



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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Celebration of Worship October 15, 2023 11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

Open our hearts and our spirits to hear your healing words
of peace and love, O God.

Help us be the people of service and justice that you have called us to be.

Make us ready to heal rather than harm; to serve rather than be sever.

Give us hearts of joy and justice, for we offer this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prelude

*Prelude on “Union Seminary”
“Allegro” from Concerto in G Major*

Charles Callahan
J.S. Bach

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Jennifer Stampfel

* Call to Worship

Leader: Praise be to God, who has brought us here this day.

People: Praise and thanks to God for all the blessings we have received.

Leader: What joy we have in God's presence!

People: What peace is brought to us in God's house!

Leader: This is truly the day that the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Amen.

*Hymn #210

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess our sinfulness,
our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering
from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.
Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

(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

Cecile Usner

Prayer for Illumination

Jennifer Stampfel

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 136

p. 501

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson

I John 4:7-12

p. 991

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*** Hymn #260***A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

EIN'FESTE BURG

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
 Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
 For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
 His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
 On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
 Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
 Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
 And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
 The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
 His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
 One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
 The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
 Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
 The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
 His kingdom is forever.

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

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
 Chancel Choir

Harold Friedell

*** 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 #288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

* Benediction

Jennifer Stampfel

* Postlude

"Vivace" from Concerto in G Major

J.S Bach

* *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 15, 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 Ruth and Howard Douds by their children, Jean, Howard and Margaret.

THE FLOWERS AT CROSSINGS are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Dorothea Hilner Breuninger from H.K. Hilner. Mrs. Breuninger was a longtime member of The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd in Coatesville PA.

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.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes are extended to Samantha Amadio and Corey Clark who were married at Southminster on Saturday, October 7, 2023. Samantha is the daughter of John and Kimberly Amadio and Corey is the son of Chris Clark and Sherri Rozanc.



THE FLU SHOT CLINIC will be held today 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 you prefer. Notification of your flu shot will be sent to your PCP. No preregistration required.

BIBLE STUDY BUDDIES ARE BACK! Come and enjoy bible stories, songs, crafts, and fun with other second MINI plan to meet kids on the sidewalk at the top of the ramp and walk them to our room in the Kingdom Keepers Hall.) Please let us know if you can come on that day. Our schedule will try to meet your schedules so we would love to hear from you. RSVP to: NANCY KARRAS: 412-953-6172, nancyfirstgrade@verizon.net or NANCY CLIFTON: 412-561-1913, nancyclifton@aol.com.



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 or **412-343-8900**.

YOUTH OUTING AT HUNDRED ACRES MANOR! October 21st at 5:45pm! Youth grades 6th-12th are welcome to attend! Meet at the church at 5:45pm then head over to South Park – Hundred Acres Manor. It's FREE! Please reach out to Richard Heyse at Heyserph@gmail.com for more details.



MINI TRUNK OR TREAT! During the Sunday School hour on October 29th, children are invited to dress up in their Halloween costumes (nothing scary or gory, please) and will rotate to each room of the Kingdom Keepers Wing to hear Bible Stories and participate in fun activities! For more information contact info@spchurch.org

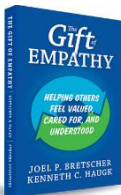
FLEECE SCARF MAKING PROJECT: We need your help! Please join the Outreach Committee for a day or two of fun, fellowship, and service. We will be making fleece scarves for the homeless on 3 Tuesdays in October - the 3rd, 17th and 31st. 10 am - 4pm in the sewing room of Sue Robinson at 332 Oak Forest Dr, 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.



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: You gave \$1897 to our Food Pantry last month in the September Hunger Offering. That's awesome! That will go a long way in continuing to keep the shelves stocked and grocery bags filled just waiting to be delivered to our neighbors in need in the South Hills.

Thank you for your generosity!

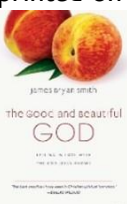
ADULT INTEREST CENTER (AIC): This program is our outreach to seniors in the South Hills and will take place on October 20th at 11 am in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Astronomist Larry McHenry talking about the fall stars and the eclipse next April. Lunch follows at noon for \$9.00. Come join the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



THE 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!

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 **today** and throughout the month of October. You can also give online or by mailing a check to the Church Office.

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 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!

THE ANTI-RACISM TRANSFORMATION TEAM a ministry team of Pittsburgh Presbytery, is sponsoring the Crossroads Introduction to Anti-Racism Workshop on Zoom, Friday, Nov. 3 (4:30-8:30 pm) and Saturday, Nov. 4 (12:30-4:30 pm). Here is the link to register for the zoom gathering on Nov. 3-4:
<https://form.jotform.com/232636150221040>.