



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

Twenty-first Day after Pentecost Celebration of Worship October 22, 2023 11 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

God, you are our refuge.

When the world gets to be too much for us, we turn to you for consolation and healing.

Help us today to hear your words of compassion.

Enable us to be those who would willingly serve all people in need.

For we ask these things in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prelude

Enduring Joy

Cynthia Dobrinski

Southminster Handbell Ensemble

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Fred Barnes

* Call to Worship

Leader: Though there are rulers, presidents, kings, queens,
God is the Lord of all life

People: In God we live and move and have our being.

Leader: God requires our faithfulness and our service.

**People: We reach out to others with the same kind of love
with which God has touched our lives.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who is always with us.

People: Let us praise God who walks daily by our side. Amen.

* Hymn #487

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky
From depth to height reply: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages long: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Merciful God,
You love us, but we have not loved you.
You call, but we have not listened.
We walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace,
Help us to admit our sin,
so that as you come to us in mercy,
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

(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.

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

Announcements

Jennifer Stampfel

Prayer for Illumination

Ken White

Anthem

Nocturne in A minor
Southminster Handbell Ensemble

Karen Buckwalter

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 9: 35-38

p. 790

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Compassion: It Keeps Us Connected”

Ken White

* Hymn #335

Though I May Speak

O WALY WALY

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift of all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

Prayers of the People

Jennifer Stempfel

The Lord's Prayer

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

" Precious Lord"
Chancel Choir

Dorsey and Allen, arr. Doris Akers

* 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 #391

Take My Life

HENDON

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

*** Benediction**

Ken White

*** Postlude**

Postlude II, Op. 101

C.V. Stanford

**** 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 Childcare Center

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OCTOBER 22, 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: This morning's organist, Dr. Gretchen Franz, served as Director of Music at the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church for 39 years until her recent. She is a native of Pittsburgh, encouraged as a young church musician in her home church, Beulah Presbyterian. Fun fact: her family was the millionth family to join the national church, featured on the cover of *Presbyterian Life* many years ago. Dr. Franz has served churches in New York and California, and locally at the Sunset Hills Presbyterian Church (7 years) and Temple Emmanuel synagogue (19 years). Her degrees are from Penn State, Union Seminary's School of Sacred Music, and West Virginia University. Gretchen is grateful for her life as a church musician and now is also enjoying reading, cycling and gardening as she continues to serve as substitute organist for churches.

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Dan, Dan the Techno-Man Hepler, from Gwen, Rob, Colette, Pam and Brad.

THE FLOWERS AT CROSSINGS are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Keith S. Reisinger, Jr., on his birthday, from his family.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A brief congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, October 29th following the conclusion of the 11 AM service for the purpose of electing the church nominating committee. The transition team that is looking for a new, short-term, interim pastor, the Director of Music search team, and the Senior Pastor nominating committee will also provide brief updates of their progress. Session will also provide an update of its work, including present and future opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and mission.

SOCK DRIVE UPDATE! The congregation has once again come through in a big way! **241** pairs of socks were donated, and this greatly exceeds the 150 pairs that were needed. Thank you!

BIBLE STUDY BUDDIES ARE BACK! Come and enjoy bible stories, songs, crafts and fun with other second through fourth graders! Bring your friends! Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 23 4:15 – 5:15. 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 <mailto: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**.



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.



YOUTH BELL TEAM: Are you interested in learning how to ring handbells? Do you want to find a new way to express yourself through music? Southminster's Youth Bell Team will meet on Tuesday, October 24 from 5- 6PM in the bell room. Dinner and Fellowship will follow until 6:30PM. Youth from 2nd grade on up are welcomed! Please let Samantha DeFurio (psurn99@gmail.com) know if you are planning on attending.

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 Tuesday, October 31st. from 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.



BLOOD DRIVE – NOVEMBER 5: Both nationally and locally, blood supplies are critically low. If you can donate, please consider making a blood donation during the blood drive in Recreation Hall on November 5 between 8 AM and 1 PM. To schedule an appointment, go to vitalant.org and search using the account code UG0010147 or call 877-25VITAL.

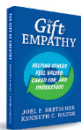


SOUTH HILLS FOOD PANTRY: THANKSGIVING DELIVERIES—During November Food Pantry Deliveries will include an extra bag of seasonal Thanksgiving items (turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce and cake mix). **CHRISTMAS BAGS**—Once again the South Hills Food Pantry will be providing special items to its clients for the Christmas season. In addition to the usual array of fresh and packaged goods, each client will receive a ham and a bag of seasonal items. Please participate in this mission effort by providing a bag of food. At the conclusion of each worship service on October 29 and November 5 labeled bags will be made available for you to take and fill the bag with the items on the label attached to each bag. Bring the filled bag to the SPC Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday November 14 or place them in the SHFP Collection boxes at the various entries to the church. The filled bags will be delivered as part of the Christmas “Blast” delivery of the Food Pantry on December 10. **DRIVERS**--If you want to participate in the delivery of food to the food insecure in our community, please contact the Church office or Bob Brown (bbrown1381@gmail.com).

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT! Calling all angels, shepherds, and shining stars! Our Christmas Pageant needs you! Anyone from preschool through high school may participate in the Southminster Christmas Pageant for the 5pm Christmas Eve service. If you are interested in participating, please contact Betsy Charles (betsyhcharles@gmail.com) or Samantha DeFurio (psurn99@gmail.com). There will be a small gathering in the Rec Hall Classrooms on Sunday, October 22, 2023, following the Children's Talk during the 9AM and 11AM service. No voice is too small to glorify the Lord and celebrate Jesus's birth!



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 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.



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 looking at a book entitled “The Gift of Empathy” published by Stephen Ministries. Coffee and donuts are available in the Parlor beforehand. Come join the discussion!

WHO IS THE VETERAN IN YOUR LIFE? Southminster Presbyterian Church will be honoring the Veterans in our lives the weekend of Veterans Day. If you would like to be honored, or would like to have someone honored, please send their name, branch of service, and era in which they served to Jennifer Stampfel at Jennifer@spchurch.org by November 8th at 3pm.

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>.