**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**3rd Sunday in Lent**

**March 3, 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 “Celebrating Southminster’s Anniversary: Photos from Our Past.”

Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Mission

Lighting the Candles (John 1:5)

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

Prelude

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

Hymn: *I Am Not There Yet* (verse 2)pg. 22, gold worship supplement

Hymn: *Bring Forth the Kingdom* (all verses)pg. 6, gold worship supplement

Call to Worship

Leader: This season of Lent we follow Christ to the cross.

**People: We remember the traps, the betrayals, and fears   
 as we approach the cross.**

**All: Even so, we trust in God and extend love to everyone.**

Hymn 515: *I Come with Joy* (verses 1-4)

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of trust. We confess that we have trusted our own plans instead of yours. Grant us your loving grace. In the name of Jesus, our Savior and lord we pray. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:34)

Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

**People: Only Christ and Christ died for us!**

Leader: Christ rose for us!

**People: Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**All: In 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.**

Public domain

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:  Mark 12:1-12 Pew Bible, p. 48, N.T.)

Mark 12:13-17 Pew Bible, p. 49, N.T.)

Sermon: “Who Do You Think You Are?”

Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)   
 *The Apostles’ Creed* [Ecumenical]

**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.**

Hymn 518: *Your Only Son (Lamb of God)* (all verses)

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: *Jesus Took the Cup*  Hal H. Hopson

\**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.

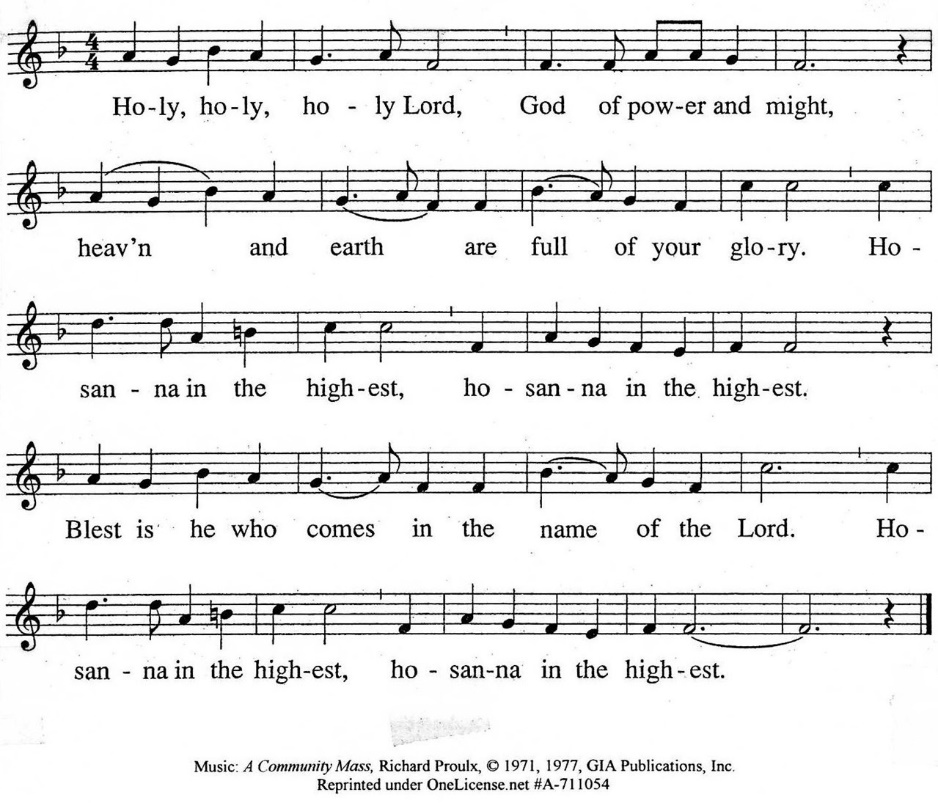
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

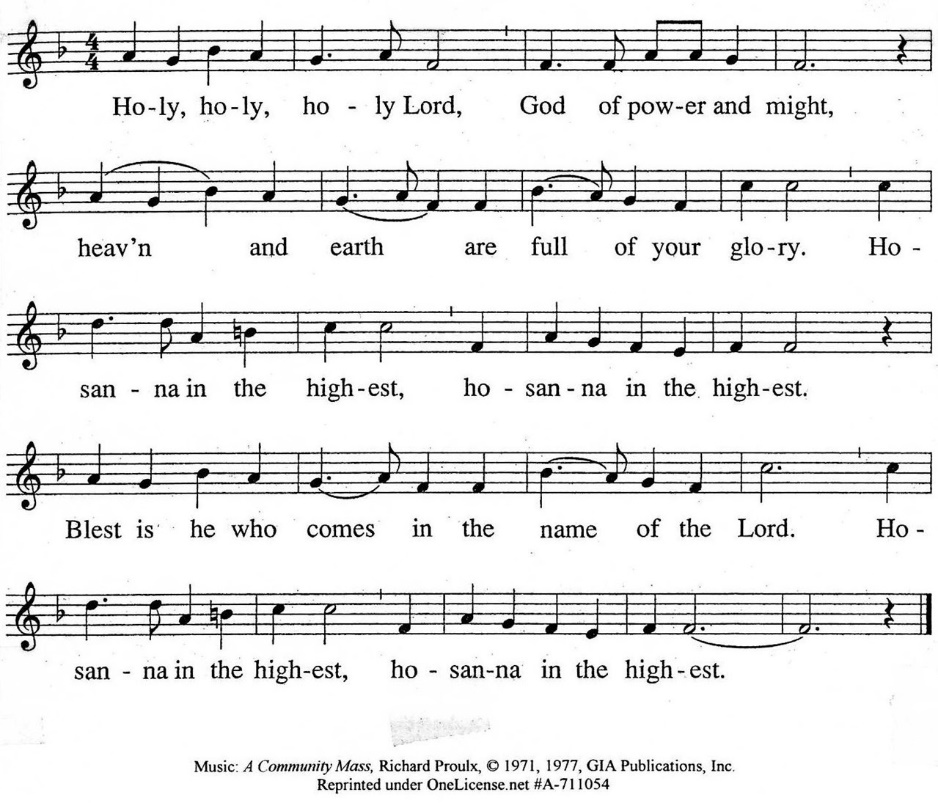
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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:  *There Is a Place of Quiet Rest (Near to the Heart of God)*

*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 530: *One Bread, One Body* (all verses)

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: Terry Kline

Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Sue Knisely

Musicians: Tom Anderson; Southminster Choir; Men’s Trio: Paul Jeziorski, Blair Nelson, Victor King

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given in honor of the Worship Arts Team with love from a friend.

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. Watch *Dialog*/eNotes/bulletins for upcoming opportunities for you to share your photos:  
  
**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 this Thursday, March 7***.  
  
  
**Notes from Blair Nelson:**    
**Adult Education**:  Our adult Bible class meets at 11:15 on Sunday mornings. So, after worship, grab a coffee and a snack, enjoy fellowship, then join us in the Parlor/Library or online for study, conversation, edification, and more enjoyment. We are working our way through Matthew’s gospel. If you worship online, you can join our study by using this link: [<https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>](https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye).  
  
**Men of Southminster**: We enjoyed more life histories on the 21st. We are working on a date for our March meeting, looking for a Saturday morning. Watch for an email from Blair N. soliciting dates for that meeting.   
  
**Youth**:  Good work on the Chili Cook-Off! Now it is time to play! Join us at Yorktown Mall this afternoon from 4:00-6:00 for a **photo scavenger hunt**. We will meet at the food court. Bring some form of digital camera (What? You did not know that there are cameras that are not digital? We’ll talk.) You might want to bring pocket money for snacks at the food court.    
  
**Thank you** to all who were part of last Sunday’s **Chili Cook-Off**. Thanks to the cooks/competitors: Francine Long, Jay Lerch, Ann Anderson, Andrea Schmidt, Blair Baldwin and Tom Anderson, Wendy Boden, and Blair Nelson. Thanks to all who ate, voted, and donated. We cleared $750 for the Youth Mission Trip to Dexter, Maine, this June. Thanks also to the Mission Team members and the youth for their work during the Cook-Off.   
  
***A unique worship experience coming on March 17!***  **The Prairie Wind Storytellers**:  For most folks in the first century, the books of the New Testament were heard rather than read, and that includes the gospels. Each gospel is its own literary piece, with its own variations of the story and its own themes. We miss those things when we read it piecemeal. On March 17, we will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Mark “told” to us by a talented group of folks who have memorized the entire gospel and present it as an oral story. This takes some time, so it will begin during worship, then we will pause for a light lunch, and then continue with the rest of the gospel—with a brief intermission. This is a unique way to experience a whole gospel as spoken word rather than a written text. You will hear it in a new way. Join us on March 17 and be prepared to be with us until about 1:30 p.m.   
**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. You may give through Easter Sunday; the offering will be dedicated April 7.

**Luminaria Sunday**: Many thanks for the love and support expressed on February 25, our 13th annual Luminaria Sunday. The lit luminaria bags that lined the sanctuary and the organ loft shelf were a very touching display. With your help we honored and remembered 109 family members and friends who have fought or are now fighting cancer and the many people who faithfully walk alongside them. Your donations, totaling $1,170.00, will go directly to the American Cancer Society for research to find a cure for cancer. A special thank you to Deb Bohi, who carefully wrote all the names on the luminaria bags.  
  
  
**From the Easter Party Task Force: Help us stuff Easter eggs today!**

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 today and on March10 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:\Users\Owner\Desktop\2020%20Pandemic%2001-28-22%20update\Dialog\February%202022\ridesrowdy@aol.com)); the deadline for orders is next Sunday, 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.

**All women invited: First Wednesday Women’s Breakfast!**Our next monthly Women’s Breakfast will be this Wednesday, March 6, 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](mailto:gretchen_fleming@yahoo.com)—if you have any questions. Danby’s Station is at 750 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn.  
  
  
**Jubilee Bucks: Order today!**  
Today (Sunday, March 3) is your only opportunity this month to order Jubilee Bucks gift cards. These cards can pay for groceries, personal products, gas, meals out, or could also find a place in Easter baskets. March is a month of five Sundays, so plan ahead. The next time to order will be April 7, which is after Easter.   
Your order can either be given to Bobbi Frey or emailed to her ([bobbifrey@aol.com](mailto:bobbifrey@aol.com)) by 9:00 p.m. today. Payment can be made when cards are delivered, which should be either March 5 or 6. **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 given in honor of the Worship Arts Team with love from a friend.  
**We give thanks to God for joys:**   
 - The Khouri family, friends of Derek Buckley, and their daughter Isabella, who had successful surgery; may she continue to heal in the ICU.   
 - Successful surgery for Kurt Ellinghausen, who is 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 Sunday and Monday this week (February 25-26), there were 4 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims) – 3 of them in Chicago! – killing 7 people and wounding 9 others. 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 pray for those affected by Tuesday’s severe storms and the deadly wildfires in Texas.  
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world  
**Blessed are those who mourn:**   
 - Rebecca Storey and her family on the death of her grandmother, Edna Miller  
 - The family and friends of Nex Benedict  
 - Katie Boston and her immediate and extended family on the death of her father, Rod Boehmer  
  - 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.***   
 - Sandy Lopata’s friend Rebecca Moeckler, whose markers are now normal  
 - Shelayne, a friend of Angela Smith  
 - The Boden-Nelson’s friend Jean Kamerman, recently diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer  
 - Marta Sundquist, that she continue to have good scans  
 - 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., Tim O., Laura P., 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 those who have medical concerns  
  - Karin Formento, prayers for healing from surgery; she is going home from the hospital but may need another procedure  
 - Oaklen, a grandchild of a friend of Tricia Smith, who is in ICU  
 - Angela Smith requests prayers for a good friend whose Parkinson’s has demanded she move to assisted living.  
 - 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   
 - Prayers for Shirley Johnson, grandmother of Nalani, Roxane, and Cyrus Johnson and stepmother of Steve Johnson, who is now in hospice care.  
  - We continue prayers for others 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 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](mailto: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, March 3 – *3rd Sunday in Lent*  
Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing [bobbifrey@aol.com](mailto: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. Meet at the food court; bring a phone or digital camera.  
**Monday, March 4 – Pastor’s Sabbath**   
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.   
**Tuesday, March 5  
 Staff calendar meeting** at 2:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Mission Ministry** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library  
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Wednesday, March 6  
 Women’s Breakfast** at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station **the March *Dialog* goes out**  
 **Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Lois Stevenson  **Thursday, March 7** **Deadline for the narrative reports for the Annual Reports booklets**  
 Hawthorn Garden Club will park here while on a field trip **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
 **Young Adults Online** at 8:30 p.m.  **Friday, March 8**  
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Saturday, March 9  
 Set your clocks to “spring ahead” one hour before you go to bed!  
Next** **Sunday,** **March 10 – *4th Sunday in Lent*Daylight Saving Time begins**!  
 **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

**Bearing Fruit – March 3, 2024**

**Leaves and Flowers**

Southminster received its charter from the Presbyterian Church USA on March 5, 1961. The charter was issued to the Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church, which within the first year was renamed Southminster Presbyterian Church. Sunday, March 5, 1961 was also the very first meeting of our Session at Wagner School. It could also be said that March 5 is the birthday of Southminster Presbyterian Church. Happy 63rd birthday, everyone!  
  
We celebrate God’s work and presence in us when we celebrate our birthday. It is not about us, but it is about what God is doing through us and around us. One way we celebrate is by dedicating the leaves on our Living Legacy Tree. Each leaf represents a life lived in the Kingdom of God here on Park Boulevard. This tree is about stories of lives invested in serving our Lord. A bronze leaf is a memorial leaf in honor of our beloved members who have died. A silver leaf represents a living gift. Some of these gifts are given by people for milestones, birthdays, graduations, and anniversaries. Others are simply gifts given in gratitude for what the Lord has done. A gold leaf represents a legacy gift, a gift given when Southminster is remembered in a will.   
  
Many stories are represented by the leaves on our Living Legacy Tree; each leaf is a story about God’s love active in a person’s life. The tree branches stretch both backward with stories of the past but also forward into the future, because each financial gift represented by a leaf helps fund the future ministry of Southminster. Through the Endowment Funds, investment income finances new programs, property capital projects, and mission. This is one of the ways we are blessed to be a blessing. We are community, a church grafted onto the family tree of God where we bless and invite people to belong and believe.   
  
There are several ways to pray, not just with words but with actions as well. Our Living Legacy Fund represents the prayers of our people in gratitude for the life lived and loved at Southminster, as well as continued blessing and ministry into our future.   
  
Another prayer enacted among us is the flowers which sit below the Lord’s Table on the chancel in the Sanctuary. Generally, people give flowers in honor, remembrance, or gratitude to God. Today’s flowers are given in honor of the Worship Arts Team by a friend.  
  
Flowers and leaves are among the ways we bear the fruit of God’s love at Southminster.