**Script for worship participants**

**Wendy preaching, Ann Anderson, liturgist
Music: Cindy Trowbridge, Dr. Derek Buckley**

**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**5th Sunday of Lent**

**March 17, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

Find the link for the service on one of these sites:

1) our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>2) our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/worship-videos>3) our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos>

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.

**If you are running late, please call or text Wendy’s cell: 630-917-6033**

**Please review this script in advance and be prepared for clarification.**

**The blue text is to indicate the camera angles to use.**

**Music Sunday**

Staff: **David, Blair N., Wendy**

Audio Participants: **Special Music: Derek,** Pastor, Liturgist (**Ann**), M4M (**Troy**),
 **Storytellers**

8:25a **Tech**: **David**, check batteries, turn on A/V and lights

 Pulpit and Hand-held mic check (David use hand held
               for mic check)

8:30a: **Cindy** arrives, immediately checks piano/ mic
 **Storytellers** arrive
 **Blair N.** and **Ann** arrive

9:00 a: **Derek** arrives

……… Prayer time

9:00a: No more sounds through mics. This is a time for Audio to play-back,
                make adjustments, ensure live feed is working.

9:15a: Gathering music starts.

**Ann, please be present in the chancel at 8:30 as we physically walk through the entire service beginning to end. David, we need you to see where we choose to stand.**

**Everyone should be present at 9:00 for sound check and prayer with chancel personnel. Liturgist, please use your Scripture Lesson for the sound check. We will want to hear how all the mics sound together.

From the end of the prayer until the slide show begins at 9:15, you are free to do what you may need to do outside the sanctuary.**

**At 9:15 the Gathering Music and Photo Story will begin. We should all be in the sanctuary then.**

**Ann will walk in with Wendy during the Gathering Music. Meet by the baptismal font.**

**Ann will speak from the Pulpit; Wendy from pulpit, Table, etc..**

**At 9:30 Wendy will go to the Lord’s Table as a signal to stop playing.**

 1. [**PowerPoint/slideshow**]
Gathering Music **(Cindy)**

 Our Photo Story today is “Our Favorite Teams.”

        **(prerecorded)**

2 [**Chancel and sign**]

  Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission  **(Wendy, Troy Hammer M4M)**

**David – Please put up our address slide after Wendy says good morning.**

1. **We are Southminster Glen Ellyn. Our website address is on the slide – you can go to the web site if you want to print out the bulletin for this service.**
2. **Also, I would like to get to know you. Let me know when we might connect over a beverage – my treat.**

**The technology pronouncements:**

1. **Turn off cell phones in the sanctuary.**
2. **Please stand in body or in spirit when asked to do so.**
3. **We are trying to connect with those who are watching at home: Ask for words of peace or prayer requests typed into the comments on Facebook. If you don’t want your name mentioned, we won’t.**
4. **We have gold bookmarks in the pews if you would like to mark pages in your Bible or hymnal. Also mention water bottles.**
5. **Mention Bearing Fruit – Story Tellers**
6. **Please connect with Tom Anderson if you are willing to help us lead worship through music. Next Rehearsal is this Thursday, March 21**
7. **Remember the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that we are collecting during Lent**
8. **Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held next Sunday, March 24, at the close of the worship service. You may pick up your copy of the annual report today.**
9. **M4M: Troy Hammer for March Mission Madness**

 3a [**Table and Pulpit**]

 Lighting the Candles **(Wendy will speak, and**  **Ann will light the candles)**

(John 1:5)

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

 3b [**Cross/Cindy/Chancel**]

 Prelude: *Andantino* Mozart **(Cindy)**

**Wendy: Please remain seated as we begin worship.**

 4 [**Piano & cross & congregation**]

 Hymn: *Speak, O Lord* page 38, gold supplement

 5 Call to Worship               **(Wendy)**

 Wendy: This is the day that the Lord has made!

 **All:** **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**Wendy: And now please rise in body or in spirit as we continue
 to worship God in song.**

6 [**Piano & cross & congregation**]

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

7 [**Pulpit**]

      Prayer of Confession:    (unison)          **(Ann)**

**Please continue to stand in body or in spirit.**

**Let us open our hearts and minds to the truth of our lives,
and let us offer that truth to God. Please join me in the Prayer of Confession.**

    *(or whatever you might like to say to invite people to pray)*

**Let us pray:**

**Wondrous God, your love is wider than our sight; your grace is more wonderful than we can sing. You have called each of us by name, but we have not always answered. Help us to pause in this time together to hear your voice once again so that we will pick up our crosses and follow you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Now hear our personal and silent prayers. Amen.**

Then say:

**Let us continue to offer our hearts to God.**

Allow time for Silent Prayers (count to 30 or say a silent prayer.
You might try this one: *“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, son of David, have mercy upon me.”*).

   To conclude the silent prayers, please say:

 **We pray these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ
   who is our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

8 [**Chancel**]

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

 (**Ann at pulpit)**

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

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

 **Ann**: Christ rose for us!

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

 **Ann**: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

 **All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

9 [**Cindy**]

 Response: *Kyrie*

**This is pg. 1 in the 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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10 [**Pulpit, then pan**]

      The Passing of the Peace                                                     **(Ann)**

**“And now let us offer one another the peace of Christ saying, ‘The peace of Christ be with you.’”**

**Wendy: Are there any words of peace from the people online?**

Please be seated for the Word with Children.

11a Word with Children **(Wendy)**

Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

**Children remain in worship today. As they return to their seats**:

11b *This Little Light of Mine*  (sing 1 time) **(Cindy)**

**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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12 [**Table and pulpit**]

  Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer             **(Wendy and Ann)**

**Ann at the pulpit during the Prayers of the People.
Wendy at the Lord’s Table with a microphone.**

A) Wendy prays the Prayers of the People – any prepared prayer concerns
 plus the joys and concerns from the slips that people have written.

B) **After all the petitions, the pastor will say “Lord, in your mercy”**

**Then Ann (for people) responds “Hear our prayers.”**

C) **Then Ann will pray this:**

**God bless all the World.** (pause)

**Guard our children,** (pause)

**Guide our public servants,**(pause)

**And give us peace.**

D) **The Lord’s Prayer**       **(Wendy)**

**Now together we pray the prayer that you taught your disciples:**

**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.**

**Wendy: And now we reflect on God’s love in the story of Scripture.**

    Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts                              **(Wendy)**

[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.]

13 [**Chancel/cross**]

  Offertory: *Lenten Reflection*   **(Derek - organ)**

14 [**Lanny to Table**]

 *Doxology* (Hymnal 606) **(Cindy)**

**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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15 [**Pulpit**]

  Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication             **(Ann at pulpit
           Wendy holds plate)**

Liturgist, use this one today:

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:**

**God of heaven and earth, you call us to come in humility before you, bringing the offering of our very selves. Accept all we have and all we are, O God, in the service of Jesus Christ, and strengthen us with your Spirit’s power, now and forever. Amen.**

Prairie Wind Guild Storytellers

The Gospel of Mark

15a [**Pulpit**] Introduction **(Wendy)**

15b [**Pulpit**]

         Prayer for Illumination     **(Ann)**

**Liturgist, use this one today:**

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

15c [**Chancel**]

 Sermon: The Gospel of Mark

**Wendy:** And now please rise in body or in spirit as we continue
 to worship God in song.

16 [**Piano & cross & congregation**]

 Hymn 721: *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* (all 4 verses)

17 [**Chancel**]

**Wendy, final announcements?**

1. **Invitation to Lunch**

  Charge and Benediction     (**Wendy & Ann on chancel steps)**

Wendy gives a benediction.

 Wendy: Now go and serve the Lord,

 **Ann/People**: **For we are blessed to be a blessing!**

 **Extinguish 5 candles**

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:  For Jesus’ sake. **All:  Amen.**

Wendy and Ann walk out.

18 Postlude: *Allegretto* Stanley (**Cindy)**

19 [**Run PhotoStory and announcements a few moments after
 the postlude.**]

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20 Lunch and Fellowship

21 The Story Continues

22 Intermission

23 And now for the rest of the story…

24 Hymn: *I Love to Tell the Story* **(Patricia Lind)**

**I love to tell the story; the story changes things.
It challenges the powers - it whispers, thunders, sings!
It births the holy presence in moments of surprise,
It heals, empowers and strengthens; it opens ears and eyes!
I love to tell the story of Jesus and his glory
because it is God's story of justice, peace and love!**

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25 Postlude: *Thy Word* Michael W. Smith, arr. John Carter (**Patricia)**

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Ann Anderson
Greeter/Fellowship: Paul Jeziorski
Music: Cindy Trowbridge, Dr. Derek Buckley
The Gospel of Mark: The Prairie Wind Guild of Storytellers
Worship Assistant: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are from Heidi and Steve Shierry to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

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. This week we will have a light lunch during fellowship time, and cupcakes celebrating the Shierrys’ 40th wedding anniversary. After fellowship, we will return to the sanctuary for the next part of the Gospel of Mark.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study** will not meet because of the storytellers’ presentation.

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 for upcoming opportunities to share your photos.

**Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held
next Sunday, March 24, at the close of the worship service.**You may pick up your reports booklet today; read it over during the week
and bring it back with you for the meeting.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  No class today so we can all hear the presentation of the Gospel of Mark in a unique way!

**Youth**:  No events for the rest of March, but we gotta get involved in the **Easter Party** on Saturday, March 30, ‘cause it is so much fun! Then, we will have a **Pizza & Games** on April 7.  Remember that **Talent Show** is coming up April 21, so let’s get noodling on that.

**The Talent Show!** Yes, you have talent, so sign up your act on the Narthex bulletin board and get ready to perform on Sunday, April 21. Our annual Talent Show is both a fun time that we spend together as a church family and a fundraiser for our Youth Mission Trip. Nine Southminsterians are heading to Dexter, Maine, in June for a week of workcamp, serving folks in the name of Jesus and as part of Southminster’s mission.
**From the Mission Ministry:**

Coming this week – **March Mission Madness**, in which your competitive spirit benefits the missions that Southminster sponsors! We follow the NCAA men’s and women’s basketball tournaments, which everyone refers to as March Madness. You use whatever method you want to select a bracket predicting the winners, sign up following the instructions that went out in an eBlast on Friday, and donate a minimum of $15 per bracket to Southminster. At the end of the tournament, the people with the most points win bragging rights for the year… and the right to name which Southminster-supported mission will receive their share of the pot. It’s not gambling, since you don’t actually win the money yourself, so anyone, any age, can play. The winners in the end are the missions we support!

If you didn’t get the sign-up instructions by email Friday, there are copies in the narthex (on the shelf by the Mission board) and on the nametag shelf in the front hallway. For help, consult the Master of the Madness, Troy Hammer: hammer.troy@gmail.com. He will be in the Narthex after worship today to help you sign up.

**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.

 **Repeat Boutique clothing collection**: During the entire month of April, we will collect gently-used clothing for Repeat Boutique, which is a facility that provides clothing to refugees who come to this country via World Relief. **They especially need children’s clothing**, but they can also use any gently-used adult clothing. Beginning the first Sunday of April, there will be a large box in the coat room in which you may deposit your donations.

**From the Worship Ministry**:
**Please join us for worship services during Holy Week**:
Next 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.

**From the Easter Party Task Force:**

The time for our community Easter Saturday Party is nearing, and we need some volunteers!

> Help us set up for the party after worship (and the annual congregational meeting)
 next Sunday - meet in Fellowship Hall

> Help us at the party - we need Easter egg hunt volunteers (to spread eggs), and Easter
 party helpers (help with crafts, help clean up)

Please let Chris Kozich know if you can help with these!

Today the Easter Party prep table is in the Endowment corner of the Narthex - please stop by to see how you might help.

Also, 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!

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet this 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 Heidi and Steve Shierry in celebration of their 40th weddings anniversary.
**We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Marta Sundquist had a clean MRI scan on Thursday! “Clean” means there is a void where the tumor was but no blood supply feeding it, no new growth. She is done with chemo and will continue Optune and have regular MRIs. The next MRI will be May 30.
**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 10 days of March there were 11 mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims), killing 12 people and wounding 58 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 all those affected by deadly tornados Thursday night in Ohio and surrounding states and those who were impacted by a huge winter storm in Colorado.
  - We pray for our nation as we continue to wrestle with race relations.
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world
**Blessed are those who mourn:**
 - The family and friends of Erik Lonvik, a Glenbard West senior, football player, and Eagle Scout, who died suddenly last week of a previously undetected heart condition
 - Rebecca Storey and her family on the death of her grandmother, Edna Miller
 - 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., Frank B., Katie B., Tom G., Dean L., Frank L., Jean K., Jan M., Nikki M., Rebecca 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
 - Continued prayers for the Khouri family, friends of Derek Buckley, and their daughter Isabella. She is home and on daily dialysis until they’re able to find a kidney donor.
 - Karin Formento, who will have heart surgery-related surgery on March 25
 - Oaklen, a grandchild of a friend of Tricia Smith, who has birth defects
 - 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 as he seeks sound medical advice re his heart condition
 - 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 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, with cupcakes from Heidi and Steve Shierry to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. 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.
**Monday, March 18 – Pastor’s Sabbath
 Begin registering brackets for March Mission Madness!** Voting equipment delivered
 Election judges here in p.m. to set up for Tuesday’s general election
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
**Tuesday, March 19
 General Primary Election** – Fellowship Hall will be in use all day as a polling place **Register brackets for March Mission Madness!
 Session** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room
**Wednesday, March 20** **Register brackets for March Mission Madness!** Voting equipment will be picked up **eNotes go out**
 **Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Lois Stevenson
 **Presbyterian Readers** meet at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
**Thursday, March 21
 Register brackets for March Mission Madness! (****Deadline for men’s tournament brackets is 10:00 a.m. today.)
 Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
 **Young Adults Online** at 8:30 p.m.  **Friday, March 22
 March Mission Madness – the deadline to register brackets for the women’s tournament is 10:00 a.m. today.**
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **March 24 – *Palm/Passion Sunday***
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **The Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will take place at the end of the worship service. **Fellowship time** will follow the meeting.
 **Easter Party set-up** will begin after the congregational meeting. Meet in Fellowship Hall.
 **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 17, 2024**

**Making God’s Story Our Story**
Today we will have a unique worship experience! The Prairie Wind Guild of Biblical Storytellers are with us. This talented band of storytellers will “tell” the entire Gospel of Mark.

We read the gospels in bit-sized pieces, but they were intended to be heard… and heard in their entirety. The story takes some time, so it will begin as the sermon portion of worship, followed by a free light lunch courtesy of our deacons during fellowship time. (By the way, we will also have cupcakes at fellowship courtesy of Steve and Heidi Shierry, who are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary.) Then we will return to the sanctuary for the rest of the story, with a short intermission part way through. (We expect this event to last until around 1:30 p.m.) You will hear the gospel as you have never heard it before. A free will offering will be taken for the storytellers.

Have you ever rehearsed or practiced for a big event? Think wedding, play, or presentation. We do that so when the time comes, we get it right! Christians rehearse, practice, or retell the story of God’s encounter with people so that it becomes part of us. With the gospels, in particular, we practice, rehearse, and retell the story of Jesus each year to get it right **in** us. The story is to become part of us.

Our storytellers are giving us an opportunity to have God’s story become part of us. This Lent and Easter we will rehearse and retell the story of Jesus on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the interactive “Walk through the Easter Story” at our Easter Party. Join us. Together we bear the fruit of God’s love.

Next 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.
Saturday, March 30 – The **Easter Party** starts at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 31 – **Easter/The Resurrection of the Lord**! Worship with us
 at 9:30 a.m.

All four gospels stand in the shadow of the cross and in the sunrise of the empty tomb. Easter Sunday is a celebration of God’s love for us that we rehearse every Sunday we meet, but on Resurrection Sunday it is a very special story indeed. Let’s make the stories we tell about God and God’s active love for us part of our conversations this coming year.

**Welcome, musicians!**
Today we once again welcome Cindy Trowbridge as our substitute accompanist for worship. We are also grateful to one of our newest members, Dr. Derek Buckley, for the gift of the organ offertory.