**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**11th Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 4, 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 “Pictures from PC(USA) General Assembly.”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (Acts 2:2)‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬

**They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

  Prelude

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

 Hymn: *Come As You Are*  pg. 10, gold worship supplement

 Call to Worship

 Leader: We gather here to see and understand.

 **People: Lord of Light, shine on us.**

 Leader: We gather here to grow closer to God and one another.

 **People: Lord of Love, enfold us.**

 **All:** **Let us worship God!**

 Hymn 408: *There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Merciful God,we confess that we have sinned against youin thought, word, and deed,by what we have done,and by what we have left undone. We have not loved youwith our whole heart and souland mind and strength.We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.In your mercy,forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,so that we may delight in your willand walk in your ways,to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ  (Psalm 103)

 Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious;
     slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

 **People: For as the heavens are high above the earth,** **so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

 Leader: As far as the east is from the west,
     so far he removes our transgressions from us.

 **People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

 **All: Alleluia!**

 Response 582: *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,**

**And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,**

**And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Blair Baldwin
 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

As the children leave:

 *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:  Ephesians 4:1-16 Pew Bible, p. 193 (N.T.)

 John 6:35, 41-45 Pew Bible, p. 98 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Live into Hope” 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 507: *Come to the Table of Grace*

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: *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*  (pg. 11, gold supplement)

 \**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.**

Public domain

 Prayer of Dedication

 Service of the Lord’s Supper

 Invitation

 [You do not need to wait to consume the elements – please do so as the Spirit
 leads (right away, as you pause after receiving, or back in your seats).

 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:  *Your Grace Is Enough* (p. 43, gold supplement)

*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 509: *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

 Charge and Benediction

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

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Elder Jim Davidovich
Liturgist: Gretchen Fleming
Greeter/Fellowship: Elise Henkels
Musician: Tom Anderson
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Steve Kozich

The flowers today are given to honor what would have been Ralph and Caroline Linde’s 62nd wedding 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, please wear a name tag; they are on the Mission shelf in the Narthex and on the shelf across from the church offices. 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 take a summer break; our next meeting will be August 18.
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. Note that Pastor Boden will be away through August 13 and will not do Heart to Heart during that time.

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 coming opportunities for you to share your photos:
 **August 25:** “**Doorways into Summer**” – doors that you see during your summer travels
 or simply around Chicagoland, even your own home. Please send photos by Thursday,
 August 22.
 **October 6:** “**Communion Tables**” – photos of communion tables from the places of
 worship you visit while away on vacation or even ask a relative to send you a picture

**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.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: There will be no after-worship adult Bible class until August 18.

**Youth**: There will be no youth event until Blair and & Wendy return from vacation in mid-August. Please respond to the email from Blair about dates for events in late August and in September, if you have not already done so.

**From the Worship Ministry**:

We are looking for volunteers to provide **special music during the summer**! Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are invited! Sign up on the choir room door.

**From the Christian Ed. Ministry**:
**Next Sunday, August 11: Blessing of the Backpacks**

Kids (and adults, too) are invited to bring backpacks, school bags, lunch boxes, briefcases, etc. with you to worship for a blessing to send you into the new school year.

**Southminster is hosting a one-day VBS – “Ticket to Adventure” - on Saturday, September 7, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., including lunch.**

Children from kindergarten through fifth grade are invited.

A free will donation will be collected.
You may sign up your own children, invite your neighbors, relatives, and friends, the more the merrier.
Watch for more information in the August *Dialog* and in eNotes and bulletins during August.

**From the Jeremiah Task Force**:
We are inviting you to share a **God Sighting** or a **Watch Word**. What are those, you ask?

**God Sighting**: How have you seen God at work here at Southminster?

**Watch Word**: a phrase that represents the core of our identity or ministry at Southminster. Who we are and what we do. God’s action in you.

Use the Post-It Notes by the bulletin board in the narthex that is closest to the coat room to record and post your God Sightings and Watch Words.

**We’re following this up with a Hot Dog and Watermelon Fellowship following worship on Sunday, August 25. Plan to join us outdoors (we hope)**

**All women invited: First Wednesday Women’s Breakfast!**Our next monthly Women’s Breakfast will be this Wednesday, August 7, 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—if you have any questions. Danby’s Station is at 750 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn.

**Southminster Artists’ Reception – Next Sunday!**

Save the date for Southminster’s next Artist Reception on Sunday, August 11, 12:30-2:00 p.m. We will have a light lunch and refreshing beverages.

The art now on display in our main hallway gallery is a compilation of work by artists from the College of DuPage Continuing Education program. Their teacher, Pam (Cather) Keller has displayed her own works here a number of times. The 4 students currently displaying their work have been students of Pam's in her watercolor and acrylic classes at C.O.D. from 4-10 years. The artists are Ron Biondo (acrylic), Mark Scherer (watercolor), Steve Seder (watercolor), and Judy Stezowski (watercolor).

We hope you enjoy their art and will be here to visit with them on August 11.

**Jubilee Bucks: Order today!**
Thanks to all who order Jubilee Bucks!! So far this year we have earned $1,082.13 for our church with the purchase of gift cards!

This Sunday is your only opportunity this month to order Jubilee Bucks. 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, leave it in the office (the mailbox in the lower left corner of the mailbox grid) or email it to her (bobbifrey@aol.com) by 9:00 tonight. Payment can be made when cards are delivered.

You next chance to order is September 1.
 **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
Our weekly donations to PRC are very much appreciated! If you are looking for ideas to donate, they are presently in need of tuna, canned spaghetti or stew, bags of rice, pasta. There are also lists of suggested donations on the shelf in the main hallway that is across from the church offices.

**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**

***New requests and updates are italicized in our prayer list.***

**Joys and Concerns** ***The flowers today*** *are given for what would have been Ralph and Caroline Linde’s 62nd wedding anniversary.***We give thanks to God for joys:**  *- The baptism of Clementine last Sunday
 - Colette Poppy Russell, daughter of Andy and Nicole Russell, was born July 24. She is the granddaughter of Lanny Russell.***We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
 - Those facing evacuation orders from wildfires in the west, and prayers for those who fight those fires
  - Peace for Haiti and Sudan; Hamas, Israel, the people of Palestine, and the tangle of interests in the Middle East; Ukraine and Russia
  - Pray for the American people – heal our nation and help us begin to work together.
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. *In one day (last Monday, July 29) there were 99 shooting incidents in our country, leaving 31 people dead and 87 people injured.* To see current statistics for shootings in our country go to <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>.
  - We pray for our nation as we continue to wrestle with race relations.
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world
 - For the Cuba Partnership Network as they seek visas for Cuban pastors and spouses for their meeting, which is in Oak Brook in September
**Blessed are those who mourn:**
 - Prayers for the family of Caroline Linde, and especially for Ralph, after her passing on July 17. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Caroline will be held at Southminster on Saturday, September 14; visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the service following at 11:00. You can find her obituary here: <https://www.hultgrenfh.com/obituary/caroline-linde>.
 *- Prayers for the family and friends of Jason Burris, brother-in-law of Pete and Pam Petersen, who passed away last Sunday afternoon as a result of brain cancer
 - Prayers for the family of Cindy Young who died unexpectedly at the age of 53
 - The Rasnics ask prayers for the family of Hank Dowgwillo, their daughter’s father-in-law, who died this past week at the age of 80.
 - Rita Zapel asks prayers for the Levin family on the death of Shirley Levin
 - Prayers for the family of Sonya Massey*
  - For the families and friends of Ruth, Grace, Ed, Dan, 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.***   -
 *- Kim, who has stage 3 colon cancer*
 - We continue to pray for: Frank B., Katie B., Pam G., Tom G., Frank L., Jean K., Jan M., Nikki M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Laura P., Cis R., Gerry S., Marta 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:**
 - Those trying to conceive and struggling with infertility
 - Rita Zapel asks prayers for Felice Tristano, age 94, who fell and broke his pelvis. He is the father-in-law of Rita’s brother.
 - Paul Anderson needs prayers for healing; he has 2 broken feet.
  - Phyllis Lay, hospitalized in Florida
  - Heidi Shierry, continuing health issues
  - Brandon, a young man with liver damage
  - Prayers for all who are looking for meaningful employment
   - Mya, an 11-year-old who is suffering from an auto immune disease
  - All those who have medical concerns and upcoming medical procedures
  - Isabella, awaiting a kidney donor
  - Oaklen, a grandchild of a friend of Tricia Smith, who has birth defects
  - Sandy Phee asks prayers for Linda Talaga, who is now blind in both eyes.
  - Prayers for healing, strength, and peace for Dan, a neighbor of Ann Anderson
  - All those who are experiencing chronic pain.
  - For those who are depressed
  - Jim Smith, at Brookdale, and all who are in care centers
  - Difficult marriages
  - 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; Barb’s friend Bill and her Aunt Ruth
**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.
**Prayers for our worshiping community** as we discern together God’s call on SPC for the 21st century.

 **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 August, call Deacon Elise Henkels (630-740-0473).

**Church staff will be away…****Pastor Wendy Boden and Minister of Youth and Adult Discipleship Blair Nelson** will be away through August 13. For **Pastoral Care** during this time, contact Rev. Beth Freese Dammers, Pastor/Head of Staff at Community Presbyterian Church in Clarendon Hills. Her office number is 630/323-6522; cell phone is 630/400-1401. Or you may always call your deacon.
Note that Wendy will not stream Heart to Heart while she is away.

**Office Schedule: This past week the office was closed while Barb recovered from Covid.** Assuming she feels better this coming week, she will go back to the usual schedule: in the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from approximately 9:15 a.m.-3:15 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, August 4** **Worship** at 9:30 a.m., **communion** - in person and also live on Facebook **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **No Adult Ed. or Youth activity**
**Pastor Wendy Boden and Minister of Youth and Adult Discipleship Blair
 Nelson will be away through August 13. There will be no Heart to Heart
 during this time. Pastoral care coverage is listed above.**
**Tuesday, August 6
 Mission** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library A.A.meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  **Wednesday, August 7
 Women’s Breakfast** at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station
 **August Dialog goes out** **Property** meets at 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Friday, August 9** A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday, August 11** **Worship, Blessing of the Backpacks** at 9:30 a.m.; - in person and also live
 on Facebook **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **No Adult Ed. or Youth activity
 Artist Reception** from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in the hallway gallery and Narthex

**Bearing Fruit – August 4, 2024**

**General Assembly 2024**

Our pastor, Rev. Wendy Boden, and her husband, Rev. Dr. Blair Nelson, our Minister of Youth and Adult Discipleship, will be away on vacation for the next two Sundays. Wendy is grateful to have Elder James Davidovich preaching in her absence. In the PCUSA Elders may officiate communion. Jim is not only moderator of The Chicago Presbytery but was a delegate to our 2024 General Assembly in Salt Lake City Utah. The theme was “Live into Hope.” He has provided us with a few highlights.

There was 1 week of committee meetings on Zoom and 1 week in person

There were 424 voting commissioners representing 80 Presbyteries; 212 Teaching Elders (Ordained Ministers) and 212 Ruling Elders. There were 109 Advisory Delegates, most being 78 YADs (Youth Advisory Delegates) and others from Missions, Seminaries and other Ecumenical backgrounds. There were 15 committees comprised of between 35-45 persons. Committees met on Zoom for 3 full days the last week of June.

The committees brought before the Assembly 125 overtures and 58 info items. Fortunately 75 passed in the consent agenda which passed advisory 88-2 and plenary 413-1.The “plenary” or full assembly meetings were 3 ½ days with the full days starting at 8:30 a.m. with worship and adjourning at 9:00 p.m. or later. There was a lot of attention to details and many amendments brought to consideration, strictly following Robert’s Rules of Order; often there were amendments to amendments of amendments.

How does the GA get these overtures?

Overtures start at a single church session meeting, voted to recommend to the Presbytery, approved by Presbytery and approved by a second Presbytery, then assigned to a committee for consideration.

A lot of business was conducted over three 12 hour days

We approved 5 new Seminary Presidents.
We affirmed that global warming and climate change are existential crises
 to God’s creation.
We reaffirmed the PCUSA commitment to equity and justice.
We declare that all voices be represented, heard, and respected.
We voted for changes to rules for mid-councils and the General Assembly.
We passed declarations on being free from plastic pollution and on lithium mining guidance.
We voted to divest from Israel bonds, and MANY conversations on investment power
 and ethics.
We denounced antisemitism and Islamophobia.
We created the development of new educational resources focused on small churches.
We supported a constitutional amendment that would end the enslavement of prisoners,
 as is currently permitted under the 13th amendment.
We elected a woman to the position of Stated Clerk of the PCUSA for the first time,
 and she is also the first Asian – Rev Jihyun Oh.

One of the foundational understandings of being a Presbyterian is that Jesus Christ alone is Lord of the conscience. With the exception of amendments to the Book of Order, declarations are for our guidance rather than “law.” We gather as commissioners, we vote our individual consciences. Together we seek to bear the fruit of God’s love in the world.