**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**4th Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 28, 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.

 Gathering Music

Our Photo Story today is “Meet Our Church Officers.”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (John 13:34)

**“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”**

  Improvisational Prelude

[Please remain seated while singing the opening songs.]

 Hymn: *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death* (all 3 verses)pg. 7, gold worship supplement

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Each of us enters this time with a different need.

 **People: Some hearts ache with sorrow;**

 Leader: Some hearts are embittered;

 **People: Some hearts are full of peace and gratitude.**

 **All:** **May our presence and caring bring comfort and renewed faith for all.
 Let us worship God!**

 Hymn 821: *My Life Flows On* (all 4 verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison) (Rob McCoy, edited)

**Holy and gracious God, we confess that we sometimes unintentionally harm others who are suffering. We have given the cold shoulder, the lingering stare and we have whispered in corners. Forgive us for creating a world where those who suffer fear the very help they so desperately need. Enlighten us with new understanding, empathy, and compassion. By the power of your healing Spirit, help us to stand with the most vulnerable among us. 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 (1 John 4:7-21)

 Leader: Beloved, let us love one another.

 **People: Love is from God.**

 Leader: Whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

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

 **because God is love. Alleluia!**

 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.

As children leave the sanctuary:

 *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)*  (sing 1 time) 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:  Ephesians 6:12, 18 Pew Bible, p. 195, N.T.)

 Mark 5:1-20 Pew Bible, p. 39, N.T.)

 Sermon: “Clothed in Our Right Minds”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *The Confession of 1967* (PCUSA) [9.31, edited]

**To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God’s reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation and shares God’s  labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other.
Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.**

 Hymn 795: *Healer of Our Every Ill*  (all 4 verses)

 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: *Shepherd Me, O God*  Marty Haugen

 \**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 275: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (all 4 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: Jessica Parks
Greeter/Fellowship: Paul Jeziorski
Music: Tom Anderson, Jack Hosek
Worship Assistant: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today express this message: “Birthday wishes to Lois Stevenson from the Southminster Choir!”

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. Here are some opportunities coming up for you to share your photos:
 February 11: “**My Favorite Sports**” – Please send photos by Thursday, February 8.
 February 18: “**Winter from my Window**” – Send photos by Thursday, February 15.
 February 25: “**Luminaria Sundays Past**” – Send photos by Thursday, February 22.
 March 3: “**Celebrating Southminster’s Anniversary; Photos from our Past**” –
 Send photos by Thursday, February 29.

**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**: Join us as we complete our study of Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament, and return to our study of Matthew’s gospel. We meet in the Parlor/Library at 11:15 a.m. and online via this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>.

**Men of Southminster**: Our next get-together will be Wednesday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library. Get it on your calendar now, ‘cause you know how quickly that fills up!

**Youth**: Our next event is **Pizza & Games** next Sunday, February 4. Remember that **Chili Cook-Off** is Feb. 25.

**Coats for Cold Folks**: Folks coming from warm countries are being bussed from the southern border into Chicago suburbs, including Glen Ellyn. They arrive without proper clothing for an Illinois winter. To help out, SPY (our Southminster Presbyterian Youth group) is collecting winter outerwear for all ages. We will be giving these to the folks at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, who have been distributing clothing as the buses arrive. If you have spare winter outerwear to donate, please drop it off in the bin in the coat room.

**The Great Southminster Chili Cook-Off!**
We know that you have this awesome chili or soup recipe that you have been dying to show off to your Southminster family. Now is your chance. Cook up a batch and enter it into our annual Chili Cook-Off, coming after worship on February 25. Not a chef? Bet you are a great food critic, though! Come to the Chili Cook-Off, eat, and vote for the best chili or soup. A free will donation will be accepted supporting our 2024 Youth Mission Trip to Dexter, Maine, this June.
**From the Mission Ministry: Luminaria bags available starting today! *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.

**From the Finance Ministry**
**2024 offering envelopes** are available for pick-up in the narthex. You may pick up your own, and if there are some you could deliver (for family members, friends, or neighbors), get theirs, too. If you would like envelopes but there is no box prepared for you, please contact Jay Lerch, Tom Frey, or the church office.

The next eNotes will go out this Wednesday, January 31. **That day is also the** **deadline for the February *Dialog***! Don’t miss it!

 **The “Souper Bowl” is coming – collection begins next Sunday**
It’s cold outside! What’s better when it’s cold than warm soup? On the first two Sundays in February – the 4th and 11th – the kids of Southminster will be collecting soup to donate to People’s Resource Center (PRC). Canned or packaged soup, beef stew, or chili would be great. Please donate as you can to help our neighbors. There will be a collection container inside the front entrance.
 **From the Worship Ministry:**The **flower chart** for the first half of 2024 is posted in the Narthex. Some available dates coming up soon: February 18 and March 3. If 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.

**Women’s Circle**

**Coming Up Next Sunday: The Purse Auction!**

Don’t forget that the Purse Auction will be held **next Sunday, February 4, 1:30-4:00 p.m**. in Fellowship Hall. There will be many laughs, refreshments, and fellowship. 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 next Sunday!**
Our first order of 2024 earned the church $171.56 in “free” money.
Your next chance to order will be next Sunday, 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.

**Letter from Finance Moderator**

Dear Southminster,

I am writing today with a heart full of gratitude and a spirit of shared responsibility. Our church has been a beacon of God’s love, support, and faith for many years, and it's because of each one of you that we've been able to create a community that truly cares.

As Southminster’s moderator of Finance, it is important for me to bring to your attention the matter of our budget, which sustains the various ministries and activities that make our church vibrant. We are currently facing a shortfall, with Southminster’s initial budget requests exceeding available resources by about $35,500. In the past, we have been blessed with some large extra gifts, outside of pledges, that have significantly contributed to our financial well-being and balanced the budget. However, this year, we find ourselves with fewer of those particular blessings. Please know that Session is still working hard to cut back spending, but those efforts will not be enough to close the gap.

This is not a cause for concern, but rather an opportunity for all of us to come together, as a united family, and support our church in a time of need. I understand that each one of us has unique circumstances, and our financial commitments are personal. I am asking that you prayerfully consider the possibility of increasing your pledge or making an extra gift this year.

The strength of our community is in our collective generosity, and I have witnessed time and again the incredible power of our combined efforts. Your contributions, however big or small, play a crucial role in ensuring that our church continues to thrive and serve as a sanctuary for all.

It is my hope that our shared commitment and love for our church guide us as we face this challenge together. I have faith that, with your support, we will overcome this shortfall and continue to be a source of hope and inspiration for generations to come.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and unwavering dedication to our wonderful church family.

God Bless,

Jay Lerch

Finance Moderator

**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, please send an update to the office once in a while. Thank you! Pastor Wendy**

**Joys and Concerns** **The flowers today** are from the choir to celebrate Lois Stevenson’s birthday. **We give thanks to God for joys:**
  - For Ivy Grace Van Beveren, who was baptized here on January 14
  - For the new refugee couple from Guatemala who arrived recently to see their first snow!
  - Nikki Mendoza, who has graduated to regular scans
 - Joys from Heidi Shierry: “Helen is doing fabulous. The chemo treatments are shrinking the tumor, she is having no side effects. As always, she is in good spirits, and as she frequently says, for an 89 year old lady, she’s doing pretty good. Steve and I both talk with her on a daily basis, and she keeps us smiling and laughing. She is a blessing to us.

“Bailey continues to recuperate at the Stanford Burn Unit. Her skin grafts are healing nicely, but there is still a lot more to go. She is working with her physical therapists three times a day to keep her joints moving. She is in very good spirits and is an inspiration to the whole family. God is working miracles through her. She is an amazing young woman.

“God has blessed our lives with the presence of these two very strong, beautiful women.”
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
  - Pray for our President and our legislative and judicial bodies
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. On one day – this past Sunday, January 21 – there were 73 shootings, leaving 25 people dead and 61 injured. Go to [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting) to see current statistics for shootings in this country.
  - 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, the Sudan, Congo, Syria, and Iran/ISIS.
**Blessed are those who mourn:**
  - Louanne Jourdan in the death of her niece, Tammy Gray, age 54, on January 17. Joy that she was able to live through her son’s wedding though unable to attend.
  - The Schmidt family on the sudden death of Parin’s Aunt Ruth Thome
  - 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
**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.***
  - Meagan Severson, friend of the Boden-Nelsons, who is beginning cancer treatment for stage four colon cancer
 - Marta Sundquist, for her white count and platelet count to stay in the normal range in order to get her 6th round of chemo.
  - Tricia Smith’s sister, Betty Rupley, who will be having surgery, and all others having surgeries/procedures
  - We continue to pray for: Bobby B. (Wendy Boden), Frank B., Tom G., Dean L., Frank L., Jan M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Helen S (Shierry), Gerry S., and others we name in our hearts.
  - Beverly W., Gretchen’s sister in law, who has chosen not to continue treatment  **We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges:**  - Deb Bohi’s brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Pat Grimsey, who have Covid and other health complications, and prayers for all who have Covid
  - Prayers for Joan Koska, recovering from cataract surgery, and for all those recovering from surgery or have upcoming procedures.
  - For Paul Anderson and all those who are experiencing chronic pain.
  - For Faith and others who are depressed
  - Ann Anderson asks prayers for Dan, who is on dialysis. Pray that his heart and liver function well, that fluid doesn’t build up, and that he doesn’t need a heart transplant.
  - Heidi Shierry’s cousin, Bailey
  - Jim Smith, recovering at Brookdale
  - Those looking for meaningful employment
  - We pray for those who are in hospice care: Rod B (Katie Boston’s father) who has newly entered hospice; 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); in February call Barb Zink (630-668-2387). 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.

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 28**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Luminaria bags for Luminaria Sunday** will be available during Fellowship time
 **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
 **Confirmation** meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Pastor’s office
**Monday, January 29 – Pastor’s Sabbath**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, January 30
 Endowment** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, January 31
 eNotes** will go out, **but it is also the deadline for the February *Dialog*!**
 **Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Lois Stevenson  **Thursday, February 1** Hawthorn Garden Club will park here and then go on a field trip
 **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary **Friday, February 2**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **February 4
Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com by 9:00 p.m. **Bring canned/packaged soup/chili/stew for the “Souper Bowl” collection**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
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 **Confirmation** meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Pastor’s office
 **Purse Auction** from 1:30-4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Bearing Fruit – January 28, 2024
Coats for Cold Folks**
Since the beginning of January 11 busloads of immigrants sent from the U.S. southern border to Chicago have instead been dropped off in downtown Glen Ellyn by the train station. There have been no prior notifications to the police or civic leaders. The people have arrived with no winter clothes – no gloves, no hats, no coats. They are people of all ages from adults to children. As a result, some of the congregations in downtown Glen Ellyn and other community organizations began collecting winter clothes for these people to help them be better prepared for a Chicago winter.

The downtown churches have set up a “loose” rapid response team. This means that if someone sees something, they say something, and they call others to do something. Southminster is part of the rapid response team. The youth of our congregation invite you to bring winter outerwear for people of all ages. They are overseeing the collection. If you have spare winter outerwear to donate, please drop it off in the bin in the coat room. Please invite your neighbors to donate as well.

Our pastor called our state representative and was told that they were watching the situation. They believe that buses will be coming for some time. We don’t know how many will be coming through or when, and the situation is evolving. But we do know that there are cold people in DuPage County who would be delighted to receive the gift of warmth, whether or not more buses arrive. Meanwhile, the loving people of Glen Ellyn are bearing the fruit of God’s love, and we are joining them.

**Welcome, Jack Hosek!**
Jack Hosek is our soloist today. He is a member of St. James Catholic Church of Glen Ellyn, just down the road from Southminster on Park Blvd. There Jack is in the regular rotation as a singer and cantor. He and his wife, Cathy, are friends with our pastor, Wendy Boden. As many know, Pastor Boden is an opportunist. When she found out that he would be willing to sing for us, she followed right up! Jack works at Sigmatron International Inc. an electronics manufacturer. Jack and Cathy have three adult children, Mark, Eric, and Beth. He loves Jesus, his family, and the University of Illinois, in that order.