**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**26th Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 17, 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: “Autumn Activities”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission Julie for StS

 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 743: *O God, You Are My God*  (sing 3 times)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Source of Light and Truth,

 **People: Creator of the eternal Law of Love,**

 Leader: Bless all who enter this sanctuary,

 **People: Bless all who bring the offerings of their hearts, minds, and bodies.**

 **All:** **May our worship lead us to acts of kindness, peace, and love.**

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

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, there have been times this past week where we have not lived by the law of love and have also not extended grace to others. Thank you for your forgiveness, which is new every morning. Thank you for your grace. Help us to live loving and gracious lives through the power of your Holy Spirit at home in us. Thank you for the grace we find in Jesus Christ, who is our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:16-19, edited)

 Leader: From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view.

 **People: So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:**

 Leader: Everything old has passed away;

 **People: See, everything has become new!**

 **All: We declare the good news!
 In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. 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:  Isaiah 6:1-8  Pew Bible, p. 635 (O.T.)

 Romans 8:1, 18-25 Pew Bible, p. 157, 158 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Who, Me?” Pastor Wendy Boden

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

 Hymn 726: *Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)*  (all)

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

 \**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 1: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

 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: Lynn Ferino
Greeter/Fellowship: Anny Davidson
Musician: Tom Anderson
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Francine Long celebrating her grandson, Ben’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**will not meet today.
You are invited to join us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>), where we have a live sharing of “**Heart to Heart**” with Pastor Wendy Boden at 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. In December you are invited to share Christmas-related photos:
 **December 8: “Candles**” – Please send by Thursday, December 5.

 **December 15: “Angels**” – Please send by Thursday, December 12.

 **December 22: “Christmas Trees**” – Please send by Thursday, December 19.

 **December 29: “Christmas PJs**” – Please send by Thursday, December 26.

**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.)

**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) and we’ll forward your message.

**Elders, remember that Session meets this Tuesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library.**

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: We are not meeting this Sunday because of the new member’s luncheon, but join us on Nov. 24, and we will continue our study of Matthew’s gospel.

**Men** **of Southminster**:  This Wednesday, November 20, we will meet again for some snacks and good conversation. Let Blair N know that you are coming and whether you are interested in telling us the story of your life (brief version) and God’s place in it. We have settled into a Saturday and Wednesday pattern, but if there are other days that are better for you, let Blair N know.

**Youth**:  Get ready for **Pizza & Games**! All middle and high school students are welcome for food and fun and some deep thoughts today, 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring $5 for the food, a smile on your face, and a friend. Let Blair know that you are coming—we would hate to run out of pizza!

**From the Christian Education Ministry**: **November 24 family Advent activity**
To our entire Church Family, you’re invited to join us on November 24 (Thanksgiving and Pie Sunday) at 11:15 a.m. for a family Advent activity. We will be making beeswax Advent candles. There is a sign-up poster in the narthex; please sign up no later than this Sunday, November 17, so we know how many supplies we need to order. (If you won’t be at church, reply to this email and we’ll add your name and the number of kits to order for your family.) We will be meeting in the classroom by the nursery. We hope to see you then!

**From the Mission Ministry: Share the Spirit!**It is that wonderful time of year when we support People’s Resource Center’s Share the Spirit program to provide gift cards and some small presents to brighten the Christmas season for those they serve – families in DuPage County that need assistance with their living expenses.

People’s Resource Center (PRC) is requesting donations of gift cards, specifically $25 cards for Jewel, Mariano’s, Target, or Walmart. In a win-win for PRC and Southminster, you can order cards through our Jubilee Bucks sales! You can begin ordering gift cards on Sunday, November 10 through Sunday, December 1. (Bobbi Frey will hold the Share the Spirit orders received during November and place them all – along with the regular orders – on December 1.) There will be a special green Share the Spirit order form available on the nametag shelf at church that lists the Jubilee Bucks cards supporting this program.

If you would rather purchase an actual gift, PRC is requesting the following:
 NEW books (ages 0-17)
 NEW family games
 NEW stuffed animals for children under age 1 (12” or smaller )
 NEW with tags blankets (no hand-made blankets)
 ***Gifts must be at church no later than Sunday, December 8, at 11:00 a.m.***Thank you for supporting this program and helping those families in need.

**From the Worship Ministry**
**It’s not too early to think about Christmas poinsettias!**In anticipation and celebration of Christmas, poinsettias will grace the sanctuary on Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24. They may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.
We are ordering 12 red 2-stem 6.5” plants and 4 white (slightly larger) 2-stem 7.5” plants. Order yours by signing up in the narthex by Sunday, December 15. Thank you to everyone who orders, helping keep this beautiful tradition of poinsettias adorning the sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

Please note: ***The Flower fund is getting low.*** There are many unpaid flower orders on the narthex chart. If you ordered flowers this year, please pay as soon as you are able. You might consider bundling your check for a past arrangement as well as one coming up before the end of the year. (If you’re not sure whether you paid for a flower arrangement, check with Sarah Allen or look at the chart in the Narthex – paid orders are marked PD in red marker.) Thank you for your support of the Flower Ministry.

**From the Stewardship Ministry**Session is on Tuesday, November 19. It would be helpful to have all our pledges in by then. By pledging, you help us plan for the year ahead, ensuring that we can continue to share God’s love in meaningful ways. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Thank you for being a faithful steward of the blessings God has entrusted to you.

Stewardship Moderator,
Jay Lerch
jaylerch@sbcglobal.net

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet this Wednesday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The November book is *The Guncle* by Steven Rowley, “a warm and deeply funny novel about a once-famous sitcom star whose unexpected family tragedy leaves him with his niece and nephew.”

Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting through this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09>
Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865

We will not meet in December.

**For more information about the Readers**, contact Rita Zapel at rboserup@sbcglobal.net.

**Presbyterian Women** **(PW)**

**Next Sunday, November 24, we will receive the Thank Offering**. The Thank Offering gives PW a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessing in their lives. Throughout the year PW around the world collect coins on a daily basis to give thanks for the blessing they received that day. In November, those coins are received by the local church and forwarded to the Presbyterian Women Churchwide. These offerings are used to fund various PW ministries worldwide to benefit women and children. *Although this is a PW offering, we encourage everyone to participate in this offering by adding your offering to the bowl on November 24.*

Next month is our **Christmas Salad Luncheon** on Friday, December 13, at 11:30 a.m. Each person should bring a favorite salad to share and a serving utensil. We will gather in the Narthex for a time of fantastic food, fellowship, and fun. Following the luncheon, we will move to the Sanctuary where Derek Buckley will entertain us with beautiful songs of the season.

Don’t forget that December 13th is the first day we will begin collecting books for the **Annual Book Sale** that will begin at our meeting on January 19. Books will be stored and sorted in Fellowship Hall. A little red wagon will be available for book drop off.

**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:**
Your next chance to order Jubilee Bucks gift cards will be December 1—order for yourself and for Christmas giving! Starting on November 10, you can also use a special form to **order gift cards for PRC’s Share the Spirit project**. PRC is requesting $25 cards for Jewel, Mariano’s, Target, or Walmart, and you can order cards through our Jubilee Bucks sales! Special green order forms for Share the Spirit will be available starting Sunday, November 10—order through Sunday, December 1. For more information about Share the Spirit, scroll up to see the Mission Ministry notes.
And thanks to all who order Jubilee Bucks—our year-to-date total of “free” money earned now stands at $1,841.68!

**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 celebrating her grandson, Ben’s, birthday.***We give thanks to God for joys.
We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
*- We lift up the President, the president-elect, and all elected officials. We pray for God's hand to direct their hearts and minds. May they lead our nation with godly intentions. We pray for the healing and unity of our country and ask that all people model love and justice.
 - We pray for our sisters and brothers in Cuba, where Hurricane Rafael struck last week, knocking out the power grid and causing unknown (as yet) damage. Our sister church is well.* - Victims of disastrous flooding in eastern Spain
  - Peace for Haiti and Sudan; Hamas, Israel, the people of Palestine, Iran, and the tangle of interests in the Middle East; Ukraine and Russia, Korea – both North and South
 - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. *In one day (last Sunday, November 10) there were 107 shooting incidents in 33 states plus the District of Columbia, leaving 40 people dead and 92 people injured.* To see current statistics for shootings in this country, go to <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>.
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world
**Blessed are those who mourn**:
 - Andrea Schmidt and all her family on the death of her mother, Gail Johnston, on November 1
 - Angela Smith and her family on the passing of her father, Franklin Keith Beeler, on October 30
 - 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**:
 *- Pray for Al Marcus, Susie Salins’ father, who has lung 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., 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**:
 *- Pastor Wendy’s bonus dad, Frank, who is in severe back pain with no cause yet diagnosed
 - Susie Salins is doing well following back surgery
 - Kim Gosney’s sister, Amy, is not out of a coma* - Joan Koska has moved; her new address is 14800 S. Van Dyke Rd., Apt. 1215, Plainfield, IL 60544. Cards are welcome, but no visitors, please. - 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.
  - 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, upcoming medical procedures, or chronic pain
  - For those who are depressed
  - Difficult marriages
 - We continue to pray for: Barb (Deb’s cousin), Brandon, Dan, Joe M., Felice T., Isabella, Kathy, Linda T., Mya, Oaklen, Phyllis L. *Phyllis is grateful for prayers and is doing better.*
**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 November call Deacon Sue Knisely (630-776-7998). 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, November 17**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **New Member Brunch** 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
 **No Adult Ed. Bible Study**
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** 4:00-6:00 p.m.
**Monday, November 18 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.  **Tuesday, November 19
 Staff** calendar meeting at 12;30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 Presbytery Assembly, 3:00 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian, Naperville
 **Session** at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, November 20** **eNotes go out
 Presbyterian Readers** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom **Men of Southminster** at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
**Thursday, November 21** **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
 **Young Adults Video Club** at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, November 22**
 A.A.at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday, November 24**
 **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
 **Family Advent Candle Workshop** at 11:15 a.m. in the classroom
 next to the nursery
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library

**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 – November 17, 2024**

**Planting for the future**

This Bearing Fruit was inspired by Marta Sundquist, a member of the Endowment ministry in 2013.

Once upon a time a farmer looked upon a hill and prayed. He prayed God would give him the courage to tend to the land, and bring in a great harvest.

Time went on as it always does.

And there came a day a congregation looked upon that same hill and prayed. They prayed God would give them the faith to build a church, and bring in a great harvest.

Time went on as it always does.

And a member of the church’s congregation stood on top of that hill and prayed. He prayed God would give to all the hope needed to start a Living Legacy/Endowment Fund and bring in a great harvest.

Time went on as it always does.

And the members of the church’s congregation stood on top of that hill and prayed. They prayed that God would fill in a big sinkhole created where the farmer’s well was many years ago. (Plus, two other holes that appeared after heavy spring rains.)

And then they realized God did provide. God provided through the courage, faith and hope of those who gave to the Living Legacy/Endowment Fund, to the harvest of our Church. The harvest filled the sinkhole, and the hearts of many.

Time goes on as it always does. *In the summer of 2013, a sinkhole appeared in our parking lot exit, but there were insufficient funds to cover the repair. God did provide! At the September Session meeting, the Endowment Ministry reported a $2,500 distribution from the* Living Legacy/Endowment Fund *for past year. This first* Living Legacy/Endowment Fund *distribution was enough to cover a substantial portion of the repair.*

In 2024 it became very clear that Southminster needed a new sound system. The week of December 8th we will be installing a new sound system paid for with a portion of this year’s annual allocation of the Living Legacy/ Endowment Fund.

May courage, faith, and hope inspire us to a great harvest bearing the fruit of love as we worship and work together as a community of faith, hope, and love.