**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**February 11, 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 “My Favorite Sports.”

 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: *Here I Am to Worship* (all verses)pg. 19, gold worship supplement

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Source of light, love, and truth,

 **People: May our lives give light to all we meet.**

 Leader: Kindle love and wisdom in our lives.

 **All:** **May our worship lead us to live lives of grace, peace, and love.**

 Hymn 192: *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining* (all verses)

 *(Shine, Jesus, Shine)*

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Beautiful Savior, you call us to hope and bold action, but we are too anxious and afraid to wait and listen for your direction and guidance. We thank you for the grace that enables us to take an honest look at our hearts, our minds, and our motives. Thank you for accepting us where we are and calling us to something more and better. 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 (2 Corinthians 4:6)

 Leader: The One who calls light out of darkness,

 **People: God now shines in our hearts to reveal
 the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

 **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: (Blair Baldwin)

 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

As children leave the sanctuary:

 *This Little Light of Mine*  (sing 1 time)

**This little light of mine,**

**I'm gonna let it shine.**

**This little light of mine,**

**I'm gonna let it shine.**

**This little light of mine,**

**I'm gonna let it shine;**

**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Public domain

 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Mark 8:27-33 Pew Bible, p. 43, N.T.)

 Mark 9:2-8 Pew Bible, p. 44, N.T.)

 Sermon: “Hearing and Listening”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) Romans 12:1-2 (NRSV)

**I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

 Hymn 377: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  (all 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: *Before the Throne of God*  Charitie Lees Bancroft and Vikki Cook

 (pg. 3, gold supplement)

 \**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

 Hymn 450: *Be Thou My Vision* (all 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: Ann Anderson
Greeter/Fellowship: Sue Knisely
Music: Tom Anderson
Worship Assistant: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are from Lanny Russell in memory of Jerry Tonne.

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.
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.

**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 18: “**Winter from my Window**” – Send photos by Thursday, February 15.
 February 25: “Carol McHaley’s Winter Photos”
 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 in the Parlor/Library at 11:15 a.m. for our continuing study of Matthew’s gospel. Now that the authorities have hatched a plot to kill Jesus, what will happen next? You know, of course, but Matthew wants us to understand the meaning of the story. We need some help with that. To join is online, use this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>.

**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**:  Have a great Super Bowl weekend and join us on the 18th for another **Pizza & Games**. And be sure to have the **Chili/Soup Cook-Off** on your calendar for the 25th.

**Chili (or Soup) Cook-Off**:  Southminster’s annual Chili/Soup Cook-Off is coming after worship on February 25. Got a good chili or soup recipe? Enter it to win the laurels. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

**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 available only through today***

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 are available today for a $10 donation to the American Cancer Society for each person honored or remembered. Please provide your check, **made out to the American Cancer Society**, or cash donation today. 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**
**Will you please consider paying your *per capita* assessment?**

Southminster belongs to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Just as Southminster is funded by its members, our denomination is funded by its member churches.

**What is per capita?**

It is a way Presbyterians share equally, responsibly, and inter-dependently in the costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Per capita contributions are requested from every congregation based on the congregation’s total active membership. The per capita assessment for this year is $36.00 per active member.

Southminster asks active members (adults and confirmed children) to contribute that amount ‒ $36.00 per church member ‒ to fund the costs of governing our denomination at the local, regional, and national levels. These funds will be used to help congregations find new pastors, train and support interim ministers, resolve congregational conflicts, care for ministers, Christian educators, and their families, and help prepare people for service as ordained ministers.

You may use the special “per capita” envelope in your box of pledge envelopes, if you received envelopes this year. Or you can just drop your check into the collection plate. Checks should be written to Southminster with “per capita” on the reference line.

**From the Easter Celebration Task Force:**

We are now collecting wrapped Easter candy for our community Easter Celebration. The candy should be small enough to fit inside a plastic Easter egg. ***No nuts, peanut butter, chewing gum, or hard candy, please.***

You can help! Come for after-worship Fellowship time and stay to stuff some Easter eggs! First stuffing date: Sunday, February 18.

**Women’s Circle**

**The Purse Auction!**

Thanks to the generous donations from the congregation and the hard work and skills of the auctioneer team of Julie Storey, Ann Anderson, and Lynn Ferino, this year's Presbyterian Women's purse auction raised $973! Thank you to all. We will decide at the March meeting (March 15) to which missions/charities we will send our money. (The Purse Auction was our February meeting.)

**Presbyterian Readers: “Read with us!”**

Presbyterian Readers will meet Wednesday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The February book is *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. As a group, we have previously read and discussed Towles' other novels: *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *The Lincoln Highway*.

We’ll also need to choose books for the next couple of months.

Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting through this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09>
Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865

**Jubilee Bucks:**
Thanks to all who order Jubilee Bucks. The church has earned $288.91 so far this year of “free” money from those orders! The next order date is March 3.

 **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 Lanny Russell in memory of Jerry Tonne. **We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Successful surgery for Tricia Smith’s sister, Betty Rupley. She will continue with her cancer treatment.
 - Prayers of joy for the 93 refugees who arrived on one plane at O’Hare last week
  - 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 throughp February 4), there were 34 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims), leaving 56 people dead and 107 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. May we learn something new this Black History Month.
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world
**Blessed are those who mourn:**
 - The family and friends of Brian Chellios, who died unexpectedly last week
 - Pam Petersen’s father, John Throckmorton, died last week. 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.***
 - Glen Crest Middle School Band Director Katie Berry, who is recovering from brain cancer surgery
 - Marta Sundquist has been able to resume treatment.
  - 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, and for all who are recovering
  - 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 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
 **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, February 12 – Pastor’s Sabbath**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, February 13
 Knitting Circle** meets at 10:30 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Staff meeting** at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor/Library **Deacons** meet at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, February 14 – *Ash Wednesday*
 eNotes go out**
 **No Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study**
 **Ash Wednesday Taizé Service** at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
 **Choir rehearsal** follows the service **Thursday, February 15 – Session docket deadline
Friday, February 16
 (No Women’s Circle** – the Purse Auction was our February meeting.)
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **February 18 – *1st Sunday in Lent*** **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Easter egg stuffing** in the Narthex following 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
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Bearing Fruit – February 11, 2024
Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Easter**
Lighting a candle during worship probably began not as a ritual but from practical reasons. They didn’t have electricity! As the years passed, well-meaning believers sought meaningful symbolism in what they did. Candles in worship remind us of many things. First and foremost, Christ is the light of the world. Two Candles on each end of the Lord’s Table remind us of the God’s presence in the burning bush in the Old Testament Exodus story and of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament Pentecost story.

The season following Christmas is Epiphany. The word "epiphany" comes from an old Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "striking appearance." Epiphany is a moment of deep awareness stretched out over a period of time. That is what the season of Epiphany is about, awareness of God’s presence in Jesus Christ, the light of the world. It culminates today, Transfiguration Sunday.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Our worship service begins at 7:30 p.m. and will conclude about 8:00. The service is bathed in light. At our worship service, we distribute ashes during a special Taizé Worship Service. Ashes on the forehead are a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off one’s faith. The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die. We are reminded that during Lent we seek to die to ourselves in order to be raised to new life in Christ.

During Lent many at Southminster will be reading the book, *A Future for Your Congregation Beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation*. That is the subtitle! The title, *When Church Stops Working*, sounds scary, but it is an invitation to follow Christ rather than follow society or the next great idea. It is available on Kindle and audible and a few paper copies will be available in the narthex next Sunday, the first Sunday in Lent. Not all of us are readers, Blair Nelson, our Minster of Youth and Adult Discipleship will be writing study guides each week of Lent. We will share in a meal after Easter (in April or May) to reflect on what we have heard from God.

For Christians Lent is a season of reflection and prayer culminating in the celebration of Christ’s resurrection. The final week of Lent is Holy Week. Our services are on Maundy Thursday, March 28, and Good Friday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. We need 8 readers on both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. If you are interested in reading, please contact Elder and Moderator of Worship Sarah Allen. We also invite the community not only to worship with us on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, but also to come play and celebrate the Resurrection at our Easter Saturday Celebration and Egg Hunt, March 30 at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to help in any way with Easter Saturday, please talk with Elder Chris Kozich.

As we center ourselves on Christ’s presence in our lives during Lent, we bear the fruit of God’s love to one another, our neighbors, and God.