



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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Celebration of Worship August 20, 2023 10 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will He harbor His anger forever;
He does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His love for those who fear Him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
Amen.

Prelude

*Highland Cathedral
Celtic Praise*
Southminster Ringers

arr. McChesney
arr. McChesney

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Don Ewing

* Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord reigns, robed in majesty
People: The Lord is armed with strength.
Leader: Your statutes stand firm;
People: Holiness adorns Your house for endless days.
Leader: The Lord reigns, may we worship Him.

* Hymn # 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

O for a thousand tongues to sing My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin, And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean, Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of Thy name.

* Prayer of Adoration

Don Ewing

Call to Confession

Jennifer Stampfel

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

**Gracious and merciful God,
You have created us and You love us. You know us better
than we know ourselves, yet You remain loving and forgiving.
We seek forgiveness for the ways and the time we disregard
Your commands and turn aside from Your teachings.
We seek forgiveness for times we have unknowingly failed to
live as Your disciples.
Open our eyes and hearts, that we may more fully
receive Your forgiveness.**

(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

Jennifer Stampfel

Prayer for Illumination

Don Ewing

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 56:1-8

p. 599

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

There Is Something About That Name
Diana Roth & Valerie Wilson

arr. Lloyd Larson

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 15:10-28

p. 797

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Who Gets to Enter the Temple”

Don Ewing

*** 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!

Prayers of God's People

Don Ewing

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

Cantique de Jean Racine
Chancel Choir

Gabriel Faure

*** 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 # 439**

In Christ There Is No East or West

ST. PETER

Today we are all called to be Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captives free, Make plow-share out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first, Our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth Ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, Responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud, We sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud That threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down As in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town To cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore An earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for A harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God Act out the living Word,
And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we Give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be Disciples of the Lord.

*** Charge and Blessing**

Don Ewing

*** Postlude**

Rubrics

Dan Locklair

**** 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 AUGUST 20, 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 by Bebe and Harry George in loving memory of Ed and Ruth Emack.

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.

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.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP ON SOUTHMINSTER HOUSE LAWN! Sunday, **September 3rd** we will join together at 10 a.m. on South House Lawn for combined worship. The Crossings Band will lead us in both contemporary and traditional worship. Bring a chair and join us on the lawn for a blended worship experience! If there is inclement weather, combined worship will move inside to fellowship hall. More details to follow.

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC, RICH! We will be honoring our retiring Minister of Music Richard Pinkerton with a special reception, in the Parlor, on Sunday, August 27th immediately following the 10 a.m. Celebration of Worship. If you would like to make a donation to a purse to be presented to Rich, you may send donations to the church or make them online. Please include either in the check memo or in the comments online: **Southminster Presbyterian Church - Fund for RBP** by August 21, 2023. The purse will be presented to him on August 27. A book of cards, notes, photos and letters is also being compiled to serve as a keepsake of the Pinkerton's years at Southminster. You are encouraged to send your personal thoughts and best wishes to **Sarah Buffington (490 Broadmoor Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15228 or buffingtonsc@gmail.com) by September 8, 2023.** Please come and be a part of this special event as we celebrate 21 years of Music Ministry with Rich.

**HOPE
MADE
REAL** **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 today and throughout the month of **August**. You can also give online or by mailing a check to the church office.

CAFÉ HOSTS NEEDED! The Sunday morning Café in Rec Hall requires a few additional volunteers starting September 10th. Think about how many high school senior testimonies refer to the inspiration of doughnuts on Sunday morning! Job descriptions include: 7:30 – 9 a.m. – shop/set up in rec hall; 9 – 10 a.m. – host and replenish; 10 – 11 a.m. – host and replenish. Volunteers serve on a designated week per month. 5th week teams only serve 3 – 4 times per year. Please reply to info@spchurch.org if you are able to commit for one or more shifts per month. Questions may be directed to Lisa Heyse. Thank you for your help!

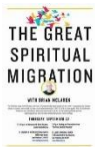


LAUREL CAVERNS AND CUCUMBER FALLS YOUTH OUTING Friday, August 25, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Join the SPC Youth Group for a final summer hurrah! All students entering 6th-12th grade are invited to a fun and inspiring day outdoors. We'll meet at 9 a.m. in the church parking lot to carpool to Laurel Caverns for a tour and gemstone panning. We'll enjoy a picnic lunch at the caverns then head to Ohiopyle 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!



BLESSINGS OF THE BACKPACKS! Let's support our students as they go back to school. On **August 27th** during the 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship, we will be blessing the Backpacks! All ages are welcome. Children are encouraged to bring their backpacks for a special blessing! Hope to see you and bring a friend to get their backpacks blessed.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REUNION! August 27th at 4 p.m. Bring a chair or a blanket and come fellowship on Southminster Lawn! Children and families are welcome to come and play games, listen to music, and enjoy a light snack while reminiscing about the fun had at this year's FOOD TRUCK PARTY VBS! If you are planning to join us, please **RSVP to info@spchurch.org by August 21st!**



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!



SERVING AT THE TABLE! Southminster will host the meal at The Table at Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community on the South Side on Thursday, September 7, 2023. The meals are served inside their dining room and volunteers have a choice in how they assist on site. They can prepare the plates in the kitchen or act as the 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, you can volunteer to help prepare the food here in the kitchen at Southminster at 1:00 p.m. before 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 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY cordially invites you to the **Grand Opening of our new Children's Wing...KINGDOM KEEPERS!**



This year's Sunday School theme: "Dig In: The Bible in One Year." Students will read through the entire Bible over the course of the year. Surrounded by All Things Bright and Beautiful, they will be encouraged to think about Creation as they learn about God. Join us for Sunday School on Kick-Off Sunday, September 10th, at 10 a.m. Worship is at 9 & 11 a.m. and then there will be a picnic on the lawn. We can't wait to see you there!

