for and walk alongside their friends and family members who have cancer. In this way we try to give support and comfort to everyone who has been affected by cancer. Each luminary represents a $10 donation to the American Cancer Society for research. With all our hearts, we pray for a cure. A total of 102 bags (52 remembered and 44 honored, with some duplicates) were sold. This year we raised $1020 for the American Cancer Society.

Together we bear the fruit of God’s love with our annual Luminaria Sunday.