



Southminster Presbyterian Church

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

799 Washington Road · Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228
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Second Sunday of Easter Celebration of Worship April 16, 2023 11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

Risen Lord, hear our cry for communities of faith –
that we retain memory of being together
that we embrace unity in the reality of distance
that we foresee a future side-by-side, hand-in-hand.

May we sense purpose beyond ourselves,
May we perceive the needs of creation
May we stretch ourselves to respond
May our ways be formed by Your Way
and our lives be shaped by Your Life
Hear our prayers, O Lord.

Prelude

Rhosymedre
Chamber Orchestra

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Laura Bentley

* Call to Worship

Leader: The journey of Lent is nearing its end;

People: The days of special prayer and worship of our God;

Leader: Moments of repentance and reconciliation.

People: May God's voice encourage us on our journey

Leader: May the power of the Spirit that led Christ to Jerusalem lead us on our journey.

* Hymn #119

The Strife Is O'er

VICTORY

Refrain (*before stanza 1 and after stanza 4*)
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done, The victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst, But Christ their legions hath dispersed:
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped, Christ rises glorious from the dead:
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

Lord, by Your wounds on Calvary From death's dread sting Your servants free,
That we may live eternally. Alleluia!
Refrain

* Prayer of Adoration

Laura Bentley

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Living Lord, when we stand before the empty tomb
we don't always feel the joy of resurrection.

We feel fear, doubt, and distrust.

Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of new life.

Forgive our doubt of your love. Fill our emptiness with
your glorious light.

Raise us to abundant new life for the glory of
your name. 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

Epistle Lesson

I Peter 1:3-9

p. 983

Anthem

Selections from Handel's Messiah
Andrew Bloomgarden, Chancel Choir, Chamber Ensemble

G. F. Handel

New Testament Lesson

John 20: 19-31

p. 883

Sermon

"Then There's Thomas"

Don Ewing

*** Hymn #441**

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

ST. THOMAS

I love Thy kingdom, Lord, The house of Thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.

I love Thy church, O God; Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye, And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall, For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given, Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, Her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as Thy truth shall last, To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield, And brighter bliss of heaven.

Announcements

Fred Barnes

Prayers of the People

Laura Bentley

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 *(Sung first by the Choir and then by Congregation)*

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

Invitation to the Offering

Don Ewing

Offertory

Selections from Handel's Messiah
Andrew Bloomgarden, Chancel Choir, Chamber Orchestra

G. F. Handel

*** 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 #483**

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing praise to God, who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, The God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul is filled, And every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might, Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, But through all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay, Our peace, and joy, and blessing;
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud Thy praises
That all may hear the grateful song My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and body take your part:
To God all praise and glory!

*** Charge and Blessing**

*** Postlude**

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

** If you are able, please stand.*

If you are visiting with us this morning, 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

Ms. Jennifer Stampfel, Director of Children's Ministry

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR APRIL 16, 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 Susan's grandparents, Raymond and Joan Damico, on their anniversary by Steve and Susan Hudak.

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.

"PRAISE PACKS" 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.



BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF! Today is the **Annual Spring Southminster Blood Drive from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** in Rec Hall. Donate today and Save a Life. The Greater Pittsburgh Community needs our help. Walk-ins welcome! Let's help as many people as we can and be a part of something bigger than ourselves!

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. Here's what's coming up:

4/16 – "The Life of Adolph Harnack" – Dr. John Wilson

4/23 – "The Life of Paul Tillich" – Dr. John Wilson



SUPPORT THE YOUTH TRIP TO ALASKA THROUGH THE WALL OF GIVING.

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 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.

BOARD GAMES CLUB will meet on **Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. in Southminster House.** A variety of games will be available for different interests and group sizes: strategy, social, puzzle type, deck games. You can also bring your favorites from home. Snacks and beverage for yourself (or to share) are welcome!



PICKLEBALL AT SPC. 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 come join the fun and fellowship Here are upcoming Dates:

Wednesdays @ 1 p.m.

4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24

Mondays @ 6:30 p.m.

4/24, 5/8, 5/24

Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m.

4/20, 5/4, 5/18

KOINONIA (COMMUNITY) MEAL – LAST ONE OF THE SEASON! Join us **Tuesday, April 25 at 6 p.m. for a Koinonia Meal** where we will hear from the **Director of South Hills Interfaith Movement, Jim Guffey**. A catered meal with chicken, red roasted potatoes, roasted vegetables, fruit, and peach cobbler will be provided, along with a kid's meal option. We'll enjoy dinner and fellowship together, then, during the program, children will have a separate opportunity to learn and play! The cost is \$10/adult, \$5/children 5-12, and free for children under 4. **RSVP by April 20th by emailing info@spchurch.org or by calling the church office.**

ADULT INTEREST CENTER This ministry to folks aged 55+ meets twice a month in Fellowship Hall. Coming up on **April 21st, A History of Pittsburgh Musicians given by speaker Gail Griffith**. The entertainment begins at 11 a.m. and lunch is available for \$9.00 at noon. Invite a friend or neighbor to join the group!

THE ALL CHURCH PROGRESSIVE DINNER returns **Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 5 – 9 p.m.** (early departure fine, of course!). You're invited, and friends and family are welcome! Cost per person is \$10 for non-hosting guests. Meal addresses (four stops over the evening) will be provided per guest at the opening appetizer location. Please RSVP and if willing to host, please indicate your preferred course to serve and the number of people you can host (between 8 and 12 guests per course average). **Please RSVP to info@spchurch.org by May 6th.** We look forward to seeing you there!

CALLING ALL BAKERS!! Shortbread is vital to a successful Scottish Sunday. If you are willing to make a batch of shortbread to share with the congregation, please package in a Ziploc bag (labeled with your name) **and bring it to the church Saturday, May 6th in the cooler on the screened in porch at Southminster House or bring on Sunday morning to Fellowship Hall Kitchen!** Thanks so much!



SCOTTISH SUNDAY. Join us **on Sunday, May 7**, for Southminster's 52nd annual celebration of Scottish Sunday. The 11 a.m. Celebration of Worship will start with a procession into the Sanctuary by the Carnegie Mellon University Pipes and Drums, Chancel Choir, elders, deacons, and clergy. Enjoy special music and worship as once again we commemorate our Scottish Presbyterian heritage. Immediately following worship, the celebration continues on the Southminster lawn (or in Fellowship Hall if it's rainy). The Celtic Spirit Dancers will perform traditional dances. If you have one, be sure to wear your tartan. Come join us for worship, music, dancing, fellowship, and homemade shortbread.

DEAR LADIES OF THE CHURCH, Our women's retreat is from dinner at 6:00 on Friday, May 12, until lunch at noon on Saturday, May 13 at Sandscrest Retreat and Conference Center, in Wheeling, West Virginia. It's an easy one-hour drive from Pittsburgh. **Sign up by May 3 with eslgwen@yahoo.com. Send \$160 to Southminster Presbyterian Church.** Many women choose to gather at our church parking lot around 11:30 on Friday and carpool to lunch in Wheeling and kick off our time together. Hope to see you there!

SOUTHMINSTER WILL HOST THE MEAL AT THE TABLE AT HOT METAL BRIDGE FAITH COMMUNITY on the South Side on **Thursday, May 4, 2023**. The meals are served inside their dining room and volunteers have a choice in how they assist on site. They can either stay in the kitchen at Hot Metal and dish the food onto plates or act as servers to deliver the filled plates to the diners at their tables. There's opportunity for interaction with the diners and everyone helps with clean up after dinner. If you don't want to travel to the South Side, volunteers are needed to prepare the food in the kitchen at Southminster with Sue Remely at 1:00 p.m. It's then transported to Hot Metal at 4:30 p.m. If interested in helping with any part of this ministry, contact **Pastor Laura** at info@spchurch.org or call the Church Office

SOUTHMINSTER CHILD CARE CENTER is looking for additional staff to encourage the healthy intellectual and psychological growth of the children in the infant and preschool classrooms. If you or someone you know may be interested, please call Bonnie Kline at 412-571-9229.