**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 15, 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 “Stars.”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (Acts 2:2)‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬

**They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

  Prelude

[Please remain seated as we begin worship.]

 Hymn: *He Knows My Name*  p. 18, gold worship supplement

 Call to Worship

 Leader: In a world torn by pain and violence,
 give us courage to trust in your love and care.

 **People: We claim your promise of a new heaven and a new earth.**

 **All:** **We worship God together.**

 Hymn: *Days of Elijah*  p. 14, gold worship supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, in Jesus Christ you shocked people by saying “Your sins are forgiven.” Thank you for the promise of sins, offenses, misdeeds, and faults forgiven. We come to you, knowing we are loved, accepted, and made new through faith and in the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray 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  (Psalm 103)

 Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious;
     slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

 **People: For as the heavens are high above the earth,** **so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

 Leader: As far as the east is from the west,
     so far he removes our transgressions from us.

 **People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

 **All: Alleluia!**

 Response 582: *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,**

**And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,**

**And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

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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:

 *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*

**He’s got the whole world in his hands,**

**He’s got the whole wide world in his hands,**

**He's got the whole world in his hands,**

**He's got the whole world in his hands.**

Public domain

 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Hebrews 11:8-12  Pew Bible, p. 225 (N.T.)

 Genesis 15:1-6 Pew Bible p. 12 (O.T.)

 Sermon: “Remember to Look Up”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison) Philippians 2:12a, 14-15

**Therefore, my beloved… do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world.**

 Hymn 819: *Be Still, My Soul*

 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: *Your Grace Is Enough* (p. 43, gold supplement)

 \**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.**

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 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

 Hymn 370: *This Is My Father’s World*

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,
 **People: For we are blessed to be a blessing! Alleluia!**

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgist: Pete Petersen
Greeter/Fellowship: Francine Long
Musician: Tom Anderson
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are from Francine Long, celebrating her 54th wedding anniversary with her husband, Jim.

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 of **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 is a coming opportunity for you to share your photos:
 **October 6:** “**Communion Tables**” – photos of communion tables from the places of
 worship you visit while away on vacation or even ask a relative to send you a picture.
 Please send photos by Thursday, October 3.

**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.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Our study of Matthew’s Gospel continues today at 11:15 in the Parlor/Library. Join us as we follow Jesus to Jerusalem.

**Men of Southminster**:  Some of us will be grilling up a storm at the Stewardship Potluck next Sunday, September 22. Watch for an email from Blair N looking for dates to meet in Oct., Nov., and Dec.

**Youth**: Our next event is next Sunday – Sept. 22 – at 4:00 p.m. We will meet for an hour before the Stewardship Potluck and hear about life in Cuba and in the Guanabacoa youth group! Then we will eat with the rest of our church family (be sure to bring your family).

**From the Mission Ministry: The Cuba Sister Church Ministry**
There is more to having a sister church than paying a visit, though the visits are important. In September the Chicago Presbytery is hosting the Cuba Partnership Network (CPN) for their annual meeting in Darien, IL. The CPN is a network of Presbyterian churches in the U.S. that have sister churches in Cuba. ***We are looking for people to help with this event.*** Pastor Wendy will be making gift bags and would love your help assembling them – Tuesday at her home 9:30-10:30. The event will also need folks to make Costco runs and airport runs. There will be people attending from all over the United States and Cuba.

**We need people to pray that the U.S. visas for Cubans attending this important meeting come through in time**! Take a moment right now and offer a prayer.

Southminster is looking for someone to help make the travel arrangements for our trips. Would you enjoy supporting this special relationship by working on the arrangements? You will be guided and taught and not just simply tossed into the deep end.

We are also collecting school supplies for our Cuba sister church. Christian Ed./VBS started the drive – here is their list of suggested items:

**Collection for Cuba:**

Crayons
Colored pencils
Markers
Pencils
Glue sticks
Glue in plastic bottles
Erasers
Tape
Stickers
AA Batteries (for battery operated pencil sharpener)

**Please leave donations in the suitcase in the Narthex.**

**From the Worship Ministry**

**All Saints Sunday: *Remembering those we have lost this past year***

All Saints Sunday ‒ November 3 this year‒ as a way to acknowledge our grief by giving it to God as we renew our hope in God through Jesus Christ. Death does not have the last word! On this Sunday we draw close to God and to one another. We remember the hope that we are called to as Christ’s people. We will conclude our worship that day by gathering in our Memorial Garden and blessing the new memorial bricks that have been placed there during the past year.

If you would you like to add the name of a loved one (they don't need to be a member of the Southminster faith community), please send a picture and their name to PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org **by October 25**. If you would like their name to be printed in the Bearing Fruit and mentioned in prayers, please send their name and date to
[admin@Southminsterpc.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5COwner%5CDesktop%5C2020%20Pandemic%2009-01-23%20update%5CDialog%5CSeptember%202023%5Cadmin%40Southminsterpc.org%20) **by October 25**, as well.

**Memorial Bricks**: If you would like to purchase a memorial brick, to remember someone or to honor someone, we must have your request no later than September 20. The cost remains $125 per brick. Pick up an order form on the desk in the church office or contact the office by phone (630-469-9149) or email (admin@southminsterpc.org). We need time to have the bricks engraved and installed before dedicating them on All Saints Sunday, November 3.

**Join us for the Stewardship Potluck next Sunday, September 22!**

You are all invited to the **Stewardship Ministry’s Annual Potluck Supper** on Sunday, September 22, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, featuring Hamburgers and Hot Dogs grilled by the “Grill Masters” from the Men’s group. You may bring other “American” style picnic foods to share if you like, or just come for the great food and great company. There will be plenty of both! Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex for Set-up, Grilling and Clean-up, and all are welcome to participate. Signing up is not required, but it will help our planning if you do.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet this Wednesday, September 18, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Our September book is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* byJames McBride, the winner of the 2024 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction.

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**.**

**Presbyterian Women** will kick off its new season with a breakfast tea this Friday, September 20, starting promptly at 9:30 a.m. in the McHenry Parlor/Library. The meeting focuses on reconnecting with each other through a social gathering. There will be a short business meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. All women of the church are invited.

**Jubilee Bucks:**
Thanks to all who order Jubilee Bucks gift cards! Your purchases to date have earned $1,409.98 of “free” money
for Southminster. Your next chance to order will be Sunday, October 6, but you can always get your order in early with an email to bobbifrey@aol.com.

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
Our weekly donations are greatly appreciated! Every bit helps! Each client receives between 70-100 pounds of food per visit! PRC receives, rescues, sorts and distributes about 40,000 pounds of food per week. Thanks to all! If you’d like suggestions for the most needed items for the PRC food pantry, there are lists of suggested donations in one of the literature stands on the shelf in the main hallway that is across from the church offices.

**Community invitations!**Save the date – Wednesday, September 25, at 7:00 a.m. – for the annual **Glen Ellyn Interfaith Prayer Breakfast** at the Abbington. The theme is “Experiencing Wholeness through Diversity,” and the guest speaker will be Paul Chandler, “an author, art curator, non-profit executive, interfaith peacemaker, and an authority on the Middle East and Africa. He grew up in Senegal, West Africa, and has lived and worked extensively around the world in senior leadership roles within faith-based publishing, the arts, relief and development…” He also has roots in the Glen Ellyn community.

Again this year Pastor Wendy Boden is reserving two tables for the friends and members of Southminster. You are invited to be her guest, or you may donate $30.00. If you are interested in joining the Southminster group at the event, please send an email to our administrator, Barb, at admin@southminsterpc.org or call 630-469-9149.

**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**

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

**Joys and Concerns** ***The flowers today*** *are from Francine Long, celebrating her 54th wedding anniversary with her husband, Jim.***We give thanks to God for joys:** *- Our friend Raluca Bojor Hofmeyer became an American citizen this past week! (She is originally from Romania.)* **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
 *- Prayers for the family and friends of the 2 students and 2 teachers shot and killed at Apalachee High School in Georgia: Mason Schermerhorn, Christian Angulo, Christina Irimie, and Richard Aspinwall. Intervention for Colt Gray.*  - 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 the American people to come together as we vote.
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. *In one day (last Sunday, September 8) there were 95 shooting incidents in 28 states and the District of Columbia, leaving 33 people dead and 76 people injured.)* To see current statistics for shootings in our country go to <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>.
  - We pray for our nation as we continue to wrestle with race relations.
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world
 - For the Cuba Partnership Network as they seek visas for Cuban pastors and spouses for their meeting in September
**Blessed are those who mourn**:
 *- Marta Sundquist and family of the death of her mother, Elizabeth Parrish, on Sunday
 - The family and friends of Fire Chief (Ret.) Dan Hermes, who died August 29 after 13 years of illness
 - Victor King and family on the death of his sister, Elrene King, in South Africa
 - Barb Doppelt’s extended family on the death of her dear Aunt Ruth
 - The death of Beverly Webb, the sister of the late Bill Curry and Gretchen Fleming’s sister-in-law. Comfort in sorrow her husband, Bob, and daughter, Allison.
 - Pastor Dave Price (Glen Ellyn 1st United Methodist Church), his wife, Laura, and their family on the death of Laura’s mother* - The family and friends of Joe Furwo
 - Prayers for the family of Caroline Linde, and especially for Ralph, after her passing on July 17. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Caroline will be held at Southminster this Saturday, September 14; visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the service following at 11:00. You can find her obituary here: <https://www.hultgrenfh.com/obituary/carolinelinde>.
  - For those we name in our hearts and hold dear
**We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems**:
Please help us pray for your family and friends by updating your loved ones’ information with the church office. We support them and you in their journey.
 *- Meagan Severson had successful surgery, looking forward to chemo.*
 - We continue to pray for: Kim, Mark, Frank B., Katie B., Pam G., Tom G., Frank L., Jean K., Jan M., Nikki M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Betsey P., Laura P., Cis R., Gerry S., Marta S., Mary T., 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**:
 *- Scott Zapel, recovering well after hip replacement surgery
 - Our friends in Cuba: Ignacio, who is very ill and alone in the hospital, and Maria Carmen, who will have eye surgery*
 *- Rick Crilly had one procedure this past week with more to come
 - Heather Kralicek recovering from foot surgery*
 - Prayers for Paul Anderson following ankle surgery
  - Heidi Shierry, continuing health issues
  - Jim Smith, at Brookdale, and all who are in care centers
 - Those trying to conceive and struggling with infertility
  - Prayers for all who are looking for meaningful employment
  - All those who have medical concerns and upcoming medical procedures
  - All those who are experiencing chronic pain.
  - For those who are depressed
  - Difficult marriages
  - 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; Barb Doppelt’s friend Bill
 - We continue to pray for: Barb (Deb’s cousin), Brandon, Dan, Joe M., Felice T., Isabella, Kathy, Linda T., Mya, Oaklen, Phyllis L.
**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 September, call Deacon Barb Kocinski (630-710-4703). 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, September 15**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 in the pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Pathfinders** online at 3:00 p.m. CDT
**Monday, Sept. 16 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.  **Tuesday, Sept. 17
 Staff calendar meeting**, 12:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 Presbytery Assembly, 3:00 p.m. at 1st Presbyterian Libertyville
 **Session** meets at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, Sept. 18
 Presbyterian Readers** meet at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom **Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 19-21 – Pastor Wendy Boden will attend Cuba
 Partners Network all-day meetings** (but will continue to do Heart to Heart)
**Thursday, Sept. 19
 Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary **Friday, Sept. 20
 Presbyterian Women** meet at 9:30 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next Sunday, September 22**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 in the pastor’s office
 **Confirmation** at 11:15 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth Group** meets from 4:00 p.m. until the potluck
 **Stewardship Potluck** at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Covid – where are we now?**Covid spiked during the summer/early fall, so we have continued having a “comfort zone” toward the back of the sanctuary. You may, of course, continue to wear a mask, if you so choose.

**Bearing Fruit – September 15, 2024**

**Sowing the Seeds of Peace**

The theme for this year’s Peace and Global Witness Offering is “Sowing the Seeds of Peace.”

Through the Peace and Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world. All during the month of September until World Communion Sunday, October 6, Presbyterian churches around the United States of America collect funds to support various mission efforts around the world. 25% of our collection here at Southminster will go to a local mission: DuPage PADS.

Our webmaster updates our website by reviewing our monthly newsletter, the *Dialog*. She connected sowing the “seeds of peace” with All Saints Sunday, November 3. Clearly that’s not right, but is it truly wrong? Each life at Southminster is a seed of peace in the world. When we mourn others, we do so knowing that their lives were seeds of God’s grace and peace in the world. Many of us have had to say good-bye to loved ones, both Southminster members and others in our circle of love this past year. Perhaps you know a saint who has died.

Southminster knows that death does not have the final word, and we have various ways to remember those we have lost this past year. Part of being a church family is stepping up and sharing love in moments of loss and grief. One of those moments can be the final time we say goodbye, a memorial service or a funeral.

We also use All Saints Sunday ‒ November 3 this year‒ as a way to acknowledge our grief by giving it to God as we renew our hope in God through Jesus Christ. Death does not have the last word! On this Sunday we draw close to God and to one another. We remember the hope that we are called to as Christ’s people. We will conclude our worship that day by gathering in our Memorial Garden and blessing the new memorial bricks that have been placed there during the past year.

If you would you like to have the name of a loved one printed in the All Saints Sunday bulletin and mentioned in prayers, please send their name and date of death to admin@southminsterpc.org **by October 25**. (They don’t need to be a member of the Southminster faith community.) To add them to the All Saints Sunday PhotoStory, please send a picture and their name to PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org **by October 25**.
 **Memorial Bricks**: If you would like to purchase a memorial brick to remember someone or to honor someone, we must have your request no later than September 20. (A memorial brick can be for anyone, regardless of the year they died.) The cost remains $125 per brick. Pick up an order form on the desk in the church office or in the literature rack on the nametag shelf in the hallway across from the church offices. You may also contact the office by phone (630-469-9149) or email (admin@southminsterpc.org). We need time to have the bricks engraved and installed before dedicating them on All Saints Sunday, November 3.

Comforting and supporting one another is one of the many ways we bear the fruit of God’s love.