**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**4th Sunday of Easter**

**April 30, 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

Our Photo Story today is “Gifts Grow.”

 Welcome and Announcements

  Improvisational Prelude: *In Christ There Is No East or West* from *Jubilee Songs*

 Lighting the Candles and Remembering Our Baptism (Revelation 7:17)

**…for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.**

 [Please remain seated while singing these songs.]

 Hymn 250: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

 Hymn 368: *We Fall Down*  (sing 2 times)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: We come seeking you, Lord.

 **People: We come to you to renew our hearts.**

 Leader: We come to you to restore our brokenness.

 **All:** **We come to you to worship and praise your name.**

 Hymn 319: *Men of Faith, Rise Up and Sing (Shout to the North)*  (all)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, for the hurts from the past that we refuse to let go of, forgive and heal us. For the hurts we have caused, forgive us. Renew our souls through the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Blow through our lives, Holy Spirit, renewing, refreshing, and reconciling us. In the name of Jesus Christ, who is both Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 The Good News of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:33-34)

 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; Christ reigns in power for us,

 **People: Christ intercedes for us.**

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

 Response 240: *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* (verse 1)

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is the Lord of all the earth.**

**He is the King of creation.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children

 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

 *God Welcomes All*  Hymnal 399

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God’s love is strong and it never ends.**

Text: John L. Bell, 2008

Music: South African song, transc, John L. Bell, 2008

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Acts 13:1-3 Pew Bible, p. 131, (N.T.)

 Acts 9:26-31 Pew Bible, p. 128, (N.T.)

 Sermon: “We Don’t Talk About Barnabas”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) (Galatians 3:26-28)

**It is through faith that all of you are God’s children in union with Christ Jesus. You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed,
so to speak, with the life of Christ himself. So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus.**

 Hymn 302: *When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace* (all 5 verses)

 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: *Blessed Be Your Name* Redman

 \**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 295: *Go to the World!* (all)

 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.**

 Improvisational Postlude on *In Christ There Is No East or West* Reinagle

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Steve Henkels
Greeter/Fellowship: Lynn Ferino
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by the Parks family to celebrate Joe’s birthday.

If you are present for worship, following the service 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! Using the comments section on Facebook, you can say hello, ask for words of peace, or request prayers.
 **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. You’re invited to share your photos for this date:
 **May 14: “Favorite Women of Faith,”** women either famous or personal. Please send us your photos by Thursday, May 11.

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

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: Join us in our group study of Matthew’s gospel, Sunday at 11:15 a.m. You can meet us in person in the McHenry Parlor/library or online via this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>.

**Youth**: You up for fun this Sunday? Put **Pizzaless Games** on your calendar, 4:00-6:00, and be sure to let Blair know that you are coming.

**Youth Mission Team**: June is coming, and so is our workcamp. Watch for an email from Blair and about registration forms, background checks, and other details.

**Rummage Sale**: Southminster’s annual Rummage Sale is coming June 3-4. It is time for spring cleaning and selecting items to donate to our sale. Price stickers are in a stand on the counter in the main hallway. No need to price books or clothes. *Please do not donate electronics.* More information is coming in the May *Dialog*.

**From the Worship Ministry**
**The flower chart** for the rest of 2023 is now posted in the Narthex. If you have a person or occasion you’d like to honor with Sunday morning flowers, please sign up in person or email Sarah Allen (ridesrowdy@aol.com) with your choice of flower dates and honorees. Flower arrangements are $35.00 each.

 **From the Mission Ministry:**The **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** offering was dedicated on Easter Sunday. The total contributed so far is $2,465. Donations to OGHS support programs that provide relief to those affected by natural or manmade disasters, food for the hungry, and resources to communities working to cast of the bonds of poverty and oppression.
**Coming in May: Gifts Grow**, where your contribution to your favorite mission will be matched – you can double your impact! Watch for details in the May *Dialog* and in flyers here in the building.

**From the Property Ministry**
**Valet Parkers Needed:** We are starting up the Valet Parking service again for Sunday morning services. Duties consist of arriving 20 minutes before the service begins, putting out the Valet Parking sign, and if requested, parking a person’s car and returning keys to the driver. In addition, the valet will assist those who need help by opening the front doors. At 9:30 when the service begins, you put away the sign and you are free to attend the service. After the service, retrieve the car for anyone who requests it. In practice the valet rarely has to park a car, but assisting worshippers by opening the front door and helping those who are dropped off at the entrance is also a service that is needed and greatly appreciated. If interested in being a valet, contact Steve Kozich (skozich@yahoo.com). We already have some volunteers, and we would like to have a few more so each will need to valet once a month or less.

**From the Christian Ed. Ministry**

**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 blairbaldwin@southminsterpc.org. 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.

**Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):
Thanks to all who ordered in April! This year to date we have earned $452.37 in “free” money for Southminster! The next opportunity to order will be next Sunday, May 7. **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. If you are looking for ideas to donate, rice, dry pasta, and peanut butter are always in need, as are personal care items like toothpaste, bar soap, and diapers size 5-7. All donations are appreciated!
The collection bins for PRC donations have been moved out of the front entry and a little farther into the building – look for them in the hallway across from the church office.

 **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 Joe’s birthday. (HIS birthday)**We give thanks to God for joys:**  - Lynn Smith is home, though her recovery will be a long journey. Lynn is Steve Sanders’ sister and Traci Smith’s mother.
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. So far in 2023, there have been more mass shootings than there are days in the year. Click on [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting) to see the current statistics.
  - We pray for all the communities in our country that have been devastated by tornadoes and flooding.  - We continue to pray for peace in the world Ukraine, the Holy Land, Sudan, and everywhere that people face war, civil unrest, and the fight for civil rights.
**Blessed are those who mourn:**
 - The Barker and Hilpert families in the death of Wendy’s cousin, Nan-c Hilpert
  - The family and many friends of Dan Bohi, and especially Deb, Jessica and Megan and their spouses, and the four grandchildren.
 **We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems:**  - Marta Sundquist, who had surgery for a brain tumor on Monday. She is safe at home but will need further treatment down the road. You can be updated on her condition and send her messages online through CaringBridge.org.
  - Floyd Rogers, recovering from surgery last week. He said he came through it well and has managed to deal with pain.
  - Ian Van Beveren diagnosed with lymphoma. Prayers for his strength for chemo and for better news.
  - Continuing prayers for Linda Wolf Jeziorski and Nikki Petersen Mendoza (adult daughter of Pete Petersen) and as they continue to heal
  - We continue to pray for: Steve, Peggy, Cameron A., Rod B., Sam C., Tammy G., Tracy J., Shelayne L, Tracy N., Jan M., Felicita M., Margaret R, Charlene S., Helen S, Jim S., Jon S., Connie V., Beverly W., and others we name in our hearts.
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges:**  - Francine Long’s friends Ed and Maxine as Ed transitions home from long-term care
  - Del Meester, herniated disc
  - Prayers for a good recovery for Ann Anderson’s nephew, Zachary, who was hit by a hit and run driver while biking
  - Those struggling with house issues
  - A member requests prayers for “two significant situations;” we trust God to know the needs.
  - Pray for Ian Vierck, Linda Ellinghausen’s grandson that his lungs will heal and not need surgery.
  - 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
  - Former President Jimmy Carter and his family, as he is under in-home hospice 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.

**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) the rest of April, call Deacon Barb Kocinski (630-710-4703); in May, call Deacon Barb Zink (630-668-2387). 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 church office is closed on Mondays and Wednesdays.**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:**    **April 30** **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either online via Google Meet or by joining Blair
 in person in the McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth: Pizzaless Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Be sure to let Blair know
 you plan to come.
**Monday, May 1 – Pastor’s Sabbath. The church office is closed.**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m. **Tuesday, May 2**
 **Pastor’s Bible Study** 4:00-5:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Pastor’s Prayer Meeting** from 7:00-7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
 Join Pastor Wendy in prayer…
 **Mission** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, May 3
 Women’s Breakfast** at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station **the May *Dialog* goes out
Thursday, May 4** Hawthorn Garden Club at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
 **Worship and Music Ministry** meets at 6:00 p.m.
 **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary **Friday, May 5**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall **Next Sunday,** **May 7** **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either online via Google Meet or by joining Blair
 in person in the McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth: Pizzaless Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Be sure to let Blair know
 you plan to come.

**Bearing Fruit – April 30, 2023
The Living Legacy Tree**

Southminster’s Living Legacy Fund is an endowment fund. We combine gifts from multiple donors, invest the money, and provide the income to Session to use for capital projects and mission. Since the beginning of 2005, contributions have totaled $229,801. Adjusted for inflation, the principal cannot be spent but income from the fund can be used to support Southminster. We have seen investment returns of $111,148 over that same time frame, and $80,168 – including $6,585 available this year – has been allocated for use by Session for capital projects. Past projects include the Southminster website and our video streaming system and its operational costs.

Contributions to the Living Legacy Fund are made through Living Gifts, gifts made while we are alive, often in recognition of a birthday, an anniversary or simply our gratitude for God’s gifts to us. Contributions can also be made via Legacy Gifts, bequests from our estate plans or as a beneficiary of insurance plans or retirement accounts. Finally, while we, as individuals have no control, Memorial Gifts may also be made to the Living Legacy Fund. Each of these gifts results in a silver, gold, or bronze leaf on the donor tree. There is no specific amount required. All gifts, of any size, are gratefully accepted and acknowledged. Today, we dedicate two silver leaves representing $79,250 in anonymous gifts.

Most gifts to our Living Legacy Fund have come from the living; folks still with us at the time of their gift. A few however, gave to the Living Legacy Fund as part of their estate plan. And so, it begs the question: what if we could establish a new tradition at Southminster? We are all going to leave this life someday; a fact we cannot ignore! We may need to leave resources to support a surviving spouse. We have children and grandchildren we will want to remember. Maybe we have a special need child that needs care. These are all very important. But couldn’t a portion be given to our church; a church that has been such a big part of our lives.

We are all indebted to the past, to those who precede us. We drink from wells we have not dug, we enjoy liberties we have not won, we share faith whose foundations we have not laid. At the same time, we are seeds of the future, for those who succeed us. We dream and envision and set things in motion. The fruition of our decisions will be known only to others who we will not meet. We are called to partner in faith with those who have gone before us and to offer the best that we have to give to those who will follow.

Consider remembering Southminster’s Living Legacy Fund as part of your estate plan.

The Living Legacy Fund offers the opportunity to make an enduring statement of faith through a gift which will build on and extend Southminster’s ministry for generations to come.