**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 23, 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 “Meet Rev. Jess Scholten.”

 Welcome and Announcements

  Prelude

 Lighting the Candles (Galatians 5:22-23a)

 **By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

[Please remain seated while singing these songs.]

 Hymn 406: *We Are Standing on Holy Ground* (sing 2 times)

 Hymn 408: *There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

 Call to Worship

 Leader: We come. We wait.

 **People: We long. We hope.**

 Leader: We suffer. We pray.

 **People: We rejoice. We sing.**

 Leader: We are God's beloved children, waiting for Christ to set all things right.

 **All:** **We are God's beloved children, gathered to worship and sent out
 to help usher in the Kingdom of God.**

 Hymn 443: *There Is a Redeemer* (all 3 verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Ever-present God, there is no place where you are not with us. You see us at our worst and at our best. There is much we would hide from you - the ways we harm your creation, the ways we mistreat others, the ways we turn away when we are called to turn toward. Even as you know us, forgive us. Guide our thoughts, our words, our actions, that you may delight in us as we delight in you. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ

 Leader: Beloveds, hear the good news: God knows and forgives us
 and leads us in the way of everlasting life.

 **All: Thanks be to God!**

 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 Andrea Schmidt

 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 8:12-25 Pew Bible, p. 158, (N.T.)

 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Pew Bible, p. 14, (N.T.)

 Sermon: “The Kingdom of Heaven and Bearing the Fruit of Patience”
 The Rev. Jessica Scholten

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 adapted from *The Confession of Belhar* (PCUSA)

**We believe in the triune God who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do so to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints from the entire human family. We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and one another. We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit, we love one another and share in one faith, obedient to one Lord, working together by the power of the Holy Spirit to share God’s love and hope in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

 Hymn 819: *Be Still, My Soul* (all 3 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: *I Will Rise* Chris Tomlin

 \**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 649: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (all 5 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**

Guest preacher: Rev. Jessica Scholten
Liturgist/Worship Host: Terry Kline

Greeter/Fellowship: Sue Knisely
Musicians: Tom Anderson
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich

Flowers today are given by Barb Zink in memory of Dave and by Louanne Jourdan to celebrate the birthday she shares with her daughter, Jennifer (July 26).

**Welcome to Worship**Even though we have returned to in-person worship, we continue to be live on Sunday morning for worship at 9:30 a.m. on Facebook and on our You Tube channel. (The Photo Story starts at 9:15.) Fellowship at the church will be in the narthex following worship. Adult Ed. Bible Study is usually live on Google Meet at 11:15 but will take a break until August 6. Links to all are below under “Connecting with Southminster online.”
*If for any reason the live feed falters, rest assured that a recording will be posted to Facebook and You Tube as soon as possible.*
 **Connecting with Southminster online:**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. Tuesday through Friday this week, then taking a break until the first full week of August.

**Sunday morning worship, 9:30 a.m.:** You can worship with us in person or by joining us online live. Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>  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/](https://www.southminsterpc.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) or by going to our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos> **Sunday morning fellowship:**
If you are present for worship, following the service you are invited by the deacons to gather for **in-person fellowship** in the narthex. Masks and social distancing are at your discretion. Coffee and bottled beverages will be served.

If you are worshiping with us 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** will not meet again until August 6.

**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. We’re all set for the rest of the month but coming up in August we’ll be looking for these:
 **August 13: “Our Summer Gardens”** - Flowers? Vegetables? Both? Please send us
 photos Thursday, August 10.
 **August 20: “Our Pets”** - Those adorable photos are not just for social media! Please
 send us pictures of your beloved pets by Thursday, August 17.
 **August 27: “Summer Fun”** – Let’s see some of the things you did to have fun this
 summer! Please send photos by Thursday, August 24.

**Send photos to our dedicated email address, used just for photos:** **PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org. (**If you only have hard copies of your photos, please leave them in the photo box on Pastor Wendy’s desk, labeled with your name and the date they are to be used.)

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: We will not meet the rest of this month but will continue our study of Zechariah in August.

**Youth:** As the summer schedule goes, there are no dates for a youth event in July. Enjoy the summer and watch for August event information to come.

 **From the Worship Ministry:
Choir members and other singers:** During the summer there is no formal choir, but we still need people to help lead worship, not only for those in attendance in worship but for those at home online. If you are willing to lend your voice to this ministry, please simply come in and sit in one of the choir seats during worship.

**Singers and instrumentalists of all ages** are invited to share their gifts during summer worship. Please contact Music Director Tom Anderson to sign up for a Sunday (or more than one) on which you’re willing to help lead us with music. Reach Tom at 651-246-5029 or tomanderson101@gmail.com.

**From the Mission Ministry:
We’re having a “kitchen shower” for World Relief (but just until the end of July)!**
Imagine how it would feel to arrive in the United States as a refugee with nothing but what you were wearing and maybe carrying a bag or two. Throughout the month of July, our Mission Ministry will work with World Relief to host a “shower,” collecting items a refugee family would need to equip a kitchen. We will have bins in the coat room, and you can bring donations in any time this month.

Please consider donating from the following list:
1 set of mixing bowls     1 set of baking pans/dishes
1 saucepan/pot & 1 frying pan      1 set of cooking utensils
measuring cups & spoons         medium/lg cutting board
manual can opener                    3 kitchen towels
3 dishcloths                              silverware for 4
dishes for 4 (plates & bowls)       4 drinking glasses and 4 mugs
rice or pressure cooker              tea kettle
1 toilet brush                            1 broom & dustpan
1 plastic laundry basket           1 pad of paper
5 pens/pencils                     1 electric fan
1 small toolkit                        1 travel sewing kit
1 flashlight & batteries            1 alarm clock

*World Relief asks that all items be new to preserve the recipients’ dignity.*If we receive duplicates, World Relief will store them to distribute to other refugee families. Thank you for helping refugee families in need.
 **Consider visiting our sister church in Cuba!**
The Mission Ministry is beginning to plan for our next trip to visit our sister church in Guanabacoa, Cuba. Right now ***we would like to hear from those of you who might be interesting in going***, telling us when you are available to go and asking us more about the trip. One key issue is that we need to submit the names and passport information for those going at least three months in advance, so we hope to make some plans in the next few weeks to allow for that delay. **Please let Gretchen Fleming know by next Sunday if you have an interest in this trip to visit our sister church and what specifically you need to know to make a decision. You may contact Gretchen by phone or text at 630-517-0926 or email at** **gretchen\_fleming@yahoo.com****.**

**Start saving shoes!** The shoe collection for Jolly Old Soles is coming back in September. During the summer, please set aside your gently used shoes for the upcoming collection. Formal and casual shoes, boots, sandals… all are welcome, but we ask that you keep them at home until September, when the collection boxes are in place. Thank you.

**Used (zero-balance) gift cards**: *Please do not cut the used cards in half before you turn them in.* They are used to make guitar picks, and only whole cards are useful.

**From the Christian Education Ministry**
**Mark your calendars**…Southminster is hosting a one-day Vacation Bible School, “Blooming Together - One Day to Grow with God,” on Saturday, August 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for children going into kindergarten through fifth grade. There will be no charge to attend! Here’s how you can help:

* Sign up your children/grandchildren/friends/neighbors/other relatives (the registration link is on social media/Facebook!)
* Sign up to donate/loan some items we will need (the sign-up list is on the CE/Youth office door – the third door on the right as you enter the building)
* VOLUNTEER: let Blair Baldwin or Deb Bohi know if you want to volunteer. We are also looking for young people older than fifth grade to assist.

**Crosstown Rivalry Fellowship—today!**The first series of 2023’s Chicago baseball’s Crosstown Classic between the Cubs and the Sox will occur on July 25-July 26. Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 23, when the Deacons will host fun, baseball-themed refreshments during fellowship after church. We invite you to wear something from your favorite baseball teams that week, to celebrate this summertime tradition and “friendly” rivalry!

**Women’s Breakfast** meets the first Wednesday of the month – the next gathering is August 2. All woman are invited to join this informal group at Danby’s Station at 8:30 a.m. Call, text, or email Gretchen Fleming—(630) 517-0926; gretchen\_fleming@yahoo.com—if you have any questions. Danby’s Station is at 750 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn.

**Jubilee Bucks:**
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks gift cards in July. Our year-to-date total of “free” money earned from the sale of these cards is $901.57. Your next chance to order will be August 6. **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
It is amazing how we have been supporting PRC with our weekly donations! The Wheaton location serves over 500 families every week! This is twice as many as during the summer of 2021. Most needed items are rice, pasta, canned soup, corn, tomatoes, tuna, peanut butter, pasta sauce, and diapers (sizes 5,6,7).

**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** are from Barb Zink in memory of Dave. **We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Thanks to God for the beautiful diversity of humanity!
 - 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.
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. Over this past Saturday and Sunday (July 15 and 16), 9 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims) left 11 people dead and 35 wounded. Click on [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting) to see the current statistics.
 - Wildfires in Canada causing air quality issues through the Midwest, including hazardous breathing conditions here
 - All who have been affected by extreme weather conditions – unrelenting and record-setting heat, drought, tornadoes, floods
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world: Ukraine and Russia, 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 of Margaret Rolando, Sandy Lopata’s cousin
 - We pray for Joan and for the Koska sons and their families, mourning the loss of Ed, who died last month.
  - 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 the loss of their beloved pets.
**We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems:** - Tim O’Neal, a friend of Heidi Shierry and Barb Doppelt, who is receiving care at home for bile duct cancer and recuring blood infections
 - Helen Shierry is doing well on her chemotherapy with no side effects from the chemo drugs and feeling good. She is upbeat and thankful for all the prayers from our congregation.
  - Marta Sundquist, who had surgery for a brain tumor and has completed her first stages of treatment. You can be updated on her condition and send her messages online through CaringBridge.org.
  - We continue to pray for: Steve, Peggy, Cameron A., Rod B., Sam C., Tammy G., Pam G., Amy H., Shelayne L., Jan M., Nikki M., Felicita M., Rebecca M., Tracy N., Jim 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:**
 - Barb’s grandson, Dash, recovering from surgical procedure on Monday
 - Bud Boden, Wendy’s father, home following hospitalization last week. He will have surgery in 4 weeks.
 - Donovan Eagan (Zee’s son), who broke both his arms while playing
 - Prayers for health for Pat and Tom Grimsey, brother and sister-in-law of Deb Bohi
 - Jim Smith, recovering at Brookdale
 - Donna Marton is at home
  - Our members who are in long term care: **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
  - the family of Maykel Solomon
  - Those struggling with house issues
  - Those who are suffering from depression
 - Those making difficult life transitions
  - Former President Jimmy Carter and his family; he is under in-home hospice care and his wife, Rosalynn has recently been diagnosed with dementia.
**We pray for the Jeremiah 29 discernment task force as they seek God’s will for Southminster in the 21st century.**May we all be attentive to the Holy Spirit’s leading.

 **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 July, call Deacon Angela Smith (630-235-1376). 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.

**Pastor Boden will not be in the office from mid-July until returning to the pulpit on August 6.** In an emergency you may call Rev. Holly Hopp of St. Luke Presbyterian in Downers Grove; she will cover through August 1. Her cell number is 512-554-1956. Pastor Boden will be available by cell phone from August 2-6.

**Revised Deacon Flock Member Lists:** The Deacons have been finalized for the coming year, and revised "Flock" lists have been created with members assigned to each Deacon. The new list will be posted on the Deacon bulletin board this week, closest to the Parlor/Library. You will see an alphabetic list by church member, with their assigned Deacon representative and phone number. Over the next month, we will also be asking Deacons to contact their members and ensure that they have their contact information, email addresses, and best phone numbers. Thank you to all the Deacons for their willingness to serve. We look forward to the year ahead!

**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, neighbor, and one another. 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, July 23**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 Guest preacher: Rev. Jessica Scholten
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service. **We’re celebrating the
 Chicago Crosstown Classic: Cubs vs. White Sox**! Wear your favorite team’s
 gear and enjoy baseball-themed refreshments after worship.
 **No Adult Ed. or Youth activity
Tuesday, July 25**
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, July 26**
 **eNotes go out** but it is also the **deadline for the August Dialog!
Thursday, July 27
 Organ tuning** at 11:00 a.m. **Friday, July 28**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Sunday,** **July 30**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 Guest preacher: Elder Jim Davidovich
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service.
 **No Adult Ed. or Youth activity**

**Bearing Fruit – July 23, 2023**

**Welcome, Rev. Jessica Scholten!**

Our pastor enjoys inviting people she likes and cares about to share God’s word to with us. Today please meet her friend, the Rev Jessica Scholten. Our pastor delights in her good sense of humor and her delightful conversations.

The Rev. Jessica Scholten has been in ordained ministry for over two decades and has served as a hospital chaplain, associate pastor (First Presbyterian, High Point, NC), an interim pastor at four Presbyterian and one Lutheran church in the Madison, Wisconsin area, and most recently, as the pastor at River Glen Presbyterian in Naperville.

Jess graduated from Western Theological Seminary and was originally ordained in the denomination in which she grew up: the Reformed Church in America. Ten years ago, she moved her ordination to the PCUSA because it was where she had been called to serve and so she could be part of an open and affirming denomination. Her only claim to fame is to be a minister of word and sacrament who helped vote in the Confession of Belhar into two denominations. While they both grew up in Holland, Michigan, and still feel like Madison is home, she and her husband Tom live in Aurora where they enjoy reading, walking, hiking, biking, and traveling.

Christ’s church is bigger than any one local congregation. Welcoming guests to our pulpit is one way that we not only bear the fruit of God’s love but also experience it. Welcome, Pastor Jessica.