**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**14th Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 25, 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 “Doorways to Summer.”

 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 as we begin worship.]

 Hymn: *Who You Say I Am*  p. 39, gold worship supplement

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Let us gather as we are embraced in God’s love and grace.

 **People: Welcome to this place of perseverance and hope.**

 Leader: We are called to be the beloved community,

 **People: A place where all are welcomed just as they are.**

 **All:** **In gratitude, we worship God.**

 Hymn: *Speak, O Lord*  p. 38, gold worship supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord, we often ask you to listen to us, to hear our cries and requests, but there is more to being a follower of Jesus Christ than getting what we wish. We want to be led by you, not by our own desires and wishes, but by your love and will. Now we ask to hear you and see you in our daily lives. We ask this with expectant and hopeful hearts in the name of Jesus Christ, who is both savior and Lord. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 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:

 *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*

**He’s got the whole world in his hands,**

**He’s got the whole wide world in his hands,**

**He's got the whole world in his hands,**

**He's got the whole world in his hands.**

Public domain

 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lesson:  Jonah, Chapter 2 Pew Bible, p. 860 (O.T.)

 Sermon: “Prayers in the Dark”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

 Hymn 470: *There Is a Longing in Our Hearts*

 Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

 **People**: **hear our prayers.**

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: *The Lord’s Prayer*  (sung in Aramaic)Hannah Fox

**The 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.**

 \**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 39: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

 Charge and Benediction

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

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgist: Andrea Schmidt
Greeter/Fellowship: Paul Jeziorski
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Victor King
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are from the Bohi/Parks family celebrating Jessica’s birthday.

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 and the Jeremiah Task Force to gather for **a special hot dog and watermelon fellowship** in the narthex and outdoors.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study** will not meet today so everyone can enjoy our special fellowship.
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 a coming opportunity for you to share your photos:
 **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.

**From the Jeremiah Task Force**:
**Join us today for a Hot Dog and Watermelon Fellowship!**
It will be a chance to catch up on what we have all done during the summer and share some insights of what we feel God is calling us to do and be.
The **Pathfinders** group will meet online today at 12:15 p.m. Questions? Ask Anny Davidson.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  We won’t be having our class today to allow everyone to enjoy the special fellowship.

**Men of Southminster**:  Please reply to the email that Blair N. sent about our September get-together. Our Cuban friends will be here September 18. Wouldn’t it be great to include them?

**Youth**:  Our Pizza & Games for Sept. 22 is now part of the Stewardship Potluck. So bring your family and to eat with our church family. But, we have a special treat. Our Cuban sister church's pastor and his wife will be with us, and she does the youth work in their church. You get to spend some time with her learning about what it is like to be a kid in Cuba and what their youth group is like. So come with questions. You will love meeting Odilaisy!

**Free furniture!** We have had difficulty getting rid of the furniture from Rummage Sale and are putting it out as free for anyone who is interested. Check it out in Fellowship Hall. Maybe there is a piece that you need. If not, tell a friend. It is listed on Freecycle.org.

**From the Mission Ministry: The Cuba Sister Church Ministry**
There is more to having a sister church than paying a visit, though the visits are important. In September the Chicago Presbytery is hosting the Cuba Partnership Network (CPN) for their annual meeting in Darien, IL. The CPN is a network of Presbyterian churches in the U.S. that have sister churches in Cuba. ***We are looking for people to help with this event.*** Pastor Wendy will be making gift bags and would love your help assembling them. The event will also need folks to make Costco runs and airport runs. There will be people attending from all over the United States and Cuba.

**We need people to pray that the U.S. visas for Cubans attending this important meeting come through in time**! Take a moment right now and offer a prayer.

Southminster is looking for someone to help make the travel arrangements for our trips. Would you enjoy supporting this special relationship by working on the arrangements? You will be guided and taught and not just simply tossed into the deep end.

 **From the Christian Ed. Ministry**: **“Ticket to Adventure”**
Mark your calendars - 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 Kindergarten through Fifth Grade are invited. A free will donation will be collected.

We will be collecting these school supplies for our sister church in Guanabacoa, Cuba, for their preschool, Sunday School, and fellowship activities. Supplies of every type, as well as the funds to purchase them, are in short supply in Cuba. If you would like to donate, we will have a collection box in the coat room starting this Sunday, August 18.
Crayons
Colored pencils
Markers
Pencils
Glue sticks
Glue in plastic bottles
Erasers
Tape
Stickers
AA Batteries (for battery operated pencil sharpener)

We will also be asking for donations of food and other items.

Registration information will be available soon. Sign up your own children, invite your neighbors, relatives, and friends, the more the merrier. Watch for for further details in eNotes and bulletins.

**Jubilee Bucks: order next Sunday, September 1**
Thanks to all who have ordered gift cards this year! As of now, we have earned $1,271.45 in “free” money for Southminster! The next time to order will be September 1, the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. If you aren’t going to be around that weekend, you can place your order early. Cards will probably not be in until Wednesday or Thursday after Labor Day.

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
Our weekly donations are greatly appreciated! Every bit helps! Each client receives between 70-100 pounds of food per visit! PRC receives, rescues, sorts and distributes about 40,000 pounds of food per week. Thanks to all! If you’d like suggestions for the most needed items for the PRC food pantry, there are lists of suggested donations in one of the literature stands on the shelf in the main hallway that is across from the church offices.

**Community invitations!**A concert of music not usually heard in church… Glen Ellyn First United Methodist Church (424 Forest Avenue) has invited local well-known Elvis impersonator, Rick Saucedo, to present a fun-filled concert this evening, August 25, starting at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy an ice cream social afterward. The entire community is invited!

Save the date – Wednesday, September 25, at 7:00 a.m. – for the annual **Glen Ellyn Interfaith Prayer Breakfast** at the Abbington. The theme is “Experiencing Wholeness through Diversity,” and the guest speaker will be Paul Chandler, “an author, art curator, non-profit executive, interfaith peacemaker, and an authority on the Middle East and Africa. He grew up in Senegal, West Africa, and has lived and worked extensively around the world in senior leadership roles within faith-based publishing, the arts, relief and development…” Watch for more information nearer to the date.

**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 from the Bohi/Parks family to celebrate Jessica’s birthday.***We give thanks to God for joys:**
 *- The birth of Cis R.’s grandbaby, Mae James Carlson*    **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
 *- Students, teachers, and school/university support staff that they have a safe, successful school year*  - 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 Sunday, August 18) there were 137 shooting incidents in 35 states plus the District of Columbia, leaving 43 people dead and 138 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 in September
**Blessed are those who mourn**:
 *- The family and friends of Joe Furwo, who died last week* - 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/carolinelinde>.
 - Prayers for Sue Ashpole and family on the death of Mike on July 27. Pastor Wendy Boden led a private service for Mike at his family’s home this morning.
 - Prayers for Karen Fitzgerald and family on the death of her father, John Launer, on July 29.
  - 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.
 *- Ron Birchall asks prayers for Mark, diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia
 - Mary Tennyson, diagnosed with cancer
 - Pam Ellinghausen Greenholt, Hal’s niece, was doing better after a brain tumor diagnosis, but now the tumor has returned and spread to her liver. She has been told there is nothing more that can be done – “It is in God’s hands, and she is good with that.”*
 - We continue to pray for: Kim, Frank B., Katie B., Tom G., Frank L., Jean K., Jan M., Nikki M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Betsey P., 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**:
 *- Kathy, a friend who is having medical procedures this week
 - Rick Crilly, upcoming surgeries
 - Deb Bohi’s cousin, Barb, who has some serious health issues*
 *- Prayers for Paul Anderson following ankle surgery*
 - Those trying to conceive and struggling with infertility
 - Rita Zapel asks prayers for Felice Tristano, age 94, who is healing slowly with a broken pelvis after a fall. He is the father-in-law of Rita’s brother.
  - 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). 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, August 25** **Worship** at 9:30 a.m.; - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship with hot dogs and watermelon** outdoors (we hope)
 **No staff meeting, Confirmation, or Adult Ed. while we enjoy our hot dogs,
 watermelon, and conversation
 Pathfinders** online at 12:15 p.m.

**Monday, August 26 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live
 at 4:20 p.m.  **Tuesday, August 27
 Staff calendar meeting** at 12:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Endowment** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Mission** meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir room A.A.meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  **Wednesday, August 28
 eNotes go out but it is also the deadline for the September *Dialog***
 **Welcome & Outreach** meets at 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Friday, August 30
 Pastor Wendy Boden** will preach at Lexington Square in the morning A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next Sunday, September 1
 Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com be 9:00 p.m.

 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 in the pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library

**Covid – where are we now?
Covid spiked during the summer, so we have continued having a “comfort zone” toward the back of the sanctuary. You may, of course, continue to wear a mask, if you so choose.**

**Bearing Fruit – August 25, 2024**

**God is leading Southminster**
Jesus Christ gave the Church to the world that the world might know him, love him, and follow him. Just like people, not all churches are the same. Each local church has a different way of being of service to the Kingdom of God depending on where and when a particular community is gathered. We can’t be all things to all people, only Christ can be that.

Southminster has been asking the question: “What is God calling us to do and be?” Prayer is one way to discover what God wants. Another way of discovering what God desires for an individual church is to see what God is already doing.

This summer the Jeremiah Task Force has asked the congregation to share their thoughts on a “board of declaration” in the narthex. People have used post-it notes to highlight what they have seen God doing among us and around us. Below is a list of “watch words,” “God sightings,” and "phrases" that members and friends of Southminster have posted.

Carrying Cuba Church in our hearts; Creation of the Memorial Garden and the gift of new bricks each year; God guiding our Public Service; Adult Sunday School; Continue!; Keep on doling It!; Husband’s hip replacement moving up several weeks is a God sighting; God is present in Choir’s continued efforts; Watching the wind through the trees around church; God has been working though the death of Caroline, and the comforting of Ralph; Endurance for the Journey; Blair B patience creativity; Art Shows; Wonderful Stepmothers; Bless; How our community comes together to help others; Baby bunnies in the yard; Flexibility; Compassion; Caring; Friendship; World Relief; Art Reception guests and members in happy welcoming; Grace; Steadfast; Welcoming; Hope; Equality; Caught my children being kind; Bless to be a blessing; Blair’s moment with children; Youth Mission Trip; Nalani; John’s Heart; Smiles of Southminster; Just in ordinary daily living; Members volunteering to help as needed; Loving; Togetherness; White Basement; The children enjoy being here; More people are attending in person worship!; Helping Hands; Continuing generosity to those in need; Kids working together; New young singer during offertory; People complimenting others; God’s beauty in the work of those who plant flowers and care for our gardens; I have developed more patience and been more observant to my surroundings and the needs of others; New faces around church.

Today the Jeremiah Task Force is inviting everyone to come and share watermelon, heavenly hot dogs, and their thoughts during fellowship. The members of the Task Force will be wearing name tags that say “I am listening.” They would like to listen to your thoughts about what God is doing here at Southminster. That is the beginning of answering the questions: “What is God calling us to do and be in the 21st century? How do we best bear the fruit of God’s love?”