**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**20th Sunday after Pentecost  
World Communion Sunday**

**October 6, 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.

For those who are in the sanctuary, please put your phone in airplane mode.

Today we are having communion. Those at home may want to gather the elements (“bread” and “wine” or whatever you have) before the service begins.

Gathering Music/Photo Story: “Communion Tables”

Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Stewardship

Congregational Prayer of Dedication for the Peace and Global Witness Offering

**Lord God,   
every time the world is troubled and we dare to wake and see;   
every time our neighbors call us, and we stand with those in need;   
and every time we are peacemakers and the fearful are set free,   
in our living and in our giving we are there with thee.  
Amen.**

Prelude

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

Hymn 519: *You Are My Strength When I Am Weak (You Are My All in All)*

Call to Worship

Leader: We are invited to a joyful feast, hosted by Jesus Christ.

**People: Come home and find the bread of life.**

Leader: Come and find a fountain of grace.

**People: All who are lost will find safety here.**

Leader: All who are lonely will find a friend here.

**People: All who are broken will find healing here.**

Leader: All who have been wandering will find a home at the Lord’s Table.

**All:** **Let us worship God! You are invited to the table!**

Hymn 515: *I Come with Joy* (all verses)

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**God of Grace, we grieve that the church which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope, and one calling has become a broken communion in a broken world. The one body spans all time, place, race, and language, but in our fear, we have fled from and fought one another, and in our pride we have mistaken our part for the whole. Forgive our sins as we commit ourselves to seeking and showing the unity of the body of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ  (Philippians 3:9, Ephesians 2:17)

Leader: “God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ,”   
 through whom our sins were forgiven.

**People: May God help us to continue to “preach peace   
 to those who are far and near.”**

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

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 Wendy   
 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.**

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Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:  Exodus 13:3, 8-10 Pew Bible, p. 59, 60 (O.T.)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Pew Bible, p. 173 (N.T.)

Sermon: “Remembering”

Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)   
 *The Apostles’ Creed* [Ecumenical]

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn 510: *We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name (Come Share the Lord)*  (all verses)

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

[The offering plate is at the back of the sanctuary. Please leave your gift or pledge  
in the plate on your way into or out of worship.]

Offertory Anthem: *Bread of the World* Dennis Eliot

\**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 Dedication

Service of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

We will receive communion where we are seated today. Please take and hold the elements –   
 bread and fruit of the vine – until all have been served. When it is time, the pastor will say   
 “Take and eat, all of you,” and “Take and drink, all of you.”

We extend an invitation to the Lord’s Supper to all who have been baptized. You do   
 not need to be a member of this congregation or a Presbyterian to share in this meal.   
 We remember that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a   
 privilege given to believers who come in faith, repentance, and love.]

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People**: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The minister gives thanks…*

The congregation responds by singing together:

**A sheet music with text on it

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**A sheet music with text on it

Description automatically generated**

*The minister continues the Thanksgiving…*   
 “*Together we proclaim the great mystery of faith:”*

**According to Christ’s commandment**

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory.**

*The minister continues with Intercessions for the Church and the World  
and Prayers of the People…*

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**People**: **hear our prayers.**

Our 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.**

Words of Institution

Communion

Communion Music: *Does the Day Reign* Tchaikovsky

*We will receive communion where we are seated today. Please take and hold the elements –   
bread and fruit of the vine – until all have been served. When it is time, the pastor will say “Take and eat, all of you,” and “Take and drink, all of you.”*

*With Christian love we serve gluten-free communion bread and alcohol-free grape juice.   
Also with Christian love the elements were prepared with strict attention to health concerns.*

*You are invited to partake of the prepackaged communion juice and wafer if you choose; the wafer is not gluten free.*

Prayer after Communion

Hymn 526: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (all verses)

Charge and Benediction

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

Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden   
Liturgist: Terry Kline  
Greeter/Fellowship: Sue Knisely   
Musicians: Tom Anderson, David Kozich, the Southminster Choir  
Worship Associate: David Kozich  
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Francine Long for her daughter, Julie’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, 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.

**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:

**November 3: “All Saints Sunday**” - If you have a family member or friend who died   
 since last All Saints Day (they don't need to be a member of the Southminster faith   
 community), please send a picture and their name **by October 25** to our PhotoStory   
 address (below). (If you want to have their name listed and remembered in prayer on   
 November 3, please also send their name and date of death to the office at   
 [admin@southminsterpc.org](mailto:admin@southminsterpc.org) by October 25.  
  
**Send photos to our dedicated email address, used just for photos:**[PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org](mailto: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.

**Moderators and staff: Session meets on October 15, which means your docket items (reports, motions, explanations, etc.) are due this Thursday, October 10, by noon.**

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**    
**Adult Education**: Join us at 11:15 a.m. (bring your Fellowship Hour cup of coffee) in the Parlor/Library as we read and discuss Matthew’s Gospel. Matthew wants us to know what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ, to be the church.

**Men of Southminster**: We meet this Saturday, Oct. 12, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor/Library Please let Blair N know you are coming and whether you are ready to tell us your story.   
  
**Youth**: **Pizza & Games** today, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Bring your smile, a friend, and $5 for the meal. Does Blair N. know you are coming?  
  
  
**Sleep Out Saturday is coming November 2!**   
This Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing Program fundraiser puts people from all over DuPage Co. outside for a night to help understand the plight of those who are homeless. Southminster's youth will face the elements by sleeping outside on the church grounds in cardboard shelters and tents that night. How about you? We will enjoy a meal and rally at COD, a firepit and s’mores at church, a “chill” night’s sleep, and hearty breakfast in the morning. Sleepers raise money for Bridge by getting sponsors—an easy task in this digital age. Contact Blair N if you would like to join us for an evening of learning, fellowship, and fresh air. Bridge Communities provides a donation page specifically for you to pass on to your sponsors. You never handle the money. Not ready to brave the cold? You can sponsor one of our sleepers by donating to Bridge  Communities in their name at <https://www.bridgecommunities.org/sleep-out-saturday/group136>.   

**Property Ministry needs your help!**

**Fall Clean-Up Day** will be Saturday, October 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Even if you can only spare an hour or two during that time, your help will be appreciated. We’ll have projects both indoors and outside, and the Property Ministry will provide snacks and drinks. Rain date: October 26.

**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](mailto: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 of death to [admin@Southminsterpc.org](mailto:admin@Southminsterpc.org) **by October 25**, as well.

**From the Stewardship Ministry**

This year’s stewardship campaign theme is “We are Blessed to be a Blessing!” Matthew 10:8 states “Freely you have received; freely give.” This simple yet profound truth calls us to recognize that all we have – our time, talents, and treasures – are given to us by God, not for our benefit alone, but so that we may bless others.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you might continue to participate in God’s work through your giving. Whether it’s through your time, talents, or treasure, your support is vital to the life of our church and the fulfillment of our mission.

You should have already received a pledge card in the mail. We encourage you to consider how you might continue to participate in God’s work through your giving. It is not the size of the gift that matters, but the spirit with which it is given. When you make your pledge, a Blessings logo will be hung in the Narthex so we can all witness the participation of our Southminster community. So, don’t wait until Stewardship Sunday, October 20th, to make your pledge. Turn it in early! We hope to receive all pledges by the end of October in order to compile a responsible, balanced budget for next year.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity. May God bless you and your family abundantly in the years to come.

Please contact moderator Jay Lerch at [jaylerch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jaylerch@sbcglobal.net) if you have any questions or need stewardship materials or a pledge card.

**From the Christian Education Ministry: Trunk or Treat!**

Don’t forget our Trunk or Treat event is coming soon: Sunday, October 27, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in our parking lot. This event is open to the public. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives. Children must be accompanied by an adult. In case of bad weather, we’ll be in Fellowship Hall.

We are still looking for members of our church to host trunks. It’s easy, put a few decorations on your trunk and bring some candy/trinkets to pass out. There is a sign-up poster in the narthex. It is a fun event!

**Welcome and Outreach Ministry** invites anyone interested in becoming a member of Southminster Presbyterian Church to attend a **New Member Brunch** on Sunday, November 17, at 11:00 a.m. Please talk with our Pastor Wendy Boden if you are interested.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet Wednesday, October 16, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The October book is *Evergreen* by Naomi Hirahara. “A Japanese American nurse’s aide navigates the dangers of post-WWII and post-Manzanar life as she attempts to find justice for a broken family in this follow-up to the award-winning *Clark and Division*.”

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](mailto:rboserup@sbcglobal.net).

**Presbyterian Women** will meet next on Friday, October 18, at 9:30 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library. Our program will feature Office Allison Ramirez of the Glen Ellyn Police Department. She will share insights on personal safety, a crucial topic in today’s world. All women are invited!

**Jubilee Bucks: Order today!**  
Today is your only opportunity this month to order Jubilee Bucks gift cards. Those cards can pay for groceries, personal products, gas, meals out, or can be given as gifts. You can give your order directly to Bobbi Frey, leave it in the church office (the mailbox in the lower left corner of the mailbox grid) or email it to her ([bobbifrey@aol.com](mailto:bobbifrey@aol.com)) by 9:00 p.m. on the 6th. Payment can be made when cards are delivered.   
Your next chance to order will be November 3.

**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.

**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 given by Francine Long for her daughter, Julie’s birthday.***We give thanks to God for joys:**   
 - The marriage of Louanne Jourdan’s grandson, Joseph, and Alexa on September 20  
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**   
 *- We pray for all those affected by Hurricane Helene, especially the families of those who lost lives and homes, as well as all who are working to provide assistance.*  
  - 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 29) there were 105 shooting incidents in 30 states, leaving 34 people dead and 90 people injured.* To see current statistics for shootings in this 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  
**Blessed are those who mourn**:   
 - Marta Sundquist and family of the death of her mother, Elizabeth Parrish   
 - 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  
 - Prayers for the family and friends of Caroline Linde, and especially for Ralph  
  - 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**:  
 *- Floyd Rogers asks prayers for his cousin, Maryann Carlson, moving into palliative care for cancer.*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: 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., Meagan 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**:  
 *- Donna Marton’s family asks prayers for Mark’s housing options, that he would be able to transition easily to the next room or facility.  
 - Mark and Maggie   
 - Paul Jeziorski’s brother, Dave, is recovering at home from pneumonia.  
 - Pray for our pets  
 - Joan Koska is rehabbing at Alta Oak Brook Care, 2013 Midwest Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523. No visitors at this time, please.  
 - Rick Crilly, recovering from shunt surgery, which went well* - Pat Wiedner, in rehab following partial hip replacement surgery following a fall  
 - Heather Kralicek recovering from foot surgery   
 - Prayers for Paul Anderson following ankle surgery   
  - 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, who is now 100 years old!; 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 October 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. Email Wendy at [wendy@southminsterpc.org](mailto: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, October 6 – World Communion Sunday  
 Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing [bobbifrey@aol.com](mailto:bobbifrey@aol.com) before 9:00 p.m.  
 **Worship with Communion, dedication of the Peace and Global Witness   
 Offering** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship with “Breads of the World”  
 **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: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:-- p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Pastor Wendy Boden will be at a retreat** from Sunday late afternoon   
 until Tuesday mid-afternoon. **Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.  **Tuesday, October 8   
 Knitting Circle** at 10:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Staff calendar meeting**, 12:30 p.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, October 9**  
 **eNotes go out  
 Property** meets at 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Thursday, October 10  
 Session docket deadline** at noon  
 **Young Adults Video Club** at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, October 11** A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Saturday, October 19  
 Men of Southminster** meet at 9:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library  
**Next** **Sunday, October 13**  
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship with “Breads of the World”  
 **Staff meeting/Special Session meeting re: sound system** at 11:00   
 in the Sanctuary   
 **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: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:-- p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Covid – where are we now?**Covid spiked in recent months, 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 – October 6, 2024**

**One Bread, One Body**

Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday, a recognition and remembrance of Christ’s body of believers present in the world reaching out to others in hope and love. Christ’s church is a “communion” of people that extends beyond borders and ethnicity around the world.   
  
As representatives of Christ in the world, The Presbyterian Church (USA) responds to disasters quickly both in the United States and around the world. One of the most recent events has been the devastation of Hurricane Helene which made landfall in Florida late evening on September 26 as a very dangerous category 4 hurricane. The impact of Helene has been felt across multiple states. With the storm surge, wind damage, and flooding, it is crucial to have the necessary resources to support the many communities that are affected. Helene caused devastating damage in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Members of our own faith community have connections by those affected.  
  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is in communication with all affected presbyteries and National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster) to share information and coordinate resources as damage is assessed. PDA has deployed a National Response Team to Tampa Bay Presbytery, Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Northeast Georgia Presbytery and Holston Presbytery. The PDA has approved several initial assistance grant requests and is anticipating additional requests from affected presbyteries to help respond to needs in their communities.  
  
**Give to Disaster Relief – U.S. Hurricane Response.** This designated account supplements the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering to enable a significant, ongoing response to hurricanes that affect the United States. Your faithful giving is deeply appreciated. You may write a check to Southminster and put Hurricane on the memo line and your donation will be forwarded along with others to PDA. Those who follow Christ live into hope for a better world. Our love for one another and neighbor calls us beyond ourselves and our own concerns.   
  
Love closer to home is serving in various ways on Southminster ministries. One of the ways our congregation loves one other is by serving on our Board of Deacons or on Session, the Elders of the congregation. This year our nominating committee is moderated by Elder Julie Storey, who is supported by Lanny Russell, Lois Stevenson, Victor King, Heidi Shierry, and one elder and one deacon (still to be named). Please be in prayer as this team seeks the best leadership for our congregation so that we may continue the mission of loving God and loving neighbor. We bear the fruit of God’s love through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service.