



# Southminster Presbyterian Church

*"A Christ-centered ... intentionally missional congregation ..."*

799 Washington Road · Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228  
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## Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Celebration of Worship October 8, 2023 11 a.m.

### Prayer of Preparation

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

Gracious God,

You have called us to be your faithful witnesses.

We struggle with this because so often we are caught up in our doubts  
and our despair about this world. Help us to turn again to you,

living in your household of freedom and peace, of reconciliation and witness.

We offer this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Prelude

*How Blest Are You*  
Voluntary on "We Gather Together"

Healey Willan (1880-1968)  
Gordon Young (1919-1998)

### Ringing of the Hour

#### Welcome

Fred Barnes

#### \* Call to Worship

Fred Barnes

Leader: Welcome to God's house, a place of faith.

**People: From our homes, we come seeking God's word.**

Leader: Here you will find nourishment and hope.

**People: May we learn lessons of courage and peace.**

Leader: Here you will find rest from your struggle.

**People: Lord, prepare our hearts to receive your words that we may  
leave this holy house of faith and return to our homes,  
encouraged and challenged to be your people. Amen.**

#### \*Hymn #357

*O, Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

MARYTON

O Master, let me walk with Thee in lowly paths of service free;  
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee in closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;  
In peace that only Thou canst give, with Thee, O Master, let me live.

## Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

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

**Eternal God,**  
**in whom we live and move and have our being,**  
**whose face is hidden from us by our sins,**  
**and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:**  
**Cleanse us from all our offenses,**  
**and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,**  
**that with reverent and humble hearts**  
**we may draw near to you, confessing our faults,**  
**confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength;**  
**through Jesus Christ your Son.**

*(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 124

p. 498

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: The Word of the Lord  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

“Good News”

Fred Barnes

**\* Hymn #345**

*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

REST

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives Thy service find,  
In in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee the silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!

**Prayers of God’s People**

Jennifer Stampfel

**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**

*It is Well With My Soul*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Daniel Muroki

**\* 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 #326

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

MORCAMBE

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art, and make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King; all, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength and mind?  
I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh; teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame;  
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove, my heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

### \* Charge and Blessing

Fred Barnes

### \* Postlude

*Postlude in E*

Charles Vincent (1852-1934)

*\* 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

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 OCTOBER 8, 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.

**WELCOME BACK** to our guest organist, Ryan Croyle. Ryan is a native of Northeast Ohio and has been an active musician and architect in Pittsburgh since 2015. We thank Ryan for being with us today and next Sunday.

**THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY** are given to the glory of God in loving memory of loved ones by Wendy Heleen.

**SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE** for infants to 4 yrs. is available from 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Childcare Room of the Kingdom Keepers Wing which is located off Rec Hall.

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

**THE CHILI AND SOUP COOK-OFF** is coming up on Tuesday October 10 at 6pm! Please join us to vote for your favorites. Try them all! Sides, dessert, and drinks provided. The cost is \$5 per person, children under 5 yrs. old free. Email [SPChurchlife@gmail.com](mailto:SPChurchlife@gmail.com) for more information.



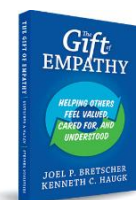
**THE FLU SHOT CLINIC** will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Teachers' Lounge on the third floor. A medical team from Giant Eagle will be here to administer flu shots - Quadrivalent, Flu shots for those over 65 and an Egg Free flu shot product and updated Covid-19 boosters (Pfizer only). Bring all your insurance cards with you to ensure proper billing, including prescription coverage card (commercial or Medicare Part D). COVID cards are no longer required but we can update them if the patient would like us to. Notification of your flu shot will be sent to your PCP. No preregistration required.



**HARVEST FEST IS COMING ON OCTOBER 29!** Join us as we celebrate God's bountiful harvest before heading into the colder months! There will be delicious food, pumpkin painting, straw maze prayer labyrinth, music, children's activities, and much more! The main dish will be a selection of either fried or baked chicken. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert of your choice to share. **October 29, 2023, at 4pm.** For more information: [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org) or 412-343-8900.



**FLEECE SCARF MAKING PROJECT:** We need your help! Please join the Outreach Committee for a day or two of fun, fellowship and service. We will be making fleece scarves for the homeless on 3 Tuesdays in October - the 3rd, 17th and 31st. 10 am - 4pm in the sewing room of Sue Robinson at 332 Oak Forest Dr, Mt Lebanon. Come for a few hours - or spend the day! Lunch will be provided. No sewing experience needed - if you can cut with scissors, we need you! Please let me know when you can help. Contact Sue Robinson at 412 849-3936 or at [sbr611@comcast.net](mailto:sbr611@comcast.net).



**THE ADULT SUNDAY SEMINAR – IN MEMORY OF ED SELL:** All adults and high school students are invited to join the discussions on Sunday mornings at 10 am in the Chapel. We will be taking a look at a book entitled “The Gift of Empathy” published by Stephen Ministries. It will be led by Stephen Ministers - Fred Barnes, Beth Hosking and Karen Rossi. This study will help you to help others feel valued, cared for and understood. What wonderful gifts these are to spread to others. Coffee and donuts are available in the Parlor beforehand. Come join the discussion!



**ADULT INTEREST CENTER (AIC):** This program is our outreach to seniors in the South Hills and will take place on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Astronomist Larry McHenry talking about the fall stars and the eclipse next April. Lunch follows at noon for \$9.00. Come join the fun, food, and fellowship!

**THE OCTOBER HUNGER OFFERING** will support the **Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh** in their annual Thanksgiving food distribution to low-income families on November 18, 2023, for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. The event, which is held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, also traditionally provides a wide range of healthcare and human services such as health screenings, flu shots, vision exams, nutritional information and much more. The offering will be received at the worship services on **Sunday, October 1** and throughout the month of October. You can also give online or by mailing a check to the Church Office.

**THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE** will be spearheading the Second Annual Sock Drive - a mission for the entire Southminster congregation to participate in. The challenge is to collect 150 pairs of white cotton socks - Large & X-tra large sizes. **Socks are the #1 requested and needed clothing item** for those folks who are homeless. The socks will be part of the winter packs that are given to Shepherd's Heart & East Liberty Family Health Care Center along with a warm hat, scarf, gloves, and a McDonald's gift card. Please bring your donations to the bin located inside the glass doors entrance by Fellowship Hall beginning **Sunday, September 24 through October 8, 2023**. All cotton white socks, L & XL are needed!



**COMMUNITY 341:** On **Wednesday, October 11, 2023, Southminster** will once 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 pm or you can arrive later, at 3:30 pm, to help assemble and pack the meal bags for transport. You can also go to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Brookline, located on the corner of Brookline Blvd. and Glenarm Ave., and help give out the meals in the Hall at 5:00 pm. For further inquiries or to volunteer, contact **Pastor Fred** at [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org) or call the Church Office.

**CHURCH SAFETY TRAINING: REGISTRATION IS OPEN!** An exciting opportunity is coming in October! Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be coming to Pittsburgh on October 28 at Bethany Presbyterian Church, to lead a course on Church Safety and Security Training. The course is designed for people who are on the front lines of greeting people and interacting with the public, including ushers, greeters, outreach workers, custodians, and pastors. You can register at [pghpresbytery.org](http://pghpresbytery.org). Deadline to register is October 13. Questions? Contact Louise Rogers: [lrogers@pghpresbytery.org](mailto:lrogers@pghpresbytery.org).

**SOUTHMINSTER NAME TAGS:** In order that we can "get to know our Church family better", Church Life Committee is ordering names tags for all adults who attend Southminster. The deadline is approaching for the first order of name tags—Oct 16th. Please send an email to [SPChurchlife@gmail.com](mailto:SPChurchlife@gmail.com) Include the name you would like printed on your nametag and the entrance where you would like it to be located: Narthex, Crossings glass doors, or Castle Shannon doors. If you miss this deadline, the next order for nametags will take place after the new year.

**FRESH START BIBLE STUDY:** All members and friends of the church are welcome to join our Fresh Start Bible Study which will meet on Mondays 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. 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 day. Come join us. The coffee and the conversation are stimulating!

