Email letter for Sunday, February 23, going out on Friday, February 21

**Welcome Home!**

**This Sunday, February 23**:
**1. Parking valet**: Would you like to volunteer?
 This is an especially welcome service during cold weather! If you would
 be willing to serve as a parking valet, please sign up on the bulletin board opposite
 the church office. Talk to Steve Kozich if you’d like to know more.
**2.** This Sunday is **Luminaria Sunday** when we honor and remember those whose
 lives have been affected by cancer. Read more below in Pastor Wendy’s letter.

**Be sure you have the following Sunday, March 2, on your calendar for our annual Chili/Soup Cook-Off at 11:00 a.m., a fundraiser for our youth mission trip this summer.** Let Blair Nelson know if you plan to bring a pot of your most fabulous chili or soup (630-917-6035 or blair@southminsterpc.org). If you’re not a cook, you can be a taster/judge – the first place winner will win a $50 gift certificate to Penzey’s Spices donated by Rita Zapel. Many thanks, Rita! There is no charge but there will be a free-will offering.

**Loving One Another and Neighbor**

Friends,

How do you pray during the Prayers of the People? As the pastor, my prayers may elicit a thought, a reflection, or contemplation. Go with it! Go with it and offer that thought to God.

In some faith traditions, people pray out loud all at once during the Prayers of the People! We at Southminster don’t do that, but we are encouraged to follow the Spirit’s leading and pray as I pray. We pray together during the Prayers of the People. Remember, we will all conclude our prayers together at the end as we pray, “Lord in your mercy,” and “Hear our prayers.”

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.

Sunday is an important day in the life of Southminster. Years ago, the Mission Ministry wanted to offer an opportunity to support the fight against cancer through the American Cancer Society. The result is **Luminaria Sunday**, which is generally held the last Sunday in February - a worship service where we honor and remember those touched by cancer.

Our PhotoStory will be live on Sunday, displaying the luminarias representing the many people we love and support. When you enter the sanctuary Sunday morning, the overhead lights will be dimmed, bathing our worship in love and light from the luminarias. Each person named on a luminary will be prayed for during the Prayers of the People, either in thanksgiving or crying out for a cure. All this is motivated by Christian love.

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.

The luminaria lists are attached to this email.

**Welcome to Worship**

We worship with other Christians around the globe, no matter where we are. Worship is one of the ways we bear the fruit of God’s love by loving the people who also trust in Jesus Christ. Each worship service is an opportunity to feel God’s embrace and share it with the people you meet day to day.

Our church office phone number is 630-469-9149 if you would like to connect with us on weekdays, or you can email us:  admin@southminsterpc.org (the office).

We hope the following **attachments** for Sunday, February 23, will help you worship:
 **- the bulletin
 - the luminaria lists (Remembered and Honored)
 - hymns for the service
 - children’s activity pages** (a pdf file)
 **- Jubilee Bucks order form** (a pdf file) – next order date: March 2

You may want to print out the **bulletin**, a “program” or “order of worship,” so that you may be better able to join in our worship service. The bulletin is about our lives before God as we worship together.

If your family has young children, you may want to print out the **children’s activity pages**, which children of any age can enjoy with worship. You may want to take a look, as well, even if you are an adult. Some adults in our congregation give them to grandchildren and neighbors.

The bulletin and the links below will tell you about our life together outside of worship services – our activities and announcements.

 **The worship service will be in person and on Facebook live:**  [<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>](https://www.facebook.com/south.minster.505/videos%20)(If you search for us on Facebook rather than using this link, be sure you go to our page and not a group.) Or watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

After the service, the recording will be available at our web site, but it may not be available immediately: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/>
*Please know that if a glitch occurs during recording, we will continue to record and upload and try to have the complete service posted as soon as possible.*
There will be a Photo Story/PowerPoint beginning at 9:15 a.m.
The **Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study:** Join us at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library.

**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.**