**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**11th Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 13, 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 “Our Summer Gardens.”

 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 616: *Our God Is an Awesome God* (sing 3 times)

 Hymn 630: *Fairest Lord Jesus* (verses 1, 2, 4)

 Hymn 368: *We Fall Down* (sing 3 times)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: May the doors of Southminster be open wide enough to receive all
 whose hearts are seeking you.

 **People: May we welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express,
 and hopes to nurture.**

 **All:** **We worship the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

 Hymn 377: *I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light* (all 3 verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Gracious God, we hold before you what has wounded us or brought injury to others. Lavish your grace upon us that we might experience your renewal of life and be your light in our community. Thank you for the blessing of the Holy Spirit so we may live as your people in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and savior. 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.**

*Text Adapt. and Music* ©2008 Paul M. Vasile
Reprinted/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-739517. All rights reserved.

 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

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIS Publications, Inc.)

Reprinted/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-739517. All rights reserved.

 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Pew Bible, p. 163 (O.T.)

 Matthew 5:8 Pew Bible, p. 4 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “The Garden Path – Pure of Heart”

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

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

 Hymn 692: *Spirit, Open My Heart* (all 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: *Panis Angelicus* *(Bread of Angels)* César Franck

Translation of the Latin text:

*May the Bread of Angels
Become bread for mankind;
The Bread of Heaven puts
All foreshadowings to an end;
Oh, thing miraculous!
The body of the Lord will nourish
the poor, the poor,
the servile, and the humble.*

 \**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 366: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (all 4 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**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist/Worship Host: Francine Long

Greeter/Fellowship: Barb Zink
Musicians: Tom Anderson; Derek Buckley and Delmar Meester
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Andrea Schmidt to celebrate Kayla’s 21st 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 the class, find Blair and 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. In August we’ll be looking for these:
 **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 resume our study of Zechariah today. Join us at 11:15 a.m. online at <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye> or in person in McHenry Parlor/Library.

**Youth:** Enjoy the rest of your summer – it looks like there won’t be any youth events until September. Stay in touch with Blair!

**From the Mission Ministry:**
**Save your gently-worn shoes!** The shoe collection for Jolly Old Soles is coming back in September. During this month, 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.
Remember that **we are** **collecting bread tags and used (0-balance) gift cards**. Collection jars are on the shelf in the hallway opposite the pastor’s office. Please don’t cut the gift cards in half! They’re used to make guitar picks, and only whole gift cards are usable.

 **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. And soon it will be time for choir to start up again! Contact Tom if you have questions about that.

**From the Christian Education Ministry**
On Sunday, August 20, we will have a **Blessing of the Backpacks** for students of all ages. Bring your backpack (or lunch bag, purse, or tote bag…) to worship that day so the congregation can send you into a new school year with blessings.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet this Wednesday, August 16, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The book for August is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. *The Personal Librarian* tells the fictionalized story of Belle da Costa Greene, the woman who curated financier J.P. Morgan’s rich collection of antique objects: manuscripts, books, and artwork. She was an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style, and wit. But she had a secret, and the book explores the lengths she must have had to go to—for the protection of her family and her legacy—as a Black woman preserving her carefully-crafted White identity in the racist world in which she lived.
Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on August 16:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09>
Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865

**Jubilee Bucks:**
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks gift cards last Sunday. Our year-to-date total of “free” money earned from the sale of Jubilee Bucks is $ 1,071.69. Your next chance to order will be Labor Day weekend – September 3. **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
People’s Resource Center (PRC) recently sent out a letter encouraging their contacts in DuPage County to help them restock their shelves. They have been receiving less help with donations from the public since prices began to go up.

Of course, many of us at Southminster have been faithfully providing products to PRC all along, taken there regularly by Bobbi Frey, who volunteers at PRC. Just for your information, below is a list of the items that PRC identifies as most needed at this time:

Peanut butter Jelly
Canned tuna Mayo
Canned chicken Canned corn (low sodium)
Chicken noodle soup Black beans (low sodium)
Mixed fruit (packed in fruit juice) Pasta sauce
Canned pineapple (packed in fruit juice) Dried/crushed tomatoes
Dry pasta Apple sauce
Rice Diapers (sizes 5, 6, 7)
Dried pinto beans Adult diapers (all sizes)
Vegetable soup Shampoo
Green beans (low sodium) Bars of soap
Ketchup Body wash
Mustard Toothpaste

Many thanks to all who continue to support PRC’s mission to meet our communities’ needs, neighbor to neighbor.

**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 Andrea Schmidt to celebrate Kayla’s 21st birthday!

**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. In the first 6 days of August there were 8 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims), leaving 5 dead and 36 injured. Click on [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting) to see the current national statistics for mass shootings.
 - We pray for our nation as we again wrestle with race relations after recent events in Alabama.
 - Wildfires on Maui, where at least 55 people have died (and the death toll is mounting) and thousands of homes, resorts, and businesses have been destroyed. Prayers for safety for Sue Cunningham and Ron, Mary, and Bailey Sturgeon (aunt and cousins of Heidi Shierry). They were visiting Maui and there has been no way to communicate with them. The hotel they were staying at has burned to the ground. The Red Cross has been asked to help with getting information on their whereabouts. A woman who is severely burned and who has been airlifted to the Stanford University Burn Unit has been identified as cousin Bailey. She is in a medically induced coma and may lose both her feet. As of Friday afternoon there is still no news of the rest of the family.
 - Continuing wildfires in Canada
 - 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:**
 - We pray for the family of Grace Van Beveren, who died August 5. She had been visited the day before by our pastor and her deacon. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held on Saturday, August 26 – visitation at 10:00 a.m. and service at 11:00. If you want to send cards, here are addresses for Grace’s family:

Wilma Anderson Stephanie and Ian Van Beveren
P.O. Box 631940 614 Avenue F
Littleton. CO 80163 Fort Madison, IA 52627

Jerry Van Beveren
417 Fox Ridge Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

 - We pray for Joan and for the Koska sons and their families, mourning the loss of Ed.
  - 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:** - Prayers for Tom Grimsey, brother of Deb Bohi
  - 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., John D., Tammy G., Pam G., Amy H., Shelayne L., Jan M., Nikki M., Felicita M., Rebecca M., Tracy N., Tim O., Helen S., 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:** - Heidi Shierry is unable to walk on a painfully swollen foot “the size of a spaghetti squash.” There is no blood clot or fracture but also no other cause has been found. She is resting at home.
 - Lynn Ferino’s niece and her 3 children, after another driver hit them in Indiana and totaled their car. They were injured but are home now recovering. The oldest daughter needed surgery for a splintered finger and broken arm.
 - Bud Boden, Wendy’s father, home following hospitalization. He is “feeling slow.” He will have his gall bladder removed sometime after August 14. Pray for a surgery date.
 - Heidi Shierry asks prayer for her friend Sue, dealing with mental health issues
 - Marjorie Cilley, hospitalized with a broken hip and pneumonia
 - We pray for Gail Johnston, in hospice care at Du Page Convalescent Center (If you send a card to Gail, please mail it to Andrea Schmidt, whose address is in the directory.)
 - Jim Smith, recovering at Brookdale
  - 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 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 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.

**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, August 13**
 **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
 **No Youth activity
Monday, August 14 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, August 15**
 **Session** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, August 16** **eNotes go out
 Presbyterian Readers** meet at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
**Friday, August 18**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **August 20**
 **Worship,** including **Blessing of the Backpacks,** 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
 **No Youth activity**

**Bearing Fruit – August 13, 2023**

**Worship and Fellowship**

Our music today is offered by Rev. Delmar L. Meester, a friend and colleague of our pastor and a frequent visitor to Southminster, and his son-in-law Dr. Derek Buckley, husband of Jonathan Buckley.

Derek graduated with a doctorate of music and vocal performance from the University of Illinois. He has had the pleasure of studying with Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. Alan Peters, Mr. Jerry Daniels and most recently master classes with MS Renee Fleming and MS Linda Eder. Clearly Derek loves opera and in particular bel canto roles which have been a centerpiece of his repertoire for the past 20 years.

Del is a native Iowan and graduated from University of Northern Iowa with a BA in music. He has two masters’ degrees, one from the Dubuque Theological Seminary and one from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Del is a retired pastor who last served as a called and installed pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Chicago Heights. He has also served as an interim pastor and has served as pulpit supply here at Southminster. The family resides in Aurora. We are delighted and blessed to count Del and Derek as part of the Southminster faith community and by their presence with us here today.

Fellowship has sacredness, as well. Our worship continues during fellowship as we enjoy one another’s company. Today, we are enjoying Scottish shortbread that was a gift given to our pastor this past week by Imam Irshad Ahmad Malhi, the new Imam of the Illinois Region at our local Ahmadiyya Mosque. A few months ago, our pastor welcomed him and his family when they first moved into the area, just down the street on McCarron. She brought them an orchid and tea.

The most recent General Assembly of our PCUSA produced these statements: *“Stand publicly with Muslims when they are targeted because of their Muslim identity. Stand publicly with Jews when they are targeted because of their Jewish identity.”*

Southminster has long been a community of faith that extends welcome and love to all people. Our faith in the love of Jesus Christ helps us bear the fruit of God’s love. We bear the fruit of God’s love in through worship, fellowship, and friendships.