



# Southminster Presbyterian Church

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

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## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Celebration of Worship September 10, 2023 11 a.m.

### Prayer of Preparation

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

Holy God,  
Thank You for this set apart time to begin the week anew,  
to turn afresh toward You,  
and to commit again to Your path of grace and love.  
Through this time of worship,  
enliven us by Your Spirit,  
wake us up to our need for Your forgiveness,  
and the boundless joy of living in Your mercy.  
Then send us out renewed,  
to the life of service, worship, and humility  
to which You call us.  
Amen.

### Prelude

*Intermezzo  
All Creatures of Our God and King*

Pietro Mascagni  
arr., Hal Hopson

### Ringing of the Hour

### Welcome

Fred Barnes

### \* Call to Worship

*inspired by Psalm 119:33-40*

Leader: Lead us, O Lord, in the path of Your commandments,

**People: For we delight in Your ways.**

Leader: Give us understanding of Your Word,

**People: That we may follow You with our whole lives.**

Leader: Turn our hearts back to You in worship.

**People: Creator God, give us life anew!**

**\*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 the light of day.

All Your works with joy surround You, earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around You, center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, raising You eternally!

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.  
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**

Fred Barnes

**Call to Confession**

Jennifer Stampfel

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

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
We call you Lord,  
Yet it is too easy for us to worship other things.  
Other activities, other relationships, other gods.**

**You tell us we cannot serve two masters,  
Yet we spend more time focusing our energies elsewhere,  
Diverting our time, our energy, our money, our attention away from you.**

**Forgive us, gracious Savior,  
When our hearts are led astray  
When we serve other gods and worship them.**

**We turn away from our distractions and sin.  
Strengthen us to take up our cross and follow you.**

*(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

Jennifer Stampfel

### Prayer for Illumination

Fred Barnes

### Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 121

p. 498

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 12: 1-3

p. 978

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

A Pilgrimage With Christ

Fred Barnes

### \* Hymn 438

*Blest Be The Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

### Prayers of God's People

Fred Barnes

### 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

*But By Love*  
Chancel Choir

Dan Forrest

### \* 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 376

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart. Breathe,

O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver; let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

### \* Charge and Blessing

Fred Barnes

### \* Postlude

*Toccata on 'A Charge to Keep I Have*

Gordon Young

### \* *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. 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 SEPTEMBER 10, 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** to our guest organist Dr. Wayne Earnest. Dr. Earnest earned his bachelor's degree at West Liberty State College, master's at the U. of Michigan, and doctorate from the University of Cincinnati. He was a college professor for several years and a church musician for well over 5 decades in various denominations. Additionally, he has played recitals in America and Europe and has published articles on church music. Retired in 2015, he continues playing as a substitute-/interim-organist, teaching, and composing. One of his favorite sayings is, "They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

**MUSIC NOTES** Pietro Mascagni's *Intermezzo* is a beautiful work that marks a transition between scenes in his opera *Cavalleria Rusticana*. While it is not religious *per se*, it nonetheless evokes an ethereal spirituality. In three short sections, Hal Hopson's arrangement of *All Creatures of Our God and King* reflects the meaning behind the words written by Saint Francis of Assisi (c.1181-1226). From a wealthy family, Saint Francis sold his belongings to travel and preach the Gospel, often under extenuating circumstances. While quite ill, lying in a mud hut, with vermin crawling over him, he was still able to write *All Creatures of Our God and King*.

Gordon Young's *Toccata on 'A Charge to Keep I Have'* reminds us to glorify God in our lives. As the old saying goes, "The way we live our lives is the only 'Bible' some people will ever read!" A huge responsibility *and* opportunity!

**THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY** this morning are given by the Groff family in loving memory of John DaCosta, Cynthia's father and John and Elaina's grandfather.

**THE FLOWERS IN CROSSINGS** this morning are given by H.K. Hilner in loving memory of Gary Paul Hilner. Additionally, flowers are given anonymously "To the glory of God who created children and all the creatures of His kingdom."

**SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE:** is available from 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 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.



**OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC** will take place following 11am worship! All are welcome to stay for lunch, and a visit from the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium. All picnic activities will take place indoors in Fellowship Hall and Rec Hall.

**THE ADULT SUNDAY SEMINAR – IN MEMORY OF ED SELL.** All adults are invited to join the discussions on Sunday mornings starting at 10 am on Sunday, September 10, 2023 in the Chapel. We have a great lineup of guest speakers this fall. Retired professor Dr. John Burgess will lead us on September 10th, 17th, and 24th. His topic will be "When Christians Become a Minority . This is a reality in parts of the world and may happen here in the future. Of course, the early church knew all about this and still succeeded. Coffee and donuts are available in the Parlor before hand. Come join the discussions!

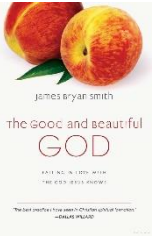


**THE SEPTEMBER HUNGER OFFERING** will support Southminster's own South Hills Food Pantry. The Pantry serves communities in the South Hills and provides home delivery of groceries to those with limited mobility or without transportation. In addition to driving and delivering the groceries, the other volunteer opportunities that exist for the congregation include shopping for the food items, stocking the pantry shelves, or filling the grocery bags that will be delivered. Many of these activities can also be done with your children! The Hunger Offering will

be received today, and throughout the month of September. You can give online through the Donate Now button or by mailing a check to the Church Office.

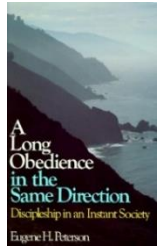
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.** There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 17 immediately following the I I am Celebration of Worship in the Sanctuary. The business of the meeting is to receive and vote on the request to dissolve the call of the Designated Associate Pastor, Rev. Laura Bentley.

**UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC):** We have been meeting faithfully to do the work necessary to call the next Senior Pastor. The Ministry Discernment Profile has been approved by Session and we are moving forward with next steps. Please pray for the PNC.



**FRESH START BIBLE STUDY.** All members and friends of the church are welcome to join our Fresh Start Bible Study which will begin on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 11 am in the Chapel. It is a wonderful way to start your week off right. We will be studying a wonderful book entitled “The Good and Beautiful God” by James Bryan Smith. This deep, loving and transformative book will help you discover the narratives that Jesus lived by – to know the Lord he knew and the kingdom he proclaimed. The cost of the book is \$27.00 and if you want a copy let Fred Barnes know by August 28th. My hope is that we all will be encouraged as we journey with our faith together.

**JESUS AND JOE MEN’S FELLOWSHIP.** All men and young men of the church are welcome to join our fellowship which we call Jesus & Joe (coffee). We meet at 8 am every Friday in Southminster House. The book we are reading is entitled “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction – Discipleship in an Instant Society” by Eugene Peterson. It is a study of how to be disciples that leads us through Psalm 120- Psalm 134. Often we want what we want and we want it now! Discipleship can be frustrating sometimes. Come learn together how to better follow God each and every day. The book is \$20.00. Let Fred Barnes know if you would like a copy. Come join us. The coffee and the conversation are stimulating!



**LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF RICH PINKERTON!** There will be a luncheon celebrating Rich Pinkerton’s 21 years as Minister of Music at Southminster Presbyterian Church. It will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2023 at St. Clair Country Club located at 2300 Old Washington Road, Upper St. Clair. Guests may begin to arrive at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$37.00 per person. Payment should be made to Southminster Presbyterian Church and designated for “Pinkerton Lunch.” Please R.S.V.P. by **September 15, 2023**, to Cynthia Donahoe at [donahoecl@me.com](mailto:donahoecl@me.com) or 412/779-6703.

**CAFÉ HOSTS NEEDED!** The Sunday Morning Café in Rec Hall requires a few additional volunteers starting September 10<sup>th</sup>. 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. 5<sup>th</sup> week teams only serve 3 – 4 times per year. Please reply to [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org) if you are able to commit to one or more shifts per month. Questions may be directed to Lisa Heyse. Thank you for your help!



**ADULT INTEREST CENTER (AIC).** We will meet on Friday, September 22nd at 11 am. Speaker Sue Lauer will talk on “Caring for Caregivers”. At some point we all deal with this reality of caring for loved ones. She will guide us through the complexities of this and help us to give self-care. We will have a wonderful home cooked meal at Noon for only \$9.00. Bring a friend or neighbor to enjoy the fun and fellowship!