**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**22nd Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 20, 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/Photo Story: “Blessings Near and Far”

Welcome, Announcements, Moment for Stewardship

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: *Blessed Be Your Name*  pg. 4, gold supplement

Call to Worship

Leader: Great God of every blessing,

**People: We offer you our bodies and our strength.**

Leader: In Christ, we are one body; each member has a part.

**People: We offer you our hearts and minds.**

Leader: Your Spirit is our teacher,

**People: The light that guides our way.**

**All:** **We offer you our all as we worship you.**

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

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, you are generous in your love and grace. Freely you have given; freely we have received. We have heard your call. Yet there are times when we fall back, times when we forget, and times when we focus on the wrong things. Forgive us. Help us to be faithful. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Now, hear our silent and personal prayers. 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:  2 Samuel 7:1-7  Pew Bible, p. 281 (O.T.)

Genesis 12:1-2 Pew Bible p. 285 (O.T.)

Sermon: “Promises, Promises”

Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)   
 from *The Book of Order* (W-1.0204)

**The offering of material gifts in worship expresses our self-offering as an act of gratitude for God's grace. We give our lives to God through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us. The practice of offering also reflects our stewardship of God's good creation. Mindful that the earth and everything belong to God, we present tithes and offerings for us in Christ's mission.**

Hymn 69: *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)*

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 Anthem: *Take Time to Be Holy* arr. Jay Rouse

\**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 700: *I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

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: Andrea Schmidt  
Greeter/Fellowship: Beth Bonde  
Musicians: Tom Anderson, the Southminster Choir  
Worship Associate: David Kozich  
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Julie Storey for Dana and Eric’s birthdays.

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, get your coffee at fellowship time and then find Blair in the parlor/library.   
You are invited to join us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>), where we have a live sharing of “**Heart to Heart**” with Pastor Wendy Boden at 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 this Friday, 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 this Friday, 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.

**Calling all musicians, vocal or instrumental!** If you would like to offer your musical gifts in worship, please talk to Tom Anderson at the piano after the postlude, during fellowship, by text at 651-246-5029, or by emailing the office ([admin@southminsterpc.org](mailto:admin@southminsterpc.org)) and we’ll forward your message.  
  
  
**Elders: Remember that Session has a special meeting today at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor to hear a confirmand’s statement of faith.**

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**    
**Adult Education:** We have followed Jesus’s life as Matthew tells the story into Jerusalem and are days away from his arrest and execution.  The tensions are building!  Who is in charge of this?  Join us in the Parlor/Library at 11:15 Sunday to see what happens next.   
  
**Men of Southminster:** Put Wednesday, November 20, on your calendar for our next Men’s Group get-together. Watch for an email with details.    
  
**Youth:** We’re gonna escape today! We meet at Clued In Escape Rooms at 440 Roosevelt Road in Glen Ellyn a bit before 4:00 p.m. We’ll get locked into a room full of clues and figure out how to get out. Yes, this is fun. Contact Blair N asap if you haven’t let him know you want to attend. Cost is $30.   
  
**Sleep Out Saturday – Sleepers and sponsors needed!**Southminster has supported Bridge Communities’ transitional housing program since the beginning. Sleep Out Saturday is one of their most important fundraisers, and it is also a truly educational experience. A group of our folks will be spending the night of Nov. 2 outside on the church grounds in tents and cardboard shelters. You can support Bridge Communities by sponsoring a sleeper through a donation. It is all done online at <https://www.bridgecommunities.org/sleep-out-saturday/group136>. You can also join us on this adventure as one of our sleepers. Contact Blair N to sign up. 

**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 this Friday, 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 this Friday, October 25**, as well. If anyone dies between October 25 and the time the November 3 bulletins are finalized, we will do our best to include them.

**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.  
  
Making a pledge is important in the financial cycle of Southminster. With your pledges, the budget can be built for 2025. A big part of Southminster’s giving is to the nine Mission Ministries: Bridge Communities, Cuba Sister Church, DuPage Care Center, DuPage PADS, Metropolitan Family Services, People’s Resource Center, Walk-In Ministry, World Relief, and the Youth Mission Trip. We are called as Christians to help the least of us and to try to make life better for people who have various disadvantages. Almost all the listed agencies are local, so Southminster is helping our friends and neighbors. Your money stays in the community! Many of these groups receive limited funding from other governmental agencies, so they depend on groups like Southminster in order to survive. Please take some time to reflect on helping your friends and neighbors and then give generously. The more you give, the more we can give.  
  
Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity. May God bless you and your family abundantly in the years to come.  
  
You should have already received a pledge card in the mail. Don’t wait until Stewardship Sunday, October 20th, to make your pledge. Turn it in early! 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 is next Sunday!**

Don’t forget our Trunk or Treat event is coming soon: next 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.  
  
**Also in November… An Artists’ Reception!**

If you are enjoying the artwork in our main hallway art gallery, come meet the artists on Sunday afternoon, November 10, from 12:30 to 2:00.

**A note from Barb:** **The puzzles are back – have fun and help SCARCE**!   
A friend from my church volunteers at SCARCE and often has boxes of donated jigsaw puzzles that need to be assembled so they’ll know whether all the pieces are there. I have several puzzles in the church office (under the front edge of the desk). Take one home, assemble it, and then put a note on the box: “All pieces here” or “Pieces missing.” Then bring it back so I can return it to SCARCE. (They have other things they can do with puzzles that are missing pieces – using pieces for art projects, for instance, or simply recycling the cardboard.)  
  
  
**Jubilee Bucks**  
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks on October 6; Southminster’s year-to-date total of “free” money from the sale of these gift cards is $1,604.51.  
Your next chance to order will be Sunday, November 3, but you can always get your order in early with an email to [bobbifrey@aol.com](mailto: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.

**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 Julie Storey celebrating Dana and Eric’s birthdays.***We give thanks to God for joys:**  
 *- Inger-Lise Boserup (Rita Zapel’s mother) celebrated her 94th birthday***We pray for the whole world and our nation:**   
 - We pray for all those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, 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, Iran, and the tangle of interests in the Middle East; Ukraine and Russia  
  - Pray for the American people to come together as we vote, and may we have a peaceful transition.  
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. *In one day (last Sunday, October 13) there were 98 shooting incidents in 31 states plus the District of Columbia, leaving 42 people dead and 73 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**:   
 *- Heidi Shierry asks prayers for Laura Hollinger Antonelli and family; her uncle died on Wednesday, November 16.  
 - Barb Doppelt’s friends, the Lafontaine family, on the death of their father/grandfather Bill on Tuesday after a long time in declining health  
 - The Henkels family on the death of Terri, sister-in-law of Steve and Elise, who died on October 7*  
 - Rebecca Hecker and family on the death of her mother last week  
 - Marta Sundquist and family of the death of her mother, Elizabeth Parrish   
 - 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**:  
 *- Dorothy, the daughter of our friend Edem in Ghana, having pediatric neurological challenges  
 - Kim Gosney’s sister, who has been in the hospital sedated and intubated for the last 10 days  
 - Heidi Shierry asks prayers for Simon Nasbett, a young boy with a rare blood disease* for which there are no more treatment options  
 *- Lori Davis, a coworker of Steve Shierry, is recovering from a collapsed lung.* - Hurricane check-ins: Louanne is well, as are Alan Stevenson and Bob and Rose Audette  
 - May-Lee and her 4 cats left their home near Tampa to evacuate ahead of the coming hurricane  
 - 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, but cards are welcome.  
 - Rick Crilly, recovering from shunt surgery, which went well  
 - Pat Wiedner, at home now following hip replacement and rehab  
 - 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  
 - 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 20**  
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship   
 **Special Session/Staff/Confirmation meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in McHenry   
 Parlor/Library   
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library  
 **Pathfinders** at 3:00 p.m. online  
 **Youth: Escape Room** 4:00 p.m. at Clued In, 440 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn  
**Monday, October 21 – Pastor’s Sabbath  
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.  **Tuesday, October 22   
 Staff calendar meeting**, 12:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall   
**Wednesday, October 23  
 eNotes go out  
Thursday, October 24**  
 **Young Adults Video Club** at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, October 25** A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Saturday, October 26  
 Fall Clean-Up Day** (rain date, if needed)  
**Next** **Sunday, October 27, *Reformation Sunday***  
 **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** at 11:00 in the Pastor’s office   
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library  
 **Trunk or Treat** from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the parking lot (or Fellowship Hall, in case   
 of bad weather)

**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 20, 2024**

**Loving God and others through Stewardship**

What does Stewardship have to do with love?  
  
In most churches, Fall is stewardship season because Christian stewardship is connected with harvest time. It is the idea of giving the first fruits of the harvest, giving to God from the top of our resources. We don’t have anyone making a living through farming in our congregation, but Fall is a good time for Southminster and other congregations to make October the stewardship season. Our budget is on a calendar year basis, and pledges are the most considerable portion. November is when Session begins to create a budget based on our pledges. Just after the busy month of December, we will start operating under the 2025 budget. Our Elders use their intelligence, imagination, and love as they create the budget, but without pledges, they are hampered in that effort.  
  
Southminster is a community of Christians who seek to love God and others. We have many ministries that bear the fruit of God’s love, but without pledges, we would be hindered from doing the work God has called us to do. Our staff’s salaries support the work of Worship, Children and Christian Education Ministry, Adult Education, Youth and Adult Discipleship, Administration, and Pastoral Care.   
  
Our budget supports not only our staff salaries but also the other ministries of our congregation, including Deacons, Property, Mission, and Welcome and Outreach.     
  
Through their summer mission trips, our youth have demonstrated God’s love near and far. Our Adult Education Class is growing. Our deacons have been creative in their care, greeting at the door, sending cards, and reaching out with love and joy.  
  
We are building up our children’s programs—you can create Advent wreaths on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24 (Pie Sunday). The big news is that we have children asking their parents if they can attend Sunday School!   
  
We support our children and reach out to our community through our community Easter party. Next weekend, we are hosting a Trunk-or-Treat outreach project. The Mission Ministry has continued to support our longstanding partners, but we have stepped up in other concrete ways for PRC, Metropolitan Family Services, DuPage PADS, our Cuba sister church, Walk-In Ministry, World Relief, and Bridge Communities’ Sleep Out Saturday.    
  
Worship has had to innovate how we do worship… and we continue to do so. There is more, but all these ministries are supported through our budget. The budget enables us to bear the fruit of God’s love, and your support makes these initiatives possible.        
  
Today we will dedicate our pledges to the future God calls us to in 2025. If you haven’t already done so, please make a financial pledge for 2025. You may return a completed pledge card. Some are by the offering plate with envelopes for privacy, and there are also pledge cards by the main entrance with envelopes.  
  
This year, we have two innovations! One is a QR code posted in the narthex—and that QR code is posted right here!   
  
You can also pledge on our website or by contacting the Stewardship Ministry at [Stewardship@southminsterpc.org](mailto:Stewardship@southminsterpc.org). If you have questions about pledging or what you may have pledged last year, you may call or text Jay Lerch at 773 547-7573.  
  
We hope to complete the stewardship campaign by the end of October, and you can help bear the fruit of God’s love by responding promptly.   
  
One thing is certain: God has called all of us to this time and this place to bear the fruit of God’s love, loving God and others. May God find us faithful as we share in God’s story of love and grace for the world.