**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**12th Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 20, 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 Pets.”

 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 614: *Great Are You, Lord* (sing 2 times)

 Hymn 623: *I’ve Got Peace Like a River* (verses 1, 3)

 Hymn 824: *There Is a Place of Quiet Rest (Near to the Heart of God)* (all 3 verses)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: May the doors of Southminster be open for all who enter,

 **People: the doorway to a rich and meaningful life.**

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

 Hymn 753: *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* (all 4 verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Gracious and loving God, there are times when we seek things for ourselves and measure failure by what we do not gain. There are days when we act as if we cared nothing for the wellbeing and rights of others. As followers of Jesus, we remember that we are walking a path of your Kingdom values. May your will be done in us as it is in heaven. We ask this in the name of Jesus Chris, our 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: Blessing of Backpacks and Lunchboxes Blair Baldwin

 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

 Response:

 **All: God has your back… and so do we.**

 *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

13 Scripture Lessons:  Psalm 85:10-13 Pew Bible, p. 544 (O.T.)

 Matthew 5:9 Pew Bible, p. 4 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “The Garden Path – Peacemaking”

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

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

 Hymn 795: *Healer of Our Every Ill* (all 4 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: *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*
 Johnny Robinson/Rich Thompson/Michael Farren

 \**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 765: *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

 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: Lynn Ferino

Greeter/Fellowship: Nick Kaskovich
Musician: Tom Anderson
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Lynn Ferino celebrating her granddaughter Tatem turning “Sweet 16.”

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. Here’s the last one for August:
 **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 continue our study of Zechariah this Sunday. 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 Christian Education Ministry**
**VBS: Blooming Together!** Thanks to everyone who donated items and to those that worked at VBS. We had a smaller number of kids than we had hoped for, but the kids had a great time, serving lunch went well, and the workers were exhausted at the end of the day. These are all signs of a successful day.

**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:
Singers and instrumentalists of all ages** are invited to share their gifts during worship. Choir rehearsals and singing in worship will resume soon, and we can always use instrumentalists. Please contact Music Director Tom Anderson to find out about the choir or other ways you can help lead us with music. Reach Tom at 651-246-5029 or tomanderson101@gmail.com.

**Jubilee Bucks:**
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks gift cards this month. 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 Lynn Ferino celebrating her granddaughter Tatem turning “Sweet 16.” **We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - The arrival of Emory Blayke Chambers, new great-granddaughter of Steve Johnson, born July 29
 - Kayla Schmidt’s 21st birthday
 - A great VBS last weekend, with prayers of thanks for all who donated things to make it possible and for the amazing workers
 - 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. Just this past Sunday in Illinois alone there were 3 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims), leaving 1 dead and 14 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.
 - Safety in our schools as we begin a new educational year
 - As our nation struggles with questions of immigration we lift before you, God, a three-year-old girl who died on the way from Brownsville, TX to Chicago. Lord, we don't know her name, but she is known to you. Comfort her family and friends.
 - We pray for our nation as we again wrestle with race relations after recent events in Alabama.
 - Wildfires on Maui, where more than 100 people have died (and the death toll is mounting) and thousands of homes, resorts, and businesses have been destroyed. Prayers were answered for Heidi Shierry’s relatives who were visiting Maui - Sue Cunningham and Ron, Mary, and Bailey Sturgeon – who have been reunited. But prayers continue for cousin Bailey, who is in the Stanford University Burn Unit being treated for extensive burns.
 - 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 Steve Johnson and family on the loss of his father, Willis Johnson, who died Wednesday
 - 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:** - Tim O’Neal, friend of Heidi Shierry and Barb Doppelt, who is back in the hospital with recurrent blood infections related to bile duct cancer
 - 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., 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:** - Jack Thorne is home from the hospital and slowly regaining strength
 - We thank God that Wendy's father now has a date for his surgery on August 22.
 - Susie Salins, recovering from a surgical procedure on Monday
  - Maykel Solomon, asking prayers for his family and marriage
 - Heidi Shierry, recovering from a painfully swollen foot
 - 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.
 - Heidi Shierry asks prayer for her friend Sue, dealing with mental health issues
 - Marjorie Cilley, in rehab following 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
  - 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 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
Monday, August 21 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, August 22
 Jeremiah Task Force** meets at 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, August 23** **eNotes go out
 Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at Donna Marton’s home.
 Scripture: Matthew 5:10-11 **Welcome and Outreach** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
**Friday, August 25**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, August 26
 Visitation with Grace Van Beveren’s family** beginning at 10:00 a.m.
 **Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Grace Van Beveren** at 11:00 a.m.
**Next** **Sunday,** **August 27**
 **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**

**Bearing Fruit – August 20, 2023**

**School begins, and barefoot season is coming to an end!**

It is back to school for many of us this coming week! Whatever our role in education, whether we are children in elementary schools, adults finishing a degree, teachers, administrators, or educational assistants, the pursuit of education is not only important – it is a Godly pursuit.

As Presbyterians, the importance of education is in our roots and part of our mission. John Calvin’s school in Geneva during the Reformation is well known. One of the first things that the Church of Scotland did when its privileges were restored by the Prince of Orange, King William III, was to make provision for the education of the people. Schools of different grades were established in every parish throughout the kingdom.

The first Europeans who arrived at what became these United States were no exception. Many schoolmasters accompanied them to America, and at an early period each Presbyterian settlement made suitable provision for its schools. Even among their servants it was a rare thing to find one that could not at least read God's word. Southminster supports educators and students everywhere.

Today we are blessing backpacks and lunchboxes, so that they can serve as a constant reminder that Jesus Christ is with their owners throughout their school day and year. These backpacks and lunchboxes are our children’s constant companions as they go about their school days. We give thanks for our children’s education and all who contribute to the education of our nation.

Going barefoot can be a wonderful experience. There is something wonderful when we feel the tickle of grass on our toes or the warmth of sand under our feet. Sad to say those days are drawing to a close as school starts next week. Time to get your school shoes out, but what if you don’t have the money for school shoes? What if there is no money even for work shoes or play shoes? For the entire month of September, we at Southminster Presbyterian Church are collecting shoes for Jolly Old Soles, a local charity that is dedicated to providing new and used shoes to organizations that assist both children and adults in need. We hope to collect gently used to gently worn or slightly used children’s and adult shoes, sandals, and boots in all sizes. You can even donate shoes that have never been worn! (Shoes with holes in them are not accepted.) We can even useshoes that are not in pairs. During September, please bring your shoes to church, put a rubber band around each pair, and place them in the box for Jolly Old Soles.

We bear the fruit of God’s love when we support one another in prayer and in thinking about others. “Beautiful are the feet of the ones who bring good news.” (Romans 10:15)