**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**9th Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 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 “Meet Jim Davidovich.”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

  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 401: *Here In This Place (Gather Us In)* (verses 1, 4)

 Hymn 519: *You Are My Strength When I Am Weak (You Are My All in All)*

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Each of us arrives with a different experience.

 **People:** **We all hunger for friendship and understanding.**

 **All:** **Let us worship God together.**

 Hymn 771: *What Is the World Like* (all 5 verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Gracious God, you came to us in Jesus Christ, living good news, but we have neglected what you taught us. Forgive us. Thank you for new opportunities because of your grace and love. May your Holy Spirit help us to follow your teachings. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is savior and Lord. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

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

 Leader: May the God of mercy who forgives all our sins

 **People: Strengthen us in all goodness,**

 Leader: And by the power of the Holy Spirit

 **People: Keep us in eternal life.**

 **All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.**

 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 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 8:28-39 Pew Bible, p. 158 (N.T.)

 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Pew Bible, p. 14 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “21st Century Parable” Elder Jim Davidovich

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

 Hymn 22: *God of the Sparrow* (all 6 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: *Widmung (Dedication)* Robert Schumann

 \**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 830: *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* (all 3 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: Elder Jim Davidovich
Liturgist/Worship Host: Gretchen Fleming

Greeter/Fellowship: Linda Ellinghausen
Musicians: Tom Anderson, David Kozich
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich

The flowers today are given by Sarah Allen to celebrate her daughter Laura’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** will not meet today.

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. “Heart to Heart” is taking a break until Pastor Wendy returns to the office.

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. 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**: Our Sunday-after-worship Bible class will resume our study of Zechariah on August 13. (Blair will be busy with an important Youth Mission Team informational meeting after worship on the 6th.)

**Mission Trippers** past and present, do you have a story to share with our church family about any of our mission trips? Contact Blair N., and you will get a chance in the service on August 6.

**Want to be part of the Youth Mission Trip in 2024?** Join us for an informational meeting after worship on August 6. Guess what! You don’t have to be a youth to be a part. There are roles for adults, too. It is quite an experience! Come and find out!

 **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:**
**The “kitchen shower” for World Relief is coming to an end!**
Throughout July, our Mission Ministry has hosted a “shower,” collecting items a refugee family would need to equip a kitchen. Donations are being collected in the coat room. If you still have a last-minute donation, you may bring it on Tuesday, August 1 (only because the church office isn’t open on Monday). Barb will be in the office Tuesday from 9:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

This is the “wish 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 today after worship if you have an interest in this trip to visit our sister church and what specifically you need to know to make a decision. Or contact Gretchen today by phone or text at 630-517-0926 or email at** **gretchen\_fleming@yahoo.com****.**

**Save your gently-worn 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.

**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.

**Women’s Breakfast** meets the first Wednesday of the month – the next gathering is this Wednesday, 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: Order next Sunday!**
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 next Sunday, 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 Sarah Allen to celebrate the birthday last week of her daughter, Laura.

**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. NBC News reported that in Chicago alone there were at least 6 dead and 27 injured in gun violence this past weekend. Click on [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting) to see the current national statistics for mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims).
 - Wildfires in Canada causing air quality issues through the Midwest, including hazardous breathing conditions here
 - All who have been affected by extreme weather conditions – scorching 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 Peter Stoffels, who died last week. He is the son of a friend of the Bohis.
 - 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:** - Chris Kozich asks prayers for relief from pain and a cure for John D., who is starting treatments for stage 4 oral cancer, as well as prayers for his wife and mother as they care for him.
 - Tim O’Neal, a friend of Heidi Shierry and Barb Doppelt, is receiving care at home for bile duct cancer and recurring 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:**
 - Bud Boden, Wendy’s father, home following hospitalization last week. He will have surgery in August.
 - Donovan Eagan (Zee’s son), who broke both bones in his left forearm while playing. Zee says he’s improving steadily.
 - 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); in August, call Deb Bohi (630-935-1225). 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 return to the pulpit next Sunday, August 6.** In an emergency you may call Rev. Holly Hopp of St. Luke Presbyterian in Downers Grove; she will cover through this Tuesday, 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 is posted on the Deacon bulletin board, closest to the Parlor/Library. You will see an alphabetic list by church member, with their assigned Deacon representative and phone number. Deacons have been asked 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 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.
 **C.E. meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **No Adult Ed. or Youth activity
Tuesday, August 1
Last day to bring donations for the kitchen shower for World Relief.** If you
 don’t have a key, you need to come between 9:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.
 **Mission Ministry** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, August 2**
 **Women’s Breakfast** at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station
 **August *Dialog* goes out
Friday, August 4**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, August 5
 C.E./VBS workers meeting and decorating** starting at 9:00 a.m. **Next Sunday,** **August 6
Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com before 9:00 p.m.
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook. Pastor Wendy Boden
 will be back in the pulpit.
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service.
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** will not meet today. Instead… **Youth Mission Trip 2024 information meeting** with Blair N.at 11:15 a.m.
 in McHenry Parlor/Library

**Bearing Fruit – July 30, 2023**

**Welcome, Elder Jim Davidovich!**

When our pastor was looking for someone to share the good news of Jesus Christ on Sunday morning while she was away, she was delighted that Elder Jim Davidovich said, “Yes.” Over the years she has had opportunity to work with Jim through the Committee on Ministry (COM) and while she moderated the session of Hope Presbyterian in Wheaton.

Our pastor and Jim texted quite a bit to set up this Sunday’s worship - Jim texted, “Thank you for thinking of me. Just let me know the lectionary for that Sundae.” The joke is that he had ice cream on his mind. Why not? It is summer! Here is what Jim has to say about himself:

Jim Davidovich is a long-time resident of Elmhurst. He has served 7 terms as an elder at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church and served on the Pastor Nominating Committee, as well. Jim has been an active member of the Presbytery of Chicago for many years, serving on the Committee on Ministry for 9 years. In 2012 he was a delegate to the 2012 General Assembly in Pittsburgh as a member of the Chicago Presbytery delegation. Most recently Jim was selected as Moderator-Elect of the Presbytery of Chicago and will then serve as Moderator in 2024.

Jim retired last year after a 37-year career at United Airlines, mostly in Loyalty Marketing. He is currently a career coach for the Chicago-based firm Challenger Gray & Christmas. Jim is married; his husband, Andrew, is from Jamaica as are their two dogs, Usain and Bolt. Jim is a huge Chicago Cubs fan and counts seeing the Cubs win a World Series game at Wrigley Field among life’s joys.

The PCUSA is a connectional church. One of the things that connectional means is that we rely on and support one another as we all seek to serve Christ and share Christ’s love for the world. We are grateful for Elder Jim’s presence among us today. May we all bear the fruit of God’s love by caring not only for people in our own congregation but also loving and connecting with other Presbyterian churches as well as those from other Christian traditions. We are one in the Sprit as we bear the fruit of God’s love.