**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 26, 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: “Meet Colette Poppy Russell”

 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 while singing the opening song.]

 Hymn 488: *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*  (all verses)

 Call to Worship (Galatians 3:27-28)

 Leader: As many of you as were baptized into Christ
 have clothed yourselves with Christ.

 **People: There is no longer Jew or Greek,**

 Leader: there is no longer slave or free,

 **People: there is no longer male and female;**

 **All: for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.**

 Hymn 721: *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*  (all verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Almighty and loving God, there are times when we do not trust the grace you have poured out into our lives. We forget that grace is a free gift that is not earned. For the times we have withheld that grace from others, forgive us. Through the power of your Spirit, transform our hearts and minds to be your ambassadors of grace and love in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. 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

*During the Passing of the Peace, the parents and child, godparents, elder (Victor),
and deacon (Paul) should move to the back of the sanctuary and meet by the flags.
Take your baptism scripts with you.*

 Word with Children: The Sacrament of Baptism

 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

***Colette Poppy Russell; Born July 24, 2024,
child of Andrew Lanson Russell and Nicole Marie Radosky Russell***

 Meaning of Baptism

 Presentation

 Colette’s family: parents Andy and Nicole Russell;
 godparents Katie and Nick Gill, Sara Humes, Katie Dempsey

 Representing Southminster: Elder Christina Kozich

 Deacon Paul Jeziorski

 Question to Parents

 Question to Godparents

 Question to Congregation [The congregation will please stand.]

 Profession of Faith/Renunciations

 Apostles’ Creed (unison)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

[Please be seated.]

 Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

 Leader: The Lord be with you.

 **People: And also with you.**

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

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

(prayer continues)

 Congregational Prayer (unison)

**O God, who called us from death to life: we give ourselves to you, and, with the church through all ages, we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

 The Sacrament of Baptism

 Welcome

 Leader: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

 **People: With joy and thanksgiving**

 **we welcome you into Christ's church**

 **to share with us in his ministry,**

 **for we are all one in Christ.**

 Baptism Response: *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*  (verses 1-4)Hymnal 727

 *(The Servant Song)*

Verse 1

**Will you let me be your servant,**

**Let me be as Christ to you?**

**Pray that I might have the grace to**

**Let you be my servant too.**

Verse 2

**We are pilgrims on a journey;**

**We’re together on the road.**

**We are here to help each other**

**Walk the mile and bear the load.**

Verse 3

**I will hold the Christ-light for you**

**In the night time of your fear.**

**I will hold my hand out to you,**

**Speak the peace you long to hear.**

Verse 4

**I will weep when you are weeping;**

**When you laugh I'll laugh with you.**

**I will share your joy and sorrow**

**Till we've seen this journey through.**

CCLI Song # 72673

Richard Gillard

Words: 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing; Music: 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

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 Congregational Prayer (unison)

**God our Father, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our number this sister in faith. Together, may we live in your Spirit and so love one another, that we may have the mind of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever. Amen.**

 Gifts from the Family of God

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:  Deuteronomy 6:4-9  Pew Bible, p. 163 (O.T.)

 2 Timothy 1:5-8 Pew Bible, p. 211 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Lois and Eunice: A Family’s Faith Story” Rev. Traci Smith

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

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: *Sing Out Your Joy to God*  Handel/arr. Hal H. Hopson

 \**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*  (all verses)

 ***Please be seated for a Meeting of the Congregation.***

 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**

Guest pastor: Rev. Traci Smith

Liturgist and Worship Host: Victor King
Greeter/Fellowship: Paul Jeziorski
Elder at the Door: Jay Lerch
Musicians: Tom Anderson, the Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Lanny Russell to celebrate the baptism of his granddaughter, Colette Poppy Russell.

**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 Lanny Russell in celebration of his granddaughter, Colette’s baptism***We give thanks to God for joys:** *- Mary Tennyson, who we’ve been praying for, posted Saturday that she is cancer free.
 - For the Cing family, who got a new furnace installed in their home last week thanks to DuPage County!* - For the life and witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - For the celebration of the life of Linda Wolf Jeziorski on January 11
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
*- Bless President Trump with wisdom and justice after his inauguration on Monday.*
   - Prayers of thanksgiving for the life and service of former President Jimmy Carter - May all our public servants lead with godly intentions. We pray for the healing and unity of our country and ask that all people model love and justice.
 - We pray that the ceasefire agreement in Gaza will lead to a peaceful and just solution in that region
  - 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 hold up all those affected by the fires in southern California and all the people who are fighting those fires and rescuing others. We also pray for other areas in our nation and world struck by extreme weather and natural disasters.
*- We pray for the students, staff, and the community of Antioch High School in Nashville, where a shooting Wednesday morning in the lunchroom left two students dead (one was the shooter) and one hospitalized in stable condition.*
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. *On one day (last Sunday, January 19) there were 91 shooting incidents in 34 states plus the District of Columbia, leaving 34 people dead and 69 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**:
 *- The family and friends of Bill Osborne, who was killed in an auto accident January 11. He was an old and dear friend of Lanny Russell.*  - 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 January 11 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 for Ralph, her husband.
  - 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**:
 - Meagan Severson cannot have her cancer surgery, and they are now weighing options.
 - We lift up Kurt Parent, a member of Hope Church and a friend of this congregation, who has had a relapse of pancreatic cancer. He will see an oncologist this week to determine his course of treatment.
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., Margaret F., Tom G., Frank L., Al M., Nikki M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Ginny O., Betsey P., Laura P., Cis R., Gerry S., Marta S., 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**: *- Our paster for recovery from flu
 - Ann Anderson’s niece, Skylar, and other children who are bullied*  - Pastor Wendy’s bonus dad, Frank, who is in nursing care with a brace for his pelvis and neck which are broken.
  - We pray for Heidi Shierry with additional health concerns.
  - 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 234* *(note recent room change)*
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.
  - 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.

**This week at Southminster:**  **Sunday, January 26**
 **Worship, Sacrament of Baptism** at 9:30 a.m. - in person
 and also live on Facebook
 **Congregational information meeting** following the worship service
 (the meeting will not be streamed) **Fellowship** in the Narthex following the meeting
 **PW Book Sale** (last day)
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the Pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Monday, January 27 – Pastor’s Sabbath
 Jeremiah Task Force at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 5:04 p.m.
 **(Note the new time!)
Tuesday, January 28
 Staff calendar meeting at 12:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library** A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, January 29
 Deadline for the February *Dialog*
 Endowment: Investment Review** at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Thursday, January 30**
 **Choir rehearsal** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
 **Young Adults Video Club** meets at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, January 31**
 A.A.at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **February 2
Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com by 9:00 p.m.
**Bring canned/packaged soup/chili/stew for the “Souper Bowl” collection**
 **Worship with Communion** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Luminaria bags for Luminaria Sunday** will be available during Fellowship time
 **Special Session meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor/Library to approve
 the annual statistical report
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth: Pizza & Games** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

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.

**Our “Comfort Zone”** – 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.

**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 p.m.!**

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 Matthew study had gotten to the point of Jesus’s betrayal and the events that follow that. It is a big story. It is an important story. It is the center of our faith. Join us as we study, discuss, and take in that story. We meet this Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library, and there is a seat for you.

**Men of Southminster**: Let’s plan on a Saturday morning get-together for February. Possible dates are Feb. 1, 8, or 15. Please reply to the email from Blair N.

**Youth**: **Pizza & Games** this Sunday! So come for fun, yummies, nourishment, games, smiles, and a deep thought. Bring $5 for the meal, a story about your week, and a friend, if you can.

**The Chili Cook Off!** Southminster’s annual Chili/Soup Cook-Off is on the calendar for Sunday, March 2. That means you can start now perfecting your chili or soup recipe. Just wanted to give you a heads-up.

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

We will present the project plan, timeline, and how to pay for the project at an **informational congregational meeting today (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.

**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 Christian Ed. Ministry: We’re collecting soup!**
It’s cold outside! What’s better when it’s cold than warm soup? On the first two Sundays in February – the 2nd and 9th – the kids of Southminster will be collecting soup to donate to People’s Resource Center (PRC). We call it the Souper Bowl to coincide with the Super Bowl. Canned or packaged soup, beef stew, or chili would be great. Please donate as you can to help our neighbors. There will be a collection container inside the front entrance.

**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):
Today is your last chance to shop the Used Book Sale!**
Winter is a good time to curl up with a good book. Stock up on reading materials during fellowship time by shopping PW’s **Used Book Sale**, which ends today. Suggested donations: $2.00 for hardbacks, $1.00 for paperbacks. The money generated will benefit projects and missions supported by Presbyterian Women. Go home, settle in with a new (used) book, add a cozy blanket and a mug of something warm, and you’re all set.

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** has been in communication with faith leaders in the affected communities in the fire regions in southern California. In addition to providing emotional and spiritual care, PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate assistance.

If you would like to contribute to PDA’s efforts, gifts can be made online by going to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website and scrolling to “Currently Responding – Southern California Wildfires,” by phone at 800-728-7228, ext. 5885, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “PDA-CF25-E” written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Or pick up one of the flyers on the prayer table at the entrance to the sanctuary and follow the donation information there.

**A note from Barb:** **Another thing to do while you’re hibernating during the winter…The puzzles are back**!
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**
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.

**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 until February 11, call Deacon Elise Henkels (630-740-0473). 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.

**Bearing Fruit – January 26, 2025
Welcome, Colette**

Today our chancel has three symbols of Presbyterian worship: the font, the table, and the pulpit. These “pieces of furniture” represent Baptism, Communion, and the Word of God. Normally, we don’t have the font up on the chancel; instead, we usually have it in the back by the entrance to the sanctuary where it represents entrance into the community of Christ. When we come to worship each Sunday, we remember our own baptisms.

The Sacrament of Baptism holds a deep well of meaning – our forgiveness through Christ, as well as our cleansing and renewal, our dying and rising with Jesus Christ. In Baptism we are grafted into the body of Christ. We receiver the gift of the Holy Spirit, and we enter the family of God. Our tradition understands the Sacrament of Baptism to be a sign of God’s covenant, an outward sign of an inward reality.

The water of baptism is linked with the waters of creation, the flood, the exodus, and Christ’s own baptism. Christ identified himself with sinners but was also claimed by God as a beloved Son and was then sent out anointed by the Holy Spirit for service. In Baptism we are connected with God’s creative and redemptive purposes.

The parts of Baptism in our worship service are Presentation, Profession of Faith, and Thanksgiving over the Water, the act of Baptism, and Welcome. At Southminster we have a few gifts for the newly baptized as well: an age-appropriate Bible, a prayer shawl from our Knitting Ministry, a picture frame that will be signed by those in attendance today, other gifts from the children of the church, and shells from our sister church in Cuba. These gifts remind us of the importance of God’s word, the love of our community of Christ, and our mission to the world.

Because there is one body, there is one baptism. The Presbyterian Church (USA) recognizes all baptisms by other Christian churches that are administered with water and performed in the name of the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. On other occasions, like the Baptism of the Lord, Pentecost, and certainly at Confirmation, we reaffirm our own baptisms.

Baptisms are a celebration and welcome into the family of God. Together we bear the fruit of God’s love by welcoming our newest family member: Colette Poppy Russell, born July 24, 2024.

**Welcome back, Traci Smith!**

Our pastor has the flu and is grateful to the Rev. Traci Smith for stepping in this morning. Traci was our Youth Director here 20-some years ago – after college but before seminary. She is an author who currently works for a Christian publisher.