**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Baptism of the Lord**

**January 7, 2024**

**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.

For those who are in the sanctuary, please put your phone in airplane mode.

Today we are having communion. Those at home may want to gather the elements (“bread” and “wine” or whatever you have) before the service begins.

 Gathering Music

 Our Photo Story today is “Baptismal Fonts and Baptistries.”

 Welcome and Announcements

  Congregational Prayer of Dedication for the Christmas Offerings

**Holy God, the giver of life and all that is great and beautiful, we thank you for the gifts of talent, time, and resources, and particularly for the Christmas Joy and Local Mission Offerings. As we offer these gifts back to you, may they be used for your glory, both near and far. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, God with us. Amen.**

 Prelude

  Hymn 480: *Take Me to the Water* (all 4 verses)

 Hymn 482: *Baptized in Water* (all 3 verses)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you.
 I have called you by name; you are mine.

 **People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

 Leader: When Jesus was baptized by John,
 the Spirit of God rested on him like a dove.

 **People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

 Leader: And the voice said: You are my beloved son;

 **People: With you, my son, I am well pleased!**

 **All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

  Hymn 476: *Crashing Waters at Creation* (all 4 verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved son. Keep us, your faithful children born of water and the Spirit, faithful in your service, and in our relationships that we may rejoice to be called children of God. We pray 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

 Leader: As a voice from heaven said to Jesus,
 so in Christ God speaks to us:

 **People: You are my child and my beloved;
 with you I am well pleased.**

 **All: In the name 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.

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

**Lord, prepare me
To be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy,
Tried and true.
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.**

CCLI Song # 24140

John W. Thompson | Randy Scruggs

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons: Mark 1:9-13 Pew Bible, p. 34 (N.T.)

 Mark 1:14-20 Pew Bible, p. 35 (NT.)

 Sermon: “God With Us and For Us”

 Singing What We Believe

Hymn 481: *I Believe in God the Father* (all 3 verses)

**I believe in God the Father, merciful and mighty Lord,**

**Maker of the earth and heaven, whom we worship and adore.**

**And in Jesus Christ the Son, only Savior, sovereign one,**

**By the Holy Spirit given, born of Mary, blessed virgin.**

**Under Pilate, Jesus suffered, faithful to his final breath.**

**He was crucified and buried, and descended into death.**

**From the grave he did arise; he ascended through the skies;**

**Now enthroned with God in heaven, he will judge the dead and living.**

**I believe in God the Spirit, and the church in every place;**

**Saints in glorious communion, all forgiven, full of grace;**

**Flesh and blood will live again; life in Christ will never end.**

**Holy Spirit, Son and Father: I will praise your name forever.**

Tune: Public domain

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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:  *Celtic Communion*  arr. Mark Hayes

 \**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.**

 Prayer of Dedication

 Service of the Lord’s Supper

 Invitation

 [We extend an invitation to the Lord’s Supper to all who have been baptized. You do
 not need to be a member of this congregation or a Presbyterian to share in this meal.
 We remember that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a
 privilege given to believers who come in faith, repentance, and love.]

 Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

 Leader: The Lord be with you.

 **People**: **And also with you.**

 Leader: Lift up your hearts.

 **People: We lift them to the Lord.**

 Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

 *The minister gives thanks…*

 The congregation responds by singing together:

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 *The minister continues the Thanksgiving…*
 “*Together we proclaim the great mystery of faith:”*

 **According to Christ’s commandment**

 **We remember his death,**

 **We proclaim his resurrection,**

 **We await his coming in glory.**

*The minister continues with Intercessions for the Church and the World
and Prayers of the People…*

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

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

 Our 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.**

 Words of Institution

 Communion

 Communion Music:  *Morceau Lyrique*

*We all will receive communion by coming to the Lord’s Table. Our usher will invite you to come forward by pew, beginning from the back. If you are unable to come forward, a server will come to you after everyone else has received. Please consume the elements when you are comfortable doing so. You do not need to wait – please do so as the Spirit leads (right away, as you pause after receiving, or back in your seats).
With Christian love we serve gluten-free communion bread and alcohol-free grape juice.
Also with Christian love the elements were prepared with strict attention to health concerns.
You are invited to partake of the prepackaged communion juice and wafer if you choose; the wafer is not gluten free.*

 Prayer after Communion

 Hymn 485: *We Know that Christ Is Raised* (all 4 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: Terry Kline

Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Barb Zink

Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir; Lucy and Eleanor Archbold

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The poinsettia today is shared with a prayer for peace in 2024.

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 us, find Blair at his computer in the 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. This month we have very specific requests:
 **January 14: “Meet Ivy and Wyatt”** – We want to show photos of these children on
 the day of their baptism. We ask their families to send photos of the children by this
 Thursday, January 11.
 **January 28: “Meet Our Church Officers”** - Elders and deacons, we want photos of
 you—with your families and pets, enjoying a hobby, on vacation… Help church
 members get to know you a bit! Send your photos by Thursday, January 25.

**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.

Watch this space and the weekly eNotes for future photo requests.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: Our Adult Bible Class will continue our study of Malachi today at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library or online at: [<https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>](https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye). It is worth your time, so see you there!

**Men of Southminster**: Join us for a sweet time on Wednesday, January 17, at 7:30 in Fellowship Hall. We are going to enjoy a dessert, get to know each other more, and hear some stories from our friends. Got a story about your life, and about God’s role in your life, to share? Contact Blair N. Got a dessert suggestion? Contact Blair N.

**Youth**: **Pizza & Games** returns today (and on January 21) from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Come for fun, food, and some deep thoughts. Bring a smile, a friend, and $5 for the meal, if you plan to eat. Be sure to let Blair N know you are coming!

**Other youth events coming up**. Sunday, February 25, our annual **Chili Cook Off**! Also, high-schoolers and those entering high school in the fall are eligible to join our **2024 Youth Mission Team**. From June 20-30 we will be on the road and at a Group Mission Trips workcamp in Dexter, Maine. It is a long trip, but we have done it before. We are taking an extra day to rest up before camp and have an adventure: white water rafting! This trip takes extra planning, so be sure to firm up your commitment as soon as you can and let Blair N. know that you are in!
 **From the Worship Ministry:**The **flower chart** for the first half of 2024 is posted in the Narthex, and there are many dates available! If you are unable to sign up at church, contact Sarah Allen (ridesrowdy@aol.com) with your requests. The cost of flower arrangements will stay at $35 for 2024. If you are donating your flowers, mark the chart with an X. Deacons deliver flowers that are donated.
The flower chart for July to December 2024 will be posted after Easter.

**From the Mission Ministry**:
***Special Christmas offerings:*** Thank you for your support of the Christmas Joy offering and the Local Mission offering collected during December 2023. The total donation from Southminster for the Christmas Joy offering was $1,190 and for the Local Mission offering $3,301. These offerings will be dedicated today in worship. The Christmas Joy offering is sent to the Presbyterian Church USA to help support current and retired church workers with critical financial needs as well as Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. For the Local Mission offering, 25% ($825) will be donated to Glen Ellyn’s Walk-In Ministry, which provides immediate help for food, fuel and other services to local people in need. The rest of the Local Mission offering will go to help fund the other supported missions of our church.

***Luminaria Sunday:*** We will have Luminaria Sunday on February 25. On that Sunday, as in the past, we will honor and remember those touched by cancer. Luminaria bags will light the sanctuary during the worship service. Names of those remembered and honored will be read during the Prayers of the People.

Luminaria bags will be available for a $10 donation to the American Cancer Society for each person honored or remembered. Checks will be accepted from January 28 through February 11. Please provide your check, **made out to the American Cancer Society**, by February 11. Please print the name(s) of those you wish to honor (those living who have cancer or have had cancer) and those remembered (those who had cancer and are now deceased). For each name, please indicate if the person is to be honored or remembered. Example: “John Jones, remembered, $10. Jane Smith, honored, $10. Total: $20.” Then submit your check with the names to those providing the bags on Sunday mornings at church or mail your check to Southminster Presbyterian Church, 680 S. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. Luminaria bags will be prepared for each person so honored or remembered.

**Meet the Artists!**The art currently on display in our main hallway gallery features works by artists from the College of DuPage Continuing Education program. Enjoy the variety of works as you pass through the hallway and make plans to meet and talk with the artists at our next **Artists’ Reception**, next Sunday, January 14, from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**Presbyterian Readers: Discussing a classic!**
Presbyterian Readers will meet on Wednesday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to discuss a classic: *The Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain. Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on January 17:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09>
Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865

**Women’s Circle**Please join us in the parlor on Friday, January 19, at 9:30 a.m. for a program by Angela Smith. After devotions, a short business meeting, and (of course!) refreshments, Angela will talk about her trip in the Danube River Region and Prague. ALL women are welcome.

**Coming Up: The Purse Auction!**

An invitation from and for our women of all ages:

Come join us for a fun-filled Purse Auction on Sunday, February 4, 1:30-4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be many laughs, refreshments, and fellowship.

A box is in the coat room to collect purses that you no longer want to keep but that are still in good shape. We also need small (must fit inside a purse) white elephant donations to enhance our sale. On the day of the auction, bid on a purse - and be surprised at what you’ll find inside!

This is truly a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. Please come join us and bring some friends - all ages are welcome.

**Jubilee Bucks: Order today!**
Today is the first Jubilee Bucks order date of 2024! We have an updated order form—it is available at church and will be attached every Friday in the email with the worship materials. Gift cards can be a wonderful gift for a loved one and are also useful for things you purchase for yourself, such as groceries and gas.

Orders are due today by 9:00 p.m.. Email bobbifrey@aol.com with your order. Include number and amount of cards ordered and total of order. Your next chance to order will be February 4. (Start thinking about Valentine’s Day!)

 **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 poinsettia today is shared with a prayer for peace in 2024.
We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Ruth Ewing, Derek Buckley’s friend, who is recovering from MERSA and is now walking
 - John D, who has undergone months of treatments for oral cancer - prayers of thanksgiving for new test results showing that he is now in full remission, and also prayers for continued healing.
  - 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. Thursday morning there was a mass shooting at the high school in Perry, Iowa, leaving a 6th grader dead and 5 people injured, including the school’s principal. Go to the [Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/) to see current statistics for shootings in this country.
 - Pray for our President and our legislative and judicial bodies
  - We pray for our nation as we continue to wrestle with race relations.
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world, especially Ukraine/Russia, Israel/Gaza, and the Sudan
**Blessed are those who mourn:** - The family, friends, and colleagues of Sycamore fire fighter Brad Bellanger, who died from duty-related cancer
 - The family and friends of Tom Henderson, adoptive father of Silentor Henderson and friend of the Boden-Nelsons
 - The Schmidt family on the sudden death of Parin’s Aunt Ruth
 - The family of Nancy Eberhardt, a former Southminster member, who died November 7. Her Service of Witness to the Resurrection was held at Southminster on December 16.
  - 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 (who died a year ago on January 10, 2023) and especially Deb, Jessica, and Megan and their families
**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.***
 - Tricia Smith’s sister, Betty Rupley
 - Traci Lemay, who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer
 - We continue to pray for: Bobby B., Frank 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:**
 - Faith and others who are depressed
 - Floyd Rogers, recovering from an infection
 - Ann Anderson asks prayers for Dan, who is facing a heart transplant
 - Heidi Shierry’s cousin, Bailey
 - Prayers for all who have Covid
  - Pain relief for Paul Anderson
  - Jim Smith, recovering at Brookdale
 - Thise looking for meaningful employment
  - 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.
**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.** 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 January, 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.

**Regular 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.

**Note holiday (delayed) schedule changes!**

Because Barb’s Christmas trip was cancelled, she now plans to be out of the office Thursday-Tuesday, January 11-16.

The **worship bulletin for next Sunday, January 14,** will need to be completed and sent out this Wednesday, January 10. All worship planning items and announcements must be turned in by Tuesday noon.

The **Session docket for the January 16 meeting** will also need to be assembled by 3:00 on Wednesday. The absolute deadline for docket items is 9:00 a.m. Wednesday.

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, January 7
Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com before 9:00 p.m.
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **No** **Staff Meeting**
 **Confirmation planning 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** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Monday, January 8 – Pastor’s Sabbath**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, January 9
 Deacons** meet at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, January 10
 Session docket deadline is 9:00 a.m.
 eNotes** will go out, andalso **Sunday, January 14, bulletins** (because of Barb’s delayed vacation)
 **Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Lois Stevenson  **Property Ministry** meets at 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Thursday-Tuesday, January 11-16, Barb will be out of the office
Friday, January 12**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **January 14**
 **Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism** 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
 **Artists’ Reception** from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the hallway gallery and narthex

**Bearing Fruit – January 7, 2024**

**Christmas Offerings and Discipleship**

During the season of Advent we collect our special Christmas offerings: The Christmas Joy Offering and the Local Mission Christmas Offering.

The Christmas Joy Offering is a gift to the larger PCUSA Church. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for retired Presbyterian Church workers in their time of need.

The Local Mission Christmas Offering is just that – money to support Southminster’s local missions. We also give 25% of the local offering to a particular mission in our community. This year’s designation is Walk-In Ministry, which provides emergency assistance for Glen Ellyn and DuPage PADS clients, including housing, food, automobile fuel, and prescription assistance. It also helps with car repairs and car insurance payments.

As we open worship today, we will dedicate our two special offerings. The total donation from Southminster for the Christmas Joy Offering was $1,190 and for the Local Mission offering $3,301, with $825 going to Walk in Ministry.

We also celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, a day in which we remember our baptisms and seek to grow in discipleship. Don’t forget to pick up your star in the Narthex, if you didn’t already get one. The stars were Epiphany gifts at worship on December 31. Each star has a single word written on it, representing something evocative, such as forgiveness, blessing, inheritance, or perspective. The star may represent a quality that is clearly evident in a person’s life, or the star may suggest a facet for development. The hope is that the word on the star will help each of us focus on our relationship with God and that it will take us through the coming year. Receive the star as a gift. Your response to the gift then becomes your own gift to the Christ Child for the year.

Giving to our Christmas Offerings, reaffirming our baptismal vows, and seeking to follow Christ more fully in 2024 are all ways we bear the fruit of God’s love.