**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Baptism of Our Lord**

**January 12, 2025**

**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: “Love from Colorado (Suzanne Tennyson)”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬

**There are varieties of gifts, services, and activities, but there is one spirit,
one Lord, and one God.**

  Prelude

[Please remain seated as we begin worship.]

 Hymn 480: *Take Me to the Water*  (all verses)

 Call to Worship  (Luke 3:21, Isaiah 43:1)

 Leader: The heavens opened; the Spirit descended;

 **People:** **A voice sounds! This is my beloved Son.**

 Leader: Do not fear, for the Lord has spoken.

 **All:** **I have called you by name. You are mine!**

 Hymn 482: *Baptized in Water*  (all verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise new life and forgiveness, making us part
of the body of Christ. We confess that we do not always remember that we are baptized. We hold grudges, and at times, we are reluctant to welcome others. We allow the past to hold us captive. Thank you for your promise of a new life in you. Help us remember we are your children and beloved by you. 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 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
 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

As the children leave:

 *God Welcomes All*  Hymnal 399

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God’s love is strong and it never ends.**

Text: John L. Bell, 2008

Music: South African song, transc, John L. Bell, 2008

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Isaiah 40:3-8  Pew Bible, p. 667 (O.T.)

 Luke 3:15-22 Pew Bible, p. 60 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “People, Get Ready” Pastor Wendy Boden

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *The Book of Order* (PCUSA), W3.0402

**Baptism is the bond of unity in Jesus Christ. When we are baptized, we are made one with Christ, with one another, and with the Church of every time and place. In Christ, barriers of race, status, and gender are overcome; we are called to seek reconciliation in the Church and world, in Jesus’ name.**

 Hymn 488: *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*  (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: *Love > Fear*  Hannah Rand and Lenora Rand

 \**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 475: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

 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: Lois Stevenson
Greeter/Fellowship: Elise Henkels
Elder at the Door: Melissa Hammer
Musician: Tom Anderson
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Lynn Ferino in memory of her mother, Jerrie Salchow.

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 5:04 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday. **Note the new time – 5:04!**

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.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**: Our after-worship Bible study is nearing the end of Matthew’s gospel, and the story is getting exciting as the political tensions build. OK, so you know how it turns out, but it is still a story well worth studying. Join us today at 11:15 in the Parlor/Library.

**Men** **of Southminster:** Our next gathering of the brethren will be Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. We have heard lots of stories, so let’s figure out what we want to do next. Bring a couple of bucks for the goodies.

**Youth**:  Happy New Year! We have **Pizza & Games** this Sunday evening from 4:00-6:00, so come with a smile, a story about Christmas Break, and $5 for the meal. We will play some games, chat about life, have a deep thought, think about events for February, and generally have a good time. Bring a friend!

**WANTED**: An adult to enjoy pizza and fellowship with Southminster’s wonderful youth. We are short one adult for Sunday’s Pizza & Games from 4:00-6:00 p.m. so contact Blair N if you would like to help out. It is low demand and a lot of fun.

**Parking Lot Reconstruction Capital Campaign: “Paving the Way”**

The parking lot reconstruction project is moving along. The plans have been approved by the Village of Glen Ellyn and Milton Township. We are in the process of soliciting bids for the project, with the actual work to probably start in the summer 2025. Early bids suggest that the project cost will be approx. $180,000.

We now have to work out how to pay for the project. An **informational congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, January 26 (immediately following worship)** to introduce a capital campaign to raise the money. Information will also be sent out to congregation members via mail or email.

We hope to see you on January 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.

Worship Ministry is looking for more people to serve as **liturgists** or on the **Worship Arts Team**. If you’d like to volunteer or want to know more about what’s involved, contact Sarah Allen, Moderator of Worship. Her email address is above, or call her at 630-988-8231.

**From the Mission Ministry:
Luminaria Sunday**, when we honor and remember those whose lives have been touched by cancer, will be observed on February 23. You may purchase luminaria bags the first 3 Sundays in February for $10 each. Details are in the January *Dialog* and will be repeated in coming publications.

**From the Endowment Funds Ministry:
How can I give to Southminster's *Living Legacy Fund*?**We hear wonderful news about how the annual distributions from Southminster's endowment fund are being used. But how do funds get into the *Living Legacy Fund* in the first place?

Here are the easiest ways that people can give:

* + - * Put a check (made payable to Southminster Presbyterian Church) or cash in an envelope marked either *Living Legacy Fund,* or *Endowment,* and drop it in the offering plate or send it to the church
			* Consider remembering the *Living Legacy Fund* on your birthday, for your Secret Pal's birthday, or for any other occasion or no occasion at all
			* No gift is too small... or too large!
			* Name Southminster in your Will or Trust to inherit
			* Bequests of more than $5,000 to Southminster Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn automatically go into the *Living Legacy Fund* unless you say otherwise
			* Or, you may designate a bequest either to:

*Living Legacy Fund of Southminster Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn,* or

*Endowment Fund of Southminster Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn*

Here are some other ways that people can give to the *Living Legacy Fund* - we suggest that you talk with your tax advisor, or with your estate planning attorney, to learn about the benefits that you or your loved ones may receive with these ideas:

* + Have your IRA make a Qualified Charitable Distribution ("QCD") directly to Southminster (if you are at least 70-1/2) - talk to your IRA company for instructions, and let Ron Birchall or Tom Frey know that the QCD is for the *Living Legacy Fund*
	+ Donate your appreciated securities to Southminster, instead of cash - talk to Ron Birchall or Tom Frey to coordinate such a gift, and to make sure that Southminster can accept it
	+ Name the *Living Legacy Fund* as a beneficiary of an IRA or a life insurance policy - be sure to seek tax or estate planning advice if you are naming any other non-charitable beneficiaries of the same IRA account
	+ Establish a charitable trust, which can provide income or deferred benefits to you or to designated individuals, and also benefit Southminster's *Living Legacy Fund -* speak with Ron Birchall for more information

 **Presbyterian Women (PW): Accepting Book Donations Now!**
PW is collecting used books for a **Book Sale** January 17-26. Clear off your bookshelves and bring used books through this Friday, January 17: ***please, no textbooks, CDs, or DVDs***. You may drop them off in Fellowship Hall, but if you cannot take your books to Fellowship Hall, leave them in the red Book Wagon in the vestibule. Then plan to stock up for winter reading by shopping our sale Jan. 17-26.

The next **PW meeting** will be this Friday, January 17. We will meet in the Parlor at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and a short meeting before adjourning to the Narthex to browse the books available for the biennial PW Book Sale.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet this Wednesday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. January’s chosen book is ***The Mystery Guest*** by Nita Prose. This is the second book in a three-book series by the author. It is suggested to read the first book, *The Maid*, but is not required to understand the second book.

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.

**Community News**

**An open invitation to pray for the new year**

Hope Presbyterian Church is hosting an interfaith prayer time to pray for our nation in the new year. All are invited to attend this afternoon (Sunday, January 12) at 3:30 p.m. at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1771 S. Wiesbrook Rd., Wheaton, IL 60189 (630-668-7750).

**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:**
Our Jubilee Bucks sales are off to a good start for 2025 – Southminster made $151.39 in “free” money through the January sale.
Your next chance to order will be February 2.

**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 Lynn Ferino in memory of her mother, Jerrie Salchow.***We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - For Wendy and Blair being able to spend time with our brothers and sisters in Guanabacoa and returning safely
 - For all who were able to celebrate Christmas with loved ones and friends
 - For Barb’s friend Jan M., who has been on the prayer list with cancer for many months. She has been able to be out socially (cautiously!) and can eat real food after months on a feeding tube!**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
 *- We hold up all those affected by the fires in southern California and all the people who are fighting those fires and rescuing others. We lift prayers for Altadena Baptist Church, where only the bell tower is still standing. This is where Blair Nelson served while he was in seminary.* - Prayers of thanksgiving for the life and service of former President Jimmy Carter
  - May our public servants 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 the people of New Orleans and all those who were victims on New Year’s Eve when a truck plowed into a crowd of people celebrating, killing 14 and injuring many more.
  - Peace for Syria – the removal of former ruler Assad and prayers for the new leadership of the country, even amid the hostilities of neighbors; for hostilities to cease
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. *On one day (last Sunday, January 5) there were 70 shooting incidents in 24 states, leaving 19 people dead and 60 people injured.* To see current statistics for shootings in this country, go to <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>. 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 was held yesterday at Southminster.
 - Jack Thorne and family after the death of his Aunt Marsh on December 31
  - 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., 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, who is now weak.* - 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
  - Jim Smith, at Brookdale, and all who are in care centers
 - 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.
  - 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.  - 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). Watch eNotes and bulletins for coverage after January 14. 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. You may 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, January 12**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **Special meeting of Session** at 11:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 (**Child Protection Policy meeting** has been cancelled) Prayers for the New Year at Hope Presbyterian Church, 3:30 p.m. **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Monday, January 13 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 5:04 p.m.
 **(Note the new time!)
Tuesday, January 14** **Deacons** at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, January 15
 Presbyterian Readers** meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
 **Southminster Men** at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor/Library **Thursday, January 16**
 **Session docket deadline at noon**
 **Young Adults Video Club** meets at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, January 17**
 **Presbyterian Women (PW)** at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor/Library,
 then the **Book Sale** begins
 A.A.at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **January 19**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **PW Book Sale** (continues through January 26)
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the Pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library

**Covid – where are we now?**It is cold, 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 – January 12, 2025**

**Baptism of the Lord**

Today is the first Sunday in the season of Epiphany and the day we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.

Another word for epiphany is *theophany*, a revelation of God to human beings. During the season of Epiphany, we celebrate the Wisemen, and the Baptism of the Lord, and the Transfiguration of Christ.

The ministry of Jesus was inaugurated at his baptism. As Jesus came out of the water, the Spirit rested on Jesus as a sign of God’s approval and commissioning. A voice from heaven said, “You are my son, the Beloved; with you, I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:22)

On this day we celebrate Jesus’ baptism and our own, because our baptisms are rooted in Christ. Baptism joins us to Christ and his church, and we are called to share in Jesus’ ministry with all the baptized. In the waters of baptism, we are buried with Christ, cleansed of our sins, and raised to share in his resurrection. The Spirit is given to us, and we are declared the children of God.

Today we are to remind ourselves of who we are – children of God – and to whom we belong.