**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**3rd Sunday in Lent**

**March 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: *The Summons;
 Peoples, Clap Your Hands!; Psalm 67;
 All Hail to God’s Anointed*

Our Photo Story today is “March Mission Madness.”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

  Prelude

 Remembering Our Baptism (Isaiah 78:15, 16)

**He cleft rocks in the wilderness,
    and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
He made streams come out of the rock,
    and caused waters to flow down like rivers.**

 Hymn: *Hold Me Fast* (verses 1, 2) p. 19, blue worship supplement

 Call to Worship  (Psalm 145:8, Psalm 33:5)

 Leader: The Lord is gracious and compassionate,

 **People: Slow to anger and rich in love.**

 Leader: The Lord loves righteousness and justice;

 **People: The earth is full of God’s unfailing love.**

 **All:** **We worship God who loves us and takes us as we are.**

 Hymn 664: *Morning Has Broken* (all 3 verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, we trust that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. We confess that there are times when we withhold love, kindness, and grace from others, particularly those who are sitting here. Forgive us and help us to make a fresh start with them and with you. 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 (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

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children

 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: Isaiah 25:6-8 Pew Bible, p. 652, (O.T.)

 Matthew 22:1-14 Pew Bible, p. 24, (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Stories for the Journey: Who wants to come?”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) (Romans 15:5-7)

**May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.**

 Hymn: *In Christ Alone* (all 4 verses) pg. 28, 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 Anthem: *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*  Bishop Synesius/Jay Althouse

 \**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 450: *Be Thou My Vision* (all 4 verses)

 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

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Lois Stevenson
Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Linda Ellinghausen
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

Flowers today are given by Craig and Sarah Allen to celebrate their 37th
wedding anniversary.

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 McHenry 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 here for future opportunities to share your photos.

**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 McHenry Parlor/Library 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 next Sunday and the Talent Show is in April, so we need to be working on those grand events.

**Chili/Soup Cook-Off is next Sunday, March 19!**It is time to get ready for some good eating! After a couple years absence, it is time to indulgence in the glories of Southminster Chili expertise. So, dig out your gran-ma-ma’s recipe, do a few test runs, and enter the competition. Sign-up sheet for contestants and for judges (i.e. all who come and eat get to vote) are in the Narthex. Cooks, bring your chili (**or soup**, if that is your jam) to Fellowship Hall before church on March 19. Everyone, join us for the meal after Fellowship. A free-will offering toward the Youth Mission Trip will be received. Bon appétit!

 **From the Easter Celebration Task Force
What can you do to help?**

* Check on the table in the front hallway for Easter eggs to be stuffed at home
* Return stuffed Easter eggs to the table in the hallway. We’d like to have all eggs returned by March 19.
* 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***
* Please place your candy donations in the basket across from the office

And, we are looking for volunteers to help with the Easter Celebration on the morning of Saturday, April 8. Please let Chris Kozich know if you would like to help.

**Join us on Saturday, March 18, for a visit to the Illinois Holocaust Museum**.
We will join with friends from Glen Ellyn First United Methodist Church to visit the museum and education center in Skokie, Illinois. We will leave from Southminster at 9:15 a.m. There is a $15 charge for the museum. While there, we will have docent-guided tours of the current exhibits and a 3D Hologram experience. Those who choose to will have lunch together afterward. See the March *Dialog* for additional details about the tour and exhibits.

Please call or email the church no later than tomorrow by noon (Monday, March 13) if you plan to attend: 630-469-9149 or admin@southminsterpc.org.

**From the Mission Ministry**Coming this week – **March Mission Madness**, in which your competitive spirit benefits the missions that Southminster sponsors! We follow the NCAA basketball tournaments (men’s and women’s this year!), which everyone refers to as March Madness. You use whatever method you want to select a bracket predicting the winners, sign up following the instructions that went out in an eBlast on Friday, and donate a minimum of $15 per bracket to Southminster. At the end of the tournament, the people with the most points win bragging rights for the year… and the right to name which Southminster-supported mission will receive their share of the pot. It’s not gambling, since you don’t actually win the money yourself, so anyone, any age, can play. The winners in the end are the missions and projects we support!

If you didn’t get the sign-up instructions by email Friday, there are copies in the narthex (on the shelf by the Mission board) and on the nametag shelf in the front hallway. For help, consult the Master of the Madness, Troy Hammer: hammer.troy@gmail.com. He will be in the Narthex after worship today to help you sign up.

**From the Worship Ministry**
**Order Easter flowers by next Sunday!**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 next Sunday, 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.
**An invitation from Tom Anderson, our Music Director**: We are always in need of volunteers to give the gift if music in worship, but especially for Holy Week, which this year is the first full week of April. The additional services give us more opportunities to celebrate and reflect on our faith together, and music is a special part of that shared worship. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in contributing musical gifts – singing, playing, even temporarily adding your voice to our choir – or if you have questions about doing so, even if you’re on the fence, please contact me at tomanderson101@gmail.com or (651) 246-5129.

**Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held
Sunday, March 26, at the close of the worship service.**The reports booklets should be ready for you to pick up next Sunday, March 19.

**From the Christian Ed. Ministry**
**Kids’ Corner Proudly Presents...**

On Sunday, April 2, Kids’ Corner will proudly present “Palm and Light,” a shadow play created and prepared by the children of Southminster. If you have children (or youthful friends) who may want to participate, please contact Blair Baldwin at blairbaldwin@southminsterpc.org.

**Connect with Our Kids!**

Southminster is looking for volunteers to be available on Sunday mornings in the event we need nursery + Sunday School services! Hopefully, we’ll have some new chicks hatching this spring, which means we need YOU! Yes, you – the adults of the church – to step up and nurture our future generations. If you are willing to be on an “on call” list of volunteers, please contact Blair Baldwin at the email address above. This is not a weekly commitment but rather an attempt to gain a list of folks who can potentially help out if we need additional adults.

**Presbyterian Readers** meet this Wednesday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. This month’s book is *84, Charing Cross Road* by Helene Hanff.

Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting at 7:00p.m. on March 15:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09>

Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865

This link is good for the entire year.

**Presbyterian Women’s Circle** will meet this Friday, March 17, at 9:30 a.m. in the McHenry Parlor/Library. This is St. Patrick’s Day, and our feature will be a program by our Pastor, Wendy Boden, on Celtic Spirituality. All women are invited to join us. Refreshments, a devotional, and a short business meeting will be held first, prior to the beginning of our featured program.

**Note: March 22 – a week early! – is the deadline for the April Dialog!**
We want to send the April Dialog out on March 29 rather than on April 5 to publicize information for Holy Week and Easter. (Holy Week begins on April 2, Palm/Passion Sunday.) Please have articles and calendar dates for April turned in by March 22.

**Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):
Many thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks last Sunday. Your next opportunity to purchase gift cards will be April 2. (You’ll have the cards just in time to tuck into Easter baskets.)
 **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
The number of clients at the PRC keeps rising, which means the need continues to be great. All donations are appreciated! Collection bins continue to be on a bench in the main entryway of the church.

 **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 by Craig and Sarah Allen, who are celebrating their 37th wedding anniversary. **We celebrate joys**.
**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
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world Ukraine, the Holy Land, Pakistan, Iran, and everywhere that people face war, civil unrest, and the fight for civil rights
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation: Thus far, in 2023 there have been more mass shootings than there have been days in the year. Click on [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting) to see the statistics. **We pray for those who mourn. Please lift up grieving families and friends:**  - The family and many friends of Dan Bohi, and especially Deb, Jessica and Megan and their spouses, and the four grandchildren.
 - Please pray for the La Fernanda Congregation in Havana, Cuba, and for Dania, wife of Pastor Padin, and their family. We received word that Pastor Padin passed away quite unexpectedly. He was a devoted servant of God, and shared his many gifts of the spirit with all he met. We bless Pedro Luis, who has now been installed to lead La Fernanda.
**We pray for those who are near death and their families and caregivers:**  - Marilyn, who is nearing the end in hospice care
**We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems:**
 - Nikki Petersen Mendoza, adult daughter of Pete Petersen, who is coming home from Mayo Clinic.
 - Helen Shierry, Steve’s mother, who has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer.
 - Continuing prayers for Linda Wolf Jeziorski as she rests at home
 - We continue to pray for: Steve, Peggy, Cameron A., Rod B., Sam C., Tammy G., Tracy J., Tracy N., Jan M., Margaret R, Charlene S., Jim S., Jon S., Connie V., Beverly W., and others we name in our hearts.
**We pray for all who are infected with and/or affected by Covid.**  - Bobette and Frank Barfod – Wendy’s mom, who is now fine and out of quarantine, and bonus dad, who went home Friday. **We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges:**
  - 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
**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.
**The upcoming school board and other local elections**

**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 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: The office closed on Mondays.**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, March 12 – *3rd Sunday in Lent,* Daylight Saving Time begins**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship. Troy Hammer will be there with his computer to help you sign up for March Mission Madness.
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office
 **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. in Fellowship Hall
**Monday, March 13 – Pastor’s Sabbath. The church office is closed.
 Start filling out your brackets for March Mission Madness!
 Let us know by noon if you are going to the Holocaust Museum**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.  **Tuesday, March 14
 Knitting Circle** at 10:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Deacons** meet at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, March 15
 eNotes** go out **Presbyterian Readers** meet at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
**Thursday, March 16
 Deadline to register brackets for March Mission Madness** is 10:00 a.m.
**Friday, March 17**
 **Women’s Circle** meets at 9:30 a.m. in the McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall **Next Sunday, March 19 – *4th Sunday in Lent***
 **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 Pastor’s Office
 **Chili Cook-Off** at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Bearing Fruit – March 12, 2023**

We are springing forward this Sunday, but it is still cold outside! Let’s keep warm together! **Please plan to join the Youth of our congregation next Sunday, March 19, for our Chili & Soup Cook-Off following worship.**

This is the first sit-down community meal we have had since the pandemic in March 2020!

There are sign-up sheets for contestants and for judges (i.e. all who come and eat get to vote) in the Narthex. Cooks, bring your chili or soup to Fellowship Hall before worship on March 19. After coffee fellowship in the narthex, join us for the meal downstairs. A free-will offering toward the Youth Mission Trip will be received.

Youth Group is not simply about hanging out together on Sunday evening. There are four elements of our youth ministry: service (the mission trip is one event); study of scripture; sharing faith; and social interaction. All these elements help our youth grow in their discipleship as they learn to follow Jesus. When we support the Chili/Soup Cook-Off, the youth have an opportunity to be introduced to the wider church. It is a way for us to honor the commitment we made at their baptisms.

One of the ways we bear the fruit of God’s love is supporting the youth in their activities, this month the Chili/Soup Cook-Off.