**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 24, 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 “Art from Genesis.”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

  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: *Come, People of the Risen King*  p. 12, gold supplement

 Hymn: *How Deep the Father’s Love for Us*  p. 20, gold supplement

 Call to Worship

 Leader: The doorway to holiness is all around us,

 **People: Even at unlikely times and places.**

 Leader: There is no place on earth without the presence. of God.

 **People: But today, right now we come with intention, seeking your face.**

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

 Hymn: *He Knows My Name* p. 18, gold supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Holy God, your servant Jacob wrestled with your angel and prevailed. Teach us to persist in the face of struggle. We wrestle with ignorance and insensitivity. Pride, selfishness, perfectionism, despair, unforgiveness, hate, resentment, control, and cynicism try to make their home in our hearts. By the power of the Holy Spirit alive within us, help us in our personal battles as we embrace the grace we have in Jesus Christ, who is both savior and Lord. 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:  Luke 15:1-2, 18-24 Pew Bible, p. 78 (N.T.)

 Genesis 32:22-31 Pew Bible, p. 30 (O.T.)

 Sermon: “Surprised by God”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 Ephesians 6:10, 12

**Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world’s rulers of the darkness of this age.**

 Hymn: *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*  p. 7, gold supplement

 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: *Bring Forth the Kingdom*  p. 6, gold supplement

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

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

 ***Please be seated as we learn some of the songs in our new gold worship supplement.***

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Ann Anderson
Greeter/Fellowship: Linda Ellinghausen
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster choir
Tech support: Blair Nelson, Ron Birchall

The flowers today are given by Francine and Jim Long to celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary.

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. Coming up we’ll be looking for this:
 **November 5: “We Remember…”** – Photos of the people who have died since last All
 Saints Day and whose names we will list during our Prayers of the People in worship on
 November 5. Please send us photos by Friday, October 27. (It takes more time than
 usual to prepare this slideshow.)

**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**:  OK, this time we will (likely) finish Zechariah, our second to last minor prophet. Then we return to Matthew’s gospel for a couple of more chapters, and then we are on to our last minor prophet, Malachi. Confusing? Join us Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library or online via Google Meet at <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>, and all will be clear. You will also enjoy edifying study, good conversation, and fellowship.

**Youth**:  Be here for **Pizza and Games** today, 4:00-6:00 p.m., for food, fun, and some deeper thoughts.
 **From the Mission Ministry:**The **shoe collection for Jolly Old Soles** is in its last days! 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 only through the end of this month.

**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 have collected this offering during September and will dedicate it next Sunday, October 1, which is 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 choir is back! 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. We don’t rehearse every week, so watch the church calendar. (But yes, we’re rehearsing this Thursday!) Questions? Talk to Tom after worship or at 651-246-5029 or tomanderson101@gmail.com.

**From the Stewardship Ministry: 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!

**From the Christian Ed. Ministry: Trunk or Treat!**
Have you ever been “Trunk or Treating”? It’s like Trick or Treating except instead of kids coming to your door for treats, they come to your car trunk.

The Christian Ed. Ministry is hosting a Trunk or Treat event in our parking lot on Sunday, October 29, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Note that ***the correct time is 2:00-4:00***… this week’s eNotes listed an incorrect time.) We invite you to participate – you can decorate your car as much or as little as you like and pass out treats to the kids as they come to “trunk or treat.” Please sign up in the Narthex.

This event is open to our church family and to the public. Bring your friends and neighbors. In case of rain, we’ll be in Fellowship Hall.

**Looking Ahead: All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2023**
We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 5. During our Prayers of the People on All Saints Sunday, we will pray for those who died during the past year (since All Saints Day 2022). 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. Email the office at admin@southminsterpc.org or call 630-469-9149. If you leave a phone message, 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.
If you would like a photo of your friend or loved one to be included in the Photo Story on November 5, please send a picture and their name to PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org by October 27.

Please do not send either photos or names/dates to the pastor.

**A Public Service Announcement**: Beginning tomorrow (September 25), every U.S. household can again place an order to receive four more **free COVID-19 rapid tests** delivered directly to their home. Go to [**covidtests.gov**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cttt%5CDownloads%5Ccovidtests.gov) to order.

**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 Francine and Jim Long who are celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary. **We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Barb Zink has a new great-grandson, Noah Andrew, born September 8
 - Prayers of joy and thanksgiving on the marriage this past 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 pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. This past weekend (September 16-17) there were 4 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims), leaving 5 dead and 15 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 in this new educational year.
  - 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
  - All who are affected by extreme weather conditions
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world
**Blessed are those who mourn:**
  - We pray for Steve Henkels and his family on the sudden death of his brother, Tom.
  - 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:
*Please help us pray for your family and friends by updating your loved ones’ information with the church office. We support them and you in their journey.***
  - We continue to pray for: BobbyKae B., Tom G., Jan M., Nikki M., Tim O., Helen S., Marta S., 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, whose health is declining
  - 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 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: Pizza & Games** in Fellowship Hall from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
**Monday, September 25 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, September 26
 Jeremiah Task Force** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, September 27
 eNotes go out, but it is also the deadline for the October *Dialog*!
 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 28**
 **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
**Friday, September 29**
 Pastor Wendy is preaching this morning at Lexington Square Retirement
 Community in Lombard
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **October 1 – World Communion Sunday**
**Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com before 9:00 p.m.
 **Worship and communion** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook;
 **Dedication of the Peace and Global Witness** Offering
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service; serving breads
 of the world
 **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: Pizza & Games** in Fellowship Hall from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Bearing Fruit – September 24, 2023**

**Welcome to Worship**
We have not created a new worship supplement since 2019. “It’s been a minute” (which in urban slang means “it’s been a long time”), but as you know a few things happened in the life of the church and the world since then.

Last spring we solicited and accepted your suggestions for songs to be included in the new supplement. Some of our songs are old favorites that are not in our current hymnal. Some of our songs were not written when we got what many still call “the new hymnal.” Today is our inaugural use of our new worship supplement in worship. All the songs we sing as a congregation today will be from the new supplement. The choir’s anthem will be selections from the supplement, as well. You are also invited to stay after the Benediction to hear some other selections from this new worship supplement.

“We are tuning our hearts to sing God’s praise.” Come, Thou Fount of Many Blessings!

During the summer our Music Director worked on making the songs more accessible for us. There are fewer “returns” and “codas.” In other words, the music is in an easier format for nonmusical people to follow. Also, he has printed the songs in the key of “C” major so it will be even easier to read and sing. The choir has worked the past two weeks to prepare to lead us in praising our God. Thank you, Tom and choir, for your dedication and leadership.

When we sing and praise to God, we bear the fruit of God’s love. May our hearts and lives be moved to bring God’s love to a broken and hurting world.