**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**March 2, 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.

For those who are in the sanctuary, please put your phone in airplane mode.

Today we are having communion. Those at home may want to gather the elements (“bread” and “wine” or whatever you have) before the service begins.

 Gathering Music/Photo Story: “The Endowment Tree”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles

 Endowment Dedication (unison) (Psalm 145:4-6)‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬

**One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts… We declare your greatness through the generations.**

  Prelude

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

 Hymn: *Here I Am to Worship*  p. 19, gold supplement

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Lord, you have called us to the mountaintop.

 **People**: **Help us look forward to where you would have us go.**

 Leader: Open our hearts and spirits to respond to your lead.

 **People**: **We place our trust in you, Lord.**

 **All:** **Let us worship God.**

 Hymn: *Shine on Us*  p. 37, gold supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Light of the World, we are not only blind to our shortfalls but to your grace as well. Help us to not only see the love and mercy you freely offer to us but offer it to others. Help us to trust that we are truly forgiven so that we may truly forgive others. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is both our Lord and Savior. 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 Chris Kozich
 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 9:18-27 Pew Bible, p. 69 (N.T.)

 Luke 9:28-36 Pew Bible, p. 69 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Fresh Eyes”

 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 525: *Let Us Break Bread Together* (all verses)

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 Anthem: *Taste and See* James E. Moore, Jr.

 \**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 Dedication

 Service of the Lord’s Supper

 Invitation

 We will receive communion where we are seated today. Please take and hold the elements –
 bread and fruit of the vine – until all have been served. When it is time, the pastor will say
 “Take and eat, all of you,” and “Take and drink, all of you.”

 We extend an invitation to the Lord’s Supper to all who have been baptized. You do
 not need to be a member of this congregation or a Presbyterian to share in this meal.
 We remember that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a
 privilege given to believers who come in faith, repentance, and love.]

 Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

 Leader: The Lord be with you.

 **People**: **And also with you.**

 Leader: Lift up your hearts.

 **People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

 *The minister gives thanks…*

 The congregation responds by singing together:

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 *The minister continues the Thanksgiving…*
 “*Together we proclaim the great mystery of faith:”*

 **According to Christ’s commandment**

 **We remember his death,**

 **We proclaim his resurrection,**

 **We await his coming in glory.**

*The minister continues with Intercessions for the Church and the World
and Prayers of the People…*

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

 **People**: **hear our prayers.**

 Our 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.**

 Words of Institution

 Communion

 Communion Music: *Moved by the Spirit*  Tom Anderson

*We will receive communion where we are seated today. Please take and hold the elements – bread and fruit of the vine – until all have been served. When it is time, the pastor will say “Take and eat, all of you,” and “Take and drink, all of you.”*

*With Christian love we serve gluten-free communion bread and alcohol-free grape juice.
Also with Christian love the elements were prepared with strict attention to health concerns.
You are invited to partake of the prepackaged communion juice and wafer if you choose; the wafer is not gluten free.*

 Prayer after Communion

 Hymn 192: *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining (Shine, Jesus, Shine)* (all verses)

 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**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Terry Kline
Greeter/Fellowship: Anny Davidson
Elder at the Door: Steve Shierry
Musicians: Tom Anderson, the Southminster Choir
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Lynn Ferino with thanks for the blessings of her family
and friends.

**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,
We have refreshed our list of people fighting cancer following Luminaria Sunday. 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. All prayer requests are welcome. We want to be able to know who to talk to in order to follow up on all the people we pray for each week.

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

**Joys and Concerns** *The flowers today are given by Lynn Ferino with thanks for the blessings of her family
and friends.* **We give thanks to God for joys:**
 - Thanksgiving for good session and finance meetings recently **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
 *- Prayers for people living in fear and shame in today’s political climate (particularly trans people)
  - We lift up the 10,000 and more federal government employees (including the most recent cuts: more than 4,000 National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service workers) who have been let go. May you strengthen their hearts and minds about the best course of action. Shine in their hearts and minds.* - May all Americans follow the law of love.
  - We lift up the compassionate ministry of World Relief, that answers Jesus’ directions to his followers that we are called to serve the “least of these.” We are grateful for the 45 years of bipartisan efforts to resettle people here but which has now come to an end. The Church has long played a role in alleviating suffering, but we cannot do it alone. Our government must uphold its commitment to protecting human dignity and aiding those in greatest need.” The sudden nature of stop-work orders, compounded with thousands of domestic and global terminations, has had devastating consequences.

We are grateful that World Relief will continue to help refugees strengthen their English language skills.
  - Lord, may you grant President Trump grace, wisdom, and compassion and may all our government leaders seek to fulfill their oaths of office.
  - We pray for the healing of our country and ask that all people model love, peace, and justice.
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. *On one day (last Sunday, Feb. 23) there were 104 shooting incidents in 33 states plus Washington, D.C., leaving 38 people dead and 84 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
 - We lift up the nation of Ukraine, that was invaded by Russia over three years ago and pray for a just and lasting peace.
**Blessed are those who mourn**:
 *- Rita Zapel’s mom, Inger-Lise Boserup, as she mourns the death of Willy Christensen, her partner of 20 years
 - Prayers for Wally in the death of his wife, Dee. These neighbors were special friends of the Salins family.*
 - 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.
  - 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**:
 *- Deb Bohi’s friend, Kerri, who was just diagnosed with cancer*  - 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: Cis R., Meagan S., Marta S., Shelayne, and those we name in our hearts.
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges**:*- Francine Long asks prayers for her friend and neighbor, Phyllis, who is recovering from surgery.* - Jonathan Buckley
  - Carole Peterson, hospitalized with serious health issues
  - Greg, 35-year-old nephew of Barb Doppelt’s dear friend, Linda, now in his 4th week in ICU recovering from a massive stroke, 3 cardiac arrests, and surgery.   - Prayers for all recently arrived refugees, who are no longer receiving resettlement support from the U.S. government
  - Joan Koska is at Tabor Hills Healthcare Facility. Cards are welcome but no visitors.
  - Jim Smith, at Brookdale, and all who are in care centers
**Prayers for our worshiping community and the Jeremiah Task Force** as we discern together God’s call on SPC for the 21st century.

**This week at Southminster:**  **Sunday, March 2
Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by contacting bobbifrey@aol.com before 9:00 p.m.
 **Worship, communion** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Chili-Soup Cook-Off** downstairs at 11:00 a.m.
**Monday, March 3 – Pastor’s Sabbath
 Jeremiah Task Force** at 7:00 p.m. **Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart on Facebook
 live at 5:05 p.m. (Note the new time!)
Tuesday, March 4
 Staff calendar meeting** at 12:30 p.m.
 **Mission Ministry** at 7:30 p.m., McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, March 5 – *Ash Wednesday*
 Women’s Breakfast,** 8:30 a.m., Danby’s Station **March *Dialog* goes out
 Choir arrives** at 6:45 p.m.  **Ash Wednesday Taizé Service,** 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary; choir rehearsal after the service **Thursday, March 6
Annual reports/Narrative reports are due
 No Choir rehearsal**
 **Young Adults Video Club** meets at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, March 7** A.A.at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, March 8** Set your clocks to “spring forward” before you go to sleep!
**Next** **Sunday,** **March 9
Daylight Saving Time begins**
 **Worship, communion** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **Session** **Budget meeting** in the chancel at 11:15 a.m.
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library

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**is not meeting today so you can enjoy the Chili/Soup Cook-Off.

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 5:05 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday. **Note the new time – 5:05 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 class will not meet today because of the **Chili/Soup Cook Off** that begins at 11:00 a.m. So, come down to Fellowship Hall and enjoy the tasty competition. Join us next week as we continue our study of Matthew’s gospel.

**Men of Southminster**: Watch for an email from Blair asking for a March date for our next get-together. **Youth and Mission Trippers**: Be sure to go to Fellowship Hall immediately after the service to help set up the Chili/Soup Cook Off. There is no youth event today other than the Cook Off.

**You are invited to the Chili/Soup Cook-Off!**  Join us at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for our annual Chili/Soup Cook Off. For a free will donation to the Youth Mission Team, you can sample the best soups and chilis Southminster’s kitchens can offer. Taste them all and vote for the winner. Did not sign up? No worries – we can still fit you in.

**From the Worship Ministry
Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of Lent. Join us this Wednesday – Ash Wednesday, March 5 – at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary for a Taizé Prayer Service, which will include the imposition of ashes. Please take this opportunity to enter into the season of Lent with this beautiful and meaningful service.

**From the Mission Ministry**
Many thanks for the love and support expressed on our 13th annual Luminaria last Sunday. The lit luminaria bags that lined the sanctuary and the organ loft shelf were a very touching display. With your help we honored and remembered 97 family members and friends who have fought or are now fighting cancer and the many people who faithfully walk alongside them. Your donations, totaling $1000.00, will go directly to the American Cancer Society for research to find a cure for cancer.
A special thank you to Deb Bohi, who carefully wrote all the names on the luminaria bags.

 **“Paving the Way”**The Parking lot committed funds total is $213,051 as of February 25. Committed funds include $9,900 in future year pledges.

I am amazed and thankful for the donations as they come in. Southminster members can feel the “sizzle” in the Paving the Way parking lot reconstruction Capital Campaign. Even though the amount raised is substantial, there have been some suggestions from congregation members for project improvements, such as better lighting in the traffic circle area, that would raise the cost. Now is not the time to hold back! Every dollar is important. Please donate as you are able. If you are unable to commit now, we are happy to accept your funds at any time during the next few months.

The donation request campaign ends today, and we ask that the 2025 pledges be paid by March 31st.

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

**The annual Easter Party!**Southminster hosts an Easter Party each year on Easter Saturday, open to both members of our congregation and the public. Your help will be appreciated! We are now:
 > Accepting **donations of candy** that is small enough to fit in an Easter egg
      Please... candy needs to be purchased wrapped (not loose). No nuts, no peanut butter, no chewing gum, and no hard candy
 > Looking for **help stuffing Easter eggs** at home. Take home kits will be available in the Narthex on the benches.

**Women’s Monthly Breakfast**
Join us for the Women’s Monthly Breakfast this Wednesday, March 5, at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station. This is a great time to reconnect with friends, make new ones, and enjoy fellowship and relaxation. All women are welcome! (March 5 is Ash Wednesday, but Women’s Breakfast will still meet.)

**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 today!**
Today is your only chance to order Jubilee Bucks this month. Remember that gift cards make great gifts but are also useful for purchases you make for yourself – think groceries, gas, restaurant meals, and more. It's a win-win for you and for Southminster, since the church gets a rebate on each card purchased. Get your order to Bobbi Frey by text (630-643-3858) or email (bobbifrey@aol.com) no later than 9:00 p.m. today.
Your next chance to order will be April 6.

**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 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 – March 2, 2025**

**The Living Legacy Tree**

Today we update our Living Legacy Tree. Each leaf represents a life lived for the Kingdom of God here on Park Boulevard. This tree is not so much about pride but about stories of lives invested in serving our Lord. A bronze leaf is a memorial leaf in honor of beloved members who have died. Today we remember Gail Johnston and Caroline Linde. And the children of Southminster remember Gus. A silver leaf represents a living gift. Some of these gifts are given by people for milestones, birthdays, graduations, and anniversaries. Others are simply gifts given in gratitude for what the Lord has done. Ralph and Caroline Linde gave a gift in honor of Ralph’s 90th birthday. Several anonymous donors remembered Southminster with endowment gifts in 2024. A gold leaf represents a legacy gift, a gift given when Southminster is remembered in a will. Long-time Southminster pastor Rich Thompson and former members Elaine and Ron Berquist remembered Southminster through their estate plans.

Many stories are represented by the leaves on our Living Legacy Tree. Each life is a story about God’s love active in a person’s life. The tree branches stretch backward with stories of the past, but they also stretch into the future because the financial gifts represented by the leaves help fund the future ministry of Southminster. Through the Living Legacy Funds investment, we have income to finance new programs, property, and mission. This is one of the ways we are blessed to be a blessing. We are community, a church grafted onto the family tree of God where we bless, invite people to belong, and believe. (If you have read up to here, Ron will buy you lunch!)