**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**13th Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 27, 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 “Summer Fun.”

 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 175: *Seek Ye First* (all 3 verses)

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

 Hymn 853: *We Are Marching in the Light of God* (verse 1)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: May the doors of Southminster be open wide enough to receive all
 who hunger for love and friendship.

 **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 401: *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)* (verses 1, 2, 3)

 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)

 8 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 12:12-18 Pew Bible, p. 162, (N.T.)

 Matthew 5:10-12 Pew Bible, p. 4, (N.T.)

 Sermon: “The Garden Path – Blessed Anyway”

 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 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 Need Thee Every Hour* Annie S Hawks/Robert Lowry

 \**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 611: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (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**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Steve Henkels
Greeter/Fellowship: Louanne Jourdan
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Nick Kaskovich
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Walter and Susan Briney in honor of daughter Bonnie’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, 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. Watch here for invitations to share your pictures for coming Photo Stories.

**The deadline for the September *Dialog* is this Wednesday, August 30.** That *Dialog* will go out the following Wednesday, September 6, so if you or your ministry have something coming up early in the month, you may want to start publicizing it with next Wednesday’s eNotes. Please send eNotes blurbs by Tuesday.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Our Sunday-after-worship study group is deep into Zechariah, but you can still join us for the study, sharing, and edification. We meet at 11:15 in the Parlor, or you can join by the Google Meets link here: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>

**Youth**: Hope your summer has been fun and that you are excited to get back to school. Get ready for fun and friends in Pizzaless Games, coming in September (when we are all back in town).

**Men of Southminster**! Let's get together soon. Watch for an announcement about a Saturday morning coffee and donut time coming in September.

**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.

***Save the dates!***

**Yoga on the Lawn is returning!**

Session has approved holding no-cost yoga classes on the south lawn on two Sundays in September – the 10th and 17th – from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Plan to come and invite friends – the classes will be open to the public. (In case of rain, meet in the Narthex.)

**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 next Sunday – 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 Walter and Susan Briney in honor of daughter Bonnie’s birthday **We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Zo Zapel has found a place to live in Urbana as she as she starts her new position as Rowing Coach for Illinois Rowing.
 - Tatem, Lynn Ferino’s granddaughter, on her “Sweet 16th” birthday
 - The arrival of Blayke Chambers, new great-granddaughter of Steve Johnson, born July 29
 - 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. Last weekend (August 19-20) there were 9 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims) in 7 states, leaving 6 dead and 50 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 nearly 400 are still listed as missing) and thousands of homes, resorts, and businesses have been destroyed. Prayers were answered for Heidi Shierry’s relatives who were visiting Maui and who have been reunited. Prayers continue for cousin Bailey, who is in a medically induced coma while recovering from extensive burns; doctors say she is doing well, considering the type of burns she suffered. Cousin Ron is still in a burn unit with 2nd degree burns on hands and feet but is expected to be released on Monday.
 - Continuing wildfires in Canada
 - All who have been affected by extreme weather conditions – scorching heat, drought, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes/tropical storms
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world in 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 Henkels and his family on the sudden death of his brother, Tom.
 - We pray for Steve Johnson and family on the death of his father, Willis Johnson.
 - We pray for the family of Grace Van Beveren, whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection was held at Southminster yesterday. 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:** - BobbyKae, Wendy’s cousin, who has breast cancer
 - Helen Shierry had a melanoma removed from her head (no additional treatments needed); chemo drugs have worked well for her breast cancer and the tumor has shrunk.
 - Tim O’Neal, friend of Heidi Shierry and Barb Doppelt, dealing with recurring 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., 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:** - We thank God that Wendy's father had a successful surgery on Tuesday.
 - Pain relief for Paul Anderson
 - Susie Salins, recovering from a surgical procedure last week. She is doing well but faces a 12-week-long total recovery.
 - Sandy Lopata, having hip replacement surgery on August 30
 - Prayers for the Stoffels family as Jill's daughter, Jenny, undergoes surgery.
 - Jack Thorne is home from the hospital and slowly regaining strength
 - Maykel Solomon, asking prayers for his family and marriage
 - 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) through September 8, 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 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
Monday, August 28 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, August 29** A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, August 30** **eNotes go out, but it is also the deadline for the September *Dialog*
 Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at Donna Marton’s home.
 Scripture: Genesis 2 **Endowment** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
**Friday, September 1**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **September 3**
**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.
 **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, September 4 – Labor Day**

**Bearing Fruit – August 27, 2023**

**Loving Neighbor – Meet Chad Pedigo**

As followers of Jesus Christ, we at Southminster seek to love both God and neighbor. We support with our hands, our hearts, and our funds many neighbor agencies whose goal is to meet the needs of neighbors we may not even know.

Our nation’s neighbors are Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. We reach far outside of our neighborhood with our sister church in Guanabacoa, Cuba. They are not only neighbors but also our sisters and brothers in Christ. We love our neighbors nearby; Southminster is an active congregation always seeking ways to make a positive difference in the community. We support and participate in many local agencies Bridge Communities, DuPage Care Center, DuPage PADS, Metropolitan Family Services, Peoples’ Resource Center, Walk-In Ministry, Group Mission Trips, and World Relief, among others.

Today in worship we will have an opportunity to meet one of our closest neighbors – DuPage PADS. We have a long-standing relationship with DuPage PADS. Prior to the pandemic Southminster partnered with other worshiping communities to love our neighbors who were without permanent homes. At that time the DuPage PADS shelters moved daily, and worshiping communities would offer spaces for sleeping and meals: dinner, breakfast, sack lunch. DuPage PADS is more than housing; their motto was “From a mat on the floor to a key in the door.” But circumstances changed for all of us.

The pandemic demanded a change in how we served those struggling with housing issues. People could not gather in groups, much less sleep on a mat on a church floor. DuPagePADStook an important step toward expanding capabilities to keep families and individuals safely sheltered while ending their homelessness during the pandemic. DuPage PADS purchased and now operates a 130-unit Interim Housing Center (IHC) using a repurposed hotel in Downers Grove, where Emergency Housing has been provided since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The significant client successes, improved health and safety features for client families, and enhanced access to supportive services has been undeniable, making the IHC their greatest investment in our shared mission to end homelessness.

Loving neighbor is not always simple. The IHC is just two miles away from Southminster. There can be resistance from some in helping people who are looking for permanent housing, but Southminster helped by donating $1,000.00 to the purchase of the IHC through the Mission Ministry. Once during this summer, a congregation that was going to serve a dinner to the residences had to bow out at the last minute, and Chad Pedigo, Vice President of DuPage PADS, called our pastor asking if Southminster could step in. Southminster stepped up, and six members purchased and served dinner. Today Chad will share a bit about the larger picture of DuPage PADS in helping our neighbors who are seeking permanent homes.

Jesus asks us to “Love God, neighbor, one another, and even our enemies.” That is how we walk the path of blessing and bear the frit of God’s love in the world.