**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**7th Sunday of Easter**

**May 21, 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 “Signs of Spring at Southminster.”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

  Prelude

 Lighting the Candles and Remembering Our Baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13)

**For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks,
slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

[Please remain seated while singing these songs.]

 Hymn 623: *I’ve Got Peace Like a River (all)*

 Hymn 614: *Great Are You, Lord*

 Hymn 616: *Our God Is an Awesome God* (sing 2 times)

 Call to Worship  (2 Corinthians 5:17)

 Leader: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!

 **People: Everything old has passed away;
 See, everything has become new!**

 **All:** **Let us worship God, who makes us new.**

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

 Prayer of Confession: (unison) (1 Corinthians 1:30)

**God, you are gracious and loving, holy and righteous. Help us to admit to the fullness of our lives, both the good and the bad, the helpful and the hateful. In baptism you have united us with Christ Jesus, our Lord. We do not follow Jesus as we should. We judge and condemn. We throw the first stone, and we forget to turn to you for the source of our healing. Help us to walk in newness of life through the presence of your Holy Spirit. May we imitate you in love and service. 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 8:33-34)

 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 Blair Baldwin

 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:  Romans 6:1-4 Pew Bible, p. 156, (N.T.)

 Romans 6:5-14 Pew Bible, p. 156, (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Alive to All That Is Good”

Children present in worship may choose to go to Kids’ Corner with Miss Blair.

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *The Confession of 1967* [9.22, edited]

**The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.**

 Hymn 649: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (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: *Who You Say I Am* Will Morrison

 \**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 475: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (all 3 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
Greeter/Fellowship: Linda Ellinghausen
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Ann Anderson celebrating Ann and Paul’s 35th wedding anniversary.

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. Watch for the next opportunity to share your photos. If you have an idea for a PhotoStory, please connect with Pastor Wendy.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: Join us at 11:15 a.m. for our continuing study of Matthew and Zechariah. This week we will be looking at Matthew Chapter 9. We meet in person in the McHenry Parlor/Library or online via this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>.

**Youth**: Our next event is the Rummage Sale, June 3-4. But stay tuned for the forthcoming schedule of summer events. Yes, the school year will end, and summer fun will begin!

**Mission Team**: Those 18 and over, Blair needs your background check permission forms ASAP. Please check your email for the form.

**The Rummage Sale/Car Wash** is coming June 3-4. Perfect timing for spring cleaning! So, please put aside items fit to be donated for a garage sale. Pricing your items helps us a lot. Price stickers are on the counter in the main hallway. No need to price clothing or books – we have flat rates for those. Also, please ***do not donate electronics, furniture with glass tops, or cribs***. We will begin accepting donations after worship next Sunday, May 28, and during the following week. Note that there will be no one in the church building on Memorial Day and the church office is closed on Wednesday. (Office hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.) For those who do not have keys, contact Blair N. at 630-917-6035 to arrange to get in. Blair N. will be at church much of the time the week before the sale and a schedule of those times will be released soon.

Finally, come shop and get your car washed in support of our Youth Mission Trip to Imperial, PA for a week of workcamp. Thank you, all.

 **From the Mission Ministry:**May is **Gifts Grow** month at Southminster and one of the ways we bear the Fruit of God’s love. Through Gifts Grow, you have the opportunity to contribute to our missions, and your gifts will be matched by the Mission Ministry up to a total of $5,000 for the entire event. Double your impact on the mission(s) of your choice! Remember that your gifts are due by May 31.
See eNotes, *Dialog*, and written and verbal announcements all this month detailing the Gifts Grow project.

**Can you spare two hours a month?** The Walk-In Ministry is looking for volunteers to each work a 10-to-noon shift once every month. The volunteer will greet clients as they arrive and use pre-established guidelines to provide assistance with food, gas, utilities, prescriptions, car repairs, auto insurance, etc. Southminster Church is one of 17 local sponsors and a founding member. Walk-In Ministry is located within the First United Methodist Church in downtown Glen Ellyn (at the corner of Forest and Duane). Please consider helping with this important community service. If interested, call Steve Henkels at 312-286-1157.

We are once again **collecting zero-balance gift cards along with bread tags and buttons**. The containers are on the shelf in the hallway opposite the pastor’s office.

**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. There are only a few dates left this year. Flower arrangements are $35.00 each.

**Meet and Greet the Artists!** We are hosting a reception today from 3:00-4:00 p.m. to meet and greet the artists from COD whose works are now displayed in our hallway art gallery. There will be beauty, refreshments (thanks to our deacons), and some wonderfully creative people you don’t want to miss. This is one way we bear the fruit of God’s love.

**A community invitation**: The Westminster Choir College Concert Handbell Choir is on tour and will present a concert today, May 21, at 5:00 p.m. at Downers Grove First United Methodist Church, 1032 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove. This bell choir has a national reputation and is sure to give an energetic performance. The public is invited! A free will offering will be collected.

**Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):
Thanks to everyone who ordered Jubilee Bucks gift cards in May. So far this year your purchases have earned Southminster $594.17 in “free” money.
The next order date will be June 4. **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):
It is amazing how our church has been supporting PRC with our donations! Weekly deliveries of food, personal care products, and cleaning products have been greatly appreciated! The number of clients has been increasing and all items donated greatly needed and utilized. Donation boxes has been relocated a few steps farther into the church... just past the second set of doors (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.

**Friends,
You are all invited to offer prayer for people whether they are members or not. It would be a joy and very helpful to know how people are doing. If you have submitted a person to be prayed for, can you send an update to the office, please, once in a while? Thank you! Pastor Wendy**

**Joys and Concerns**   **The flowers today** celebrate Ann and Paul Anderson’s 35th wedding anniversary. **We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Congratulations to our high school graduates: Samantha Falkman and Ryan Sundquist!
 - Jack Thorne, recovering from a successful pacemaker implant on Friday
 - Ron Birchall, recovering from a successful cardiac ablation this week
 - Floyd Rogers’ doctor told him “all is well” in the follow-up after his cancer surgery.
  - Ian Vierck, Linda Ellinghausen’s grandson, is doing well after surgery on his lungs. He has a 95% chance of never needing that surgery again.
 - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, though she is weak and in need of much care and rest, has been told “there is no evidence of the disease at this time.” Her immune system is still on the mend, so it will be a while still until we see her in worship.
  - 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, especially the families of the 4 people killed and 13 injured in shootings since Monday in Farmington, New Mexico, and San Antonio, Texas. 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, Myanmar, and everywhere that people face war, civil unrest, and the fight for civil rights.
**Blessed are those who mourn:**
  - The family and many friends of Dan Bohi, and especially Deb, Jessica and Megan and their spouses, and the four grandchildren.
 - We thank God for the love that God puts in our hearts for our pets. Blessed are those who mourn.
 **We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems:** - Linda Ellinghausen requests prayers for Hal’s extended family: Pam Greenholt, who recently had a kiwi-sized tumor removed from the base of her brain.
 - Amy Christensen Henning, undergoing 6 months of chemotherapy
  - Marta Sundquist, who had surgery for a brain tumor. She is safe at home and will need further treatment down the road. Her doctors are putting a plan together. You can be updated on her condition and send her messages online through CaringBridge.org.
  - Continuing prayers for Nikki Petersen Mendoza (adult daughter of Pete Petersen) as she continues to heal
  - We continue to pray for: Steve, Peggy, Cameron A., Rod B., Sam C., Tammy G., Tracy J., Shelayne L., Jan M., Felicita M., Rebecca M., Tracy N., Tom P., 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:**  - Ian Van Beveren, looking for a place to live in the area
 - Mike Stewart, who is very sick and having a hard time. (He is the husband of June, who has been a visitor here.)
  - Francine Long’s friends Ed and Maxine as Ed transitions home from long-term care
  - Our members who are in long term care: **Ed Koska** in hospice care 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
  - Those struggling with house issues
  - Those who are suffering from depression
 - Those making difficult life transitions
  - 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.

**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:**    **Sunday, May 21** **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
 **Artists’ Reception** from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the hallway Art Gallery and Narthex
 **No Youth activity today**
**Pastor Wendy Boden will be at a study group/retreat** from Sunday evening, May 21, until sometime after lunch on Tuesday, May 23. **Monday, May 22 –The church office is closed on Mondays.**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m. **Tuesday, May 23**
 **Pastor’s Bible Study** 4:00-5:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, May 24
 eNotes go out
Thursday, May 25
 Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary **Friday, May 26**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall **Next Sunday,** **May 28 – *The Day of Pentecost*** **Worship with Ordination/Installation of New Officers** 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
 **No Adult Ed.**
**You can begin bringing in donations for the Rummage Sale following worship on the 28th** and through the following week. See the “Notes from Blair Nelson” (above) regarding times during the week for bringing donations.

**Bearing Fruit – May 21, 2023**

**Gifts Grow, Part Two**

We bear the fruit of God’s love in tangible ways. One way is through Gifts Grow. Do you on a regular basis provide food or monetary support for the People’s Resource Center? Do you support the homeless through the work of PADS or Bridge Communities? How about Walk-In Ministry? Do you give up your summer vacation to help people refurbish their homes?

Last week we highlighted some of our Southminster-supported mission that benefit through Gifts Grow, a mission project during the month of May in which your donations to our missions will be matched by the Mission Ministry. (There are a few restrictions, noted below. This week we highlight more…

**Cuba Sister Church:** Since 2004 SPC has had a special relationship with the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Guanabacoa, Cuba. This ministry is one of relationship and support. SPC is still the only official sister church of Guanabacoa and their main support for ministry. Many from SPC have visited, and you are encouraged to consider a visit, as well.

**Metropolitan Family Services (Family Shelter Service)** is a privately-funded organization that provides countywide help and hope for victims of domestic violence. We have volunteers who work in their thrift store.

**Walk-In Ministry:** Their mission is to provide a single source of compassionate assistance to families and individuals in need. The Walk-In Ministry is housed at Glen Ellyn 1st United Methodist Church and is supported by many of Glen Ellyn’s churches. A few people from Southminster Presbyterian Church volunteer at Walk-In Ministry, and we are looking for more.

**Youth Mission Trip**: Annually the youth of SPC carry on the SPC tradition of service by refurbishing homes of elderly and poor residents in various communities around the United States. Going away from home and caring for people outside of their home community is one way for our youth to not only serve others but also to step outside their comfort zone. Every fall, our youth and other members of our congregation help with local homelessness by participating in Sleep Out Saturday, a project organized byBridge Communities, which we wrote about last week.

Until May 31, you have an opportunity to give a donation to your favorite Southminster-sponsored mission organization and have your mission dollars doubled.

When you donate a gift of $15 to any one of these missions, Southminster will contribute an additional gift of $15 to the same mission; a $50 gift is matched with $50, and so on. Please take advantage of this opportunity to watch your mission “Gifts Grow.”

Program restrictions:
Donations must be received by May 31, 2023.
Mission funds for matching are capped at $5,000 total, $300 per family and $1,000 per organization.
The Mission Ministry reserves the right to designate use within a given fund.

Simply write a check to Southminster Presbyterian Church and place it in the special Gifts Grow envelope. The envelopes are on a shelf in the main hallway opposite the church office and on the table as you enter the sanctuary. Be sure to indicate your choice of mission on the envelope or check.

Giving to Gifts Grow is one way of helping us bear the fruit of God’s love in DuPage County.