**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 10, 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 “Mother Africa (photos from Floyd Rogers).”

 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 740: *Lead Me, Guide Me* (all)

 Hymn 743: *O God, You Are My God* (sing 2 times)

 Hymn 701: *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)* (sing 2 times)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Lord, we give you thanks for this day which unites us
 as a community of faith and hope.

 **People: Help us, Lord, to find inspiration for the days to come.**

 Leader: Help us to extend peace to all who enter here.

 **People: As we go in peace, may we grant it to everyone we meet this week.**

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

 Hymn 43: *You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (On Eagle’s Wings)* (all)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Holy One, through your Spirit provide for us strength to control our passions, humility to consider our words and actions, courage to love others, and wisdom to learn and live by your command: Loving God, one another, neighbor, and our enemies. Thank you for your grace and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 43:1, 19)

 Leader: Do not fear, says the Lord,

 **People: For I have redeemed you.**

 Leader: I have called you by name, you are mine.

 **People: God is doing a new thing, now it springs forth!**

 **All: By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
 Thanks be to God.**

 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 the Briefcases and the Work of Our Hands

 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:  Psalm 31:1-5 Pew Bible, p. 505, (O.T.)

 Genesis 2:23-24 Pew Bible, p. 2, (O.T.)

 Hebrews 12:1-2 Pew Bible, p. 226, (N.T.)

14 Sermon: “Naked and Not Ashamed”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *The Heidelburg Catechism* (4.001)

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**All: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

 Hymn 661: *Why Should I Feel Discouraged* (all 3 verses)

 *(His Eye Is on the Sparrow)*

 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: *Under His Wings* with *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* Elizabeth Mannhardt

 “Sparrow” by Civilia D. Martin and Charles H. Gabriel

 \**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 41: *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above* (all 5 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: Andrea Schmidt
Greeter/Fellowship: Deacons and SPC children
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Lynn Ferino, Elise Henkels
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Julie Storey to celebrate Clementine’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. And today, we have a Bake Sale – get some goodies to eat now or take home! Monies collected will go to the Deacon Fund.

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. Coming up we’ll be looking for this:
 **September 17: “Our Musicians”** - If you participate in the music ministry of South-
 minster, we want photos of you—singing/playing or just being yourself. Please send us
 photos by this Thursday, September 14.

**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 are nearing the end of our study of Zechariah, and then we will cover a few more chapters of Matthew. Join us for edifying study, good conversation, and enjoyable fellowship at 11:15 in the Parlor or on Google Meet at <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>.

**Youth**: Our 2023/2024 Youth Program begins today! Join us from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for games, laughter, friendship, and a deep thought.

**Men of Southminster**! Join us for a time to socialize and consider the future of men’s ministry at Southminster, Saturday, September 23, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor/Library If that does not sound interesting, come for the free coffee and donuts!

**Goodies!** The Deacons are hosting a **Bake Sale** after worship today! Get something yummy and help us replenish the Congregational Care fund with your free will offering!

**Yoga on the Lawn is back**, today and next Sunday, from 2:00-3:00 p.m.! These sessions are free, and open to both our church family and the community. Newcomers to yoga – beginners! – and participants of all ages are 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.

**Elders, staff, and ministry moderators**: A reminder that the next Session meeting is Tuesday, September 19. That means we need all items for the docket by noon this Thursday, September 14.

**Order deadline - Memorial Bricks**: If you would like to purchase a memorial brick, to remember someone or to honor someone, we must have your request no later than Friday, September 22. The cost remains $125 per brick. Pick up an order form on the desk in the church office, on the nametag shelf in the hallway (opposite the pastor’s office), or contact the office by phone (630-469-9149) or email (admin@southminsterpc.org). We need time to have the bricks engraved and installed before dedicating them on All Saints Sunday, November 5.

**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! We’re collecting gently used shoes of all kinds, for adults or children. 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.

**The Peace and Global Witness Offering** is aspecial denominational offering that supports efforts to extend Christ’s peace in our community and our world. One quarter of what we collect at Southminster will be donated to the DuPage County chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) to support their local work in racial equity. We will collect this offering during the month of September and on World Communion Sunday. Look for envelopes in church or otherwise note the purpose of your offering on your check or envelope.

 **From the Worship Ministry:
Let’s make music together!** Our first choir rehearsal of the fall is this Thursday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m. Everyone from high school age on up is invited and warmly welcomed to join the choir. There’s no audition required, just a love of making music together. Questions? Talk to Tom after worship or at 651-246-5029 or tomanderson101@gmail.com.

**Presbyterian Women (Women’s Circle)** will meet this Friday, September 15, at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. We will discuss our upcoming year and finalize plans. Then each attendee will discuss briefly a favorite trip she took or a place she has always wanted to visit. Refreshments will be served. ALL women (and guests) are welcome. Please join us!

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet Wednesday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For September, we will read and discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. “Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse*is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.”

Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09> Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865

**Save the Date!** You are invited to **Stewardship Ministry’s Hot Dog Potluck supper** on Sunday, October 15, at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is the first Southminster potluck since 2019! Hot dogs will be provided by Heavenly Hot Dogs (of downtown Glen Ellyn). There is no charge for this FREE event – bring your entire family! You may bring a side dish to share if you like, or just come for the great food and great company – there will be plenty of both!

**Jubilee Bucks:**
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks last Sunday. So far this year our total of “free” money earned for the church is $1,181.57. The next time to order will be October 1.

 **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
People’s Resource Center (PRC) sent out a letter this summer 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 Julie Storey to celebrate Clementine’s birthday. **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. Over Labor Day weekend there were 9 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims), leaving 10 dead and 32 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 last Sunday.
  - Those affected by wildfires on Maui and in Canada
  - All who are affected by extreme weather conditions in Greece and Bulgaria
  - 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 Frey family in the death of Tom’s uncle, Bob Frey. (He died last spring but the family is coming together this weekend to celebrate his life.)
  - We pray for Steve Henkels and his family on the sudden death of his brother, Tom.
  - Please pray for the family and many friends of Cathi Edman, who died unexpectedly on August 29. She was a close friend of Rita Zapel and Sarah Allen.
  - We pray for Steve Johnson, Nalani, Roxane, and Cyrus on the death of Steve’s father, Willis Johnson.
  - We pray for the family of Grace Van Beveren whose Service of Witness to the Resurrection was held at Southminster on August 26.
  - 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, is 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:** - Kathy Sanders requests prayers for Miles, an 8th grader who has a tumor on his spine. He will need surgery, which is complicated because of a heart condition.
  - Edem, who is searching for a job
  - Sandy Lopata, who is recovering well after hip surgery
  - 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) in 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 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.
**Monday, September 11 – Pastor’s Sabbath
 SPC volunteers** serve supper at PADS Interim Housing Center **Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, September 12
 Sisters Knitting Circle** meets at 10:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Deacons** meet at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, September 13
 Property Ministry** meets at 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
**Thursday, September 14
 Session docket deadline** at noon today
 **Worship Ministry** meets at 6:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
**Friday, September 15**
 **Women’s Circle** meets at 9:30 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **September 17**
 **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
 **C.E. meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
 **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 10, 2023**

**Food as a form of love**

After the last hymn is sung and after the postlude is played, we continue our worship with Fellowship time out in our narthex. Fellowship is an extension of worship. We continue to worship God as we come together each week as a family of faith, sharing our love and concern, our joys and our sorrows.

Our deacons share love behind the scenes. Each member of SPC is part of a deacon “flock.” You may reach out to a deacon at any time. Along with the Congregational Care Ministry, our deacons send cards for various occasions, remembering people in their joyful moments and in their times of support and need. Sometimes they send a card simply to say, “We are thinking of you.” They also remember our college students by sending coffee gift cards to them each semester. Our deacons are the people who greet you at the door each Sunday and who provide the refreshments for Fellowship, a very important part of our family life together… that extension of our worship. They make the coffee. They bring the treats. They provide the set up.

The coffee and treats could easily be called a mini agape feast. Agape is the Greek word in the Bible for “love” between Christians. Each Fellowship is hosted by our deacons, but this Fellowship today is different and special. The children of our church family are hosting this Sunday. Please note the colorful tablecloth. They wanted you to have a particularly immersive experience.

The children’s hosting of Fellowship is a double portion of love. They love us by offering us our “agape feast.” They are also loving our deacons to free them up for the Deacon Bake Sale. There are no prices for the sale – just give what you think is best to support their benevolence fund. Your purchase of a baked item will help the deacons express our love as a family of faith in physical and tangible ways.

In another act of sharing food as love, on Monday a team from our congregation will be serving pizza dinner for a second time to the people who are staying at the Interim Housing Center (IHC) of DuPage PADS, which is just about two miles down Butterfield from us. We bear the fruit of God’s love during Fellowship after worship, and we love our neighbors in many a varied ways – like by serving dinner on Monday at the Interim Housing Center.