**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**5th Sunday in Lent**

**April 6, 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: “Spring” (photos by Carol McHaley)

 Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

 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

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

 Hymn 820: *Nothing Can Trouble (Nada te turbe)*

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

 Call to Worship

 Leader: Holy One, give us quiet hearts and help us
 to hear the still small voice that speaks.

 **People**: **You are calling us to come close to you and to grow in your likeness.**

 **All:** **Teach us compassion and love as we worship you this day.**

 Hymn: *Who You Say I Am* p. 39, gold supplement

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Almighty God, as we prepare our hearts and minds to taste your grace once again, drink of your mercy, and feast on your love we acknowledge that there are people we would rather not invite to sit with us at your table. Forgive us. By the blessings we have experienced in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit alive in us, we ask you to renew a right heart and mind in each of us so that we may truly reflect you in the world around us. In the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Savior, we pray. 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 Blair Baldwin
 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 18:35-43 Pew Bible, p. 82 (N.T.)

 Luke 19:1-10 Pew Bible, p. 82 (N.T.)

 Sermon: “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner”

 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 510: *We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name (Come Share the Lord)* (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: *Jesus Took the Cup* 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 Dedication

 Service of the Lord’s Supper

 Invitation

 [You do not need to wait to consume the elements – please do so as the Spirit
 leads (right away, as you pause after receiving, or back in your seats).

 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: *Sans Toi (Without You)*  Michel Legrand

*We all will receive communion by coming to the Lord’s Table. Our usher will invite you to come forward by pew, beginning from the back. If you are unable to come forward, a server will come to you after everyone else has received. Choir members will remain seated and receive after the congregation.
Please consume the elements when you are comfortable doing so. You do not need to wait – please do so as the Spirit leads (right away, as you pause after receiving, or back in your seats).
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 726: *Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)* (all verses)

 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

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Terry Kline
Greeter/Fellowship: Barb Kocinski
Elder at the Door: Julie Storey
Musicians: Tom Anderson; the Southminster Choir; David Kozich, trumpet
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Joan Koska.

**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 in loving memory of Joan Koska.*
**We give thanks to God for joys: (*Romans 12:15) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”***
 *- We give thanks for the life and witness of Joan Koska*

*- We thank Vietnam War veterans for their service on National Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29.
 - 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.
  - Thanksgiving for our Annual Congregation Meeting
 - We rejoice with Jack Thorne in the birth of another great-grandson born on April Fool’s Day: Wade Grant Thorne, 7 lbs. and 11 oz.***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 wisdom and empathy as they carry out their duties. *- We pray for moderates who feel pulled apart in our nation.* - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. May those who use guns solve their issues and their pain. We ask for wise counsel, friends, and family to reach out to them in their sense of isolation. We ask for your light and peace for those who have lost loved ones to gun violence. May we and our leaders come together to end gun violence in our nation, as well as other forms of violence and hate. *On one day (Sunday, March 30) there were 93 shooting incidents in 28 states, leaving 45 people dead and 73 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 Sudan, who are experiencing *famine, for Myanmar and Thailand after a devastating earthquake this past week, 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, whose visitation and service was held here yesterday. 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, 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 the church office with the information of your loved ones. We support them and you in their journey.
 *- Meagan S., whose numbers are bad; she needs a transplant*We continue to pray for Kerri, Margaret F., Ginny O., Floyd R., Cis R., 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**:*- Nani, who is a senior who had a bad fall
  - Jack Thorne, recovering at DuPage Care Center after a fall
  - Helen Shierry (Steve’s mom), now in a skilled nursing center with continuing health issues. We also pray for Steve and Heidi as they support her.
  - Alicia Rasnic, who is hospitalized. No visitors, please.
  - Jonathan Buckley, whose numbers are improving. May he continue to improve.*  - 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, 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.
 **Preparing crafts 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
 **Meeting with African Church** at 11:15 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **Youth: Pizzaless Games** 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall **Monday, April 7 – Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday-Friday –** **Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart on Facebook
 live at 5:05 p.m.
Tuesday, April 8
 Knitting Circle**, 10:00 a.m., McHenry Parlor/Library **Staff calendar meeting**, 12:30 p.m., McHenry Parlor/Library **Deacons**, 7:30 p.m., McHenry Parlor/Library
 A.A., 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday, April 9
 eNotes go out
 Property Ministry,** 7:00 p.m., McHenry Parlor/Library **Thursday, April 10
 Session docket deadline at noon
 Choir rehearsal,** 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
 **Young Adults Video Club** meets at 8:30 p.m. **Friday, April 11** A.A., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
**Next** **Sunday,** **April 13 – Palm Sunday**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook
 **Fellowship time** will follow the service.
 **Set up crafts in Fellowship Hall for** **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.

**Elders, staff, and ministry moderators – The date of the April session meeting has been changed to April 22 (after Holy Week and Easter) but the deadline for dockets items remains this Thursday, April 10, at noon!**

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Our adult Bible class will meet every Sunday in April, except Easter Sunday, April 20. We meet at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library for good conversation, a few laughs, and a good time studying scripture with your fellow saints—bring your coffee and fellowship snack with you. We are about to embark on a study of Paul’s epistle to the Philippians. Can you find Philippi on the map?

**Men of Southminster**: Our next gathering is Saturday, April 26, at 9:00 a.m. The women folk have dibs on the Parlor that day, so we will meet in Fellowship Hall. Coffee and donuts will be there. Please bring a bit o’ money to cover the expense. Of late, our conversations have been both enjoyable and important. What shall we discuss next?

**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.

**The Talent Show is coming Sunday, April 27**. Southminster has talent! So, let’s show it off. This year we are changing things up a bit with a dinner theatre approach. That is right, our spaghetti dinner is returning, and the dinner and show will both be in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy and meal while you enjoy a show! Sign ups for acts are on the Narthex bulletin board. It all begins at 4:30 on the 27th!

The dinner and show support our Youth Mission Team, heading this June to Mission, SD, for a week of workcamp on the Rosebud Reservation of the Lakota people.

**From the Mission Ministry**
The end is in sight for March Madness and **March Mission Madness**—the women’s tournament final is later today, and the men’s is tomorrow! How well have your brackets done? Remember that 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, please write a check to Southminster ***and add your bracket name (or names, if you created more than one) 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.

**Donate your gently-used clothing for Repeat Boutique!**

During the entire month of April there will be a large box in the coat room in which you may
place your donations of gently used clothing for Repeat Boutique. This shop serves people
referred 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. Eligible persons may shop every three months for a year at no cost to themselves. Children’s clothing is especially needed. Boys and men’s clothing, especially men’s pants, are needed.

**From the Worship Ministry**:

**Please join us for worship services during Holy Week**:
Next Sunday, April 13 – **Palm Sunday** – worship service at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 17 – **Maundy Thursday**– worship service with communion at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 18 – **Good Friday: “Seven Last Words from the Cross”** – worship service
 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 20 – **Easter/The Resurrection of the Lord**! Worship with us at 9:30 a.m.

If you have signed up for **Easter flowers**, be sure to make your checks to SPC with “Easter flowers” on the memo line. Your Easter flowers may be taken home after worship on April 20. If not claimed after the service on Easter, they need to be picked up on Monday, April 21, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at church. If you are unable to retrieve your flowers, please make arrangements with a friend to get them for you. It is appreciated!

The **flower chart for the remainder of 2025** will be posted on Easter. Please sign up in person or email Sarah Allen at sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com with your choice of flower dates and honoree. Flowers remain $35.00. Thanks for your support of the Flower Ministry at Southminster.

 **The annual Easter Party – Saturday, April 19!**Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join the fun on Easter Saturday. All are welcome to this family friendly Easter Party, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 19.

The party begins with hands-on crafts and an interactive, walk-through Easter Story. We finish the morning with a gigantic Easter egg hunt. The fun goes on rain or shine, and no reservations are needed. Get the word out – all are invited!

We also need volunteers! If you are interested, speak with Chris Kozich.

Today after worship you can help as we work on craft preparation. We’ll 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 are in the April *Dialog*, which went out on 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.

***And on the subject of parking…***

**Handicap Accessible parking**

If you need to use a handicap accessible space in the traffic circle on a Sunday and find the spaces all full and no valet parker, **please double park your car by the entrance doors and bring the keys to Lanny**. He will find someone to move your car and return your keys after it’s moved.

**Presbyterian Readers** will meet Wednesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The April book is *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot*by Marianne Cronin.

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.

**Note date change for Presbyterian Women’s April meeting!**The April meeting of PW is scheduled for ***Saturday, April 26*** *(please note change in day: Saturday instead of Friday)* at 9:30 a.m. in the McHenry Parlor/Library. April’s program is on Oral Health and will be presented by Roxane Johnson. This April meeting has been scheduled on a Saturday in hopes that the women of Southminster who work during the week will be able to join us.

Our final meeting for the program year is our annual **Spring Luncheon** at Reserve 22 on Friday, May 16, at 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is on the PW bulletin board. The deadline to sign up is Thursday, May 1.

All women are invited to the meeting and the Spring Luncheon.

**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.

You are able to **order Amazon gift cards (in denominations of $25, $50, or $100) to purchase items for the Easter Party** – there is a special green order form, or just let Bobbi know when you place your order which cards are for you and which are to be donated.

Your next chance to order will be May 4.

**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 until this Tuesday, April 8, call Deacon Beth Bonde at 630-207-1113. (Watch this week’s eNotes and next Sunday’s bulletin for the next deacon assigned to Helping Hands.) 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 – April 6, 2025**

**Connecting in Worship Both Near and Far**

Covid has made a few changes in our lives and how we do things. This is even true in worship. One of the changes was how to connect with people at home rather than in the sanctuary.

In 2020, we began using a cell phone on Facebook Live to reach people at home. It was a little like flying a duct tape and cardboard plane. By 2021, our equipment became more sophisticated. Thanks to the Living Legacy Endowment Fund, in 2024, we upgraded our sound system. The question remains, though, on how to truly connect.

First, there is great joy in connecting with people outside the United States during worship. For example, connecting with Floyd Rogers and Maykel Salomon in South Africa and Cuba can be a truly global experience. Christ’s church is worldwide!

We are also blessed to reach people in the United States who do not live nearby, such as Linda Ellinghausen and Barb Zink, who live in Wisconsin, and Margaret Fourier, who lives in South Carolina. Of course, we have local people who tune in as well.

When we, as worshipers, enter the sanctuary from 9:15 to 9:30, we hear the Gathering Music and see the Photostory. The Photostory and Gathering Music are for those present with us to encourage people to tune in with their hearts and minds—they are also for those online. Watching the Photostory and listening to the music at home lets worshipers know that they are tuned in and are having no trouble with their equipment.

We have always lit candles at the beginning of worship. In our tradition, candles represent the presence of the Holy Spirit—the Spirit’s presence in the Burning Bush (Exodus 3) and the presence of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2).

If you are watching from home, please be encouraged to light candles with us to mark the time we are together.

Today, we will share communion, the Lord’s Supper. As you prepare for worship at home, please take time to get something that represents the bread and the fruit of the vine so you can join with us in communion.

One of the worship highlights is saying hello during the Word with Children. If you are watching on Facebook Live, please say “hello,” make a prayer request, or do something that inspires you. If you would rather not have us mention you by name, please let the tech team know. You can also call the office at 630 469-9149.

It is an imperfect world, but everyone is welcome in the Kingdom of God, both near and far. Worship is one way we bear the fruit of God’s love.