



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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of Worship

July 30, 2023

10 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

Oh Lord, our lives flow in continuous motion;
Through the various events and activities that occupy our days;
And the challenges and blessings that come at night.
Now our lives flow into worship with the Church.
We are gathered with others who love and follow You.
Receive the worship and praise of Your children, in Christ's name.

Prelude

*In the Chapel
Elevation*

F.C. Haueisen
Theodore Dubois

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Don Ewing

* Call to Worship

Leader: Your Spirit has stirred in us this morning;

People: And brought us to this place of worship.

Leader: Your Spirit stirs in us the desire to discern Your Word;

People: And Learn of Your ways of life and hope.

Leader: The Spirit will speak to us in the days ahead;

People: Leading, guiding, blessing, and correcting our paths. Thanks be to God.

* Hymn # 476

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

LYONS

O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend!

* **Prayer of Adoration**

Don Ewing

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

**Gracious and merciful God, pour Your on us Your forgiveness and love.
When we turn away from others, Your heart is broken; when we refuse to
be gracious with people we meet, Your heart is broken.
There are times, Lord, when we shun, or turn away, or turn our hearts
against others.
These others are also Your children, whom we are called to love.
Forgive us for being unwilling to forgive, and unable to build friendship
and relationships with all of God's people.**

(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

Jennifer Stampfel

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

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 88

p. 474

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson

I Corinthians 1:1-8

p. 926

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Don Ewing

* Hymn # 339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art -
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayers of God's People

Laura Bentley

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

Fred Barnes

Offertory

Reflection on Gordon

Robert J. Hughes

* 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 # 426

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

CANONBURY

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek Thine erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed The hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The precious things Thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

*** Charge and Blessing**

Don Ewing and Laura Bentley

*** Postlude**

Jubilation

James Denton

*** 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
Ms. Jennifer Stampfel, Director of Children's Ministry
Mr. H.K. Hilner, Crossings Music Director
Ms. Valerie Wilson, Director of Administrative Operations & Assistant to Senior Pastor
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 & Facilities Associate
Mr. Anthony Maiorano, Facilities Associate
Mrs. Lori Guenther, Director Southminster Early Learning Academy
Ms. Bonnie Kline, Director Southminster Child Care Center

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JULY 30, 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.

THANK YOU! This morning we welcome Faith Grosso as guest organist. Faith has a BA in music from the College of Wooster, a Masters in Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and 3 years of doctoral study at UNC-Greensboro. A voice teacher for 30+ years, Faith has been a professional soprano soloist, a choral director at several churches, and taught voice majors for 4 years at Limestone College, SC. She has studied organ with the Music Ministers at Church of the Ascension in Oakland and at Sewickley Presbyterian Church and has been a substitute organist at several churches. She has also directed Childrens' musicals (including one she composed) and combined choir cantatas. Faith also does some lay preaching in the Presbyterian Church. We thank Faith for being with us in worship.

THE FLOWERS in the *Sanctuary* this morning, are given in honor of our birthday group, and in loving memory of Al Akers, Charlie West, Chris Beck, Dan Hepler, Joe Robinson, and Joe Wertheim by Gwen Hepler and Darlene Akers.

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

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

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

LEMONADE IN THE BREEZEWAY will immediately follow 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.



VBS 2023 is in the books! During this past week, Southminster welcomed **over 100 children** that participated in the Food Truck Party, On A Roll with God! The kids learned that **“God is great, God is good, Let us thank God for our Food! By God's Hands, we all are Fed! Give us, Lord, our Daily Bread!”** We look forward to next year! However, VBS could not have been successful without our volunteers! Everyone from helping with decorations, crafts, preparing snacks, recreation, science, and playing music... even for just an hour, a day, or the entire duration...VBS is not possible without your help, so **THANK YOU!**

THE AUGUST HUNGER OFFERING. This month, the Hunger Offering will be collected for the **Urukundo Learning Center**, a school for over 1,000 children of low and no-income families in Rwanda. It was founded by Arlene Brown, affectionately known as **“Mama Arlene,”** a former relief worker in the refugee camps following the Genocide in that country who felt called at the age of 75, with the aid of others, to stay and help the vulnerable children of the area. For more information, you can go to **hopemadereal.org**. Our own Margie Krogh who, in this interim time, acts as a consultant at Southminster with our Children's Ministry, has visited **Urukundo** (which means 'love') many times and brought to the attention of the Outreach Committee Mama Arlene's great need for an improved kitchen to meet the demands of feeding so many young children. In response, the Outreach Committee will contribute a matching amount to any & all funds provided by the congregation in this offering. The Hunger Offering will be received at worship on **August 6** and throughout the month of **August**. You can also give online or by mailing a check to the church office.

HOPE
MADE
REAL

COMMUNITY 341 On **Wednesday, August 9, 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. You can also 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 or **call the Church Office**.

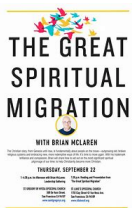
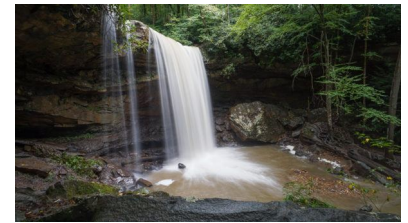


APPLICATION FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONCILIATION ALLIANCE.

What are the stories of Black Presbyterian Churches in the Pittsburgh Presbytery? How have we failed as a Presbytery to love them as we love ourselves? How can we heal the breaches with our brothers and sisters in Christ? The Pittsburgh Presbytery created the Repair and Reconciliation Alliance to thoroughly review the historical experiences of these congregations and offer recommendations on actions of repair and reconciliation. Over the next two years, the Repair and Reconciliation Alliance needs various people to begin this task: leaders, researchers, writers, videographers, accountants, and more. If God has given you a gift the Alliance could use, please contact the church at Info@spchurch.org and we will get the necessary information to you. Thank you for your interest.

LAUREL CAVERNS AND CUCUMBER FALLS YOUTH OUTING

Friday, **August 25, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**: Join the SPC Youth Group for a final summer hurrah! All students entering 6th-12th grade are invited to a fun and inspiring day outdoors. We'll meet at 9 a.m. in the church parking lot to carpool to Laurel Caverns for a tour and gemstone panning. We'll enjoy a picnic lunch at the caverns then head to Ohio Pyle for a short hike to Cucumber Falls. Students must have a signed permission form for this day trip. Friends are also welcome! RSVP to Pastor Laura by **August 16**. Chaperones and drivers will be needed, reach out if you are interested to info@spchurch.org!



PASTOR LAURA'S BOOK CLUB will meet Thursday, August 31, 4-6 p.m. to discuss "The Great Spiritual Migration" by Brian McLaren. Location TBD. If you are interested in joining, please purchase or borrow the book and let Pastor Laura know you plan to join by emailing info@spchurch.org.

ADULT INTEREST CENTER (AIC) is gearing up for the fall and we are excited about the upcoming Season! **SAVE-THE-DATES:** September 8 & 22, October 6 & 20, November 3 & 17, and December 1 & 15. The 49th year of AIC will begin on September 8th. We have old favorites coming back and some surprises in store. You won't want to miss this. Make sure you are on the mailing list or visit our website at spchurch.org. Invite a friend or neighbor to join the group!

