**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 23, 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: “Citizen Victor”

 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 471: *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

 Music leaders will sing through once, then congregation will join to sing 3 more times.

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Let us seek God’s face and enjoy God’s presence.

 **People: We seek God’s presence.**

 Leader: May our fears and concerns be invitations to be present
 with God and one another.

 **People: We listen for God’s guidance.**

 **All:** **We worship God with all that we are.**

 Hymn 291: *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, there are moments when we can’t feel your presence and have trouble believing you are near. Anxiety and frustration overwhelm us. We want our confidence, hope, and trust to be firmly rooted and grounded in you, but we also hunger for control. We trust that our worries and fears do not anger you and that you are near us. Knowing that our fears and worries never threaten you, we offer our fears and anxieties in your presence. May our fears and anxiety be your invitation to walk closer to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is 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 Jessica Bohi-Parks
 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

As the children leave:

 *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)*  Hymnal 701

**Lord, prepare me
To be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy,
Tried and true.
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.**

CCLI Song # 24140

John W. Thompson | Randy Scruggs

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Genesis 12:1-3 Pew Bible, p. 10 (O.T.)

 2 Peter 3:8-9 Pew Bible, p. 238 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Now a word from our sponsor… God” Pastor Wendy Boden

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) Jeremiah 29:11-13

**For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.**

 Hymn 300: *We Are One in the Spirit (They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)*

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: *Knowing You*  Graham Kendrick/arr/ 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 353: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*  (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: Pete Petersen
Greeter/Fellowship: Sue Knisely
Elder at the Door: Sarah Allen
Musicians: Tom Anderson; Lynn Ferino, Elise Henkels
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Francine Long celebrating her nephew 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 celebrating her nephew Fred’s birthday.*  **Joys and Concerns**   **We give thanks to God for joys: (*Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”***
 *- We thank you for Lanny’s grandson Ryan’s presence in the world and pray that he will continue to enjoy many more birthdays.
 - 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 recent good deacon and property meetings
**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 16) there were 101 shooting incidents in 32 states plus the District of Columbia, leaving 43 people dead and 77 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
 - Greg I., nephew of Barb’s dear friend, who died at age 35 after almost 7 weeks in ICU following a massive stroke and related health issues.* **We continue to pray for the families and friends of:**
 - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, who died December 24, and for Paul, her husband
  - Gail Johnston, Andrea Schmidt’s mother
  - Franklin Keith Beeler, Angela Smith’s father
  - 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**:*- Helen Shierry (Steve’s mom) remains hospitalized with multiple health issues. We also pray for Steve and Heidi, as they support her through this time.
 - Jack Thorne had a long wait in the E.R.; we’re glad he’s home.
 - Our trans brothers and sisters and their families for peace and safety
 - We pray for a speedy response and justice from the water company in the flooding of customers’ basement.*
  - Jonathan Buckley
  - Carole Peterson, hospitalized with serious health issues
 - 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 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
**Barb is away through March 25.** She will be working from home on Wednesday,
 March 26, and back in the office on Thursday. **Monday, March 24 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart on Facebook
 live at 5:05 p.m.
Tuesday, March 25** **Special** **Session meeting** at 7:30 p.m., McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, March 26
 eNotes go out but it is also the deadline for the April *Dialog*
 Men of Southminster** at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor/Library **Thursday, March 27
 No choir rehearsal**
 **Young Adults Video Club** meets at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, March 28** A.A.at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **March 30**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **The Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will take place at the end of
 the worship service. **Fellowship time** will follow the meeting.
 **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 are available today in the Narthex.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Our study of Matthew’s gospel is nearing its end. (We read about the crucifixion last Sunday). So, be thinking about what is next. Join us for study, discussion, and good fellowship today at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library. (Bring your fellowship snack with you.)

**Men of Southminster**: Put Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar for our next get-together. Got any ideas about treats to eat. Let Blair N. know.

**Youth**:  Join us for **Pizzaless Games** tonight, 4:00-6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. We will skip the meal for more games and giggles. Talent Show is coming, so we will spend some time getting our act together.

**Talent Show is coming**!  This year’s Talent Show is Sunday, April 27, so now is the time to get your act together. Sign-up sheets will appear in the Narthex soon. Remember, the objective is fun with our church family and support for the Youth Mission Team, which is heading back to Mission, SD, this June for a week of workcamp with the Lakota people.

**From the Mission Ministry**
March Madness and **March Mission Madness** are going strong! How well will your bracket(s) do? Even if you aren’t one of the top finishers, the winners in the end are the missions and projects we support!
If you haven’t yet contributed your $15 per bracket (or more, if you feel like it!), please write a check to Southminster ***and add your bracket name(s) on the memo line*** so our treasurer can reconcile the contributions.

**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**:

Time is running out to order **Easter flowers!** We need orders by March 31. We hope 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.) Sign up 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.

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

**“Paving the Way”**
The Paving the Way committed funds (donations and 2025 pledges) total is $212,221 as of 3.16.2025. If we include the $9,850 in future year pledges, the grand total is $222,071.

Steve Kozich and John Pezl have met with representatives from three firms and are working out the final details of each proposal. The final contractor will be chosen in April. The rough project cost is in the range of $200,000 to $225,000.

We ask that the 2025 pledges be paid by March 31.  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.

**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 is away** through Tuesday, March 25. She will be back to regular in-office hours on Thursday, March 27.

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 23, 2025**

**Welcome our new artists**

Southminster has an intimate, revolving art gallery at the entrance of our building. Every quarter, our exhibit is refreshed with new art from the local community, Chicago, and sometimes even from its members. Our latest installation is a compilation of work by artists from the College of DuPage Continuing Education program. Their teacher, Pam (Cather) Keller, displayed her work here in 2024 and several times previously. Pam’s father, John Cather, displayed his beautiful watercolors here multiple times in the past.

Currently, the nine students displaying their work have been art students of Pam’s at C.O.D. in her watercolor, acrylic, and pencil classes for 4-10 years. The artists are Ron Biondo (Acrylic), Duncan Cory (Oil and Acrylic), Mary Glaz (Watercolor and Acrylic), Kathy Jacobsen (Watercolor and Pastel), Pat Kalbfeld (Acrylic), Jesse Lee (Acrylic), Carrie Peters (Watercolor), Diane Peterson (Watercolor and Acrylic), and Sue Sander (Watercolor and Acrylic).

Please take the opportunity to look at our latest display during fellowship, on your way to a meeting, or on your way to worship.

The public is welcome to enjoy the artwork most Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. or by arrangement by emailing or calling the church.

We (and they) hope you enjoy their art.

We will be hosting a community reception on a Sunday afternoon at a day yet to be determined. Welcoming our community artists into our “home” is another way we bear the fruit of God's love.