**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**14th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 3, 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.

For those who are in the sanctuary, please put your phone in airplane mode.

Today we are having communion. Those at home may want to gather the elements (“bread” and “wine” or whatever you have) before the service begins.

 Gathering Music

 Our Photo Story today is “McHaley Country Summer.”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

 Prelude: *Divertimento in C* Myslivecek

 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.**

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

 Hymn 626: *As the Deer*

 Hymn 627: *I Love You, Lord*  (sing 2 times)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Let the time not be distant, O Lord,

 **People: when all shall turn to you in love.**

 Leader: May all created in your image

 **People: become one in Spirit and friendship.**

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

 Hymn 510: *We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name* (all 3 verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, you have created us in your image and have asked us to reflect your love, mercy, and justice in the world. We miss the mark more than we care to acknowledge. Forgive us. Bathe us in your grace and empower us through your Spirit to make new beginnings for ourselves and others. We ask this is 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 (2 Corinthians 5:17)

 Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

 **People: The old life is gone; a new life has begun.**

 **All:** **We are forgiven and at peace. Thanks be to God.**

 Response 581: *Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

Public domain

 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children: Sarah Allen

 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: Leviticus 26:3-6, 11-13 Pew Bible, p. 113 (O.T.)

 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 Pew Bible, p. 166, (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Nothing in Common But Christ” Dr. Blair Nelson

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 *The Apostles’ Creed* [Ecumenical]

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

16 Hymn 507: *Come to the Table of Grace* (verses 1, 2, 3)

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:  *Who You Say I Am*  Ben Fielding/Reuben Morgan

 \**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.**

 Prayer of Dedication

 Service of the Lord’s Supper

 Invitation

 [We extend an invitation to the Lord’s Supper to all who have been baptized. You do
 not need to be a member of this congregation or a Presbyterian to share in this meal.
 We remember that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a
 privilege given to believers who come in faith, repentance, and love.]

 Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

 Leader: The Lord be with you.

 **People**: **And also with you.**

 Leader: Lift up your hearts.

 **People: We lift them to the Lord.**

 Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

 *The minister gives thanks…*

 The congregation responds by singing together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*Music: A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, GIA Publications, Inc.
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 *The minister continues the Thanksgiving…*

 **According to Christ’s commandment**

 **We remember his death,**

 **We proclaim his resurrection,**

 **We await his coming in glory.**

*The minister continues with Intercessions for the Church and the World
and Prayers of the People…*

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

 **People**: **hear our prayers.**

 Our 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.**

 Words of Institution

 Communion

 Communion Music:  *What Wondrous Love Is This* arr. Cotter

*We all will receive communion by intinction. Our usher will invite you to come forward by pew, beginning from the back. If you are unable to come forward, a server will come to you after everyone else has received. Please consume the elements when you are comfortable doing so. You do not need to wait – please do so as the Spirit leads (right away, as you pause after receiving, or back in your seats).
With Christian love we serve gluten-free communion bread and alcohol-free grape juice.*

 Prayer after Communion

 Hymn 530: *One Bread, One Body* (all)

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

 **All: For we are blessed to be a blessing!
 Alleluia, amen!**

 Postlude: *Allegretto* Stanley

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Dr. Blair Nelson

Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Angela Smith

Musicians: Cindy Trowbridge, Wendy Boden

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich

The flowers today are given by Bobbi and Tom Frey in memory of their parents.

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.

**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. We plan to start next Sunday afternoon, September 10, from 4:00-6:00. Stay in touch with Blair for details!

**Men of Southminster**! Let’s get together soon. Watch for details about a Saturday morning coffee and donut time coming Saturday, September 23, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor/Library.

**From the Mission Ministry:**The **shoe collection for Jolly Old Soles** is now on! If you’ve been saving shoes, it’s time to bring them in!

The mission of Jolly Old Soles, which is based in Naperville, is to collect and house new and used shoes and distribute them to those in need, primarily through local organizations. You can help by donating your gently used shoes. Formal and casual shoes, boots, sandals… for adults or children… all are welcome. Simply rubber band each pair of shoes together (rubber bands are on the nametag shelf across from the pastor’s office) and place them in the donation box that is in the coat room. We will accept donations through the entire month of September.

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.

**Women’s Breakfast** meets the first Wednesday of the month – the next gathering is this Wednesday, September 6. 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.

**Bake Sale next Sunday, September 10**! The Deacon Fall Bake Sale will be back again, in the Narthex after the church service. Come and check out home baked goodies, cookies, and other treats. With fall coming, there may be a few fall favorites to select from, too! There will be a free will offering to support the Deacon Care Fund. So come out, take home some goodies, and join us for the fun!

**Yoga on the Lawn is returning!**You are once again invited to the south lawn for an hour of Yoga on the Lawn, led by a certified yoga instructor. The sessions will be on two Sundays in September – the 10th and 17th – from 2:00-3:00 p.m. These sessions are free, and open to both our church family and the community. Newcomers to yoga and participants of all ages are welcome. Beginners welcome! Participants can bring their own water bottle and a yoga mat or towel or simply be on the grass. Children are welcome but must be with a parent or guardian. Come and bring a friend! In case of rain, meet in the Narthex.

**Presbyterian Women’s (P.W.) Circle**
Presbyterian Women will resume meeting on Friday, September 15, at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. ALL women are invited to attend, and guests are welcome, too. Please join us!

**Jubilee Bucks: Order this Sunday!**
This Sunday, September 3, is the next opportunity to **order Jubilee Bucks**. Email bobbifrey@aol.com with your order by 9:00 p.m. Include merchant, card amount, number of cards, and total order. Because of Labor Day, the cards will arrive later in the week – delivered to you Wednesday or Thursday. Gift cards are an easy way to pay for groceries, gas, and incidentals and earn “free money” for Southminster!
The next opportunity to order will be October 1. **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 Bobbi and Tom Frey in memory of their parents. **We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, as she continues to heal
**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. Prayers for the people of North Carolina after the shooting of one of the professors at UNC.
 - 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 continue to wrestle with race relations. The March on Washington was 60 years ago.
 - Wildfires on Maui, where more than 100 people have died and 338 are still listed as missing); thousands of homes, resorts, and businesses have been destroyed.
 - Continuing wildfires in Canada
 - For people of Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas and all who have been affected by extreme weather conditions – hurricanes/tropical storms, scorching heat, drought, tornadoes, floods,
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world in Ukraine and Russia, the Holy Land, Sudan, Myanmar, Niger, Gabon, 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. The service was yesterday.
 - Please pray for the family and many friends of Cathi Edman, who died unexpectedly Tuesday evening, August 29th. She was a close friend of Rita Zapel and Sarah Allen.
 - 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 last Saturday. 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 lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems:** - Tim O’Neal, friend of Heidi Shierry and Barb Doppelt, has decided to stop all treatments for bile duct cancer. He is now in hospice care at home.
 - 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.
 - 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:** - Sandy Lopata, who is recovering well after hip surgery on Wednesday
 - Pain relief for Paul Anderson
 - Susie Salins, recovering from a surgical procedure. She is doing well but faces a 12-week-long total recovery.
 - Prayers for the Stoffels family as Jill’s daughter, Jenny, undergoes surgery.
 - 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
  - 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); the rest of September call Elise Henkels (630-740-0473). 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, 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
Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, September 5
 Mission Ministry** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, September 6
 Women’s Breakfast** at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station **the September *Dialog* goes out
 Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at the church
**Thursday, September 7** Hawthorn Garden Club meets in Fellowship Hall 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. **Friday, September 8**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **September 10**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.
 **In-person Fellowship with the Deacons’ Bake Sale** 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
 **Yoga on the Lawn** from 2:00-3:00 p.m. **Youth: Pizzaless Games** in Fellowship Hall from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Bearing Fruit – September 3, 2023**

**Stepping Out of Comfort**

Today our sermon is offered by Dr. Blair Nelson, our Minister of Youth and Adult Discipleship. He is preaching “Nothing in Common but Christ,” a theme that means a great deal to him. We also welcome our friend Mrs. Cindy Trowbridge as our accompanist today. Cindy is a local piano teacher and instructor at the College of DuPage.

Sometimes bearing the fruit of God’s love asks us to step out of our comfort zone. Offering a cup of water to a thirsty stranger, forgiving a difficult person, making an announcement in worship, or even singing an unfamiliar hymn or worship song may be uncomfortable, but all are acts of loving God and neighbor.

At the beginning of summer two women asked our pastor if she would sing in worship, a very uncomfortable request for her. Because she thought about how she has asked her congregation to step out of their comfort zones at various times and places, she said, “Yes… how about Labor Day weekend?” She said yes, knowing that attendance on Labor Day weekend is historically low. There’s stepping out of your comfort zone and then there is trying to make it an uncomfortable situation more comfortable for yourself.

Many Sundays this summer our special music was selected from our new worship supplement, which should be ready in mid-September. The new supplement has both old songs and new songs that are not in our hymnal. One of these songs is “Who You Say I Am.” It is a song that our pastor sings as a prayer and often changes the lyrics from the personal pronoun “I” to “we.” She sings it as a prayer for Southminster. When she sings it today, please sing the last chorus with her. The words are printed below.

**“I am chosen Not forsaken I am who You say I am
You are for me Not against me
I am who You say I am
I am who You say I am”**

Source: [LyricFind](https://lyrics.lyricfind.com/)

Songwriters: Ben Fielding/Reuben Morgan

Who You Say I Am lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group, Capitol CMG Publishing

Bearing the fruit of God’s love can take many forms, and sometimes it leads us to step out of our comfort zones.