**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**March 9, 2025**

**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/Photo Story: “Mr. Rogers”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

 Lighting the Candles (Lamentations 3:22-24)

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”**

  Prelude

[Please remain seated as we begin worship.]

 Hymn 166: *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Lord God, lead us in peace and help us reach our destination safely,
 joyfully, peacefully, and changed by the journey.

 **People: Protect us when we leave and when we return.**

 Leader: Bless the work of our hands.

 **People: May our deeds merit honor for you.**

 **All:** **We praise you, Lord, as we worship you.**

 Hymn: *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*  pg. 40, gold supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Gracious God, we often forget that loving you means loving our neighbors, enemies, and one another. Isn’t that asking too much of us? Clearly, we need your help to love. Forgive our falling short and empower us by your Spirit to love others as you have loved us truly. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and savior. 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: *Kyrie* pg. 1, gold supplement

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

 (The words are Greek for *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.*)

CCLI Song # 2691048

Antonin Leopold Dvorak | Ruth Elaine Schram

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 The Passing of the Peace

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

As the children leave:

 *God Welcomes All*  Hymnal 399

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God’s love is strong and it never ends.**

Text: John L. Bell, 2008

Music: South African song, transc, John L. Bell, 2008

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:
 The Scripture readings today are from several books in the Bible. Their page references
 are printed here if you would like to follow along.
 Leviticus 19:18  Pew Bible, p. 106 (O.T.)

 Romans 15:1-2 Pew Bible, p. 163 (N.T.)

 1 Corinthians 10:24 Pew Bible, p. 172 (N.T.)

 Galatians 5:14 Pew Bible, p. 190 (N.T.)

 James 2:8 Pew Bible, p. 229 (N.T.)

 1 John 4:21 Pew Bible, p. 241 (N.T.)

 Luke 10:25-37 Pew Bible, p. 71 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “In the Neighborhood of Jesus” Pastor Wendy Boden

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)

 From the Westminster Shorter Catechism (PCUSA Book of Confessions 7.042)

 Leader: What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

 **All: The sum of the Ten Commandments is: to love the Lord our God**  **with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength,**  **and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.**

 Hymn: *Your Labor Is Not in Vain*  (all) pg. 44, gold supplement

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 Anthem: *Lamb of God*  Twila Paris/setting by Lloyd Larson

 \**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 771: *What Is the World Like*  (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.**

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgist: Lynn Ferino
Greeter/Fellowship: Francine Long
Elder at the Door: Angela Smith
Musicians: Tom Anderson, the Southminster choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Francine Long in memory of her father, Fred’s, birthday.

**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,
We have refreshed our list of people fighting cancer following Luminaria Sunday. Please make a point of sending an email, text, phone call, or filling out a blue prayer request and letting the people of Southminster know who you would like us to keep in prayer. All prayer requests are welcome. We want to be able to know who to talk to in order to follow up on all the people we pray for each week.

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

**Joys and Concerns**    *The flowers today* *are given by Francine Long in memory of her father, Fred’s, birthday.*  **We give thanks to God for joys: (*Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”***
 *- We rejoice with our newest citizen, Victor King!
 - For a lovely Ash Wednesday service
 - Lynn Ferino’s friend, Cis, had a clear CT scan and had good blood test results.
 - For the food, fellowship, and fundraising of the Chili/Soup Cook-Off last Sunday*
 - Thanksgiving for good session and finance meetings recently

**We pray for the whole world and our nation: *(1 Timothy 2:1-2) “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”*** - May all Americans follow the law of love.
- Lord, may you grant our President and all our leaders and authorities lives that are peaceful and quiet.
 - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. May we and our leaders come together to end the violence in our nation. *On one day (Sunday, March 2) there were 89 shooting incidents in 25 states, leaving 34 people dead and 79 people injured.* To see current statistics for shootings in this country, go to<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>. We lift up the families of all gun violence victims.
 - We pray for the peace of the world. Look with mercy on our planet and all people. **Blessed are those who mourn**: (***Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”***
 *-**The family and friends of Joan Koska, who is passed away on March 6.*  - Rita Zapel’s mom, Inger-Lise Boserup, as she mourns the death of Willy Christensen, her partner of 20 years
 - Prayers for Wally in the death of his wife, Dee. These neighbors were special friends of the Salins family.
 - Prayers of comfort and hope for Paul Jeziorski, extended family, and friends in the death of Linda Wolf Jeziorski on December 24. Her service was held January 11 at Southminster.
  - Andrea Schmidt and all her family on the death of her mother, Gail Johnston, on November 1
  - Angela Smith and her family on the passing of her father, Franklin Keith Beeler, on October 30
  - Prayers for the family and friends of Caroline Linde, and for Ralph, her husband.
  - 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.
We continue to pray for: Kerri, Margaret F., Ginny O., Floyd R., Cis R., Meagan S., Marta S., Shelayne; *Kurt Parent, who is now in palliative care;* and those we name in our hearts.
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges**:  - Jonathan Buckley
  - Carole Peterson, hospitalized with serious health issues
  - Greg, 35-year-old nephew of Barb Doppelt’s dear friend, Linda, now in his 5th week in ICU recovering from a massive stroke, 3 cardiac arrests, and surgery.  - Jim Smith, at Brookdale, and all who are in care centers
**Prayers for our worshiping community and the Jeremiah Task Force** as we discern together God’s call on SPC for the 21st century.

**This week at Southminster:**  **Sunday, March 9
Daylight Saving Time begins**
 **Worship, communion** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **Session** **Budget meeting** in the chancel at 11:15 a.m.
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Continuing the Conversation** (post-confirmation meeting) at 12:30 p.m. at Alfie’s
**Monday, March 10 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart on Facebook
 live at 5:05 p.m.
Tuesday, March 11
 Knitting Circle** 10:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Staff calendar meeting** at 12:30 p.m.
 **Deacons** at 7:30 p.m., McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, March 12
 Property,** 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Thursday, March 13
Session docket deadline is noon today
 Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
 **Young Adults Video Club** meets at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, March 14** A.A.at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **March 16**
 **Worship, communion** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Stuffing Easter eggs for the Easter Party** during fellowship time
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Jeremiah Task Force** at 11:15 a.m.

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.

**Our “Comfort Zone”** – It is cold, flu, and Covid season, so we continue to have a “comfort zone” toward the back of the sanctuary. You may wear a mask, of course, if you so choose.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study,** **11:15 a.m.:** If you’re at church and wish to join us, get your coffee at fellowship time and then find Blair in the parlor/library.

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 5:05 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday. **Note the new time – 5:05 p.m.!**

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. Watch here for coming opportunities to share your photos.

**Calling all musicians, vocal or instrumental!** If you would like to offer your musical gifts in worship, please talk to Tom Anderson on a Sunday when he is here, by text at 651-246-5029, or by emailing the office (admin@southminsterpc.org) and we’ll forward your message.

**Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation and corporation
to be held on Sunday, March 30, at the conclusion of worship.** The report booklets will be available one week prior to the meeting.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: We are nearing the end of our study of Matthew’s gospel. (Just in time for Easter!) What shall we do next? Join us on most Sundays at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library for our time of study, discussion, laughter, and fellowship. It really is a good time! Come soon and you can catch the climax of Matthew’s story and help us decide what to study next. We will meet every remaining Sunday in March.

**Men of Southminster**: Watch for an email from Blair asking for a March date for our next get-together. **Youth**: March beings spring and Spring Break. Watch for an email from Blair N asking about family travels and availability for March events.

Last Sunday was Southminster's 2025 **Chili/Soup Cook-Off.**. Eight entries delighted our crowd of expert culinary judges. It ended in a three-way tie, then a runoff that saw Francine Long take the laurels and the prize – a $50 gift certificate to Penzey’s Spices. Thanks to all our chefs: Francine, Steve Shierry, Angela Smith, Andrea Schmidt, Kathy Sanders, Lynn Ferino, Wendy Boden, and Blair Nelson. Thanks to our youth and Youth Mission Team for serving and baking cookies, and to Anny Davidson and Nalani Johnson for supervising the baking. Most of all, thanks to those who donated toward the Youth Mission Trip to the tune of $829!

**Talent Show!** Southminster’s fabulous Talent Show (another Mission Trip fundraiser) is coming April 27. There is lots of time to get your act together, but why wait until spring?

**From the Mission Ministry**
Coming soon – **March Mission Madness**, in which your competitive spirit benefits the missions that Southminster sponsors! Keep your eye on NCAA basketball (both the men’s and women’s tournaments!) The teams will be selected next Sunday, and once they are, you have only a few days to make and file your bracket predictions. See the March *Dialog* and an eBlast you’ll receive this Friday for information about how you can join the fun.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**: For over seventy years, Presbyterians have participated in One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent, starting on the first Sunday in Lent (March 9) and culminating on Easter Sunday (April 20). This year’s theme is “Repairing the Breach”.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. These all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works to provide relief to those affected by natural or manmade disasters. The Presbyterian Hunger Program helps to provide food for the hungry. Self-Development of People helps provide resources to communities working to cast of the bonds of poverty and oppression.

You will find envelopes in the sanctuary, or you may donate at any time by designating OGHS on your check. Please give generously. You may give through Easter Sunday; the offering will be dedicated the following Sunday.

This month you may wish to start setting aside gently used clothing that you do not need any more for our **April collection of clothing for Repeat Boutique.** Repeat Boutique is a shop that serves people referred to it by non-profit organizations—World Relief, PADS, Peoples Resource Center, as well as other charitable organizations in DuPage County—who need financial help clothing themselves and their families. Clothing to be donated should be brought into church starting on the first Sunday in April.

**From the Worship Ministry**:

Easter is late this year – April 20 – but we need our **Easter flower orders** by March 31. We are hoping to have to have **10 Easter lilies** (2 stem plants @ $45 each) and **10 pink azalea plants** (6” pots @ $40 each) to beautify the sanctuary on Easter. (Yes, like everything else, the flower costs have gone way up this year.) Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex at church or contact Sarah Allen (630-988-8231 or sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com); the deadline for orders is March 31. Checks should be made to SPC with “Easter flowers” on the memo line. Thanks to everyone who will help fill our sanctuary with color and beauty on Easter morning.

 **“Paving the Way”**The Paving the Way committed funds (donations and 2025 pledges) total is $210,151 as of 2.28.2025. If we include the $9,900 in future year pledges, the grand total is $220,051.

We ask that the 2025 pledges be paid by March 31. In April, we hope to have the contractor chosen, the total cost of the project, and a project timeline. We will then compare the project cost to the committed funds total and determine what the next steps will be. Project and financial updates will be on the poster in the narthex, in the weekly e-notes, and in the monthly Dialog.

If you need forms, more information, or have questions, please contact Rita Zapel at rboserup@sbcglobal.net

**The annual Easter Party!**Southminster hosts an Easter Party each year on Easter Saturday, open to both members of our congregation and the public. Your help will be appreciated! We are now:
 > Accepting **donations of candy** that is small enough to fit in an Easter egg
      Please... ***candy needs to be purchased wrapped (not loose). No nuts, no peanut butter, no chewing gum, and no hard candy***.
 > Looking for **help stuffing Easter eggs** at home. Take home kits will be available in the Narthex on the benches.

**Next Sunday,** we will start stuffing Easter eggs in the Narthex after worship! We will start during fellowship time and stay as long as people would like to.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet Wednesday, March 19, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The March book is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, “an exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope, tracing a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus.”

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

For more information about the Readers, contact Rita Zapel at rboserup@sbcglobal.net.

The next **Presbyterian Women** meeting will be on Friday, March 21. Sarah Allen and Francine Long will discuss older women's health issues. The meeting will be in the McHenry Parlor/Library, starting with refreshments and devotions at 9:30 a.m. and the presentation at 10:00 a.m. A brief business meeting will follow.

**A note from Barb:** **Another thing to do while you’re hibernating during the winter…The puzzles are back**!
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.)

**Jubilee Bucks**
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks this month. The year-to-date total of “free money” earned for Southminster through the purchase of gift cards is $515.19. Your next chance to order will be April 6. You will be able to order Jubilee Bucks cards to support the Easter Party; watch for details closer to the April 6 order date.

**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.

**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 until March 11, call Deacon Kathy Sanders (630-476-2143); from March 11-April 8, call Deacon Beth Bonde (630-207-1113). 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. You may 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.

**Bearing Fruit – March 9, 2025**

**“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”** (Romans 12:15)

Our beloved sister in Christ, **Joan Koska**, passed away peacefully Thursday evening around 10:30 p.m. Her son Tim was with her. The extended Koska family and I joined later. Because of out-of-town family concerns it is likely but not certain that the service will be April 5th.

She and Ed were vital members of Southminster for over 60 years. SPC and her people were at the center of their lives, and they were extremely active with the Property Ministry in particular. Tim mentioned to me that he would like to sign up to be one of our lawnmower volunteers now that he has more free time. I think it would have made Joan smile, though Ed was known as “the inside guy” when he served on Property.

God blessed us with Joan, a true gift from God. Please keep the Koskas and those she loved in your prayers for the coming weeks.

On Thursday one of our members became a new citizen of the United States, **Victor King**. Later on this month one of our photo stories will share with you the joy we had being present with Victor. It was a remarkable day.

Today is a special Sunday at Southminster because the scripture of the day is the parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37. We are honoring one of America’s best neighbors, Mr. Rogers!

The Rev. Fred McFeely Rogers (March 20, 1928 – February 27, 2003) is best known as Mister Rogers. As Mr. Rogers, he hosted the long-running show *Mister Roger’s Neighborhood*, but he was also a Presbyterian pastor, author, and producer. His work as an ordained minister was to minister to children and their families through television rather than pastoring a congregation. We could say his congregation comprised the families and children of the United States and other countries where the show aired. We at Southminster are incredibly proud of his ministry and his powerful yet simple question, “Won’t you be my neighbor?”  In honor of Mr. Rogers, we encouraged everyone to wear sweaters to worship today.

A church, a worshiping community, is to be committed to sharing both the joys and concerns of her members. We rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. We love one another in this way and bear the fruit of God’s love.