



Southminster Presbyterian Church

“A Christ-centered ... intentionally missional congregation ...”

799 Washington Road · Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228
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Third Sunday of Easter Celebration of Worship April 23, 2023 11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

O God, you come to us in unexpected places
in isolation, behind closed doors,
On dusty roads, as we go from place to place,
in video chats with friends and telephone
conversations with loved ones.
You come bringing us peace, where there is no peace.
You come bringing us hope when everything
seems hopeless,
You come bringing us courage when we are afraid.
Come and be among us now, in every place
where we are.
Open our eyes to see you, open our hearts
to know you.
In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. Amen.

Prelude

Timbrel and Dance
Southminster Handbell Ensemble

Kevin McChesney

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Don Ewing

* Call to Worship

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Come and see the love God has given to us.

People: Come and see what it means to be children of God.

Leader: Come with hope, that Christ's presence is real.

People: With joy, we come to see the Lord.

* Hymn #104

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

HYMN TO JOY

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, See, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding Bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits From the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, Not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven Nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation Where the world is still in pain.
Tell it's grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!

* Prayer of Adoration

Don Ewing

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

**You speak to us in many ways, in the spectacular
and through the quietest whisper, in the bustle of city streets,
the solitude of a desert place, and in the ebb and flow of daily life.
You speak to us in many ways, yet our ears are often tuned to
different voices; louder, more insistent voices, attractive voices.
Forgive us when we fail to hear your word.
Forgive us when we disappoint you.
Open our ears to hear and our hearts to service.
Through the Risen Christ we ask this. 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.

Announcements

Fred Barnes

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

Don Ewing

Prayer for Illumination

Fred Barnes

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

p. 491

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Meditation No. 9

Kurt Meyer

Southminster Handbell Ensemble

New Testament Lesson

Luke 24:13-35

p. 860

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Touching Center”

Don Ewing

* Hymn #191

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

WINCHESTER OLD

God is our refuge and our strength, Our ever-present aid,
And therefore, though the earth remove, We will not be afraid;

Though hills amid the seas be cast, Though foaming waters roar,
Yea, though the mighty billows shake The mountains on the shore.

Where God abides a river flows; That city will rejoice.
But nations fear and kingdoms shake Before God's thundering voice.

Since God is in the midst of it, The city walls shall stand,
Secure and safe with God's sure help, When trouble is at hand.

Prayers of the People

Don Ewing

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

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

Invitation to the Offering

Fred Barnes

Offertory

Jesus in All Things
Chancel Choir

Elizabeth Peters

* 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

Don Ewing

*** Hymn #477**

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name all victorious of Jesus extol, His kingdom is glorious, He rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save; And still He is nigh, His presence we have;
The great congregation His triumph shall sing, Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

“Salvation to God, who sits on the throne,” Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right, All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above, And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

*** Charge and Blessing**

*** Postlude**

Toccata

Anonymous

**** 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 23, 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 Ann Thompson from her husband Don and family.

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 all entrances to the Sanctuary and at Crossings worship. 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. Here's what's coming up:

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

4/30 & 5/7 – “Words of Love – The Ten Commandments – Fred Barnes

5/14-5/28 – Minor Prophets of the Old Testament – Dr. Stephen Tuell

May 28th will be the final meeting of the Sunday Seminars for the spring. We will reconvene in September. Come and take advantage of this time to learn more about our faith and how to put it into action!



SARAH CIRCLE. All women are invited to the April meeting of Sarah Circle, **Tuesday, April 25th from 1 – 3 p.m.** at Southminster House. We hope to see you there.

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.**



ALASKA MISSION TRIP

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.



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.
4/26, 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

SOUTHMINSTER WOMEN'S RETREAT 2023 – THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY, Join Elaine Wertheim as we view and discuss the image, life and legends associated with the Virgin Mary. We will explore how this formidable woman exemplifies God's divine grace, how she enriches our Christian faith and how she influenced artistic traditions.

Our women's retreat is from dinner at 6:00 on Friday, May 12, until lunch at noon on Saturday, May 13 at Sandscreech 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.** Also sign up for lunch in Wheeling on Friday if you want to go early. (Not Included)

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 prepare the plates or serve 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.

ADULT INTEREST CENTER (AIC) This ministry to folks aged 55+ meets twice a month in Fellowship Hall. Coming up on **May 5th – Singer Steve Tori will entertain everyone. On May 19th we will Pursue Trivia!** The entertainment begins at 11 a.m. and lunch is available for \$9.00 at noon. May 19th will be the final meeting of the Spring. We will not meet June through August. The 49th year of AIC will begin in September. Make sure you are on the mailing list or visit our website at spchurch.org. 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.

JOIN THE SPC WORSHIP TECH TEAM! We are creating a Worship Technology Team to run our slides, livestream, and audio. Help is needed at both worship times. Learn a new skill or hone your craft! We will provide training. We need Tech Team members to commit to serving during worship at least 1/month. Interested? Want more information? Contact Pastor Laura at info@spchurch.org.

SAFE CHURCH AND CPR TRAINING. All volunteers and staff who work with children at the church are strongly encouraged to come to a **Safe Church Luncheon and Training on Sunday, May 21** following 11am worship in Fellowship Hall. We will review SPC's Safe Church policy, give examples, and have an opportunity to practice different scenarios. Following lunch and the Safe Church training, CPR training will also be offered. **Please RSVP** for the lunch and training sessions **by May 14** by emailing info@spchurch.org or calling the church office.