**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**4th Sunday in Lent**

**March 10, 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 “Prairie Wind Storytellers Guild.”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

 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* (all 4 verses)pg. 22, gold worship supplement

 Call to Worship  (Romans 12:9-12)

 Leader: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good;

 **People: Love one another with mutual affection;
 outdo one another in showing honor.**

 Leader: Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord.

 **People: Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.**

 **All:** **In all we do, we seek to love God and neighbor.**

 Hymn: *Grace Alone*  pg. 16, gold worship supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Loving God, we are not always loving. Jesus invites us to follow, but we do so half-heartedly. We judge, we condemn, and we love with condition. We forget to seek healing from your heart of mercy. Forgive us, and through your grace and the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to faithfully follow in your path. We ask this in the name of Jesu 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 (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: (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.**

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Pew Bible, p. 163, O.T.)

 Mark 12:28-34 Pew Bible, p. 49, N.T.)

 Sermon: “Not Far Off”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) (1 John 4:7-9)

**Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.**

 Hymn 729: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (*all)

 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: *Give to My Eyes*  Ronald Corp

 \**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 722: *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak* (verses 1-4)

 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: Lynn Ferino
Greeter/Fellowship: Elise Henkels
Music: Tom Anderson, Victor King
Worship Assistant: Blair Nelson

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Daniel Kozich

The flowers today are from Derek and Jonathon Buckley and Delmar Meester in memory of Linda Meester.

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 is an opportunity coming up for you to share your photos:
 March 17: “**Your Favorite Teams**” – Any teams, any and all sports! Send photos by Thursday, March 14.

**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.

**Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held
Sunday, March 24, at the close of the worship service.**The reports booklets should be ready for you to pick up next Sunday, March 17.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Matthew presents a version of the gospel for Christians who were confused by their times and wondering about their identity. Join us at 11:15 a.m. on Sundays in the Parlor/Library or online as we study this fascinating and important gospel. Online link: [<https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>](https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye).

**Men of Southminster**: Join us for coffee and donuts (male health food?) on Saturday, March 16, at 9:00 a.m. for fellowship and stories of our lives and God's role in them. Ready to tell your story? Contact Blair N.

**Youth**:  Hope the photo scavenger hunt was fun. No youth event this weekend, and Spring Break is coming, so watch for information for April and don’t forget the Easter Party on Saturday, March 30. The Talent Show is April 21, so it is time to think skits and other acts.

**The Talent Show** is coming Sunday, April 21. The sign-up sheet for your act is on the Narthex bulletin board. Don’t hide your talent under a basket!

***A unique worship experience coming next Sunday, March 17!***  **The telling of the Gospel of Mark:**
We have. real treat coming next Sunday. The Prairie Wind Guild of storytellers will be "telling" the Gospel of Mark. This is a unique opportunity to hear an entire gospel. This takes some time, so they will begin during the service, then fellowship time will include a light lunch brought to you by our deacons, after which we will hear the rest of the story, with a short intermission. This may go as late as 1:30 p.m.
A free will offering will be taken for the guild.
**From the Mission Ministry:**

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

For 75 years, Presbyterians have participated in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) 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, One Great Hour of Sharing supports three programs: 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.

Coming soon – **March Mission Madness**, in which your competitive spirit benefits the missions that Southminster sponsors! Keep your eye on NCAA basketball (both the men’s and women’s tournaments!) The teams will be selected next Sunday, and once they are, you have only a few days to make and file your bracket predictions. See the March *Dialog* and an eBlast you’ll receive this Friday for information about how you can join the fun.

**From the Easter Party Task Force: Help us stuff Easter eggs today!**

We are 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.***

Here’s another way you can help: Join us in the Narthex today 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.)

Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join the fun on Easter Saturday when we once again open the doors to the community to offer a family friendly Easter Party, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 30. The party begins with hands-on crafts and an interactive, walk-through Easter Story. We finish the morning with a gigantic Easter egg hunt.

The fun goes on rain or shine, and no reservations are needed. Get the word out – all are invited!

**From the Worship Ministry**: **The deadline for ordering Easter flowers is today!**

Easter will be here soon – be 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 today, 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.

**Please join us for worship services during Holy Week**:
Sunday, March 24 – **Palm/Passion Sunday** – worship service at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, March 28 – **Maundy Thursday**– worship service with communion at 7:30 p.m.
 (The choir will rehearse after the service.)
Friday, March 29 – **Good Friday: “Seven Last Words from the Cross”** – worship service
 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 31 – **Easter/The Resurrection of the Lord**! Worship with us at 9:30 a.m.

**Women’s Circle this month:**Our March meeting will be this Friday, March 15, at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. After refreshments and our business meeting, Rita Boserup Zapel will present a program about her recent trip to Australia. She has some interesting adventures and pictures to share with us. All women are invited!

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet Wednesday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Our March book is *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. (Have you seen the movie? Now read the book!) 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 $471.52 so far this year of “free” money from those orders! The next order date is April 7. **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. Your donations are very greatly appreciated!!!

PRC has provided a list of the items that are most needed. Copies are printed on bright green paper and are in the stand on the nametag shelf (main hallway – across from the offices). You can view the list online at the PRC website: <https://www.peoplesrc.org/give-food-or-goods/>. Many thanks to all who continue to support PRC’s mission to meet our communities’ needs, neighbor to neighbor.

**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 by Derek and Jonathon Buckley and Delmar Meester in memory of Linda.
**We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - for Sandy Lopata’s friend, Rebecca Moeckler, whose cancer markers are now normal
 - Marta Sundquist, that she continue to have good scans
 - 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. In the first 4 days of March there were 6 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims), killing 9 people and wounding 31 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 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.***
  - We continue to pray for: Bobby B. (Wendy Boden), Frank B., Katie B., Tom G., Dean L., Frank L., Jean K., Jan M., Nikki M., Tim O., Laura P., Betty R., Gerry S., Meagan S., Beverly W., Shelayne, 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
 - Oaklen, a grandchild of a friend of Tricia Smith, who is in ICU
 - 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 continue prayers for those in hospice care: Shirley Johnson, grandmother of Nalani, Roxane, and Cyrus Johnson and stepmother of Steve Johnson; 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. (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 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
 **Endowment Task Force** at 11:00 a.m. in the Choir Room
 **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, March 11 – Pastor’s Sabbath**
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, March 12
 Knitting Circle** at 10:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Staff calendar meeting** at 2:30 p.m. in McHenry 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, March 13
 eNotes go out**
 **Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Lois Stevenson
 **Property Ministry** at 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Thursday, March 14
 No choir rehearsal**
 **Young Adults Online** at 8:30 p.m.  **Friday, March 15
 Women’s Circle** at 9:30 a.m. in McHenry Parlo/Library
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, March 16
 Southminster Men** meet at 9:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Next** **Sunday,** **March 17 – *5th Sunday in Lent***
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
**The Prairie Wind Storytellers Guild** will present the entire Gospel of Mark. They will begin during the worship service, then during fellowship time there will be a light lunch for all, thanks for Southminster’s Deacons. Following fellowship/lunch, we will return to the sanctuary for the rest of the story. We expect the entire event to last until around 1:30 p.m.

**Bearing Fruit – March 10, 2024
Get ready! 2024 March Mission Madness is almost upon us!**College basketball is heating up, and March Madness is almost upon us. Which means... it’s almost time for March Mission Madness at Southminster! It’s a fun-loving way to combine your competitive spirit with the chance to raise money for the missions we support. This year we are following both the NCAA Men’s and Women’s tournaments. The team selections for both will be announced next Sunday evening, March 17.
Though the matchups will not be announced until next week, it is not too early to choose which of our Southminster missions you’ll support when you win! These are the missions we support: Bridge Communities, Cuba Sister Church, DuPage PADS, Metropolitan Family Services, People’s Resource Center, Walk-In Ministry, World Relief, and the Youth Mission Trip.

The entry is a minimum $15 donation per tournament bracket, but there’s nothing saying that you can’t donate more or create multiple tournament brackets at $15 each. If you win you will have bragging rights and the privilege of determining which SPC Mission from the list above that will receive the proceeds from the pool of money donated. The individuals with the three highest point totals in the men’s and women’s tournaments will each determine which Mission will get their share of the pool. The overall winner gets unfettered bragging rights and the opportunity to have their school’s fight song played in worship. It’s not gambling, so anyone of any age can join in. Friends and extended family are welcome, too. You don’t need to be a sports fan to get in on this fun.

You can begin filling out your bracket predictions as soon as the teams are announced. **Your brackets need to be completed no later than 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 21 (men’s) and Friday, March 22 (women’s).** The championship games are Sunday, April 7 for the women and Monday, April 8 for the men.
The best basketball minds in the world are known for lousy bracket picks. You choose however you like. Some people pick purely by how the teams are seeded, what conference they’re from, others by the name of the team, others by the color of the uniforms, others by how cute the mascot is. You can’t go wrong – because some of our SPC missions will be the real winners, so join in on the fun! Who will keep score of all the entries? We will use the ESPN website. You will need to create an account on ESPN.go.com. We’ll have our own webpage that will keep all of the scoring for our SPC March “Mission” Madness. Everyone that participated last year can use their same account this year. In other words, no need to go through the account set-up procedure again, assuming you still has your login information. Ugh, create an account that sounds like a hassle. Don’t worry, it’s a simple process. ***We will send out instructions in an eBlast on Friday***, but if you need help, see our Master of the Madness Troy Hammer after worship today or email him at hammer.troy@gmail.com.

In all of this fun we have the joy of Bearing God’s love.