**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**March 16, 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: “Selection Sunday College Basketball”

 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: Variations on *Be Thou My Vision*

[Please remain seated as we begin worship.]

 Hymn 820: *Nothing Can Trouble*

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Holy One, give us quiet hearts.

 **People:** **Help us hear you in the still, small voice that speaks,**

 Leader: The voice that counsels us to judge others kindly

 **People:** **And to love them freely.**

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

 Hymn: *Come, People of the Risen King*  pg. 12, gold supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, we need strength, humility, courage, patience, and wisdom to live and love as you call us to. Take our hearts, forgive our failings, and confirm all that is a gift from you through the power of the Holy Spirit within us. 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:  Luke 15:1-10 Pew Bible, p. 78 (N.T.)

 Luke 15:11-32 Pew Bible, p. 78 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Love for the Lost” Pastor Wendy Boden

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)

 from *The Confession of 1967* (PCUSA, 9.15, edited)

**God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of humanity’s mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.**

 Hymn: *He Knows My Name*  (all) pg. 18, 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: *Lord, I Hope This Day Is Good*

 \**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*  (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: Gretchen Fleming
Greeter/Fellowship: Elise Henkels
Elder at the Door: Julie Storey
Musicians: Tom Anderson; Ron Birchall, Paul Jeziorski
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Lanny Russell for grandson Ryan’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 Lanny Russell for grandson Ryan’s birthday.* **We give thanks to God for joys: (*Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”***
 *- We thank you for Ryan’s presence in the world.
 - For Mikel Solomon’s mother’s successful surgery* - Lynn Ferino’s friend, Cis, had a clear CT scan and had good blood test results.
 - Thanksgiving for good deacon and property 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. We ask for your light and peace to surround those who are prone to gun violence; bring their minds and hearts in line with love. We ask deep comfort and your love for those who have lost loved ones to gun violence. May we and our leaders come together to end the violence in our nation. *On one day (Sunday, March 9) there were 89 shooting incidents in 32 states plus the District of Columbia, leaving 31 people dead and 66 people injured.* To see current statistics for shootings in this country, go to <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>.
 - 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.”*We lift up families and friends of…:**
 *-**Joan Koska, who passed away on March 6. Visitation and service for Joan will be on Saturday, April 5, at Southminster; visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. with service at 11:00.
Send cards to: Tim and Tom Koska, 717 Stonebridge Dr., Bolingbrook, IL 60490***We continue to pray for the families and friends of:** - Willy Christensen, the partner of Inger-Lise Boserup, Rita Zapel’s mother
 - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, who died December 24
  - Gail Johnston, who died on November 1
  - Franklin Keith Beeler, Angela Smith’s father, who died on October 30
  - Caroline Linde, and for Ralph, her husband.
  - 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**:*- We pray for a speedy response and justice from the water company in the flooding of Ann Anderson’s basement.
 - Helen Shierry (Steve’s mom), hospitalized with multiple health issues*
  - Jonathan Buckley
  - Carole Peterson, hospitalized with serious health issues
  - Greg, 35-year-old nephew of Barb Doppelt’s dear friend, Linda, *now in in-hospital hospice care*  - 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 16**
 **Worship** 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., Pastor’s office
NCAA Selection Sunday: Men’s tournament brackets announced 5:00 p.m. CDT, Women’s at 7:00 p.m. CDT.
**Pastor Wendy Boden will be at a retreat** from Sunday late afternoon until mid-afternoon on Tuesday, March 18.
**Monday, March 17
Register your brackets for March Mission Madness
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart on Facebook
 live at 5:05 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18
Register your brackets for March Mission Madness** **Session** at 7:30 p.m., McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, March 19
Register your brackets for March Mission** Madness (Men’s brackets must be entered before 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 20; Women’s before 10:00 a.m. Friday, March 21.) **eNotes go out
 Presbyterian Readers** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
**Barb will be away** March 20-25 **Thursday, March 20
 No choir rehearsal**
 **Young Adults Video Club** meets at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, March 21
 Presbyterian Women** at 9:30 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library A.A.at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **March 23
Annual reports booklets will be available.**
 **Worship** 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
 **Youth: Pizzaless Games** 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

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.

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**:  Our study of Matthew’s Gospel continues today at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library. Bring your coffee and snack in from fellowship and join us for an hour of study, conversation, and edification. We are nearing the crucifixion, in Matthew’s account. So, we will get a foretaste of Easter!

**Men of Southminster**: Put Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar for our next get-together. We will share yummy snacks and deep conversation.

**Youth**:  No event today, but put March 23 and 30, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, on that calendar on the frig for **Pizzaless Games**.

**Mission Trip Fundraising**:  Thanks, again, for all those who cooked, ate, and donated at our **Chili/Soup Cook Off**. The total raised for the Youth Mission Trip to a workcamp in Mission, SD, is now $830, a new record! Our next fundraiser is the **Talent Show** on April 27th. So, put that on your calendar and get your act together. Watch for talent sign-in sheets in the Narthex bulletin board.

**From the Mission Ministry**
Coming this week – **March Mission Madness**, in which your competitive spirit benefits the missions that Southminster sponsors! We follow the NCAA men’s and women’s basketball tournaments, which everyone refers to as March Madness. You use whatever method you want to select a bracket predicting the winners, sign up following the instructions that went out in an eBlast on Friday, and donate a minimum of $15 per bracket to Southminster. At the end of the tournament, the people with the most points win bragging rights for the year… and the right to name which Southminster-supported mission will receive their share of the pot. It’s not gambling, since you don’t actually win the money yourself, so anyone, any age, can play. The winners in the end are the missions we support!

If you didn’t get the sign-up instructions by email Friday, there are copies in the narthex (on the shelf by the Mission board) and on the nametag shelf in the front hallway. For help, consult the Master of the Madness, Troy Hammer: hammer.troy@gmail.com. He will be in the Narthex after worship today to help you sign up.

**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 $211,151 as of 3.09.2025. If we include the $9,900 in future year pledges, the grand total is $221,051.

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***.
  > Also, accepting **donations of:**

**+ Artificial flowers** - any type, loose or in an arrangement (will be used for an Easter bonnet craft)

      + **Disposable, plastic tablecloths -** any bright or pastel color
  > You will be able to **order Jubilee Bucks cards** to support the Easter Party; watch for details closer to the next Jubilee Bucks order date (April 6).

**Today** we will start **stuffing Easter eggs in the Narthex after worship**! We will start during fellowship time and continue as long as people would like to keep working.

**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 meeting of **Presbyterian Women** 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)**:
This is the 50th year People’s Resource Center is distributing food to our neighbors in DuPage County! That first year, bags of groceries were shared from a house with 125 families. This past year, groceries were provided over 63,000 times! Our weekly trunkful of groceries from Southminster is truly appreciated! Not only does PRC distribute food, they also assist people with other needs - ELL (English Language Learner) classes, job assistance, social work, computer classes and repair, gas cards, rental assistance, tutoring, art classes, and more. Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated!

**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 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.

**Barb will be away** Thursday, March 20, through Tuesday, March 25.
The **worship bulletin for next Sunday, March 23,** will need to be completed and sent out this Wednesday, March 19. All worship planning items and announcements must be turned in by March 18 (Tuesday) at noon.

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 16, 2025**

**Master of Madness**
College basketball is heating up, and March Madness is upon us. Selection Sunday is today!

Which means... it’s time for March Mission Madness at Southminster! It’s a fun-loving way to combine our competitive spirits with the chance to raise money for the missions we support. We are including both Women’s and Men’s NCAA tournaments in our brackets.

The three individuals in each tournament pool (Men’s and Women’s) with the highest point totals will each determine which Mission will get their share of the pool. The top winners will reap personal satisfaction and the opportunity to have their school’s fight song played as a postlude. It is not gambling, since you don’t actually win any money yourself! All proceeds support Southminster’s missions: Bridge Communities, Cuba Sister Church, DuPage PADS, Metropolitan Family Services (Family Shelter Service), People’s Resource Center, Walk-In Ministry, World Relief, and our Youth Mission Trip.

If you want to create a bracket to benefit our community, follow the instructions that were emailed on Friday, pick up instructions in the narthex, or contact our “Master of Madness” Troy Hammer at hammer.troy@gmail.com. Troy will be in the narthex during fellowship time today to help you sign up if you’ve never participated before. Each bracket you enter is $15. Family, friends, and the public are welcome to participate.

This is a fun way for us to bear the fruit of God’s love in our community and in the world.