**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**21st Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 22, 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 “Be a Cheerful Giver!”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Stewardship

 Congregational Prayer of Dedication for the Stewardship Pledges (unison)

**Gracious and loving God, you are the giver of all that is good and true, life-giving, and beautiful. Our pledges represent our work, our dreams, and the possibilities of a future lived with you as your people in the world. Move us to give as we have received – abundantly, generously, cheerfully, and joyfully –
that our ministry together will reflect your presence in our shared lives together. Through Christ and in Christ we pray. Amen.**

 Prelude

[Please remain seated while singing this opening song.]

 Hymn: *Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me* p. 40, gold supplement

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Open our eyes

 **People: And teach us how to live;**

 Leader: Fill our hearts with joy

 **People: And all the love you have to give.**

 **All:** **Gather us in peace as we come to worship you.**

 Hymn 157: *I Danced in the Morning*

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Gracious God, we bring before you all that we are- and all we hope to be.
Forgive the false idols in which we place our trust. Forgive us, challenge us,
and encourage us to live fully as your beloved children. We are yours, heart,
soul, mind, and strength. We ask this in the name of 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 (Phil. 3:9; Eph. 2:17)

 Leader: “God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ,”
 through whom our sins were forgiven.

 **People: May he help us to continue to “preach peace
 to those who are near and far.”**

 **All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

 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:  Acts 13:22-23 Pew Bible, p. 132 (N.T.)

 2 Samuel 6:12-16 Pew Bible, p. 280 (O.T.)

 Sermon: “Call to Joy”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

**The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.**

 Hymn 700: *I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

 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: *On the Sunny Side of the Street*

 \**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 694: *Great God of Every Blessing*

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

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

 Postlude: *If I Were a Rich Man*

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Jessica Parks
Greeter/Fellowship: Anny Davidson
Musicians: Tom Anderson, David Kozich, Nick Kaskovich
Worship Assistant: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by the Deacons in appreciation of Pastor Wendy Boden, because October is Pastor Appreciation Month.

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: “Beloved Saints”** – 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 this 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.)

**Also Wanted:  Photos of Your Cheerful Faces**

October is Stewardship Month. Beginning today, our Photo Stories all month will feature photos of your cheerful faces. Please feel free to send cheerful photos of you and your family directly to Chris Kozich, at **kintonck@gmail.com**. We need all photos by this Thursday, October 26. In addition, Stewardship Ministry representatives will be available to take photos during after-worship fellowship time.

**Get the word out!** We’ve got a lot of things coming up in the next months… Plan ahead for articles in the *Dialog* and items on the church calendar! **This** **Wednesday, October 25, is the deadline for the November *Dialog*.**

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Join us in the Parlor at 11:15 after worship and fellowship or meet us online for our adventure in Matthew’s gospel. The link to joining us online is <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>.

**Youth**:  No youth event today, but be sure to contact Blair if you have not yet registered for Sleep Out Saturday.

**From Blair and Mission**:
**Sleep Out Saturday (SOS):** This annual fundraiser for Bridge Communities Transitional Housing Program involves a group of folks sleeping outside on the church grounds the night of November 4th. We are still accepting sleepers for SOS. ***We especially need an adult woman to satisfy our child protection policy – please contact Blair to volunteer.*** It is a fun adventure! If you would like to sponsor a sleeper, you can find our team’s donation webpage at <https://www.bridgecommunities.org/sleep-out-saturday/group129>.

**From the Christian Ed. Ministry: Trunk or Treat!**
A Reminder: The Christian Ed. Ministry is hosting a Trunk or Treat event in our parking lot on Sunday, October 29, from 2-4 PM. We hope you are planning on coming! It’s not too late to host a trunk (sign up in the narthex). If you are hosting a trunk, remember we advise ***individually wrapped treats with no nuts or nut products, gum, or hard candy. Small trinkets would be okay, too.*** This activity 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. We’ll see you at Trunk or Treat!

**From the Worship Ministry:
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.

**From the Stewardship Ministry:**
**Be a cheerful giver!** (2 Corinthians 9:7)
God blesses us freely! Sharing those blessings freely is our privilege. You are invited to be a cheerful giver – one who gives freely to help support the work and mission of Southminster Presbyterian Church.

During the month of October, you are invited to make a pledge to declare the amount you expect to give to Southminster in 2024. If you did not receive a pledge card by mail, extra copies will be available at church. Or, you may contact Stewardship moderator Chris Kozich directly with your confidential pledge information: Kintonck@gmail.com. We hope to receive all pledges by October 31. For additional information, see the October *Dialog* or contact Chris K.

**From the Mission Ministry: Shoes!**
Thank you for your generous donation of shoes. We were able to deliver 243 pairs of shoes to Jolly Old Soles! They were experiencing a very low shoe inventory, so our delivery was just in time! We provided a large selection of gently-used shoes that will meet the needs of many people. Thank you for your continued support of Mission activities.

We are planning to have a **Prospective Members Brunch** after worship at 11:00 a.m. on November 12 in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Pastor Wendy if you would like to be included. You may call the church office: 630-469-9149.

**Jubilee Bucks:**
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks gift cards this month. Our year-to-date total of “free” money earned from the sale of Jubilee Bucks is $1,337.22. Your next chance to order will be November 5.

 **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 the Deacons in appreciation of Pastor Wendy Boden, because October is Pastor Appreciation Month.
**We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Joy at our hot dog potluck gathering last Sunday
  - 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. In one day – last Sunday (October 15) – there were 92 shootings, leaving 33 dead and 81 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, with a separate tab for all shootings in the past 72 hours.
  - We pray for safety in our schools.
  - We pray for our nation as we continue to wrestle with race relations.
 - The people of Afghanistan and Morocco following devastating earthquakes, and those of Libya following deadly floods
  - All who are affected by extreme weather conditions
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world, especially Ukraine and Israel/Gaza
**Blessed are those who mourn:**
 - We mourn all the innocents caught up in violence.
 - For Hanaan Shahin, the grieving mother of Wadea Al-Fayoume, after the boy’s stabbing death by their landlord in Plainfield, IL. We pray for Hanaan’s recovery from her own stab wounds.
 - The Rasnics ask prayers for the family of Eileen Dowling, who died at the age of 90.
 - Linda Barten on the death of her mother
  - The family of Dick Barten
  - We continue to pray for the family of Grace Van Beveren
  - 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.***
 - Gerry Smith, a friend of Jeziorskis, facing possible chemo and radiation treatment for a tumor
 - We continue to pray for: BobbyKae B., Rod B., Tom G., Dean L., Jan M., Nikki M., Rebecca 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:** - Mary, a friend of Tricia Smith, having eye concerns
 - Victor King is home and recovering after being hospitalized
 - Those in need of direction and healing during big life changes
  - 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, has found a new job but now needs help finding an apartment
  - Pain relief for Paul Anderson
  - Jim Smith, recovering at Brookdale
  - 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.); 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.

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 October, call Angela Smith (630-235-1376). 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, October 22**
 **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, October 23 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, October 24
 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, October 25
 eNotes go out but it is also the deadline for the November *Dialog*!
 Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. in the McHenry Parlor/Library **Thursday, October 26
 Last day to send photos of your cheerful faces** for the Photo Story **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
**Friday, October 27
 Deadline for submitting names for the All Saints prayer list** (though we will add
 anyone who dies between this date and publication of the bulletin)
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **October 29**
 **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
 **Trunk or Treat** in the parking lot from 2:00-4:00 p.m. (in Fellowship Hall in case
 of bad weather)

**Bearing Fruit – October 22, 2023**

**Stewardship, an important way we bear the fruit of God’s love**
In most churches, Fall is stewardship season, because Christian stewardship is connected with harvest time. It is the idea of giving first fruits of the harvest, giving to God from the top of our resources. We don’t have anyone in our congregation who is making a living through farming, but Fall continues to be a good time for Southminster and other congregations to make October stewardship season. Our budget is on a calendar year basis, and pledges are the largest portion of our budget. November is when Session begins to create a budget based on our pledges. Just after the busy month of December, we will begin operating under the new year’s budget.

Today we are dedicating our pledges to the future God is calling us to in 2024. Please, make a financial pledge for 2024, if you are able to do so. You may return a completed pledge card or contact Stewardship Ministry moderator Chris Kozich directly at [kintonck@gmail.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cttt%5CDownloads%5Ckintonck%40gmail.com). We hope to complete the stewardship campaign by the end of October, and you can help bear the fruit of God’s love by responding promptly.

We have many ministries that bear the fruit of God’s love, but without pledges we would be hindered from doing the work God has called us to do. Our staff’s salaries support the work of Worship, Children’s Ministry, Youth, Adult Discipleship & Education, Administration, and Pastoral Care. Our budget supports not only our staff salaries and the budgets for their ministries but also the other ministries of our congregation, including Deacons, Property, Mission, and Welcome & Outreach.

Our youth have demonstrated God’s love near and far through their summer mission trips. In 2024 they are returning to Dexter, Maine. Our deacons remember, care for, and encourage our members and friends all year long. We are building up our children’s programs as we adjust to returning from the pandemic. This year we are hosting our second Trunk or Treat, an outdoor variation on our longstanding pre-pandemic Fall Festival. We have continued to support our Mission partners and have stepped up in other concrete ways for PRC, Family Shelter Service, DuPage PADS, and Sleep Out Saturday. Worship Ministry continues to innovate. There is more, but all these ministries are supported through our budget. The budget enables us to bear the fruit of God’s love.

In an uncertain world, one thing is certain: God has called all of us to this time and this place to bear the fruit of God’s love. May God find us not only faithful, but generous, cheerful, and joyful.