



Southminster Presbyterian Church

"A Christ-centered ... intentionally missional congregation ..."

799 Washington Road · Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228
412-343-8900 · www.spchurch.org · info@spchurch.org

Fourth Sunday in Lent Celebration of Worship March 19, 2023 11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

Loving Shepherd,
you know our names; you care for us.
When we face darkness and death, walk beside us.
When we hunger for your love, fill us with
your presence.
When we are fearful, feed us at your table.
May we dwell in the house of goodness and
mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.
Let us drink from the spring of Your mercy
so that we may never be thirsty for the gift of your saving love;
through Jesus Christ, the water of life. Amen.

Prelude

Festive Bell Flourish
Southminster Handbell Ensemble

Lee Barrow

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Don Ewing

* Call to Worship

Leader: The journey of Lent is again before us;
People: The days of prayer and worship of our God;
Leader: Times of repentance and reconciliation.
People: May God's voice encourage us on our journey;
Leader: May the power of the Spirit that led Christ into the wilderness
lead us on our journey.

* Hymn #288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

I sing the mighty power of God That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, Where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread, Or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

* Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Merciful God,

we continually seek to live in the ways of righteousness.

**However we have allowed anger, rage, greed, and at times even hate,
to direct our paths. We have overreacted; we have taken more than our share ;
we have despised others who seem to have it all.**

**Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways. Forgive us for not remembering
that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd. Guide us back to Your path.**

**Enable us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing,
forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

(Moment for silent confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

* Glory to God

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.

Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.

Time With the Young Church

Laura Bentley

Prayer for Illumination

Fred Barnes

New Testament Lesson

Ephesians 5:8-14

p. 951

Anthem

Fantasy on Terra Beata
Southminster Handbell Ensemble
Barbara Hois, Flute

H Dean Wagner

Old Testament Lesson

Psalms 23 (NRSV)
Anchor Bible
Psalms Now

p. 435

Sermon

“Paying Attention”

Don Ewing

*** Hymn #357**

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

MARYTON

O Master, let me walk with Thee In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give, With Thee, O Master, let me live.

Announcements

Laura Bentley

Prayers of the People

Fred Barnes

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.

Prayer Response

Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord,
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Laura Bentley

Offertory

This Is My Father's World
Chancel Choir
Barbara Hois, flute

Elaine Hagenberg

*** Praise to God**

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.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

*** Hymn #324**

Open My Eyes That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, that I may see Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my Eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear Voices of truth Thou Sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, Everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

*** Charge and Blessing**

*** Postlude**

Fugue

Mahlon Balderston, Jr. (B. 1923)

**** If you are able, please stand.***

If you are visiting with us this evening, WELCOME! Please complete a CONNECT Card
so we can be in touch with you.
Thank you for sharing Worship with us.



PASTORAL TEAM

The Rev. Dr. Donald R. Ewing, Interim Pastor

The Rev. Laura A. Bentley, Designated Associate Pastor

Mr. Frederic D. Barnes, Pastoral Care Associate & Director of AIC

Mr. Richard B. Pinkerton, Minister of Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 19, 2023

WELCOME. In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to this Celebration of Worship. May we, each one, by the power of the Holy Spirit experience a *close communion* with God and a *warm fellowship* with one another.

THE FLOWERS in the *Sanctuary* this morning, are given in loving memory of my parents Raymond and Agnes Ehrman from Jim and Nancy Ehrman.

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE is available from 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in Room 409 for infants to 4 yrs. old.

THE SOUTHMINSTER CAFÉ in Rec Hall is open today from 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Stop in for donuts, bagels, fruit, coffee, tea, or juice anytime on Sunday mornings.

WORSHIP BAGS for children are available at the Christian Education entrance to the Sanctuary (across from the Church Library) and on the Crossings table. Please return the bags and books at the end of worship.

SUNDAY SEMINARS FOR ADULTS – IN MEMORY OF ED SELL. This group is open to all adults and meets during the 10 a.m. church school hour in our Chapel. Donuts and coffee are available in the Parlor as well. Our current series:
3/19-3/26 – Christians, The Nation & War – Dr. John Burgess



TODAY – RECEPTION FOR JENNIFER STAMPFEL, NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY. Join us following 11am worship for a reception in the Parlor welcoming Jennifer Stampfel as SPC's Director of Children's Ministry. Cake and drinks will be provided. Those attending the "Welcome Luncheon" are invited to first stop by the reception then proceed to Fellowship Hall for lunch.



TODAY - YOU ARE INVITED to become a member of the Southminster Church faith community. We will have a **'Welcome Luncheon' on March 19th** immediately following the reception for Jennifer Stampfel (about 12:15 p.m.) in the Fellowship Hall. You will be our guest as we share the mission and the ministry of Southminster, and you will be able to meet some staff and members. If you have been visiting with us for some time and are interested in who we are and what we are about, come to the luncheon as our guests. We would love to meet and talk

with you. Welcome!

FRESH START BIBLE STUDY. There is a wonderful group of folks that meet to start each week on Monday mornings at 11 a.m. in the Chapel. You are welcome to join this group. We are currently studying the book: "Rediscover Church: Why the Body of Christ is Essential". This is a brand new book that helps us discover what "church" may mean post-Covid and in the current political climate. All members and friends of the church are welcome.



THE MARCH HUNGER OFFERING will support **SHIM's March to Sack Hunger** campaign, an annual drive that helps stock SHIM's (South Hills Interfaith Movement) three local food pantries. These pantries have helped more than 6,000 people access nutritious food in 2022 and with SHIM seeing a 61% increase in requests for assistance, they are more important than ever now. Your generosity is a great way for our congregation to show our love for our neighbors. The Hunger Offering will be received on Today and throughout the month of March. You can give online or by mailing a check to the church office.

SUPPORT THE YOUTH TRIP TO ALASKA THROUGH THE WALL OF GIVING, Now through April 23. Visit the **Wall of Giving in the Café on the Rec Hall** level to pick up a giving envelope. Envelopes are labelled 1-100, and each one represents a pledge to give that dollar amount (i.e. the #20 envelope is a pledge to donate \$20 to the mission trip). Take the envelope with you and **bring it back by April 30th** to place in the offering plate with your cash or check donation. You may also take an envelope and donate



online through the church website. Unable to visit the Wall of Giving? "Pick up" a virtual envelope by contacting Pastor Laura at info@spchurch.org.

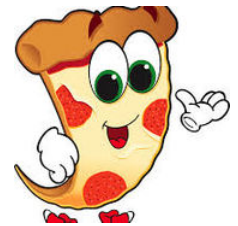


PICKLEBALL ARRIVES AT SPC. is a wildly popular cross between ping pong and tennis played with doubles partners on a reduced size tennis court with paddles and a wiffle ball. You are invited to play in SPC's fellowship hall with members and guests who are 18 yrs + or High School students with a parent. Four players minimum are required per session and up to eight can be accommodated. Please sign up in advance on SPC Team Snap or info@spchurch.org. All equipment is provided. Beginners to Experienced adults are invited to play on the following

dates:

Thursday, March 23rd from 6:30- 8:30 p.m.

KOINONIA (COMMUNITY) MEAL, TUESDAY MARCH 21 AT 6 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join for a pizza and salad dinner. After the meal, Margie Krogh, our Children's and Family Ministry Consultant, will share the "State of the Union in Children's Ministry." Then we'll have the opportunity to welcome and get to know our new Director of Children's Ministry, Jennifer Stampfel. We'll also enjoy music from Rick Purcell. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, free for children under 5. **THE DEADLINE IS TOMORROW! Be sure to RSVP** by emailing info@spchurch.org or by calling the church office.



EASTER FLOWERS. Southminster will be decorating the worship spaces with flowers for Easter Sunday morning! To order memorial or honorary Easter Flowers (Lilies or Tulips), please complete the form (found at church entrances, or inserted in the bulletin) and send back to the church office with your check payable to Southminster Presbyterian Church with Easter Flowers in the memo line. Or you may pay using the [DONATE NOW](#) button on our website. Cost of the flowers is \$10 each. **Deadline to order is Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 5 p.m.** Flowers may be picked up after each Celebration of Worship on Easter Sunday, April 9th.

BIBLE STUDY BUDDIES. Please **join us on Friday, March 24th, from 4:15 – 5:15 p.m.** for the next session or our monthly Bible Study planned just for kids! Learn about how to read your Bible, play some Bible games and more! Meet Mrs. Karras and Mrs. Clifton at the glass doors for a time of fun and learning. **Please call Mrs. Karras at 412-953-6172 with any questions.**



COMMUNITY 3 4 1. On Wednesday, **April 12, 2023**, Southminster will once again act as the hosting meal partner for Community 341, a ministry that offers free weekly take-out meals to individuals & families in neighboring Brookline. There are a variety of ways you can get involved. You can volunteer to help prepare the food in the Kitchen at Southminster beginning at 1:00 p.m. or you can arrive later, at 3:30 p.m., to help assemble and pack the meal bags for transport. One other way to participate would be to ride to the distribution site located at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, on the corner of Brookline Blvd. and Glenarm Ave. in Brookline to help give out the meals in the Hall at 5:00 p.m. For further inquiries or to volunteer, **contact Pastor Laura at info@spchurch.org or call the Church Office.** If you cannot volunteer this time, Southminster will be hosting again on **June 14th, August 9th or October 11th.**

CHILD CARE BOARD MEMBERS – Southminster Child Care is looking for Board Members for a three-year commitment. If you are interested, please email info@spchurch.org. Thank you in advance for your participation!



SIGN UP AND BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF! Sign up for the **Annual Spring Southminster Blood Drive on Sunday, April 16, 2023 between 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** in Rec Hall and Save a Life. The Greater Pittsburgh Community needs our help. Walk-ins welcome! To schedule your life saving appointment, go to <https://donateblood.centralbloodbank.org>. At the Schedule your Appointment Today screen, scroll down using the far right scroll bar and **enter the group code: G0010147** to schedule your donation. If you are unable to schedule online, please call 412-209-7000. Let's help as many people as we can and be a part of something bigger than ourselves!