**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Second Sunday in Lent, Luminaria Sunday**

**February 25, 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 “Luminaria Sunday.”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (John 1:5)

**“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”**

  Improvisational Prelude

[Please remain seated while singing the opening songs.]

 Hymn: *I Am Not There Yet* (verse 4)pg. 22, gold worship supplement

 Hymn 834: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (all)

 Call to Worship  (Psalm 27)

 Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation;

 **People: Whom then shall we fear?**

 Leader: The Lord is the strength of our lives! Wait for the Lord!

 **All:** **Be strong, take heart, and wait for the Lord.**

 Hymn: *He Knows My Name* (all) pg. 18, gold worship supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Loving God, we adore you for the way you modelled real love for us in word and in action. You have shown us just how we should love one another and become the servant of others. There are times when we simply don’t want to. We don’t like being servants. We want things our way! And we find it hard to love others. Forgive us and help us. As we journey through Lent, turn us again to your example. Help us to soak up your teaching, and help us to imitate you in our love and service to one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and savior. 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: *Kyrie* pg. 1, gold worship supplement

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

 (The words are Greek for *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.*)

CCLI Song # 2691048

Antonin Leopold Dvorak | Ruth Elaine Schram

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children: (Pastor Wendy Boden)

 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.**

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Mark 10:32-52 Pew Bible, p. 46, N.T.)

 Psalm 27 Pew Bible, p. 503, O.T.)

 Sermon: “Christ, Our Light in the Darkness”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) (Romans 8:26-27)

**Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.**

 Hymn: *The Lord Is My Light* (all) pg. 32, gold worship supplement

 Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

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

**The Lord’s Prayer:** (unison)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

[The offering plate is at the back of the sanctuary. Please leave your gift or pledge
in the plate on your way into or out of worship.]

 Offertory Anthem: *I Have Called You By Your Name* Emily Crocker
 *(*with *Near to the Heart of God)*

 \**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: *Shine On Us* (all) pg. 37, gold worship supplement

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,
 **People: For we are blessed to be a blessing!**

Leader:  The cross, **All:  We shall take it.**
  Leader:  The bread, **All:  We shall break it.**
  Leader:  The pain, **All:  We shall bear it.**
  Leader:  The joy, **All:  We shall share it.**
  Leader:  The Gospel, **All:  We shall live it.**  Leader:  The love, **All:  We shall give it.**
  Leader:  The light, **All:  We shall cherish it.**  Leader:  The darkness, **All:  God shall perish it.**  Leader:  For Jesus’ sake. **All:  Amen.**

 Improvisational Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Sarah Allen
Greeter/Fellowship: Nick Kaskovich
Music: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir
Worship Assistant: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are from Lynn Ferino celebrating granddaughter Reese’s 14th birthday.

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** is not meeting this morning. Participants are urged to go downstairs and eat chili!

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 is an opportunity coming up for you to share your 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.

**This Wednesday, February 28, the weekly eNotes will go out, but it is also the deadline for the March *Dialog*!**
**From Session**

Session has voted to have the **annual meeting of the congregation and corporation** on Sunday, March 24. That means that the annual reports booklets must be available on March 17. ***Staff and moderators, please note: Narrative reports for the annual reports booklets are due no later than Thursday, March 7***.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Our after-worship-and-fellowship Bible class will not meet this Sunday in lieu of the Chili/Soup Cook Off.  So, come to the Cook-Off, eat, and enjoy.

**Youth & Mission Team**:  Remember to head down to Fellowship Hall immediately after the service for Chili/Soup Cook Off set up and service.

**Chili/Soup Cook-Off**:  Is today! Join us in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. for hot food and hotter competition. Enjoy a variety of chilis and soups and vote for the best. A free will offering will be taken supporting the Youth Mission Trip.

**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:**

**One Great Hour of Sharing – a Special Offering during Lent**

For over seventy years, Presbyterians have participated in One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent and culminating on Easter. In a world where many of our brothers and sisters lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, education, and opportunity, the three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing supports three programs. These programs are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. These all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works to provide relief to those affected by natural or manmade disasters. The Presbyterian Hunger Program helps to provide food for the hungry. Self-Development of People helps provide resources to communities working to cast of the bonds of poverty and oppression.

Envelopes for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering are on the table at the entrance to the Sanctuary, or you may donate at any time by designating OGHS on your check. Please give generously.

**From the Easter Party Task Force:**

We are now collecting wrapped Easter candy for our community Easter Party. 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! Join us in the Narthex on March 3 and 10 after worship for about an hour to stuff candies and other items into plastic Easter eggs. (There could be additional days/projects we’ll need help… maybe for crafts.)

**From the Worship Ministry**:

Easter is early this year, so it’s not too early to start thinking about **Easter flowers!** We would love to have at least **10 Easter lilies** (2 stem plants @ $32 each) and **10 pink azalea plants** (6” pots @ $28 each) to beautify the sanctuary on Easter. Sign up in the narthex or contact Sarah Allen (630-988-8231 or [ridesrowdy@aol.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5COwner%5CDesktop%5C2020%20Pandemic%2001-28-22%20update%5CDialog%5CFebruary%202022%5Cridesrowdy%40aol.com)); the deadline for orders is March 10. Checks should be made to SPC with “Easter flowers” on the memo line. Thanks to everyone who will help fill our sanctuary with color and beauty on Easter morning.

**Jubilee Bucks: Order next Sunday, March 3**
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.

**A note from Barb:** **Have fun and help SCARCE**! A friend from my church volunteers at SCARCE and often has boxes of donated jigsaw puzzles that need to be assembled so they’ll know whether all the pieces are there. I have several puzzles in the church office (under the front edge of the desk). Take one home, assemble it, and then put a note on the box: “All pieces here” or “Pieces missing.” Then bring it back so I can return it to SCARCE. (They have other things they can do with puzzles that are missing pieces – using pieces for art projects, for instance, or simply recycling the cardboard.)

**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 Lynn Ferino celebrating granddaughter Reese’s 14th birthday
**We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Successful surgeries for Kurt Ellinghausen and Karin Formento, both now recovering
**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 a single day (this past Sunday, February 18), there were 4 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims), killing 7 people and wounding 9 others. Among the dead are 3 first responders – two police officers and a firefighter/paramedic – in Burnsville, Minnesota. 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:**
 - Katie Boston and her immediate and extended family on the death of her father, Rod Boehmer
 - The family and friends of Brian Chellios, who died unexpectedly
  - For the families and friends of John Throckmorton (Pam Petersen’s father), 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.***
 - Barb Doppelt requests prayers for Laura Price, her pastor’s wife, recently diagnosed with breast cancer.
 - The Boden-Nelson’s friend Jean Kamerman, recently diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer
 - Successful surgery for Tricia Smith’s sister, Betty Rupley. She will continue with her cancer treatment.
 - Marta Sundquist has been able to resume treatment.
 - Glen Crest Middle School Band Director Katie Berry, who is recovering from brain cancer surgery
  - We continue to pray for: Bobby B. (Wendy Boden), Frank B., Tom G., Dean L., Frank L., Jan M., Nikki 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.
 - The Khouri family, friends of Derek Buckley, as they navigate their daughter’s illness
 - Sandy Phee asks prayers for Linda Talaga, who had a bad eye infection and is now blind in both eyes.
  - Ann Anderson asks prayers for Dan, who is now stable at home
 - 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: 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); in March/April call Angela Smith (630-235-1376). You may call Pastor Wendy Boden on her cell or home phone (if she has shared the numbers with you) or leave a message for her at the church office: 630-469-9149. Email Wendy at wendy@southminsterpc.org. (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 25 – *2nd Sunday in Lent, Luminaria Sunday*** **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Chili/Soup Cook-off** in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m.
**Monday, February 26 – Pastor’s Sabbath**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, February 27**
 Presbytery Assembly at 4:00 p.m. at Elmhurst Presbyterian
 **Jeremiah Task Force** at 6:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, February 28
 eNotes go out, *but it is also the deadline for the March* Dialog**
 **Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Lois Stevenson  **Thursday, February 29 – Leap Year Bonus Day!** **Staff calendar meeting** 3:00-3:15 p.m. in the Parlor/Library **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
 **Young Adults Online** at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, March 1**
 Our parking lot may be used as overflow parking for an event at Glenbard South
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **March 3 – *3rd Sunday in Lent*
Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com by 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
 **Easter egg stuffing** in the Narthex for about an hour following worship
 **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: Photo Scavenger Hunt** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Yorktown Mall. Stay in touch with Blair N. about where to meet.

**Bearing Fruit – February 25, 2024**

**Loving One Another and Neighbor**

Today is an important Sunday in the life of Southminster. Years ago, the Mission Ministry wanted to offer an opportunity to support the fight against cancer through the American Cancer Society. The result is **Luminaria Sunday**, which is generally held the last Sunday in February - a worship service where we honor and remember those touched by cancer. Our PhotoStory was live today, displaying the luminarias representing the many people we love and support. When you entered the sanctuary this morning, the lights were dimmed to better enter a worship service bathed in love and light. Each person named on a luminary will be prayed for during the Prayers of the People, either in thanksgiving or crying out for a cure. All this is motived by Christian love.

Love also motivates our **Chili Cook-Off**. Following worship and fellowship, everyone is invited downstairs to the Youth Mission Trip’s annual Chili (and Soup) Cook-off. A free will offering will be taken supporting our Youth Mission Trip in June.

Luminarias and Chili Cook-off are both very different ways we bear the fruit of God’s love toward neighbor and one another.