**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**1st Sunday of Christmas**

**December 29, 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: “Christmas Pajamas”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (Luke 2:30-32)‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬

**For my eyes have seen your salvation,
    which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
    and the glory of your people Israel.”**

  Prelude

[Please remain seated as we begin worship.]

 Hymn 136: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Let us celebrate new beginnings.

 **People: We will step out into the new year with faith!**

 Leader: It is time to look ahead in hope.

 **People: We will step out into the unknown with hope!**

 Leader: People of hope, it is time to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

 **All:** **We step forward together as God’s family!**

 Hymn 110: *Love Has Come*  (all 3 verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Gracious God, when we do not listen when others speak, close our mouths and open our ears. When we do not recognize your blessings, open our eyes and hearts. When we do not love others, empower us through your Holy Spirit to be more listening, loving, and gracious. Thank you for the grace that lights our way every day. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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 152: *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright* (verse 1)

**What star is this with beams so bright,**

**More lovely than the noonday light?**

**'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,**

**Glad tiding of our God to bring.**

Public domain

 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Blair Baldwin
 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

As the children leave:

 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  Hymnal 136, refrain

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons

 Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17  Pew Bible, p. 201 (N.T.)

 Gospel: Luke 2:41-52 Pew Bible, p. 59 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Growing in Wisdom and Years” Rev. Grayson Van Camp

 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 132: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

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: *Turn, Turn, Turn* Pete Seeger

 \**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 100: *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Canticle of the Turning)*

 Charge and Benediction

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

 Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Guest Preacher: Rev. Grayson Van Camp

Liturgist: Sarah Allen
Greeter/Fellowship: Lynn Ferino
Musicians: Tom Anderson, piano; James Van Camp, voice and guitar
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by the Bohi-Parks family for Deb Bohi’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 this week.

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. Wendy will try to continue Heart to Heart while she is in Cuba (Dec. 27-Jan. 3), but internet connections can be spotty there, so please be patient.

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. Watch here for coming opportunities to share your photos.

**Calling all musicians, vocal or instrumental!** If you would like to offer your musical gifts in worship, please talk to Tom Anderson on a Sunday when he is here, by text at 651-246-5029, or by emailing the office (admin@southminsterpc.org) and we’ll forward your message.

**The 2024 Church Financial Records** must be closed promptly at the end of this month. Any deposits, donations or pledges that need to be recorded in calendar year 2024 or bills to be paid from the 2024 budget must be in the church office no later than Friday, January 3, at noon. If you have any questions, please contact Treasurer Tom Frey.

The Finance Ministry also reminds you to **pick up your 2025 offering envelopes** – they are available in the Narthex. Picking them up saves Southminster the cost of mailing them! If there isn’t a box or envelopes for you and you would like one, contact Rita Zapel at rboserup@sbcglobal.net.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: We will not meet this week while I am in Cuba, but plan to join us at 11:15 in the Parlor on January 5 to continue our study of Matthew’s gospel.

**Men** **of Southminster:** Let’s put Wednesday, January 15, at 7:30 p.m. on the calendar for our next get-together.
 **Youth**:  Have a Happy New Year and be ready for the return of **Pizza & Games** on January 12 and 26.

**From the Worship Ministry**

**Sign up for Flowers:** The 2025 flower chart is posted – you are invited to sign up for arrangements for the first half of the year. If you are unable to sign up at church, contact Sarah Allen (sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com) with your requests.

The price remains the same as last year ($35 per arrangement). If you are donating your flowers, mark the chart with an X. Deacons deliver flowers that are donated. If you are not donating the flowers, please be sure to take them home after Sunday worship or designate someone to pick them up for you.

Thank you for your support of Southminster’s Flower Ministry. Questions: call or text Sarah Allen (630-988-8231).

**From the Endowment Funds Ministry: Composing a Legacy
*“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!”***

Throughout Scripture, music is shown to be one of the great expressions of faith. During our lives we are called in many different ways to sing along and harmonize with Jesus. Composing a legacy can be one of those ways.

Planning for the future can be a means of keeping the song of God's praise flowing. That's true even though estate planning, to some, is a jarring subject. As Christians, however, we are called to look to the next world, and to prepare to leave this one. Proper planning – orchestrating your wishes – brings peace of mind. You can provide for those you love and support charitable mission causes in a way that becomes your own personal song to God.

Christian estate planning involves your faith and ensures that your good intentions will be carried out even after you are gone. You may be surprised how even a small asset can be transformed into a gift that will support the programs of Southminster Church in perpetuity. Proper planning can also minimize taxes allowing you to leave more to the people closest to you.

For more information about Southminster’s Endowment Program, contact Pastor Wendy Boden or Ron Birchall, Moderator of the Endowment Funds Ministry.

 **Presbyterian Women (PW): Accepting Book Donations Now!**
We are now collecting books for the **Annual Book Sale** in January, so you can start bringing in your book donations. ***Please, no textbooks, CDs or DVDs.*** A little red wagon will be available in the entryway for book drop off. The books will be stored and sorted in Fellowship Hall. The book sale will be held in the Narthex starting Friday, January 19.

**Notes 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: Order next Sunday!**
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks gift cards in December – this month’s sale was our biggest order yet, with a total order of $9,675.00 (273 cards) — 101 cards worth $2,525.00 were ordered for Share the Spirit! Southminster’s 2024 total in “free money” generated from the sale of Jubilee Bucks is $2,224.94.

Your next chance to order will be next Sunday, January 5, 2025.

**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 from the Bohi-Parks family celebrating Deb Bohi’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.
  - Peace for Syria – the removal of former ruler Assad and prayers for the new leadership of the country, even amid the hostilities of neighbors
 - 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 Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve day) there were 86 shooting incidents in 26 states, leaving 31 people dead and 64 people injured.* To see current statistics for shootings in this country, go to <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>.
 - We lift up the teacher and student who were killed and the others who were injured (two critically) last week in the shooting at a Madison, Wisconsin, school. We lift up the families of all gun violence victims.
 - We continue to pray for peace in the world
**Blessed are those who mourn**:
 *- Prayers of comfort and hope for Paul Jeziorski, extended family, and friends in the death of Linda Wolf Jeziorski on December 24. Her service will be on Saturday, January 11 (not January 18 as originally suggested) at 11:00 a.m. at Southminster Presbyterian Church. There will be a visitation at Southminster on Friday, January 10, from 5 to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, January 11, from 10:00 to 11:00 before the service, with a fellowship reception following the service.*
  - 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**:
 - We pray for former member Margaret Fournier, who has lung cancer. The treatments are difficult.
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., Al M., Jan M., Nikki M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Ginny 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, is hospitalized with pneumonia.*
 - Louanne Jourdan asks prayers for her brother, Tim Mueller, who had a heart attack
 - Joan Koska is at Tabor Hills Healthcare Facility. Cards are welcome but no visitors. Here is the address:
Joan Koska
c/o Tabor Hills Healthcare Facility
1347 Crystal Ave.
Room 119
Naperville, IL 60563

 - Rita Zapel asks prayers for Willy Christensen, a close family friend, who is now in hospice care.
 - We pray for Heidi Shierry with additional health concerns.
  - Kim Gosney’s sister, Amy, is out of a coma but still cannot speak
  - 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
  - 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, 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 through January 14, call Deacon Sue Knisely (630-776-7998).

**Pastor Wendy Boden and Minister of Youth and Adult Discipleship Blair Nelson will be away December 27-January 3**. For **pastoral care** during that week, you may contact the Rev. Stephen Williams at 630-862-8386 or stephenwilliams515@gmail.com. You may always contact your deacon or Helping Hands.

**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, December 29**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **No Staff meeting, Adult Ed., or Youth activity
Pastor Wendy Boden and Minister of Youth and Adult Discipleship
 Blair Nelson are in Cuba, returning on Friday.
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m.
 While Pastor Wendy is in Cuba (Dec. 27-Jan. 3), please watch for H2H at the usual times, but there may be intermittent connection problems in Cuba, so keep watching and please be patient. **Tuesday, December 31 – *New Year’s Eve*** A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – *New Year’s Day****May we let go of 2024 and embrace 2025 with hope!* **Church office will be closed.
Thursday, January 2**
 **January *Dialog*** goes out
 **No Young Adults Video Club** until January 9. **Friday, January 3**
 A.A.at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **January 5**
 **Worship with communion** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the Pastor’s office **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **No Youth activity**

**Covid – where are we now?**It is flu and Covid season, so we continue to have a “comfort zone” toward the back of the sanctuary. You may wear a mask, of course, if you so choose.

**Bearing Fruit – December 29, 2024
It is still Christmas!**We continue our celebration of Christmas on this last Sunday in December. Remember that it is still Christmas until January 6! That is why we have our Advent wreath fully lighted – may Christ’s light shine!

While our pastor and our minister of Youth and Adult Discipleship are away visiting our sister church in Guanabacoa, Cuba, we are incredibly blessed to have Rev. Grayson VanCamp filing the pulpit today.

We welcome the Van Camps, Grayson and husband James, to our worship. The Rev. Grayson Van Camp is in the pulpit today. Grayson is an alumna of McCormick Theological Seminary; she served there for ten years as the director of continuing education and alumni/ae relations. Grayson also served the Presbytery of Chicago for three years as an interim associate executive presbyter. She is the first Anglo woman ordained to serve a Korean American congregation and served for six years as pastor of English Ministries at Hanmee Presbyterian Church in Itasca, Illinois.

Grayson’s husband, James Van Camp, will provide our special music today. James Van Camp is a chemist, water treatment specialist, and marketer by trade, but music of all kinds has been a lifelong companion. Since his retirement, James has been using his gifts to help non-profits. Grayson and James live in Glen Ellyn and are the proud parents of two grown children, Emily and Myles.

We bear the fruit of God’s love when we remember that Christ’s church is vast and worldwide – in Cuba, Korea, Itasca, and Glen Ellyn.