**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**2nd Sunday of Easter**

**April 7, 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 “Our Easter Party 2024.”

Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Mission

Congregational Prayer of Dedication for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

**Lord God in Jesus Christ, you have restored our hope and empowered us to share that hope with the people of the earth. May our gifts for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering relieve hunger, strengthen communities, be your presence in times of disaster, and help others experience your love. Amen.**

Prelude: *Divertimento in C* Haydn

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

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

Call to Worship  (Mary Mae Swartzentruber, edited)

Leader: We are here today because the weeping Mary of Magdala once said:

**People: “I have seen the Lord!”**

Leader: We are here this morning because Jesus still comes   
 into our locked spaces and says:

**People: “Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit.”**

Leader: We share the good news: The Lord is risen!

**All: He is risen indeed!**

Hymn 236: *The Strife Is O’er* (all verses)

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, we often focus on the stories of our own lives, rather than the great good news of the resurrection. We forget that you have conquered sin and death. We are slow to bring your good news to our sisters and brothers. Open our eyes to the new life you have set before us. Forgive us for our limited point of view and equip us again to become Easter people who seek to love God, neighbor, one another, and our enemies. In Christ’s name, 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 240: *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* (verse 1)

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is the Lord of all the earth.**

**He is the King of creation.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

Text and Music: Donald Fishel, 1971 © 1973 *International Liturgy Publications*

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The Passing of the Peace

Word with Children: (Sarah Allen)

Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

As children go back to their families:

*I Danced in the Morning* (refrain) Hymnal 157

Refrain:

**Dance then, wherever you may be;**

**I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,**

**And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,**

**And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

CCLI Song # 78529

Sydney Bertram Carter

Words: Stainer & Bell Ltd; Music: Stainer & Bell Ltd

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Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:  1 John 1:2-4 Pew Bible, p. 238, N.T.)

John 20:19-31 Pew Bible, p. 115, N.T.)

Sermon: “Seeing Is Believing” Elder Jim Davidovich

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 246: *Christ Is Alive!* (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: *My Jesus, I Love Thee* arr. Kohlmann

\**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.

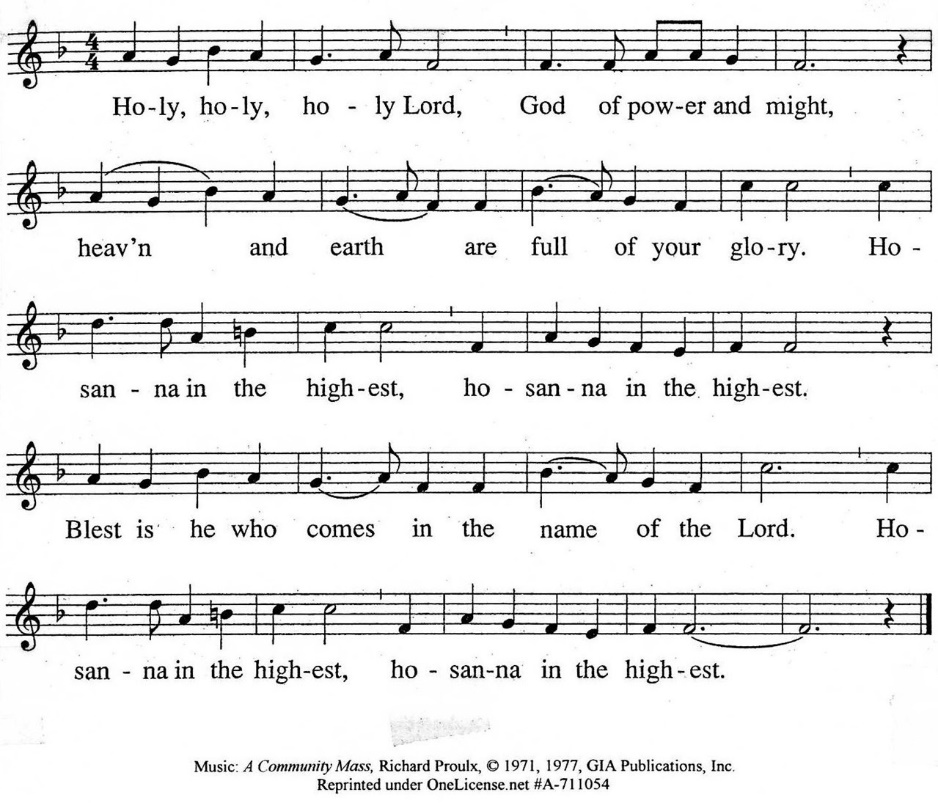
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

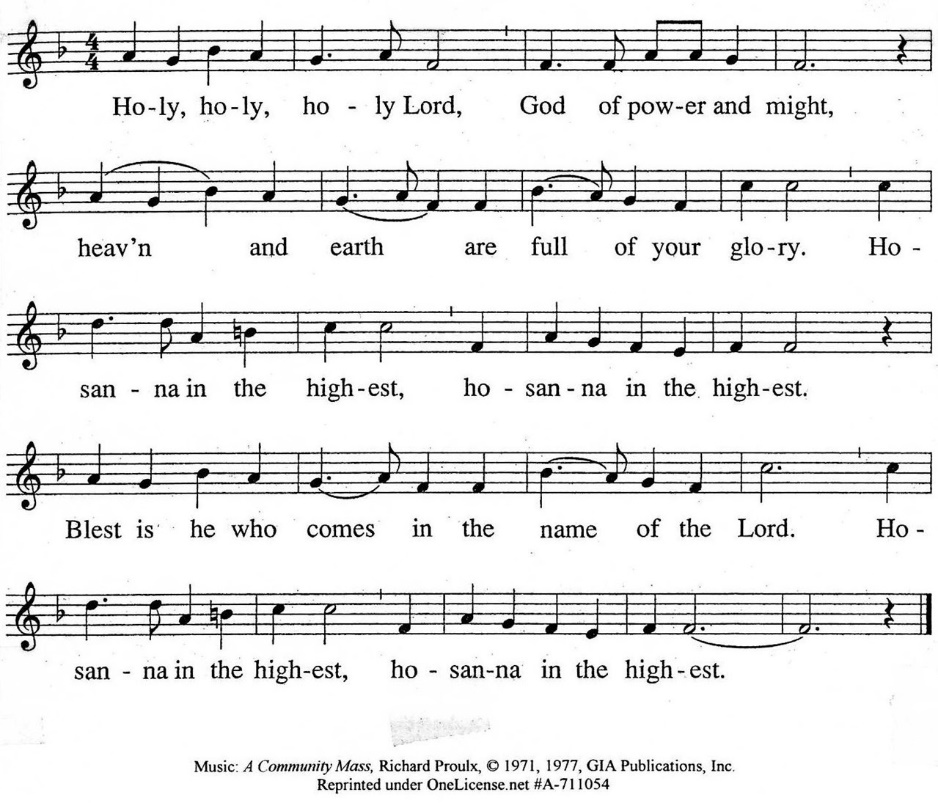
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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:  *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*  arr. Alexander

*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 238: *Thine Is the Glory* (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.**  Leader:  For the Lord is risen! **All:  He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Postlude: *Jesus Shall Reign*  arr. Hayes

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Guest preacher: Elder Jim Davidovich

Liturgist: Andrea Schmidt

Worship Host: Sarah Allen

Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Linda Ellinghausen

Guest pianist: Cindy Trowbridge

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Daniel Kozich

The flowers today are given by Ann Anderson in memory of her mother, Shirley Patterson.

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.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study** will not meet today.  
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.

We continue to be live on **Sunday morning for worship** at 9:30 a.m. (slideshow beginning at 9:15) on YouTube at  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>

If you are watching from home on Facebook, please check in and say hello so we can see that you have joined us. This is one way to make worship less “remote” and strengthen community at Southminster.

*The live video will appear about 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.*

*If for any reason the feed falters, rest assured that a recording will be posted to Facebook and You Tube as soon as possible.*

You can also find links to recordings of the weekday sessions, special services, and Sunday worship posted on our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/> or by going to our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos>

**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us feel connected!**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us prepare for worship, connect with one another, and make sure that our at-home people get both sound and sight. Here are some opportunities coming up for you to share your photos:  
 April 14: “**Thank You, Worship Arts**” – Photos of the church decorated for one of the   
 special seasons/services. Send photos by this Thursday, April 11.   
 April 21: “**Your Earth Day Photos**” – Send photos by Thursday, April 18.  
 April 28: “**Our Talent Show**” – Send photos by Thursday, April 25.  
  
**Send photos to our dedicated email address, used just for photos:**[PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org](mailto:PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org)**.** (If you only have hard copies of your photos, please leave them in the photo box on Pastor Wendy’s desk, labeled with your name and the date they are to be used.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**    
**Adult Education**:  No class today, but our Sunday-after-worship Bible class will continue next Sunday with our study of Matthew’s gospel. Join us for edification, enlightenment, and enjoyment. We meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.in the Parlor/Library and online via this link: [<https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>](https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye).

**Men of Southminster**: Take a break from the rush of life and join our next gathering of the guys: Wednesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor/Library. We will have snacks/dessert (got any ideas or cravings—let Blair N know) and hear some more stories of our lives and what God has done for us.   
  
**Youth**:  **No Pizza & Games today**! But… We’ll have **Pizza & Games** next Sunday, April 14, which is *critically important* because it is our last chance to develop our **Talent Show** acts. So, come with ideas and enthusiasm and all your talent! The Talent Show will be April 21 at 6:00 p.m.

**The Talent Show:** Our annual Talent Show is coming at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 21. This is a fundraiser for the Youth Mission Team and a whole lot of family fun. But, *there is no show without the talent*. Now is the time to sign up, so put your John/Jane Doe and the name of your act on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, because the show must go on!   
Talented or not, do plan to come, enjoy… and support our Youth Mission Team!  
  
**Youth Mission Team**: Our trip to Dexter, Maine, in June is not that far away (June 20-30). So, be sure to do your online form for Group (see Blair’s last email).  
Get your act together (literally) for our **Talent Show** on April 21st. ***Can you join our youth on April 14th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. to help develop their skits, etc.?*** Please let Blair N know if you can be there.

**From the Mission Ministry:**

During the entire month of April we are making a collection of gently-used clothing for **Repeat Boutique**, which is a shop that provides clothing to those in need, including 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. There is a large box in the coat room in which you may deposit your donations.  
  
March Madness and **March Mission Madness** are going strong! How well are your brackets doing? We won’t know the outcome until the championship games – later today, April 7, for the women and tomorrow, April 8, for the men. Even if you aren’t one of the top finishers, the winners in the end are the missions and projects we support!   
If you haven’t yet contributed your $15 per bracket (or more, if you feel like it!), please write a check to Southminster and add your bracket name(s) on the memo line so our treasurer can reconcile the contributions.

**From the Worship Ministry**:

The **flower chart** for the remainder of 2024 is posted in the narthex. Please sign up in person or email Sarah Allen, [ridesrowdy@aol.com](mailto:ridesrowdy@aol.com) with your choice of flower dates and honoree. Flowers remain $35.00 per arrangement. Thank you for your support of the Flower Ministry at Southminster.

**From the Property Ministry**: **Save the date – Saturday, April** 27  
Our annual **Spring Clean-Up Day** will be Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Rain date: Saturday, May 4) You’re invited to join us – indoors and out – as we care for our beautiful church and grounds. Check with any Property Ministry member for ideas about what our projects will be and how you can help.  
  
  
**From the Jeremiah Task Force: Join us for lunch on April 28!**Please plan to join us for lunch on Sunday morning, April 28, at 11:00 in Fellowship Hall. The meal is free for all! We would like to discuss the book that was our Lenten reading: *When Church Stops Working: A future for your congregation beyond more money, programs, and innovation.* Everyone is welcome to join us for the Jeremiah Task Force Luncheon, whether you are a member or friend. Watch for a sign-up sheet—you’re not required to sign up to attend the meal, but knowing how many people to expect will help us know how much food to have!  
  
  
If you like to read, you’ll like the **Presbyterian Readers** book group! The Readers next meet on Wednesday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Our April book is *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick.

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

**We will not meet on May 15th** due to a church conflict. We will discuss an alternative date at the April meeting.

All women are invited to join the **Presbyterian Women’s** meeting on Friday, April 19, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor/Library. We will enjoy fellowship, refreshments, a brief business meeting and a special travel program on India by guest Dr. Karen Boden, our pastor’s sister, who travelled to that country in 2019. Karen will discuss India’s religious, political, and economic landscape.

**Jubilee Bucks: Order today!**Your only opportunity to order Jubilee Bucks gift cards this month is Sunday, April 7. Jubilee Bucks cards can pay for groceries, personal products, gas, meals out, or can be given as gifts. You can give your order directly to Bobbi Frey or email it to her ([bobbifrey@aol.com](mailto:bobbifrey@aol.com)) by 9:00 p.m. on April 7. Payment can be made when cards are delivered. Next order date: May 5 **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 Ann Anderson in memory of her mother, Shirley Patterson.  
**We give thanks to God for joys:**   
 - Mary How Ching (a Burmese mom) passed her citizenship test last week!  
 - Thanks and praise that Ian Anderson has a new job!  
 - From Tricia Smith: “My sister (Betty Rupley) has been told she is now cancer free. Praise God!”  
 - Floyd Rogers had asked for prayers for his sister, Beth, who was undergoing tests prior to having a cardioversion procedure. She did well and is back home and in good spirits.   
 - Marta Sundquist had a clean MRI scan! “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.  
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**   
 - All who have been affected by the bridge collapse in Baltimore, especially the families of the workers who had no chance to get off the bridge before it collapsed.  
 - Peace for Haiti and Sudan  
  - Pray for our President and our legislative and judicial bodies  
 - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. On just one day – Monday, April 1 – there were 59 incidents of gun violence in 26 states and the District of Columbia, killing 20 people and wounding 44 others. Go to [the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/last-72-hours) to see current statistics for shootings in our country.  
  - 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:**   
 - Barb Doppelt requests prayers for the family and friends of Jamie Insco, who died on Easter at age 43 after suffering a massive stroke and never regaining consciousness.  
 - For the family and friends of Shirley Johnson, grandmother of Nalani, Roxane, and Cyrus Johnson and stepmother of Steve Johnson, who died in early March.   
 - For the family and friends of Jack Quinn, who died of Alzheimer’s. He was a good friend of Donna Marton.  
  - For the families and friends of Rod Boehmer (Katie Boston’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., 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:** - Rick Crilly, hospitalized on Wednesday with severe back and leg pain. He had spinal surgery on Friday.  
 - Jonathan and Derek Buckley and Delmar Meester ask prayers for their neighbor’s granddaughter, Mya, an 11-year-old who is suffering from an auto immune disease, requiring her to be wheelchair bound. She is currently doing physical therapy. Continuing prayers are needed for a speedy recovery.  
 - All those who have medical concerns and procedures  
 - All who are recovering from Covid  
 - Kaylee Gain, a St Louis area high school student who suffered traumatic brain injury after a brutal assault from a classmate  
 - 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 had a successful heart procedure   
 - 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 her neighbor, Dan, that he might get some good news for his heart condition.   
 - Prayers for all who are looking for meaningful employment  
  - 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: 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 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, April 7  
 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. with communion and dedication of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering - in person and also live on Facebook  
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service  
 **No Staff Meeting**, **Adult Ed., Confirmation**, or **Youth: Pizza & Games**  
**Monday, April 8 –Pastor’s Sabbath**  
**Tuesday, April 9  
 Sisters Knitting Circle** meets at 10:00 a.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, April 10** **eNotes go out**  
 **Pastor’s Prelude Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Lois Stevenson   
 **Property Ministry** meets at 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library   
**Thursday, April 11  
 Session docket deadline at noon!** (The meeting is Tuesday, April 16.)  
 **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
 **Welcome and Outreach** at 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Friday, April 12** A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Next** **Sunday,** **April 14**  
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook  
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service  
 **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  
 **No Confirmation class**  
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Bearing Fruit – April 7, 2024**

**Holy Humor**

We will be celebrating Easter Season until Pentecost on May 19th. Today is the second Sunday of Easter. This particular Sunday has a few different names: *St. Thomas Sunday* (especially among [Eastern Christians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Christians)), *Quasimodo Sunday, Quasimodogeniti*, and *Good Shepherd Sunday*. On April 30, 2000, it was also designated as [*Divine Mercy Sunday*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_Mercy_Sunday) by [Pope John Paul II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_Paul_II).   
  
There are a growing number of Protestant churches that practice the second Sunday of Easter as *Holy Humor Sunday*. They are reclaiming a medieval practice of laughing at Satan’s defeat and reveling in Christ’s victory. Holy Humor Sunday worship services are filled with jokes, funny stories, even pranks and costumes. The Easter reasoning for celebrating Holy Humor Sunday on the week after Easter is that “Humor is not the opposite of seriousness. Humor is the opposite of despair.”(Conrad Hyers) Below are “theological reflections” on humor and laughter.  
  
We believe with the Bible that “that there is a time to weep and a time to laugh.”  
We believe with Chrysostom that “laughter has been implanted in our souls.”  
We believe with Aquinas that there is a time for “playful deeds and jokes.”  
We believe with Luther that “You have as much laughter as you have faith.”  
We believe with Calvin that “we are nowhere forbidden to laugh.”  
We believe with Francis De Sales that “humor is a foundation for reconciliation.”  
We believe with Wesley that “A sour religion is the devil’s religion.”  
We believe with Kierkegaard that “Humor is intrinsic to Christianity.”  
We believe with Dostoevsky that “If a person laughs well they are a good person.”  
We believe with Chesterton that “A good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation.”  
We believe with Bonhoeffer that “Ultimate seriousness is not without a dose of humor.”  
We believe with Fulton Sheen that “The only time laughter is wicked is when it is turned against he who gave it.”  
We believe with Flannery O’Conner that “Christianity is a strangely cheery religion.”  
We believe with Elton Trueblood, “Never trust a theologian without a sense of humor.”  
We believe with Charles Schultz that “Humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless.”  
We believe with Eric Gritsch that “Humor is thus anchored in a self-knowledge that indicates one’s limitations.”  
  
We can bear the fruit of God’s love through laughter. Keep smiling and laughing.  
  
**Welcome, Jim Davidovich!**Our guest preacher today is Elder Jim Davidovich, who is the Moderator of the Presbytery of Chicago; he is subbing for Pastor Wendy Boden, who is recovering from Covid. Jim is a long-time resident of Elmhurst. He has served 7 terms as an elder at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church and served on the Pastor Nominating Committee, as well. Jim has been an active member of the Presbytery of Chicago for many years, serving on the Committee on Ministry for 9 years. In 2012 he was a delegate to the 2012 General Assembly in Pittsburgh as a member of the Chicago Presbytery delegation. Jim is currently serving as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Chicago.   
  
Jim is retired after a 37-year career at United Airlines, mostly in Loyalty Marketing. He is currently a career coach for the Chicago-based firm Challenger Gray & Christmas. Jim is married; his husband, Andrew, is from Jamaica as are their two dogs, Usain and Bolt. Jim is a huge Chicago Cubs fan and counts seeing the Cubs win a World Series game at Wrigley Field among life’s joys.  
  
**And Welcome Back, Cindy Trowbridge!**  
We once again welcome Cindy Trowbridge as our accompanist today while our Music Director is recuperating from Covid. Cindy performs as a collaborative pianist in recitals and competitions throughout the Chicago area. A member of the piano faculty at the College of DuPage, she teaches private and class piano and serves as staff accompanist. Cindy also does extensive work as an accompanist for vocal and instrumental studios and recitals at Wheaton College. She is the principal pianist for the Credo Flute Summer Festival and has been the pianist for DuPage Opera Theater and music director for Wheaton College’s Opera Music Theater program.