**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**18th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 22, 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 “Seeds of Peace.” (Kathy Davidson)

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

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Faithful God, we give thanks for the gift of life
 and wonder beyond words.

 **People: For the awareness of our souls and the light within,**

 **All:** **Let us worship God.**

 Hymn: *Cornerstone*  p. 13, gold worship supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Faithful God, we look around us and see the shadows of a broken dream. There is a temptation to give up hope, but you sustain us by the power of your love, the seeds of peace sown into our hearts, and your Holy Spirit which guides us. Continue to inspire us, to guide us, and help us rest in your sure and certain grace which carries us forward each day. We ask this 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 Lessons:  Genesis 37:5-8  Pew Bible, p. 34 (O.T.)

 Genesis 42:1-7 Pew Bible p. 39 (O.T.)

 Sermon: “He Had a Dream”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) Revelation 21:1-5

**Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”**

 Hymn 375: *Shall We Gather at the River*

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

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

**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.**

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: *His Love Endures Forever* Dan Burgess, arr. Jay Rouse

 \**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 Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Hymn 475: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

 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: Ann Anderson
Greeter/Fellowship: Barb Kocinski
Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are from Julie Storey to celebrate her granddaughter Clementine’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 to gather for a time offellowship in the narthex.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study,** **11:15 a.m.:** If you’re at church and wish to join us, find Blair at his computer in the parlor/library. If you’re following us online, join the class by using this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>.
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 is 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.
 Please send photos by Thursday, October 3.

 **November 3: “All Saints Sunday**” - If you have a family member or friend who died
 since last All Saints Day (they don't need to be a member of the Southminster faith
 community), please send a picture and their name **by October 25** to our PhotoStory
 address (below). (If you want to have their name listed and remembered in prayer on
 November 3, please also send their name and date of death to the office by at
 admin@southminsterpc.org by October 25.

**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.

**Join us for the Stewardship Potluck today!**

You are all invited to the **Stewardship Ministry’s Annual Potluck Supper** this evening from 5:00 to 7:00 in Fellowship Hall, featuring hamburgers and hot dogs grilled by the “Grill Masters” from the Men of Southminster group. You may bring other “American” style picnic foods to share if you like, or just come for the great food and great company. There will be plenty of both! All are welcome to participate!

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Our study of Matthew’s Gospel continues today at 11:15 in the Parlor/Library. Join us as we follow Jesus to Jerusalem.

**Men of Southminster**:  Some of us will be grilling up a storm at the Stewardship Potluck tonight! Also, if you have not yet, please reply to Blair N's email about dates for our next meeting.

**Youth**: Come this afternoon at 4:00 for our first event of the new school year! Sadly, our Cuban friends will not be joining us, so we’ll play games from 4:00 to 5:00, and then join the rest of the church for the Stewardship Dinner. See you there!

**Young Adults**: It is time we all got together, so join us for a pizza dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. this Wednesday, Sept. 25th.

**From the Worship Ministry**

**All Saints Sunday: *Remembering those we have lost this past year***

All Saints Sunday ‒ November 3 this year‒ as a way to acknowledge our grief by giving it to God as we renew our hope in God through Jesus Christ. Death does not have the last word! On this Sunday we draw close to God and to one another. We remember the hope that we are called to as Christ’s people. We will conclude our worship that day by gathering in our Memorial Garden and blessing the new memorial bricks that have been placed there during the past year.

If you would you like to add the name of a loved one (they don't need to be a member of the Southminster faith community), please send a picture and their name to PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org **by October 25**. If you would like their name to be printed in the Bearing Fruit and mentioned in prayers, please send their name and date of death to
[admin@Southminsterpc.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5COwner%5CDesktop%5C2020%20Pandemic%2009-01-23%20update%5CDialog%5CSeptember%202023%5Cadmin%40Southminsterpc.org%20) **by October 25**, as well.

**Memorial Bricks**: If you would like to purchase a memorial brick, to remember someone or to honor someone, we must have your request no later than September 20. The cost remains $125 per brick. Pick up an order form on the desk in the church office or contact the office by phone (630-469-9149) or email (admin@southminsterpc.org). We need time to have the bricks engraved and installed before dedicating them on All Saints Sunday, November 3.

**Jubilee Bucks:**
Thanks to all who order Jubilee Bucks gift cards! Your purchases to date have earned $1,409.98 of “free” money for Southminster. Your next chance to order will be Sunday, October 6, but you can always get your order in early with an email to bobbifrey@aol.com.

**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 invitation: the Glen Ellyn Interfaith Prayer Breakfast!**The annual **Interfaith Prayer Breakfast** is this Wednesday, September 25, at 7:00 a.m. 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…” He also has roots in the Glen Ellyn community.

You may not want to miss this event! The two tables that Pastor Wendy Boden reserved for Southminster guests are full, but you may still attend – you’ll meet interesting people wherever you sit.

**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 Julie Storey celebrating her granddaughter Clementine’s birthday***We give thanks to God for joys:** *- Heidi Shierry’s tumor is gone!
 - We are thankful that Jessica and Elspeth Parks seem to be OK after a car accident last Saturday (but their car isn’t).
 - Thanksgiving for the beautiful memorial service on Saturday for Caroline Linde led by Pastor Wendy Boden
 - Our friend Raluca Bojor Hofmeyer became an American citizen! (She is originally from Romania.)* **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
 *- Prayers for our nation after yet another possible shooting attempt on a presidential candidate*
 - Prayers for the family and friends of the 2 students and 2 teachers shot and killed at Apalachee High School in Georgia: Mason Schermerhorn, Christian Angulo, Christina Irimie, and Richard Aspinwall. Intervention for Colt Gray.
  - 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 to come together as we vote.
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. *In one day (last Sunday, September 15) there were 125 shooting incidents in 32 states and the District of Columbia, leaving 47 people dead and 109 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
**Blessed are those who mourn**:
 *- Marta Sundquist and family of the death of her mother, Elizabeth Parrish
 - The family and friends of Fire Chief (Ret.) Dan Hermes, who died August 29 after 13 years of illness
 - Victor King and family on the death of his sister, Elrene King, in South Africa* - Prayers for the family and friends of Caroline Linde, and especially for Ralph
  - For 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.
 *- Meagan Severson had successful surgery, looking forward to chemo.*
 - We continue to pray for: Kim, Mark, Frank B., Katie B., Pam G., Tom G., Frank L., Jean K., Jan M., Nikki M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Betsey P., Laura P., Cis R., Gerry S., Marta S., Mary T., 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**:
 *- Joan Koska, hospitalized at Good Sam following a fall. No visitors at this time, please.
 - Pat Wiedner, recovering from partial hip replacement surgery Tuesday following a fall. She had just returned after her trip to Glen Ellyn… She wrote “It was good to see you all at the lovely service for Caroline and at worship.”
 - Rick Crilly will have shunt surgery next Wednesday
 - Scott Zapel, recovering well after hip replacement surgery
 - Our friends in Cuba: Ignacio, who is very ill and alone in the hospital, and Maria Carmen, who will have eye surgery*
 - Heather Kralicek recovering from foot surgery
 - Prayers for Paul Anderson following ankle surgery
  - Jim Smith, at Brookdale, and all who are in care centers
 - Those trying to conceive and struggling with infertility
  - Prayers for all who are looking for meaningful employment
  - All those who have medical concerns and upcoming medical procedures
  - All those who are experiencing chronic pain.
  - For those who are depressed
  - 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 Doppelt’s friend Bill
 - We continue to pray for: Barb (Deb’s cousin), Brandon, Dan, Joe M., Felice T., Isabella, Kathy, Linda T., Mya, Oaklen, Phyllis L.
**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 September, call Deacon Barb Kocinski (630-710-4703). 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, September 22**
 **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
 **Confirmation** at 11:15 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth Group** meets from 4:00 p.m. until the potluck
 **Stewardship Potluck** at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Monday, Sept. 23 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.  **Tuesday, Sept. 24
 Staff calendar meeting**, 12:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, Sept. 25
 Glen Ellyn Interfaith Prayer Breakfast** at 7:00 a.m. at the Abbington
 **eNotes go out, but it also the deadline for the October *Dialog*
 Young Adults Pizza Dinner** at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall **Friday, Sept. 27** A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next Sunday, September 29**
 **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
 **Confirmation** at 11:15 a.m. 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 in recent months, 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 – September 22, 2024**

**Letters of Love**

With the exception of Hebrews, the last portion of our Bible is letters to churches and other believers. We can imagine the joy a church may have had when receiving letters from other Christians from around the Roman Empire. The letters we have now were deemed inspired by God and were saved for the future and also shared with other churches.

Letters have the power to connect us in ways that email and texting can’t. There is something special and tactile about a letter that you can hold in your hand… greeting cards even more so!

One of the challenges we have in maintaining connection with our sister church in Cuba is that the mail is not dependable. We are never sure that our communications arrive. This weekend Chicagoland is hosting the Cuba Partnership Network in nearby Darien, IL. We are very disappointed that our pastor and his wife did not receive visas in time to attend and later visit with us, but we aim to still try to show them our love anyway with a card party.

Next Sunday, September 29, we will be hosting a card party in the narthex for our sister church. We hope to show our love by signing messages of encouragement, hope, and love on as many cards as we can in both English and Spanish. There will be samples of Bible verses and other thoughts in Spanish to help. The hope is that everyone at our sister church will get at least one card signed by one of our members. Cards will also be available in the narthex during the week if you would like to sign one then. Next Sunday afternoon they will be driven over to the Presbyterian Church of Western Springs because the visiting pastor there will be leaving for Cuba early Monday morning.

Life does not always work out the way we hope, but that will not stop us from bearing the fruit of God’s love.