**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 17, 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 Musicians.”

 Welcome and Announcements

  Prelude

 Lighting the Candles (Psalm 42:1)

 **As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.**

[Please remain seated while singing these songs.]

 Hymn 451: *Open My Eyes, That I May See* (all)

 Hymn 452: *Open the Eyes of My Heart* (all)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: May we shelter under the wings of peace;

 **People: May we be kept in safety and in love;**

 Leader: May grace and compassion find their way to every soul;

 **People: May this be our blessing to all people this week.**

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

 Hymn 71: *Surely It Is God Who Saves Me* (all)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, there have been moments this week when we have lived with our eyes and hearts closed. We have neglected to see others, we have hidden in fear, and we have turned away from love. We have not forgiven others. Open our eyes and teach us how to live. Fill our hearts with joy and love. Strengthen us through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. We stand in the grace and mercy of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. 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 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:  Genesis 18:1-15 Pew Bible, p. 14, (O.T.)

 Genesis 21:1-7 Pew Bible, p. 16, (O.T.)

 Sermon: “Laughter”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) Lamentations 3:22-23

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come
to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**

 Hymn 76: *Do Not Be Afraid* (all)

 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 Anthem: *“Something New”*

 \**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 39: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (all)

 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: Pete Petersen
Greeter/Fellowship: Elise Henkels
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Chris Kozich to celebrate Heidi Shierry’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. Here’s how you can help:

The Stewardship Ministry is looking for some **cheerful photos for the October Photo Stories**. (“Be a Cheerful Giver” is our stewardship theme this Fall.) Cheerful faces are especially welcome!
Please send your cheerful photos to Chris Kozich, at kintonck@gmail.com.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Zechariah’s prophecies have been a challenge and an inspiration! Join us for our last or nearly-last session on that post-exilic, minor prophet. We meet after Fellowship time at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor and online via this Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>.

**Youth**:  Hope you are up for fun and hang-out time today. We have **Pizzaless Games** from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. But, maybe we should have a meal! Pizza anyone? Have you replied or had a parent reply to Blair’s text this week?

**Men of Southminster**:  Let’s get together! Join us in the parlor this Saturday, September 23, at 9:00 a.m. for coffee, donuts, and a chance to get to know each other and begin thinking about what men’s ministry at Southminster is all about. See you there!

You’re invited to **Yoga on the Lawn today** from 2:00-3:00 p.m.! It’s 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 – a reminder that Session meets this Tuesday**, September 19, at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library.

**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 this 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.

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:
Let’s make music together!** Everyone from high school age on up is invited and warmly welcomed to join the choir. We rehearse on Thursday evenings at 7:00, but not every week, so watch the church calendar. Questions? Talk to Tom after worship or at 651-246-5029 or tomanderson101@gmail.com.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet this 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 this month. 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)**:
Southminster has been faithfully providing donations of food items and personal care products for PRC for many years. If you would like suggestions for what to give, PRC has provided a list of the items that are most needed. Copies are printed on bright green paper and are in the stand on the nametag shelf (main hallway – across from the offices). You can view the list online at the PRC website: <https://www.peoplesrc.org/give-food-or-goods/>.

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 Chris Kozich to celebrate Heidi Shierry’s birthday.

**We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Prayers of joy and thanksgiving on the marriage this weekend of Birchalls’ granddaughter Samantha Dearing and Justin Walters.
  - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, as she continues to heal
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
 - We remember 9/11 – the many victims, their families, and all the first responders
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. This past weekend (September 9-10) there were 5 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims), leaving 2 dead and 20 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. (Including all gun-related violence in this country over the past weekend, there were 161 shootings with 89 killed and 173 injured.)
  - 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.
  - We pray for our nation as we continue to wrestle with race relations.
 - The people of Morocco following a devastating earthquake, and those of Libya following deadly floods
  - 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 Steve Henkels and his family on the sudden death of his brother, Tom.
  - 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 Ock, a friend of Lanny’s, recovering from cancer surgery
  - Tim O’Neal, friend of Heidi Shierry and Barb Doppelt, who is in hospice care at home.
  - 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., BobbyKae B., 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:**  - Maykel Bautis Solomon, seeking prayers for moving his family to Oregon under the new government humanitarian parole program
 - 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, our friend in Ghana, who is searching for a job
  - Pain relief for Paul Anderson
  - Susie Salins, recovering from a surgical procedure. She is doing well but dealing with a 12-week-long total recovery.
  - Jim Smith, recovering at Brookdale
  - Marjorie Cilley, in rehab following a broken hip and pneumonia
  - We pray for those who are in hospice care: Gail Johnston at Du Page Convalescent Center (If you send a card to Gail, please mail it to Andrea Schmidt, whose address is in the directory.); Tim O’Neal, friend of Heidi Shierry and Barb Doppelt, in care at home; former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn.
**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 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.
**Pastor Wendy Boden will be at a study retreat from Sunday late afternoon
 until Tuesday after lunch.
Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, September 19
 Session** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, September 20
 Pastor’s Bible Study** meets at 4:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Presbyterian Readers** meet at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
**Thursday, September 21**
 PEO meeting at 12:30 p.m. in the Narthex/Parlor
 **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
**Friday, September 22**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, September 23**
 **Men of Southminster** get-together at 9:30 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
**Next** **Sunday,** **September 24**
 **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 **Youth: Pizzaless Games** in Fellowship Hall from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Bearing Fruit – September 17, 2023**

**Saying Goodbye**

Part of being a church family is stepping up and sharing love in moments of loss and grief. One of those moments can be the final time we say goodbye: a memorial service, celebration of life, or a funeral. One of the ways that Southminster bears the fruit of God’s love is to come close to those who are grieving. Our services and receptions afterward witness to the love we have for those who have gone home to be with our Lord and those who are grieving.

We at Southminster also observe All Saints Sunday as a way to acknowledge our grief by giving it to God and to renewing our hope in God through Jesus Christ. Death does not have the last word!

This year All Saints Sunday will be November 5. On this Sunday we draw close to God and to one another as a church family. We remember the hope that we are called to as Christ’s people.

We will conclude our worship that day by gathering in our Memorial Garden, where we will dedicate new memorial bricks placed in our garden patio. If you would like to purchase a memorial brick to remember someone or to honor someone, you are invited to do so. The person so honored does not need to be a member of our congregation. Please, we must have your request no later than this Friday, September 22. The cost remains $125 per brick. Pick up an order form 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.

If you have a loved one, friend, or family member whose death occurred since last All Saints Day and whom you would like mentioned during our All Saints Prayer, please let us know by October 27, giving us their name and date of death. You can help us be as accurate as possible by providing correct spelling and leaving your name and phone number so we can check with you if we have any questions.

In life and in death we belong to God. We bear the fruit of God’s love by coming alongside those in grief and pain.