**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**5th Sunday of Easter**

**May 18, 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: “The Parking Lot Project”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (1 John 1:1-4)

**That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.**

 Prelude

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

 Hymn 406: *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*  (sing 3 times)

 Call to Worship   (Psalm 33:20-22)

 Leader: We wait in hope for the Lord;

 **People:** **God is our help and our shield.**

 Leader: May God’s unfailing love be with us, Lord,
 even as we put our hope in God.

 **People:** **For the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!**

 **All:** **Alleluia!**

 Hymn: *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*  pg. 2, gold worship supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, your steadfast love is an everlasting promise for us and for everyone. We admit that there are times when we continue to bear grudges and resentments. There are times when we do not want to include others. Forgive us and help us to grow in generous love through the power of the Holy Spirit alive in us. 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 (Romans 8:33-34)

 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; Christ reigns in power for us,

 **People: Christ intercedes for us.**

 **All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia!**

 Response 240: *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* (verse 1)

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is the Lord of all the earth.**

**He is the King of creation.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

Text and Music: Donald Fishel, 1971 © 1973 *International Liturgy Publications*

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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:  Acts 15:1-12 Pew Bible, p. 134 (N.T.)

 Acts 15:13-18 Pew Bible, p. 134 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Now What?”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *The Book of Order (PCUSA)* [F1.0301]

**The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.**

 Hymn: *Bring Forth the Kingdom*  pg. 6, gold worship 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: *Before the Throne of God*  Bancroft and Cook

 \**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 385: *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (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.**  Leader:  For the Lord is risen! **All:  He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgist: Francine Long
Greeter/Fellowship: Sue Knisely
Elder at the Door: Jay Lerch
Musicians: Tom Anderson
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Sue Knisely in honor of grandson Benji’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 Sue Knisely celebrating her grandson Benji’s birthday.* **We give thanks to God for joys: (*Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”*** - “The Lord is risen!” “He is risen indeed!”
 *- We are thankful for Benji’s presence in the world and pray that he will continue to enjoy many more birthdays. May he know your love and share it with others.* **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.”***
 - We join with our Catholic sisters and brothers around the world to celebrate the new pope, Pope Leo XIV. We ask for divine wisdom and grace for him in this leadership role.
 - May we resist the temptation to hate and embrace the law of love.
  - Lord, may you grant all our leaders and authorities wisdom, justice, and empathy as they carry out their duties.
 - We pray for people in prison. May they know that you have not forgotten them.
 - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. May our public servants come together to solve this problematic issue. Bring comfort to those who have suffered loss because of gun violence, and we ask you to reach out to those who are so very desperate to pick up guns to resolve their issues and pain.
 - We pray for the peace of the world and all her people. May they have food, shelter, clean water, clothing, health, and loving relationships.
**Blessed are those who mourn: *(Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”*
We lift up families and friends…:** - We pray for John Rasnic and his family, whose wife, Alicia, died on April 28.
 - We pray for our Pastor, Wendy Boden, and her family – husband Blair Nelson, son Max, daughter Anna, and her extended family – following the death of her mother, Bobette, on April 22. especially Wendy’s “bonus” dad – Bobette’s husband, Frank Barfod.
 - We remember with love and gratitude the life and witness of Floyd Rogers, who passed away peacefully on Good Friday morning.
**We continue to pray for the families and friends of:**  - Joan Koska, and for her extended family
 - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, and for Paul, her husband
  - Gail Johnston, Andrea Schmidt’s mother
  - Franklin Keith Beeler, Angela Smith’s father
  - 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 the church office with the information of your loved ones. We support them and you in their journey.
 - Alyssa, a mother of 3 who has stage 4 cancer
We continue to pray for Kerri, Margaret F., Marge H., Ginny O., Cis R., Marta S.,
Meagan 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) has been moved into memory care. She continues to have balance problems – she fell on Mother’s Day. We continue to pray for Steve and Heidi as they support her.* - Barb’s friend, Tony, finally home recuperating from a serious fall and surgery to implant a cardiac pacemaker/defibrillator.
 - Louanne Jourdan’s brother, Ralph Mueller, is recovering from a heart attack.
  - Jack Thorne, recovering at home now, aided by his daughter
  - Helen Shierry (Steve’s mom), now in a skilled nursing center with continuing health issues. We also pray for Steve and Heidi as they support her.
 - Jonathan Buckley, whose numbers are improving. May he continue to improve.
  - Our trans brothers and sisters and their families for peace and safety
 - 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, May 18**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship time** will follow the service.
 **Child Protection Policy meeting**, 11:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library (No Adult
 Ed. this day)
 **Youth: Pizzaless Games**, 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
 **Pastor Wendy Boden leaves for a retreat Sunday afternoon and returns
 Tuesday afternoon
Monday-Friday – *Major paving work on the parking lot this week. Schedule
 will be updated as we know more (depends on weather and other factors).
 We anticipate some days when the lot will be totally closed, so some
 events on this calendar may be rescheduled or canceled.*
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart on
 Facebook live at 5:05 p.m.
Tuesday, May 20
 Examination of New Officers,** 7:00 p.m., Parlor/Library
 **Session** at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, May 21
 eNotes go out
 Presbyterian Readers** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom **Thursday, May 22**
 **Young Adults Video Club**, 8:30 p.m.
 **Choir rehearsal?** (Not if the lot is closed) 7:00 p.m. **Friday, May 23** **Staff calendar meeting** at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor/Library
 A.A., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **May 25**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship time** will follow the service.
 **Staff meeting**, 11:00 a.m., Pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study**, 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library

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 still 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 will not meet today.**

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.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: Our next after-worship Bible class is May 25th. Join us if you are going to be in town for the long weekend, as we continue our study of Philippians.

**Men of Southminster**: Our next get-together is Wednesday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m. Join us in the Parlor/Library for good conversation and something delicious.

**Youth**: **Pizzaless Games** this Sunday, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Be sure to let Blair N. know if you can make it.
The annual **Rummage Sale** is coming – Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8. There are price stickers in the main hallway. We have flat rates for books and clothes so there’s no need to price those items. ***We cannot accept furniture or electronics.*** Donations can be brought to Fellowship Hall beginning after worship on June 1 and continuing through that week. Contact Blair N if you need help or access (630-917-6035).

**“Paving the Way” – Work is underway!**

Work has begun – mostly at the top of the hill, around the circle drive and the main entrance to the church. The rest of the parking lot is available, but only the north driveway entrance is open. Please use caution when entering the lot. The traffic circle is blocked off, but the front entrance to our building can be reached by the sidewalk. Workers might be on-site on Saturdays but will not be there on Sundays.

As of right now, we anticipate that the parking lot will be closed one or more days this coming week as they prepare and then put down asphalt. We will have to update this next week depending on how things go and the weather. If you need to know the status of the lot on any given day, you can call Steve Kozich (630-207-4525). We still expect the project to be finished by the end of May.

If you plan on watching the workers for more than a few minutes, you must wear a yellow safety vest as this is an active work site. There is a vest in the church office.

If you have any financial questions, please contact Rita Zapel at rboserup@sbcglobal.net. Project construction questions should be directed to Steve Kozich at ee99530@yahoo.com.

***And on the subject of parking…***

**Handicap Accessible parking**

If you need to use a handicap accessible space in the traffic circle on a Sunday and find the spaces all full and no valet parker, **please double park your car by the entrance doors and bring the keys to Lanny**. He will find someone to move your car and return your keys after it’s moved.

**From the Mission Ministry: It’s time to watch your “Gifts Grow”**
During the month of May, you can donate to your favorite Southminster-sponsored organization and have your donation doubled with matching mission funds. Got $50 to donate? Southminster will chip in another $50 to the mission of your choice.

Consider making a donation in honor of a birthday, anniversary, baptism, graduation, or a special someone. Then watch as the donations grow week-by-week in the narthex bulletin board display.

Simply write a check to Southminster and note that it is for Gifts Grow – or use the Gifts Grow envelopes available at church. Be sure to indicate your choice of mission on the envelope or check. Donations must be received by Sunday, June 1, 2025.

Southminster’s Gifts Grow-supported missions include:

 **Bridge Communities People’s Resource Center**

 **Cuba Sister Church Walk-In Ministry**

 **DuPage PADS World Relief**

 **Metropolitan Family Services Youth Mission Trip**

Matching funds are capped at $522 per family, $1,624 per organization and $5,800 total. The Mission Ministry reserves the right to designate use within a given fund.

**From the Worship Ministry**:

The **flower chart for the remainder of 2025** is posted in the Narthex. Please sign up in person or email Sarah Allen at sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com with your choice of flower dates and honoree. Flowers remain $35.00. Thanks for your support of the Flower Ministry at Southminster.

**From the Deacons: Can you help?**
In the narthex this Sunday there will be a signup board. If you would be willing to help the deacons once in a while, check it out! Occasionally we need assistance, such as extra food for receptions or special fellowships, rides for members to church or appointments, or meals for those going through difficult times. Signing up means only that you're willing to be called to see if you're available when we need assistance; it does not mean you're required to help each time we call. We plan to do this signup each May. Thank you from the deacons.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet this Wednesday, May 21, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The May book is *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray. This is the story of two different, yet equally formidable, passionate, and committed women – Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt – and the way in which their singular friendship helped form the foundation for the modern civil rights movement.

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.

**Women’s Monthly Breakfast – Wednesday, June 4**Are you looking for a way to meet other women in the church without having to serve on a committee or attend a meeting? Then the Women’s Monthly Breakfast may be just the thing for you. The breakfast is held at 8:30 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Danby’s Station (750 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn). The next breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4. If you are interested in attending, please contact Gretchen Fleming. All women of the church are invited to join us for breakfast and a time of fellowship in a casual environment.

**An invitation to all from the Glen Ellyn Interfaith Prayer Foundation and People’s Community Church:**On Thursday, June 19, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. we will have a **Juneteenth Celebration**: A Reckoning: Reclaiming the Past, Remembering Black Voices, Reshaping the future. Join us as we celebrate the culture of African Americans on Juneteenth through food, music, and ceremony to celebrate freedom and culture. Peoples Community Church is at 670 S. Lambert Road, Glen Ellyn.

**Jubilee Bucks – thank you for your orders!**Thanks to all who order Jubilee Bucks! So far this year Southminster has earned $835.67 from the sale of gift cards.
Next chance to order: June 1

**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 May 13-June 10, call Deacon Lynn Ferino (630-272-2269). 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 – May 18, 2025**

**Math and Gifts Grow**
During May, Southminster is offering Gifts Grow, an opportunity to contribute to our missions and have your donations matched. Each week during May we will share information about the missions we support. But first, the explanation of how the math works for matching donations:
The Mission Ministry will match your contributions up to a total of $5,800 for the entire event. There is a cap of $522 per family and a cap of $1,624 per mission. The deadline for donations is Sunday, June 1.

Here is information about the third and final group of missions we support.
**Youth Mission Trip:** Annually, the youth of SPC continue our tradition of service by refurbishing homes for elderly and low-income individuals in various communities across the United States. Going away from home and caring for people outside their own community is a way for our youth to not only serve others but also step outside their comfort zone. Don’t forget the Rummage Sale and Car Wash that benefits the Youth Mission Trip. Intake for donations begins on Sunday, June 1., and the sale and car wash will be Saturday and Sunday, June 7 and 8.

**Cuba Sister Church:** Since 2006, SPC has enjoyed a special relationship with the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Guanabacoa, Cuba. This ministry focuses on building relationships and providing support. SPC is the only official sister church of Guanabacoa, offering their primary support for ministry. Many members of SPC have visited, and you are encouraged to consider a visit as well. You are also invited to join a faith and interest group that plans events on behalf of the mission ministry for our sister church. We look forward to a visit this coming November, likely from the 13th through the 19th. There is some flexibility with the dates, and you are welcome to join us; please contact Mission Ministry moderator Gretchen Fleming if you are interested.

**Metropolitan Family Services (formerly Family Shelter Service)** supports families needing assistance as they transition from abusive situations. They also provide a wide variety of programs and services designed to strengthen families and help them realize their full potential. From early learning, afterschool and job readiness programs to counseling, mental health services and legal assistance, they work to help families heal and thrive. One of our members volunteers in their thrift store to help raise funds.

**Walk In Ministry** provides a single source of compassionate assistance to families and individuals in need. The Walk-In Ministry is housed at Glen Ellyn 1st United Methodist Church and is supported by many of Glen Ellyn’s churches. A few people from Southminster Presbyterian Church volunteer at Walk-In Ministry or serve on their board.

**World Relief** partners with local churches and hundreds of individual volunteers to assist refugee families newly arriving in the United States. Since its founding over 40 years ago, it has welcomed more than 300,000 refugees into the United States in partnership with the U.S. Department of State and served over 125,000 other immigrants by providing vital services and community connections. Although immigration has slowed, World Relief continues to help immigrants settle into their new homes. Whether securing housing, supplying necessities, or enrolling children in school, World Relief supports these families every step of the way as they embark on the path to belonging. On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, Rev. Keith Draper, Regional Director of Church Relations for World Relief, will be preaching here at Southminster.

Please look at the bulletin board in the narthex and watch our gifts grow. Helping our Gifts Grow is one of the ways we bear the fruit of God’s love.