**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**25th Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 19, 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 “Artist’s Reception.”

Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

Lighting the Candles (2 Timothy 1:7)

**“For God gave us a spirit not of fear   
 but of power and love and self-control.”**

Improvisational Prelude: *We Gather Together*

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

Hymn: *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* p. 2, gold supplement

Call to Worship  (Psalm 46)

Leader: Be still and know that I am God.

**People: Be still and know.**

Leader: Be still.

**People: Be.**

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

Hymn 647: *Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart*

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Beloved God, you have blessed us, but often we forget all the many ways you have touched our lives. You ask us to share love and life, but we run so fast just to stay in the same place that we miss your generosity. Help us to look to you and trust your faithfulness in plenty and in want. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ (Psalm 103:8-12)

Leader: The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

**People: The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love.**

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

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: The Thank Offering Caroline Linde

Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

People will sing as they come forward:

Hymn 367: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (verses 1, 2)

**Come, ye thankful people, come;  
Raise the song of harvest home.  
All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God’s own temple, come;  
Raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God’s own field,  
Fruit in thankful praise to yield.  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade, and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.**

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*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 46 Pew Bible, p. 517, O.T.)

Jeremiah 33:14-18 Pew Bible, p. 738 (O.T.)

Sermon: “Be Present”

Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)   
 from *The Confession of 1967* (PCUSA)[9.22]

**The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.**

Hymn 37: *Let All Things Now Living*  (all)

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

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

**The Lord’s Prayer:** (unison)

**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: *‘Tis a Gift to Be Simple*  arr. Nicholas Micchelli

\**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.**

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Thanksgiving Hymn Medley

Hymn 336: *We Gather Together* (all 3 verses)

Hymn 643: *Now Thank We All Our God* (all 3 verses)

Charge and Benediction

Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

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

Improvisational Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden   
Liturgist: Steve Henkels  
Greeter/Fellowship: Barb Kocinski  
Music: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir  
Worship Assistant: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Francine Long Francine Long to celebrate the birthday of her great-nephew, Ben Walsh.

If you are present for worship, following the service you are invited by the deacons to gather for **in-person fellowship** in the narthex. ***A special treat: this week our deacons are serving pies!*** 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. *Note that this week it will be just Tuesday and Wednesday – off for a Thanksgiving break!*

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 next month we’ll be looking for holiday-themed photos, such as of Advent wreaths, Christmas trees, and crèches. Keep this in mind as you decorate your home – take photos and watch for the dates we would like them submitted.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**   
**Adult Education**:  Join us for our continuing study of Matthew’s gospel today at 11:15 in the Parlor or online via this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>. Remember, his yoke is easy and his burden is light.  
  
**Youth**:  Join us for **Pizza & Games** today from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. We will enjoy a meal and do a small service project for PADS. Of course, there will be fun and games, too.    
  
**Young Adults: November means Thanksgiving and “Tacos Before Turkey”!**Thanksgiving brings our far-flung friends back home for family time and turkey stuffing. It also gives us a chance to see old friends. You can join us two ways this Wednesday, November 23:   
1. Drop in any time between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. at Wendy and Blair’s for tacos (2S172 Huntington Pl., Glen Ellyn). Or…  
2. Join us virtually between 7:00 and 8:00 by clicking this Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/dwj-piuz-yuj>  
Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 347-507-7090 and enter this PIN: 487 931 440#  
To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/dwj-piuz-yuj?hs=5>  
  
  
**From Blair and Mission: Sleep Out Saturday**  
Thanks to our sleepers and all of you who sponsored them! As of earlier this week, they had raised $2280—with more to come in—for Bridge Communities Transitional Housing Program. If you wish to add to that number, go to <https://www.bridgecommunities.org/Sleep-Out-Saturday/Participants.html>.  
 **From the Mission Ministry: Share the Spirit**Each year for many years Southminster has helped People’s Resource Center (PRC) provide Christmas gifts for those they serve—people in DuPage County who need assistance with their living expenses. You can help make Christmas brighter for those families by donating items that PRC is requesting this year:

* NEW books (ages birth to 17)
* NEW family games
* NEW small stuffed animals (12” or smaller)
* NEW WITH TAGS blankets (no hand-made blankets)
* Retail gift cards for $25 to Wal-Mart, Jewel, Mariano's, Amazon, or Target so that families can choose personalized items for their holiday season

You must bring your gift(s) to the church **by next Sunday, November 26**, to have them delivered to PRC in time for the holiday distribution.  
  
The gift cards can be ordered through **Jubilee Bucks** (while also earning “free money” for Southminster!) A special order form for Jubilee Bucks/Share the Spirit is available from Bobbi Frey for those who wish to donate gift cards. Many people ordered earlier this month, but you have one more opportunity: November 26. Scroll down to the Jubilee Bucks announcement for details.

**From the Deacons: Underwear for PADS**

November is “**Sunday Undies**” month! The Deacons are collecting new underwear, to be donated to the PADS IHC (Interim Housing Center). They need the following:

* Men’s Boxers - sizes L to XXXX
* Women’s Briefs - sizes 6, 7, 8
* Children’s - all sizes

Please place your donations in the laundry basket, located in the Narthex. The collection will run **through Sunday, November 26**. Thank you for supporting this Deacon-sponsored project!

**From the Worship Ministry: Poinsettias**Worship Ministry will again be ordering poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. We are hoping for 4 large 3-branch blooms – 2 **red** and 2 **white** – at $45 each. We are also hoping for 12 **red** 2-branch blooms (smaller plants than last year) at $30 each. Kindly sign up on the flower bulletin board at church or contact Sarah Allen by phone or text (630-988-8231) by December 8. Poinsettias can be taken home after the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

***Date change! Meet next Sunday, November 26***

**Interested in roleplaying games? Join our Pathfinder group!**

Southminster is starting a Pathfinder group, and we’d love it if you'd join us. For those who are unfamiliar, Pathfinder is a game like Dungeons and Dragons in which players each create their own character and join together to tell a story. Our organizational session has been changed to next Sunday, November 26, after worship in the choir room. No experience needed. Laptops are highly recommended.

If you can’t be at the meeting and are interested in joining or simply curious, please email Anny Davidson at [adavidson171@gmail.com](mailto:adavidson171@gmail.com) for more information. Looking forward to playing with you!

**Jubilee Bucks: Next order date is November 26**  
An incredible order for Jubilee Bucks was placed at the beginning of this month! The order was for $6,615.00 of gift cards resulting in $234.78 of “free” money for our church, bringing the total for the year so far to $1,591.80! This order also included 56 cards for Share the Spirit (STS)!  
  
STS cards can be ordered through next Sunday, November 26, but you don’t need to wait – Bobbi can take your order any time between now and the 26th. Email it to [bobbifrey@aol.com](mailto:bobbifrey@aol.com). (If you’re also ordering card for yourself, you’ll need to tell her which cards are for STS and which are for you.)  
  
For your personal use and for holiday giving, your last order date before Christmas will be December 10. **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 Long to celebrate the birthday of her great-nephew, Ben Walsh. **We give thanks to God for joys:**   
 - 8 new members joined last week at our Prospective Member Brunch  
 - 19 men attended the Men’s Group Dinner on Wednesday  
 - Tricia Smith is grateful for the care and concern of Southminster during the past several years.  
  - 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 week from Sunday to Sunday (November 5-12) there were 11 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims) in 9 states, leaving 6 dead and 53 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.   
  - We pray for safety in our schools and any place where people gather.   
  - We pray for our nation as we continue to wrestle with race relations.   
 - All throughout the world who are recovering from earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters  
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world, especially Ukraine/Russia, Israel/Gaza, and the Sudan   
**Blessed are those who mourn:**  
 - Barb’s sister-in-law, Jean, and her family on the death of her mother Thursday night  
 - Heidi Shierry requests prayers for Carlie Hasselbring and her family for the loss of her baby boy, Carter, who died in her womb on November 12.  
 - We continue to pray for the Baldwin family and for the other passenger who was in the car in the death of John Clyde Baldwin, Blair’s uncle.   
 - The family of Nancy Eberhardt, a former Southminster member, who died November 7. Her Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held at Southminster on Saturday, December 16.  
 - We mourn all the innocents caught up in violence.  
  - 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.***   
 - We continue to pray for: Dean, Bobby B., Rod B., Annette C., Tom G., Dean L., Frank L., Jan M., Nikki M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Helen S., Marta S., Gerry 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:** - Kathy Sanders requests ongoing prayers for Miles, an 8th grader who is recovering from back surgery   
  - 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 continue to pray for Viola’s family, Mary, Maykel, Edem, and others we name in our hearts.  
**We pray for the Jeremiah 29 discernment task force and all of us as we seek God’s will for Southminster in the 21st century.**They will be meeting on Tuesday, November 28. 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 November, 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](mailto: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:**    ***November 5-26 – Collections for Share the Spirit and Sunday Undies*  
  
Sunday, November 19**  
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook;   
 we will collect the **Thank Offering**  
 **In-person Fellowship with pies(!)** in the Narthex following the service  
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office   
 **Christian Ed. Ministry** meeting at 11:15 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  
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Monday, November 20 – Pastor’s Sabbath  
Tuesday-Wednesday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at   
 4:20 p.m. *but not on Thursday and Friday this week because of Thanksgiving*  
**Tuesday, November 21**  
 **Session** at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library  
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Wednesday, November 22  
 eNotes go out  
 Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor/Library **Young Adults: Tacos before Turkey**, a drop-in event between 7:00 and   
 8:00 p.m. Come in person to Wendy and Blair’s home or join virtually. The link   
 is above in Notes from Blair Nelson.   
**Thursday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Day** ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow!* Church office closed.**  
**Friday, November 24**  
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Next** **Sunday,** **November 26**  
**Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing [bobbifrey@aol.com](mailto:bobbifrey@aol.com) before 9:00 p.m.  
**Last day of collections for Share the Spirit gifts and Undies for PADS**  
 **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   
 **Organizational meeting for Pathfinders** (a role-playing game) in the choir room   
 following worship and fellowship  
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either online via Google Meet or by joining Blair   
 in person in the McHenry Parlor/Library

**Bearing Fruit – November 19, 2023**

**Give Thanks**

Today during worship we will receive the Women’s Thank Offering. A bit of history from the Presbyterian Mission Agency:   
  
“The PW Thank Offering originated in the late 1800s with Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio. Her plan was to ask each woman to give a gift in addition to her usual contribution to the Women’s General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a ‘thank offering to our Lord.’ In 1888, the women designated a day for prayer and thanksgiving when this special offering should be received. These sacrificial gifts, it is said, saved the worldwide missionary movement of their denomination. Though the thrust of how and where the money was used changed over the years, the ‘thank offering to her Lord’ continued to be an important part of United Presbyterian Women’s giving.”  
  
Southminster Presbyterian Church’s women have continued this ministry. In many of our homes you will find jars of spare change filled with pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. No matter what the size each gift is an act of gratitude for what the Lord has done. Each woman gives as she has felt blessed by the Lord.   
  
These days the men and children of our congregation are invited to participate, as well. Let us all give thanks to the Lord as we sing *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* today in worship. The words are printed in your bulletin.