**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**6th Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 16, 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: “First Ladies”

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

 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: *Day by Day*

[Please remain seated as we begin worship.]

 Hymn 664: *Morning Has Broken*  (all verses)

 Call to Worship  (1 Peter 2:3)

 Leader: Come to Christ, the living stone,

 **People: Who was rejected by people
 but *accepted* by God as chosen and precious.**

 **All:** **We come to worship Jesus Christ,
 King of kings and Lord of lords!**

 Hymn 625: *O Lord My God* (*How Great Thou Art)*  (all verses)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, there are times when we look at someone and we are afraid to make the first move. We are afraid to reveal who we are and sometimes fear who another may be. Help us to live bravely and love boldly. 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 581: *Glory Be to the Father* *(Gloria Patri)*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.**

Public domain

 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Blair Nelson
 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:  Luke 7:18-23  Pew Bible, p. 66 (N.T.)

 Luke 7:24-35 Pew Bible, p. 66 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Let Jesus Be Jesus” Rev. Dr. Blair Nelson

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA) [11.5]

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

 Hymn 649: *Amazing Grace*  (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: *Thy Word*

 \**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 39: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  (all verses)

 Charge and Benediction

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

 Postlude: *You’ll Never Walk Alone*

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Dr. Blair Nelson

Liturgist: Victor King
Greeter/Fellowship: Kathy Sanders
Elder at the Door: Steve Sanders
Guest Musician: Dr. Derek Buckley
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Alec Parks

The flowers today are given by Angela Smith in memory of her father’s birthday.

**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,

Prayer is an essential thread in the fabric of our community of faith. We all pray for one another, and our twice-weekly joys and concerns prayer list is in our eNotes and worship bulletins. We also include those prayer requests in our monthly *Dialog*.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to make prayer requests, whether members or not. On Sunday morning, you may fill out a blue prayer request slip, or during the week, email or call Barb or me so that your prayers may be included.

Knowing how people are doing would be a joy and very helpful. If you have submitted a person to be prayed for, please send an update to the office occasionally.

On the last Sunday of February, February 23, we will observe Luminaria Sunday, a day dedicated to praying for all the individuals whose lives have been affected by cancer.

We will refresh the list of people fighting cancer the following Sunday, March 2. Please make a point of sending an email, text, phone call, or filling out a blue prayer request and letting the people of Southminster know who you would like us to keep in prayer.

Pastor Wendy

*New requests and updates are italicized in our prayer list.*

**Joys and Concerns** *The flowers today* *are given by Angela Smith in memory of her father’s birthday.*  **We give thanks to God for joys:** - That Mark, brother of Donna Marton, has found a place to live **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
 *- We lift up the federal government employees who might be finding their work situations confusing and questionable. May you strengthen their hearts and minds about the best course of action. Shine in their hearts and minds.
 - We hold before you the people of World Relief, clients, employees, and volunteers, some of whom are members of Southminster. Thousands of people with purchased plane tickets are abandoned because they are now not allowed into the country, and others present here among us have lost the 90-day promise of support taken away from them. May mercy and grace be upon these people.*
  - Lord, direct President Trump into paths of peace and justice. Help him fulfill his oath of office and seek the common good.
 - May all our public servants lead with godly intentions. We pray for the healing of our country and ask that all people model love and justice.
  - 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 an end to gun violence in our nation. *On one day (last Sunday, Feb. 9) there were 95 shooting incidents in 26 states, leaving 38 people dead and 72 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**:
 *- Deb Bohi asks prayers for the family of her friend whose mother, Mrs. Clewett, died last week.
 - Rick and Darlene Crilly and family on the death of Rick’s mother, Dolores Crilly, last week
 - We remember the 5 lives lost and many more affected by the shooting at NIU on February 14, 2008.* - The families, friends, and colleagues of those killed in the crash of the American Airlines plane and U.S. Army helicopter near Washington, D.C. and those affected the crash of the medevac plane in Philadelphia
 - 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**:
 *- Floyd Rogers, recently diagnosed with cancer. He is beginning immunotherapy – will need injections every three weeks for years.*
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., Kurt P., Laura P., Cis R., Gerry S., Marta S., Meagan 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**: *- Pray for a swift recovery from Covid for Pastor Wendy Boden’s mother
  - Pastor Wendy’s bonus dad, Frank, recovering from surgery to replace his pacemaker battery; he will get to go home at the end of next week.
 - Carole Peterson, hospitalized with serious health issues
 - Deb Bohi’s friend, Liz Werth, recovering from brain surgery last week
 - Greg, 35-year-old nephew of Barb Doppelt’s dear friend, Linda, who suffered a massive stroke and 3 cardiac arrests. He is showing gradual signs of improvement and being slowly weaned off life support.* - Susie and Sean Salins’ neighbors, Wally and Dee, are in declining health; Dee is in hospice care. They are like grandparents to Noah.
 - Jonathan Buckley undergoing tests at Rush
 - Prayers for all recently arrived refugees, who are no longer receiving resettlement support from the U.S. government
 - Ann Anderson’s niece, Skylar, and other children who are bullied
  - 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
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.
  - 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.
**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, February 16**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 Last day that **Luminaria bags for Luminaria Sunday** will be available
 during Fellowship time
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth” Photo Scavenger Hunt**, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Yorktown Mall
**Pastor Wendy Boden will be on vacation through February 17**. Blair Nelson
 will provide pastoral care while Wendy is away; call him at 630-917-6035.
**Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart on Facebook
 live at 5:04 p.m. (Note the new time!)
Tuesday, February 18
 Staff calendar meeting**, 12:30 p.m., Parlor/Library
 **Session** at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, February 19
 eNotes go out
 Presbyterian Readers**, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom **Thursday, February 20**
 **Young Adults Video Club** meets at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, February 21
 PW Circle**, 9:30 a.m., McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A.at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, February 22
 Set up for Luminaria Sunday**, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
**Next** **Sunday,** **February 23
Luminaria Sunday**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Staff Meeting**, 11:00 a.m., Pastor’s Office
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth: Pizza & Games**, 4:00-6:00 p.m., 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**: Join us in the Parlor/Library at 11:15 a.m. as we continue our study of Matthew’s gospel. We have gotten to Passion Week, and the political tensions and drama are rising. What will happen next? (OK, you already know how it turns out—crucifixion and resurrection—but so did Matthew’s readers. But what specifically does Matthew want us to learn from his version of a story that we already know?)

**Youth**: Lots of good stuff is happening! Today is our **photo scavenger hunt** at Yorktown Mall. We meet at the food court at 4:00 p.m. and finish at 6:00 p.m. (which is closing time, so they will kick us out.) **Mission trippers**—Chili Cook-Off is Mar. 2 after worship. It is our first trip fundraiser, and we need all-hands-on-deck to make that happen. Be sure to let Blair N know what events you can and cannot make.

**Chili/Soup Cook-Off!**  Masters of chili or soup! Southminster’s annual **Chili-Soup Cook-Off** is only weeks away. Bring a batch of your best to church on March 2 and see if you win the laurels! Not a chef? There is still a job for you: come and eat and vote for the best. We can’t know who the winner will be without you to eat, enjoy, and vote. This is a fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip (our youth will be waiting on tables); free-will donations will be gratefully accepted. Sign up in the Narthex to compete and/or attend.

**From the Mission Ministry: Last day for luminaria bags**On February 23 we will hold our 13th annual Luminaria Sunday service. The service is a ceremony of remembrance and hope, when we honor and remember those touched by cancer. Luminaria bags will light the sanctuary during the worship service and the names of those remembered and honored will be read and prayed for during the Prayers of the People. Together, we will share a moment of silence to remember our loved ones.

Luminaria bags will be available for purchase before and after worship ***just one more day – today, February 16***. The suggested donation is $10 for each person honored or remembered.
 **“Paving the Way”**Southminster members have enthusiastically supported the Paving the Way Capital Campaign for the parking lot reconstruction project. To celebrate, last Sunday we had a special tailgate fellowship and enjoyed Angela’s minestrone soup and Jay’s chili, along with some sides and apple pie for dessert. We could feel the excitement in the air!

Total committed funding (cash and pledges) for the Capital Campaign is $145,535 as of February 13. Let’s keep the momentum going!

If you need forms, more information, or have questions, please contact Rita Zapel at rboserup@sbcglobal.net.

**From the Worship Ministry**
**Sign up for Flowers:** The 2025 flower chart is posted for the first half of the year.
*Dates coming up that are still available: February 23, March 9, 23, and 30!*
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.
 **Presbyterian Readers** will meet this Wednesday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The February book is *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali. It is described as “an evocative read and a powerful portrait of friendship, feminism, and political activism” (People) set against three transformative decades in Tehran, Iran...”

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.
 **Presbyterian Women (PW):**The next Presbyterian Women’s meeting will be this Friday, February 21. Jessica Bohi-Parks will speak about women’s mental health issues. The meeting will take place in the Parlor, starting with refreshments and devotions at 9:30 a.m., followed by the presentation at 10:00 a.m. and a business meeting afterward. All women are invited to join us!

**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:**
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks this month. The year-to-date total of “free money” earned for Southminster through the purchase of gift cards is $342.71. Your next chance to order will be March 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 March 11, call Deacon Kathy Sanders (630-476-2143). You may always call your deacon if you need help from the church.

**Pastor Wendy Boden is on vacation through February 17.** If you need pastoral care while she is away, contact Minister of Youth and Adult Discipleship Blair Nelson at 630-917-6035.

**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 – February 16, 2025**

**Welcome, Blair Nelson and Derek Buckley**
While our pastor is on vacation, Blair Nelson, our Minister of Youth and Adult Discipleship, will fill the pulpit today. Rev. Dr. Nelson has a genuine love of youth and young people. The youth program that he administers includes Sunday evening youth events and various special and service events. It culminates in an annual work camp each summer, helping the poor and the elderly. He coordinates events for our young adults and men of the congregation and leads a Sunday morning Adult Bible study.

Blair is a historian of science with a PhD in the History of Science from the University of Wisconsin Madison. He is also an ordained pastor in the North American Baptist Church. Blair brings a broad knowledge of history, culture, and religion and has skills as a college educator, working as an adjunct professor at Wheaton College and Benedictine University.

Our pastor, Rev. Wendy Boden, and Blair Nelson have been married for a long time and have two adult children who live in Chicago. Blair and Wendy met at Fuller Theological Seminary, where they both earned Master of Divinity degrees. They have a profound sense of calling to the ministry at Southminster Presbyterian Church.

Our Music director, Tom Anderson, is also away today; we welcome Dr. Derek Buckley as his sub. Derek graduated with a music and vocal performance doctorate from the University of Illinois. He has had the pleasure of studying with Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. Alan Peters, and Mr. Jerry Daniels, and, most recently, he has taken master classes with Ms. Renee Fleming and Ms. Linda Eder. Derek loves opera, particularly bel canto roles, which have been a centerpiece of his repertoire for the past 20 years. Derek and his husband, Jonathan, make their home in Aurora.