**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**5th Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 4, 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 “Meet Wyatt David Hume.”

 Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Mission

 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.”**

  Prelude: *Sicilienne* Couperin

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

 Hymn: *Who You Say I Am* (all)pg. 39, gold worship supplement

 Call to Worship  (Galatians 3:27-28)

 Leader: As many of you as were baptized into Christ
 have clothed yourselves with Christ.

 **People: There is no longer Jew or Greek,**

 Leader: there is no longer slave or free,

 **People: there is no longer male and female;**

 **All: for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.**

  Hymn 488: *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* (all verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**God, we are both saints and sinners. You see us as your beloved children, washed and born new by your mercy, living in the blessings of your grace. In all that we have done wrong, forgive us, please. Continue to mold us more and more into the image of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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 581: *Glory Be to the Father*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.**

Public domain

 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children:

 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

 Word with Children: The Sacrament of Baptism

 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

***Wyatt David Hume, born March 4, 2023,
child of Kevin and Linsey Hume***

 Meaning of Baptism

 Presentation

 Wyatt’s family: parents Kevin and Linsey; grandparents Michael Hume, David and Lynda Opl;
 godmothers Linda Hume and Mallory Sterling; godfather Bradley Opl

 Representing Southminster: Elder Sarah Allen

 Deacon Sue Knisely

 Questions to Parents

 Questions to Congregation and Godparents [The congregation will please stand.]

 Profession of Faith/Renunciations

 Apostles’ Creed [Ecumenical] (unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

[Please be seated.]

 Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

 Leader: The Lord be with you.

 **People: And also with you.**

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

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

(prayer continues)

 Congregational Prayer (unison)

**O God, who called us from death to life: we give ourselves to you, and, with the church through all ages, we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

 The Sacrament of Baptism

 Welcome

 Leader: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

 **People: With joy and thanksgiving**

 **we welcome you into Christ's church**

 **to share with us in his ministry,**

 **for we are all one in Christ.**

 Baptism Response: *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*  (verses 1-4)Hymnal 727

 *(The Servant Song)*

Verse 1

**Will you let me be your servant,**

**Let me be as Christ to you?**

**Pray that I might have the grace to**

**Let you be my servant too.**

Verse 2

**We are pilgrims on a journey;**

**We’re together on the road.**

**We are here to help each other**

**Walk the mile and bear the load.**

Verse 3

**I will hold the Christ-light for you**

**In the night time of your fear.**

**I will hold my hand out to you,**

**Speak the peace you long to hear.**

Verse 4

**I will weep when you are weeping;**

**When you laugh I'll laugh with you.**

**I will share your joy and sorrow**

**Till we've seen this journey through.**

CCLI Song # 72673

Richard Gillard

Words: 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing; Music: 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

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 Congregational Prayer (unison)

**God our Father, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our number this brother in faith. Together, may we live in your Spirit and so love one another, that we may have the mind of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever. Amen.**

 Gifts from the Family of God

As children leave the sanctuary for Sunday school:

 *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 Lesson: Mark 5:32-36 Pew Bible, p. 40 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Two Daughters”

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: *All Who Hunger*  Sylvia Dunstan/Bob Moore

 \**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:  *Jesus, Name Above All Names* arr. Hayes

*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 515: *I Come with Joy* (all verses)

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

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

 Postlude: *O for a Thousand Tongues* arr. Hayes

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgist: Steve Henkels

Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Anny Davidson

Musicians: Cindy Trowbridge, Southminster Choir

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are from Southminster’s deacons to celebrate Wyatt Hume’s baptism, and from Chris Kozich for the glory of God and ground hogs.

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. We will have cake to celebrate the baptism today.

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.

**The February issue of our monthly newsletter, *the Dialog,* goes out on Wednesday**! Do we have the news articles and calendar items we need from you or the ministry you serve?

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Our Adult Bible Class is returning to our study of Matthew’s gospel on Sundays at 11:15-12:15 following worship and fellowship time. We meet in the Parlor/Library and online via this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>. Join us for education, inspiration, enrichment, and a good time with not a little laughter. It is worth your time.

**Men of Southminster**:  Mark Wednesday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar for another of our get-together and get-to-know each other events. Watch for an email asking critical questions, such as, do we want to eat while we meet, and, if so, what.

**Youth**:  **Pizza & Games** today, 4:00-6:00 p.m.!! Bring a smile, a friend, a question for our M&M game, and $5 for the meal. Next P&G: February 18. And remember that **Chili Cook-Off is coming Feb. 25th**.

**Chili (or Soup) Cook-Off**:  Time is coming for hot food and hotter competition. Start testing that family-heirloom chili or soup recipe so you can enter Southminster’s annual **Chili/Soup Cook-Off**, coming Sunday, February 25, after worship. Watch for the sign-up sheet coming to the Narthex soon.

**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.
**From the Mission Ministry: Luminaria bags are now available! *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 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 “Souper Bowl” is coming – we’ll collect soups today through 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.

**Women’s Circle**

**It’s Today: The Purse Auction!**

Come join us this afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00 in Fellowship Hall for the Purse Auction. We have many purses available for auction, and each one has a surprise inside. There will be fun and food as we auction off the purses to raise money for the donations Presbyterian Women’s Circle gives to many missions.

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

**All women invited: First Wednesday Women’s Breakfast!**Our next monthly women’s breakfast will be this Wednesday, February 7, at Danby’s Station at 8:30 a.m. All women are invited to join us! Call, text, or email Gretchen Fleming—(630) 517-0926; gretchen\_fleming@yahoo.com—if you have any questions. Danby’s Station is at 750 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn.

**Jubilee Bucks: Order today!**
Today is your only chance this month to order **Jubilee Bucks** **gift cards**. Remember Valentine’s Day when you order - to give the cards as gifts or buy gifts for loved ones! Order by 9:00 p.m. today, either in person or by email at bobbifrey@aol.com. There are new order forms in the hallway (across from the pastor’s office) – the only change is that Wendy’s cards are now available only at $25 value. An order form is also attached every Friday to the email with the worship service materials.
 **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
It is amazing how much food we donate each week to PRC! They are excited when our delivery is dropped off each Monday. This past year they served over 6,000 families! That is a 37% increase over the prior year and totaled over 73,000 grocery carts!!! This translated into over 4 million pounds of food! Your donations are very greatly appreciated!!!
If you would like suggestions for what to give, visit the PRC website: <https://www.peoplesrc.org/give-food-or-goods/> or pick up a list of suggestions in the stand on the nametag shelf in the hallway – it’s printed on green paper.
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, please send an update to the office once in a while. Thank you! Pastor Wendy**

**Joys and Concerns**  **The flowers today** are from Southminster’s deacons to celebrate Wyatt Hume’s baptism, and from Chris Kozich for the glory of God and ground hogs. **We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Prayers of joy for the 93 refugees on one Turkish Air flight who landed in Chicago this week. Six of them from Myanmar found this welcoming party.
  - Nikki Mendoza, who has graduated to regular scans
**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. Since the beginning of January through this past Sunday (January 1-28), there were 30 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims), leaving 52 people dead and 93 injured. Go to [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting) to see current statistics for mass 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
**Blessed are those who mourn:**
 - Pam Petersen’s father, John Throckmorton, died Tuesday. Prayers for his family, and especially his 4 adult children: Pam, Wendy, Amy, Jean, and their families.
  - For the families of Ruth Thome, Parin’s aunt, Grace Van Beveren, Ed Koska, Dan Bohi, and those we name in our hearts and hold dear.
**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.***
 - Marta Sundquist’s platelet count has dropped; she will have additional blood tests but may need more recovery time before starting her 6th round of chemo.
  - We continue to pray for: Bobby B. (Wendy Boden), Frank B., Tom G., Dean L., Frank L., Jan M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Betty R., Gerry S., Meagan 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:**  - All during February, American Heart Month, we emphasize heart health and pray for a cure for heart disease.
 - Sandy Phee asks prayers for Linda Talaga, who has a bad infection in her right eye and is now blind in both eyes
 - Prayers for Rita Zapel’s friend Manny, who is returning to work after being off on disability
  - Ann Anderson asks prayers for Dan: heart, kidney and liver stable and that he can come home on meds.
 - Ian Anderson – prayers for a new (good) job soon, and prayers for all who are looking for meaningful employment
  - For Paul Anderson and all those who are experiencing chronic pain.
  - For Faith and others who are depressed
  - Jim Smith, recovering at Brookdale
  - We pray for those who are in hospice care: Rod B (Katie Boston’s father); 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 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, 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
 **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
 **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
**Monday, February 5 – Pastor’s Sabbath** DPCCC Quilting Group meets at 7:00 p.m. in the narthex
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, February 6
 Mission** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, February 7
 Women’s Breakfast** at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station **the February *Dialog* goes out**
 Pastors’ Book Group meets at noon in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Lois Stevenson  **Friday, February 9**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **February 11
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
 **Last day that Luminaria bags for Luminaria Sunday** will be available during Fellowship time
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**Bearing Fruit – February 4, 2024**

**We are family and community**

Our tradition of Christianity, the Reformed tradition, offers two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

“The Reformed tradition understands Baptism and the Lord’s Supper to be Sacraments, instituted by God and commended by Christ. Sacraments are signs of the real presence and power of Christ in the Church, symbols of God’s action. Through the Sacraments, God seals believers in redemption, renews their identity as the people of God, and marks them for service.” (Directory for Worship, W-1.3033)

The early Church, following Jesus, took three primary material elements of life — water, bread, and wine — to become basic symbols of offering life to God as Jesus had offered his life. Being washed with the water of Baptism, Christians received new life in Christ and presented their bodies to be living sacrifices to God. Eating bread and drinking wine or fruit of the vine, they received the sustaining presence of Christ, remembered God’s covenant promise, and pledged their obedience anew.

Today, we are twice blessed because we are not only sharing in the Lord’s Supper but also baptizing Wyatt David Hume, born March 4, 2023. He is the son of members Kevin and Linsey Hume, grandson of Mike Hume and nephew of Linda Hume. We also welcome his other set of grandparents, David and Lynda Opl. Wyatt’s’ godparents are Linda Hume, Mallory Sterling, and Bradly Opl… as well as our congregation. Together we will all make promises to God that we will guide and nurture Wyatt by word and deed, with love and prayers to know and follow Christ.

The body of Christ is one, and Baptism is the bond of unity in Christ. As they are united with Christ through faith, Baptism unites the people of God with each other and with the church of every time and place. Barriers of race, gender, status, and age are to be transcended. Barriers of nationality, history, and practice are to be overcome.

The family of God stretches through all time and place, back to the time of the institution of the sacraments by our Lord Jesus Christ and around the world. Together we bear the fruit of God’s love.