



# Southminster Presbyterian Church

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

799 Washington Road · Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228  
412-343-8900 · [www.spchurch.org](http://www.spchurch.org) · [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org)

## Second Sunday after Pentecost Celebration of Worship June 11, 2023 10 a.m.

### Prayer of Preparation

*(...for a moment of personal reflection)*

Faithful God,

You draw near to us in our joy and in our grief,  
in our hope and in our despair.

When we are bowed down, you raise us anew.

When we place ourselves above others, you humble us to serve.

We turn to you now in search of your healing embrace.

God of compassion and love,  
move among us as we worship you.

Open our hearts, dispel our fears,  
and show us the new life to which you call us.

We pray this in the name of the Risen One,  
Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### Prelude

*Variations on “For the Beauty of the Earth”*

Michael Burkhardt

### Ringing of the Hour

### Welcome

Laura Bentley

### \* Call to Worship

Leader: We gather today to worship the One who created us,

**People: The One who calls us,**

Leader: The One who equips us,

**People: The One who loves us without end.**

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God!

### \* Hymn #464

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus Which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us, Joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

## \* **Prayer of Adoration**

Laura Bentley

## **Call to Confession**

Fred Barnes

## **Prayer of Confession** *(In Unison)*

**Gracious God,**  
we are in wonder at the expanse of your embrace,  
the breadth of your inclusion,  
the surprise of your grace.

**You seek and seek and seek,**  
Including those we so easily write off—  
the outcasts, the public sinners, the self-serving,  
those who collaborate with evil and oppression.

**Yes, why are we surprised?**

**You desire mercy not sacrifice.**

**You are the great Physician, coming to those most  
in need of healing.**

**Forgive us for forgetting who you are;**

**Forgive us for forgetting our own sin;**

**Forgive our self-righteousness;**

**Forgive us for limiting you when we are  
so desperately in need of you.**

**Create in us clean hearts and renew your Holy Spirit  
within us.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

*(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

Jennifer Stampfel

### Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 50: 7-15

p. 452

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### New Testament Lesson

Matthew 9: 9-26

p. 790

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

*“Desiring Mercy”*

Laura Bentley

### \* Hymn #360

*Hope of the World*

DONNE SECOURS

Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great compassion, Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.  
Save us, Thy people, from consuming passion, Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God’s gift from highest heaven, Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,  
Still let Thy Spirit unto us be given To heal earth’s wounds and end our bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways, Showing to wandering souls the path of light;  
Walk Thou beside us lest the tempting byways Lure us away from Thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by Thy cross did save us From death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;  
We render back the love Thy mercy gave us; Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.

Hope of the world, O Christ, o’er death victorious, Who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,  
We would be faithful to Thy gospel glorious: Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!

### Sacrament of Baptism

*Gionni Felipe Colon and Talia Love Kimball*  
(Son and Daughter respectively of Jeff Kimball and Natalie Rivera)

Don Ewing

### \* Hymn

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

KINGDOM

Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit’s sign,  
With this water God has sealed you Unto love and grace divine.

Child of God, your loving Parent, Learn to listen for God’s call.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, Trust and love God more than all.

### Prayers of God’s People

Laura Bentley

### The Lord’s Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (*In Unison*)

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.

### Invitation to the Offering

Don Ewing

## Offertory

*Come Celebrate!*  
Summer Choir

Robert Leaf

## \* 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 #411

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God, Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captives' liberty, Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the brokenhearted ones And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

## \* Charge and Blessing

Laura Bentley and Don Ewing

## \* Postlude

*Festival Toccata on "Slane"*

arr. Fred Swann

## \* 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.

## CHURCH STAFF

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

Mrs. Lea Anderson-Smith, Clerk of Session

Mr. H.K. Hilner, Crossings Music Director

Ms. Trish O'Connell, Bookkeeper

Mrs. Sue Remely, Church Hostess

Mrs. Cheryl Polito, Wedding Coordinator

Mr. Raymond Clayton, Facilities Superintendent

Ms. Eileen Kinner, Coordinator of Communication Technologies and Facilities Associate

Mr. Anthony Maiorano, Facilities Associate

Mrs. Michele Brado, Director Southminster Early Learning Academy

Ms. Bonnie Kline, Director Southminster Child Care Center

# ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JUNE 11, 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 loved ones given by Luetta Waddell.

**SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE:** is available from 8:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in Room 409 for infants to 4 yrs. old.

**PRAISE PACKS** for children are available at all Sanctuary entrances and Crossings worship. Please return the bags at the end of worship.

**SUMMER WORSHIP** begins today. Crossings Worship will be held at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and the Celebration of Worship will move to 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Both services can be viewed via Livestream.

**LEMONADE IN THE BREEZEWAY** will be served today, immediately following the 10 a.m. Celebration of Worship. Stop by for a cool drink, a cookie, and fellowship. Children are encouraged to play on the playground, but please keep food in the Breezeway.

**THE JUNE HUNGER OFFERING** will support **Community 341** which provides free weekly meals to the community in Brookline. In addition, free clothing & hygiene products are also offered along with conversation and fellowship. The gathering is held each Wednesday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Hall on Brookline Blvd. The **Hunger Offering** will be received today and throughout the month of **June**. You can give online using the Donate Now button or mail a check to the Church Office.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Ready to cook up some fun? This year's VBS, Food Truck Party, invites children ages 4 years old through 5th grade to get on a roll with God as Food Trucks roll into their neighborhood for the summer's biggest party! Kids will learn from the food truck's Chefs, Sous Chefs, and DJ Cupcake (an adorable cupcake puppet), about the Daily Specials (Daily Lessons), which are lines from the well-loved prayer that teaches us to turn to God to meet our needs. There will also be music, crafts, fun activities, and food! Take advantage of early registration now! Cost: \$15/child, \$30 maximum/family. (Now through June 12, 2023). After June 12th VBS Cost: \$20/child, \$40 maximum/family. To register, please go to [www.myvbs.org/southminster/](http://www.myvbs.org/southminster/) or contact the church office for assistance. For more information, contact the Director of Children's Ministry, Jennifer Stampfel at [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org). Registration closes July 10, 2023.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS.** We are looking forward to a fun-filled time at VBS, and we're planning for a crowd! So, we need volunteers to help us make this a success. We need YOU! Children who have completed 5th grade may volunteer to be a junior leader. We also need adult volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering for VBS, please contact [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org). We invite you to join us.



**COMMUNITY 341** - On **Wednesday, June 14, 2023**, Southminster will again be 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 along 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](mailto:info@spchurch.org) or **call the Church Office.**

**MOVIE ON THE LAWN, FRIDAY, JUNE 16** beginning at dusk: “The Princess Bride.” All are welcome for our first summer movie on the lawn! We’ll show the classic family, tween, and teen movie, “The Princess Bride.” Please bring your own chair or blanket. Bug spray and snacks are also encouraged. This is a free event, open to the public. Spread the word!



**VACANCY AT THE FOOD PANTRY—WE NEED YOU!**

The South Hills Food Pantry is looking for a volunteer to fill a vacancy as one of our 3 monthly delivery coordinators. This position rotates on a monthly basis so that each volunteer is on duty every third month. The job is performed completely from home. The coordinator takes messages left by clients on the Food Pantry Hot Line and identifies a delivery driver from our existing list of volunteer drivers. If you are interested in taking on this opportunity to help food-insecure individuals and families in the South Hills, please contact Bob Brown ([bbrown1381@gmail.com](mailto:bbrown1381@gmail.com)) or the church office ([info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org); 412-343-8900).



**PASTOR LAURA’S SUMMER BOOK CLUB:** Join Pastor Laura in reading the book, “The Very Good Gospel” by Lisa Sharon Harper, then meet at KingView (101 Beverly Rd) on Thursday, July 6 at 5 p.m. to talk about it! You are responsible for purchasing or borrowing your own book but, ask Pastor Laura if you want help getting a copy. And let us know if you plan to join by emailing [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org).

