**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 30, 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: “Our House: Southminster”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (Lamentations 3:22-24)

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”**

  Prelude: *The Water Is Wide*

[Please remain seated as we begin worship.]

 Hymn 654: *In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful*

 Music leaders will sing through once, then congregation will join to sing 2 more times.

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Let us draw refreshment from the wellspring of prayer and community;

 **People: Let us encourage creative faith and respect of tradition;**

 Leader: Let us dress ourselves in the garments of God:

 **People: Compassion for the needy and embracing the stranger,**

 **All:** **Spreading the canopy of peace over all the world. Let us worship God!**

 Hymn 385: *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (all)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Loving and Holy God, open our hearts and minds to so that we are able to acknowledge to you the fullness of our lives – that which is kind and beautiful and that which is impatient and hurtful. We have looked at others and have forgotten that all people bear your image in the world. Forgive us and grant us an extra measure of faithfulness through your Holy Spirit that we may see God’s image in everyone. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is both Lord and savior. Now hear our silent prayers. Amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:34)

 Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

 **People: Only Christ and Christ died for us!**

 Leader: Christ rose for us!

 **People: Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

 Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

 **All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

 Response: *Kyrie* pg. 1, gold supplement

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

 (The words are Greek for *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.*)

CCLI Song # 2691048

Antonin Leopold Dvorak | Ruth Elaine Schram

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 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Victor King
 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:  Psalm 8 Pew Bible, p. 492 (O.T.)

 Luke 16:19-31 Pew Bible, p. 79 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Say My Name” Pastor Wendy Boden

 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 824: *There Is a Place of Quiet Rest* (all)

 *(Near to the Heart of God)*

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: *Dives and Lazarus*  Ralph Vaughan Williams

 \**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.**

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 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

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

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

 Charge and Benediction

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

Leader:  The cross, **All:  We shall take it.**
  Leader:  The bread, **All:  We shall break it.**
  Leader:  The pain, **All:  We shall bear it.**
  Leader:  The joy, **All:  We shall share it.**
  Leader:  The Gospel, **All:  We shall live it.**  Leader:  The love, **All:  We shall give it.**
  Leader:  The light, **All:  We shall cherish it.**  Leader:  The darkness, **All:  God shall perish it.**  Leader:  For Jesus’ sake. **All:  Amen.**

 Postlude: *Now Thank We All Our God*

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgist: Ann Anderson
Greeter/Fellowship: Paul Jeziorski
Elder at the Door: Deb Bohi
Guest Musician: Dr. Derek Buckley
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Francine Long celebrating her niece Jennifer’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,
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 Francine Long celebrating her niece Jennifer’s birthday.* **We give thanks to God for joys: (*Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”***
 *- Lynn Ferino is thankful to be celebrating the 80th birthday of her brother-in-law, Chip.
 - We are thankful for the faithful work of the Jeremiah Task Force and their report last Sunday.
 - We are thankful for Francine’s niece Jennifer’s presence in the world and pray that she will continue to enjoy many more birthdays.* - For Mikel Solomon’s mother’s successful surgery  - Thanksgiving for recent good session meetings
**We pray for the whole world and our nation: *(1 Timothy 2:1-2) “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”***
 - May we resist the temptation to hate and embrace the law of love.
- Lord, may you grant our President and all our leaders and authorities lives that are peaceful and quiet.
 - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. We ask for your light and peace to surround those who are prone to gun violence; bring their minds and hearts in line with love. We ask deep comfort and your love for those who have lost loved ones to gun violence. May we and our leaders come together to end the violence in our nation. *On one day (Sunday, March 23) there were 60 shooting incidents in 26 states plus the District of Columbia, leaving 19 people dead and 48 people injured.* To see current statistics for shootings in this country, go to <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>.
 - We pray for the peace of the world. *We pray for the people of the Sudan, who are experiencing a famine, for Myanmar and Thailand after a devastating earthquake there on Friday, and for those affected by raging wildfires in North and South Carolina.* Look with mercy on our planet and all people. **Blessed are those who mourn**: (***Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”*We lift up families and friends of…:**
 -Joan Koska, who passed away on March 6. Visitation and service for Joan will be on Saturday, April 5, at Southminster; visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. with service at 11:00.
Send cards to: Tim and Tom Koska, 717 Stonebridge Dr., Bolingbrook, IL 60490
**We continue to pray for the families and friends of:**
 - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, who died December 24, and for Paul, her husband
  - Gail Johnston, Andrea Schmidt’s mother
  - Franklin Keith Beeler, Angela Smith’s father
  - Caroline Linde, and for Ralph, her husband.
  - Those we name in our hearts and hold dear
**We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems**:
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: Kerri, Margaret F., Ginny O., Floyd R., Cis R., Meagan S., Marta S., Shelayne; Kurt Parent, who is now in palliative care; and those we name in our hearts.
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges**:*- Jack Thorne, after a fall
 - Alicia Rasnic, who is hospitalized. No visitors, please.
  - Jonathan Buckley, whose numbers are improving. May he continue to improve.* - Helen Shierry (Steve’s mom) remains hospitalized with multiple health issues. We also pray for Steve and Heidi, as they support her through this time.
 - Our trans brothers and sisters and their families for peace and safety
 - 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 30**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **The Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will take place at the end of
 the worship service. **Fellowship time** will follow the meeting.
 **Stuffing Easter eggs for the Easter Party** during fellowship time
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth: Pizzaless Games** 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall **Monday, March 31 – Pastor’s Sabbath** Voting equipment delivered to Fellowship Hall (time TBA)
 Election judges here to set up in Fellowship Hall (time TBA)
**Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart on Facebook
 live at 5:05 p.m.
Tuesday, April 1
 Consolidated Election – Fellowship Hall will be in use all day
 as a polling place
 Staff calendar meeting**, 12:30 p.m., McHenry Parlor/Library **Mission Ministry**, 7:30 p.m., McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A. at 7:30 p.m. in Choir Room
**Wednesday, April 2** Voting equipment picked up (time TBA) **Women’s Breakfast,** 8:30 a.m., Danby’s Station **April *Dialog* goes out
Thursday, April 3** Hawthorn Garden Club, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall **Choir rehearsal,** 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
 **Young Adults Video Club** meets at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, April 4** A.A.at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, April 5
 Visitation with the Koska family**, 10:00-11:00 a.m. **Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Joan Koska**, 11:00 a.m.
**Next** **Sunday,** **April 6 – 5th Sunday in Lent
Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com by 9:00 p.m.
 **Worship with communion** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship time** will follow the service.
 **Stuffing Easter eggs for the Easter Party** during fellowship time
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library
 **Youth: Pizzaless Games** 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 5:05 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday.

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**:  We are almost finished with Matthew’s gospel, but you won’t want to miss the end!!! Then, we are on to Philippians—the joyful epistle! You won’t want to miss that. Join us at 11:15 a.m. (bring your coffee and snack from fellowship) in the Parlor/Library, for study, edification, conversation, and fun.

**Youth**:  **Pizzaless Games** today, 4:00-6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. We’re gonna have some fun, a deep thought, and we gotta work on Talent Show stuff.

**Talent Show is coming**!  Sign-ups for acts are on the Narthex bulletin board, so polish your kazoo, tighten the banjo strings, rehearse your soliloquy, tune up your dance steps, ‘cause it is time to show off for your church family.

**From the Mission Ministry**
March Madness and **March Mission Madness** are going strong! How well will your bracket(s) do? Even if you aren’t one of the top finishers, the winners in the end are the missions and projects we support!
If you haven’t yet contributed your $15 per bracket (or more, if you feel like it!), please write a check to Southminster ***and add your bracket name(s) on the memo line*** so our treasurer can reconcile the contributions.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**: For over seventy years, Presbyterians have participated in One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent, starting on the first Sunday in Lent (March 9) and culminating on Easter Sunday (April 20). This year’s theme is “Repairing the Breach”.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. These all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works to provide relief to those affected by natural or manmade disasters. The Presbyterian Hunger Program helps to provide food for the hungry. Self-Development of People helps provide resources to communities working to cast of the bonds of poverty and oppression.

You will find envelopes in the sanctuary, or you may donate at any time by designating OGHS on your check. Please give generously. You may give through Easter Sunday; the offering will be dedicated the following Sunday.

This month you may wish to start setting aside gently used clothing that you do not need any more for our **April collection of clothing for Repeat Boutique.** Repeat Boutique is a shop that serves people referred to it by non-profit organizations—World Relief, PADS, Peoples Resource Center, as well as other charitable organizations in DuPage County—who need financial help clothing themselves and their families. Clothing to be donated should be brought into church starting on the first Sunday in April.

**From the Worship Ministry**:

Time is running out to order **Easter flowers!** We need orders by March 31. We hope to have to have **10 Easter lilies** (2 stem plants @ $45 each) and **10 pink azalea plants** (6” pots @ $40 each) to beautify the sanctuary on Easter. (Yes, like everything else, the flower costs have gone way up this year.) Sign up in the narthex at church or contact Sarah Allen (630-988-8231 or sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com); the deadline for orders is March 31. Checks should be made to SPC with “Easter flowers” on the memo line. Thanks to everyone who will help fill our sanctuary with color and beauty on Easter morning.

 **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***.
  > Also, accepting **donations of:**

**+ Artificial flowers** - any type, loose or in an arrangement (will be used for an Easter bonnet craft)

      + **Disposable, plastic tablecloths -** any bright or pastel color
  > You will be able to **order Jubilee Bucks cards** to support the Easter Party; watch for details closer to the next Jubilee Bucks order date (April 6).

**Today** we will again **stuff Easter eggs in the Narthex after worship**! We will start during fellowship time and continue as long as people would like to keep working.

**“Paving the Way”**
The Paving the Way committed funds (donations and 2025 pledges) total is $212,271 as of March 27, 2025. If we include the $9,850 in future year pledges, the grand total is $222,121.

A construction contractor was chosen during a special Session meeting on March 25. Additional preliminary details of the construction work will be in the April *Dialog*, which is going out next Wednesday, April 2.

The donation request campaign ended on Sunday, March 2, and we ask that the 2025 pledges be paid as soon as possible. Project and financial updates will be on the poster in the narthex, in the weekly eNotes, and in the monthly *Dialog*.

If you have any financial questions, please contact Rita Zapel at rboserup@sbcglobal.net. Project construction questions should be directed to Steve Kozich at ee99530@yahoo.com.

**Jubilee Bucks – order next Sunday!**
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks in March. The year-to-date total of “free money” earned for Southminster through the purchase of gift cards is $515.19. Your next chance to order will be April 6. You will be able to order Jubilee Bucks cards to support the Easter Party; watch for details closer to the April 6 order date.

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
This is the 50th year People’s Resource Center is distributing food to our neighbors in DuPage County! That first year, bags of groceries were shared from a house with 125 families. This past year, groceries were provided over 63,000 times! Our weekly trunkful of groceries from Southminster is truly appreciated! Not only does PRC distribute food, they also assist people with other needs - ELL (English Language Learner) classes, job assistance, social work, computer classes and repair, gas cards, rental assistance, tutoring, art classes, and more. Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated!

**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 from March 11-April 8, call Deacon Beth Bonde (630-207-1113). 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 30, 2025**

**We are blessed to be a blessing**
One of the common complaints about American churches is that they over-promise and under-deliver community. That is not true at Southminster. This doesn't mean there are always unanimous opinions or everything constantly hums nicely. There are differences of opinion. Sometimes, events are not smooth. Sometimes, people need to pause, apologize, and forgive, but that is part of the community, as well. A community is where we can love as Jesus calls us to love. We call that living in the neighborhood of Jesus.

One of the unique aspects of being Presbyterian is shared leadership. Both pastors and lay people are elders – Teaching Elders, and Ruling Elders, respectively. Together, the Session prays and discerns what is best for the congregation.

We are also blessed to have a Board of Deacons that, together with our pastor, cares for the congregation’s membership and friends.

Following worship today, we are holding our annual congregational meeting. We will receive the church’s budget, vote on a slate of officers, vote on the pastor’s salary, and vote on changes to our bylaws. Any new business will be referred to the Session.

Last Sunday we heard from the Jeremiah Task Force that God has called us to honor our faithful charge and benediction: “We are blessed to be a blessing.” We will learn more about this in our April *Dialog*. We continue to live faithfully by loving one another, loving our neighbors, and loving our enemies. In all of this, we love God as we worship together. May we continue to bear the fruit of God’s love.