**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Ascension Sunday**

**May 12, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

Find the link for the service on one of these sites:

1) on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>
2) our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

3) our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/>

If the video feed is interrupted during the service, we will continue to record and then post the full video on Facebook and our web site as soon as possible.

 Gathering Music

Our Photo Story today is “Spring by Carol McHaley.”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (Acts 1:3-4a)‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬

**After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father.**

  Prelude: Mother’s Day medley

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

 Hymn 824: *There Is a Place of Quiet Rest* (all 3 verses)

 *(Near to the Heart of God)*

 Call to Worship

 Leader: God is farther than the farthermost star,

 **People: Yet, God is as near as the very air we breathe.**

 Leader: May the light of God’s presence warm our minds and hearts

 **People: And break through the cloud that keeps God from our sight.**

 **All:** **For the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

 Hymn 71: *Surely It Is God Who Saves Me* (all)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, we sometimes struggle to grasp your love for us and your tender mercy toward us. Water our dry souls, mend our broken hearts, and rebuild our broken relationships. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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 Chris Kozich
 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

As the children leave:

 *I Danced in the Morning* (refrain) Hymnal 157

Refrain:

**Dance then, wherever you may be;**

**I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,**

**And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,**

**And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

CCLI Song # 78529

Sydney Bertram Carter

Words: Stainer & Bell Ltd; Music: Stainer & Bell Ltd

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Luke 24:44-52 Pew Bible, p. 91 (N.T.)

 Isaiah 49:14-18 Pew Bible, p. 680 (O.T.)

 Sermon: “God Has Not Forgotten You”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 (*PCUSA Book of Order* F1.01)

**The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God’s mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God’s love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ. Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God’s mission.**

 Hymn:  *He Knows My Name* pg. 18, 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: *The Wind Beneath My Wings* xx

 \**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 625: *O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)* (all 4 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: Mother’s Day medley

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Lois Stevenson
Greeter/Fellowship: Paul Jeziorski
Musician: Dr. Derek Buckley
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are from the Parks family celebrating Joe’s birthday.

If you are online, we’re glad to have you! Using the comments section on Facebook, you can say hello, ask for words of peace, or request prayers.
If you are present for worship, following the service you are invited by the deacons to gather for **in-person fellowship** in the narthex.

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

You are invited to join us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>), where we have a live sharing of “**Heart to Heart**” with Pastor Wendy Boden at 4:20 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday.

We continue to be live on **Sunday morning for worship** at 9:30 a.m. (slideshow beginning at 9:15) on YouTube at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>

If you are watching from home on Facebook, please check in and say hello so we can see that you have joined us. This is one way to make worship less “remote” and strengthen community at Southminster.

*The live video will appear about 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.*

*If for any reason the feed falters, rest assured that a recording will be posted to Facebook and You Tube as soon as possible.*

You can also find links to recordings of the weekday sessions, special services, and Sunday worship posted on our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/> or by going to our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos>

**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us feel connected!**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us prepare for worship, connect with one another, and make sure that our at-home people get both sound and sight. Here’s the next opportunity for you to share your photos:
 **June 2: “Cuba”** - members of the mission team, please share some of the photos you take
 during your visit to our sister church. Send photos by Thursday, May 30.

**Send photos to our dedicated email address, used just for photos:**PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org**.** (If you only have hard copies of your photos, please leave them in the photo box on Pastor Wendy’s desk, labeled with your name and the date they are to be used.

**Note to elders**: Remember that the May Session meeting is earlier than usual – it’s this Wednesday, May 15, rather than on Tuesday, May 21 because the Cuba mission team is leaving on the 21st.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: We continue our study of Matthew’s gospel at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library. Join us for edification, conversation, and even some entertainment. To join us online, use this link: [<https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>](https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye).

**Men’s Group**:  Be sure to have this Saturday, May 18, at 9:00 a.m. in your calendar for our next Men’s time of stories and goodies. Bring a couple of bucks for the coffee and donuts. Let Blair N. know that you are coming. Are you ready to tell your story?

**Youth**: No event today. It’s Mother’s Day – take care of your mama!

Theannual **Rummage Sale** is coming Saturday-Sunday, June 1-2. Donations can be brought to church starting after worship on May 26th. Price stickers are on the nametag shelf in the main hallway. There is no need to price books or clothing; we have flat rates for that. Feel free to donate ***almost anything but electronics or infant furniture***—the electronics don’t sell and we have to pay to recycle them, and there are restrictive laws governing the reselling of things like cribs and highchairs.
**From the Mission Ministry:**

**For our sister church in Cuba**: **All donations must be here by 12:15 p.m. today.**
On May 21 a team of 6 people from Southminster will leave to visit our sister church in Guanabacoa, Cuba. Today is the last day we are collecting items for our mission team to take with them. These are items that are sorely lacking in Cuba.

**Items for collection for our sister church in Cuba**

**For children’s activities**:

 Paste—glue sticks, or school glues

 Scotch tape—single sided, in different widths

 Colored paper

 Christian themed and other types of stickers

**Over-the-counter medicines—large bottles when possible (which will be doled out in small bags)\***

 Acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol) 500 mg. tablets *(containers of 200 or more pills when
 possible)*

 Ibuprofen (e.g. Advil, Motrin) 200 mg. tablets *(containers of 200 or more pills when
 possible)*

 Naproxen Sodium (e.g. Alleve) 220 mg. tablets *(containers of 300 or more pills when
 possible)*

 Antifungal creams (e.g. Clotrimazol) 2 oz. or 60 gm tube

 Triple antibiotic ointment 1 oz. or 28 gram tube

 Hydrocortisone cream 1 oz or 28 gm or 2 oz. or 60 gm tube

 Medicines for stomach (e.g. Omeprazol, Famotidine or Zantac) 20 mg. tablets

**Vitamins—large bottles when possible (which will be doled out in small bags)\***

 Complete Multivitamins for adults and seniors

 Complete Multivitamins for children –chewables (not gummies)

 Vitamin C 500 milligram tablets *(large containers whenever possible)*

**Bed and bath items needed (should be new):**

 Flat sheets for single beds *(not fitted because they may not fit the mattresses used)*

 Sets of sheets for queen-sized bed

 Bath Towels (**bath towels in Cuba should be thin: plush towels do not dry out)**

 Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes (very small size only)

\***For the over-the-counter medicines and vitamins, save your money and the space needed to pack them by purchasing the larger bottles whenever possible. Also purchase the generic or house brands when you can because they are much more economical. The most reasonable places to purchase medications and vitamins are usually Walmart, Target, and Amazon.**

***Please bring donations no later than 12:15 p.m. today.***

*You may contact Sue Knisely if you have questions about items to donate: 630-776-7998 (phone or text) or* sueknisely@gmail.com.

During the month of May you have the opportunity to contribute to our missions through a program we call “**Gifts Grow**,” and your gifts will be matched by the Mission Ministry up to a total of $5,400 for the entire event. Our missions are Bridge Communities, Cuba Sister Church, DuPage PADS, Metropolitan Family Services, People’s Resource Center, Walk-In Ministry, World Relief, and the Youth Mission Trip. Matching funds are capped at $300 per family, $1,000 per organization, and $5,400 total. Be sure your donation indicates which mission(s) you are supporting; all donations must be received by May 31. See the “Bearing Fruit” item on the last page of this bulletin for more information.

**From the Worship Ministry**:

**Next Sunday is Pentecost – please join us for worship**! On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, we will welcome to our pulpit the Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, Executive Presbyter of Chicago Presbytery. The sanctuary paraments and banners will be red for Pentecost. Pentecost is the church’s liturgical celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other disciples in Jerusalem as described in Acts 2:1-31. Worship Ministry hopes to see the pews filled that Sunday, reflecting the wonderful faith community of Southminster Presbyterian Church.

The **flower chart** for the remainder of 2024 is posted in the narthex, and there are still a number of Sundays available. Please sign up in person or email Sarah Allen, sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com with your choice of flower dates and honoree. Flowers remain $35.00 per arrangement. Thank you for your support of the Flower Ministry at Southminster.

**Presbyterian Readers** normally meet on the third Wednesday of the month (which would be this Wednesday), but because of the rescheduled Session meeting on Wednesday, the Readers will not meet until next month. Join us on Wednesday, June 9, to discuss *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar; the discussion will be at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Presbyterian Women** will have our final meeting for the 2023-2024 year this Friday, May 17, when we will celebrate the past year of activities and the coming of summer with our Annual Spring Luncheon at Reserve 22. If you have signed up, please meet at Reserve 22 on Friday at 11:30 a.m.

**Meet the Artist Reception—next Sunday, May 19**

Next Sunday, May 19, Southminster will host an Artist’s Reception for Jesse Lee from 12:30-2:00 p.m. His works may be enjoyed now in our Hallway Gallery. No Strings Attached (a saxophone quartet) will perform during the reception.

**Jubilee Bucks:**Thanks to all who have ordered gift cards! So far this year we have made $764.54 in "free" money for our church! Next chance to order is June 2.   **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
Many thanks to all who contribute to People’s Resource Center! The need is definitely there! In one week in late April, they served 544 families. This is about the weekly average. Each family received over 60 pounds of food- pasta, rice, canned corn, soup, tomato sauce, tuna, cereal, salad greens, apples, squash, potatoes, bread, pastries, meat, milk, eggs, and other assorted items. 544 families at 60 pounds each equals ***over 30,000 pounds of food a week!*** Our donations do help make a difference!

PRC has provided a list of the items that are most needed. Copies are printed on bright green paper and are in the stand on the nametag shelf (main hallway – across from the offices). You can view the list online at the PRC website: <https://www.peoplesrc.org/give-food-or-goods/>. Many thanks to all who continue to support PRC’s mission to meet our communities’ needs, neighbor to neighbor.

**Community News
A Southminster Musician in Performance!**
Our Derek Buckley will sing with Sinfonietta Bel Canto in the U.S. premiere of Daniel François Auber’s comic one-act opera “Le Concert à la Coeur ou La Débuntante.” Also on the program will be Saint-Saëns’ Second Symphony, op. 55. ***Note that the performance information we previously gave out from the* Daily Herald *was incorrect!*** Performances are Saturday, May 18, 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul United Church of Christ, 5739 Dunham Rd., Downers Grove, and Sunday, May 19, 4:00 p.m. at Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook. You can order tickets at the website: <https://sinfoniettabelcanto.org>.

The **Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall** is coming to College of DuPage from Wednesday, May 29, to Sunday, June 2, in Fawell Lot C. Admission is free.
Hours:
Wednesday, May 29 – 2:00-8:00 p.m.

May 30 to June 2 – 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

The Wall is hosted by Glen Ellyn American Legion, Post 3, and sponsored by the Village of Glen Ellyn and the College of DuPage

**Care Notes:** “In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” -Philippians 4:6
Even though we aren’t all together for worship, we are still collecting prayer requests! Please email or leave a message on our answering machine at 630-469-9149 if you won’t be present to fill out a prayer request slip.

**Friends,****You are all invited to offer prayer for people whether they are members or not. It would be a joy and very helpful to know how people are doing. If you have submitted a person to be prayed for, please send an update to the office once in a while. Thank you! Pastor Wendy**

**Joys and Concerns**  **The flowers today** are from the Parks family to celebrate Joe’s birthday.
**We give thanks to God for joys:** - Zo Zapel’s hand surgery was a success.
 - Good news for Meagan Severson, who has an opportunity to receive cancer treatment at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
 - Peace for our college campuses
 - Peace for Haiti and Sudan; Hamas, Israel, the people of Palestine, and the tangle of interests in the Middle East; Ukraine and Russia
  - Pray for our President and our legislative and judicial bodies
 - Pray for those affected by violent weather/tornadoes through the Midwest and Southeast
 - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. On just one day – this past Sunday, May 5 – there were 89 incidents of gun violence in 29 states plus the District of Columbia, killing 35 people and wounding 92 others. Go to [the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/last-72-hours) to see current statistics for shootings in our country.
  - We pray for our nation as we continue to wrestle with race relations.
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world
**Blessed are those who mourn:**
 - For Odi, wife of our sister church’s pastor, and her family on the recent death of her grandfather, Pipo
 - The family and friends of Rev. Richard Thompson, a former pastor of Southminster, who died on April 11. His service will be at the 1st Presbyterian Church of Ft. Collins, Colorado, Monday, May 13, at 5:00 p.m. A peace lily will be sent from Southminster.
  - For the families and friends of Ruth, Grace, Ed, Dan, and 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: Frank B., Katie B., Pam G., Tom G., Frank L., Jean K., Jan M., Nikki M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Laura P., Gerry S., Marta S., Meagan S., Beverly W., Shelayne, and others we name in our hearts.  **We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges:** - Barb Doppelt’s Aunt Ruth, who fell and has a broken hip among other health issues for which she is refusing surgery/treatment
 - Barb’s sister-in-law, Michaele, having knee surgery on Wednesday
 - Brandon, a young man with liver damage
 - Donna Marton’s brother, Richard, needs prayers for healing a foot bone infection.
 - Prayers for all who are looking for meaningful employment
 - Rick Crilly, recovering from spinal surgery
 - Mya, an 11-year-old who is suffering from an auto immune disease
 - All those who have medical concerns and upcoming medical procedures
 - All who are recovering from Covid
 - Isabella, awaiting a kidney donor
 - Oaklen, a grandchild of a friend of Tricia Smith, who has birth defects
 - Sandy Phee asks prayers for Linda Talaga, who is now blind in both eyes.
  - Ann Anderson asks prayers for good news for Dan’s heart condition.
  - All those who are experiencing chronic pain.
  - For Faith and others who are depressed
  - Jim Smith, recovering at Brookdale, and for all who are recovering
  - We continue prayers for those in hospice care: Gail Johnston at Du Page Convalescent Center (If you send a card to Gail, please mail it to Andrea Schmidt, whose address is in the directory.); former President Jimmy Carter.
**We pray for the Jeremiah 29 discernment task force and all of us as we seek God’s will for Southminster in the 21st century.** May we all be attentive to the Holy Spirit’s leading.
**Prayers for our worshiping community** as we discern together God’s call on SPC for the 21st century.
**Caring for you!**Our **Congregational Care Committee** is ready to assist in time of need. If you need assistance from the Congregational Care Ministry or Helping Hands in May call 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. Email Wendy at wendy@southminsterpc.org. (Please note that she can only read email when she is in the office.) You may also call your deacon if you need help from the church.
 **Regular Office Schedule: The church office is closed on Mondays and Wednesdays.**Barb’s regular schedule is to be in the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from approximately 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. while her son attends his day program on those days. Mondays and Wednesdays she works from home.

Grace and peace to you! Remember that we love God, neighbor, and one another. Our address is 680 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 if you would like to set up an online account with your bank or mail in your pledge. Online giving through Vanco is also now an option –for details contact Ron Birchall.

**Dates to remember this week:**    **Sunday, May 12** **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the meeting
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either online via Google Meet or by joining Blair
 in person in the McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Confirmation class** at 11:15 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **No Youth Pizza & Games**
**Monday, May 13 – Pastor’s Sabbath
 Jeremiah Task Force** at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
**Tuesday, May 14
 Knitting Circle** at 10:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Deacons** meet at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, May 15
 May Session meeting (note the earlier meeting date!)** at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry
 Parlor/Library **Presbyterian Readers** are not meeting this month because of the rescheduled
 Session meeting **Thursday, May 16** Neighborhood homeowners meeting from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
 **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary **Young Adults Online** at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, May 17
 PW Circle Luncheon** at 11:30 a.m. at Reserve 22 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, May 18
 Men of Southminster** at 9:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Next** **Sunday,** **May 19 – The Day of Pentecost** **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook; the Rev. Dr. Craig Howard, Executive Presbyter of Chicago Presbytery will be our guest preacher
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the meeting
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either online via Google Meet or by joining Blair
 in person in the McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Confirmation class and new officers** meet together at 11:15 a.m.
 in Fellowship Hall
 **Artist’s Reception** from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in the main hallway art gallery and Narthex. There will be refreshments and music!
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Bearing Fruit – May 12, 2024**

**Thank you, Derek Buckley!**

While our Music director is away today, we welcome Dr. Derek Buckley as a sub. Derek has been a member of SPC since 2023. He graduated with a doctorate in music and vocal performance from the University of Illinois. He has had the pleasure of studying with Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. Alan Peters, Mr. Jerry Daniels, and most recently master classes with MS Renee Fleming and MS Linda Eder. Clearly Derek loves opera and, in particular, bel canto roles which have been a centerpiece of his repertoire for the past 20 years. For the Offertory today he will sing a contemporary piece, “The Wind Beneath My Wings.” As you listen consider how God’s Spirit has lifted you in your walk with our Lord.

**“Gifts Grow” – Part 2**During the month of May you have the opportunity to contribute to our missions through a program we call “Gifts Grow,” and your gifts will be matched by the Mission Ministry up to a total of $5,400 for the entire event.

Throughout May, Bearing Fruit will offer brief sketches of our various outreach ministries. This is not an endorsement or recommendation but a little bit of extra information about some of our missions and how we bear the fruit of God’s love. Our missions are Bridge Communities, Cuba Sister Church, DuPage PADS, Metropolitan Family Services, People’s Resource Center, Walk-In Ministry, World Relief, and the Youth Mission Trip.

Presbyterians believe that whatever we do, we do it to the glory of God. Southminster Presbyterian Church has always been a congregation that reaches out in love to those around them. Last week we profiled several of the ministries in which we have had particular hands-on involvement; this week we look at the remaining ministries we support.

**Bridge Communities** is the largest provider of transitional housing in DuPage County. In addition to having several people who volunteer at Bridge Communities throughout the year, SPC also supports Bridge by participating in their “Sleep Out Saturday” event in November. On May 17 our pastor will offer the “grace” at the annual Bridge Community Spring Luncheon.

**DuPage PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter):** Founded in 1985, DuPage PADS is the largest provider of interim and permanent housing, coupled with support services in order to help individuals work toward becoming self-sufficient. These vital support services enable the individuals we help to receive case management and life coaching, employment support such as job coaching, as well as engagement with employers—with the goal of stopping the cycle of homelessness.

**People’s Resource Center** is a community-based service organization that provides numerous human service programs to DuPage County residents who are in economic distress. Nearly 26,000 DuPage residents rely on PRC for help each year, receiving nutritious food and other basic necessities like clothes and rent assistance. PRC also connects people with resources – education and tutoring, jobs, technology, art, and a caring community – to create a future of hope and opportunity for all.

Southminster has collected food and personal care products for PRC for years, but when the pandemic arrived in our area in March 2020 and our building closed, we began collecting goods for PRC on the front porch of the Freys’ home, Bobbi and Tom. (Bobbi is a longtime volunteer at PRC.) We have moved the collection boxes back to the church – they are now located in the main hallway opposite the church office. The weekly carloads of donations Bobbi delivers to PRC make a difference in the lives of many in our county!

Supporting ministries such as these is one way we bear the fruit of God’s love.