



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-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of Worship

November 26, 2023

11 a.m.

Christ the King Sunday

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

Redeeming God,
come and heal our lives this day.
Open our hearts to receive your words of hope and joy
that we may become faithful servants of yours in this world
which you have loaned to us.
For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Prelude

Flute Sonata in A Minor, Wq. 128

Bach

Barbara Hois, flute

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Fred Barnes

* Call to Worship

Pat Miyamoto

Leader: How shall we enter the house of the Lord?

People: With songs of great praise and rejoicing!

Leader: How shall we prepare ourselves to receive the blessings?

People: With hearts, minds, and spirits that are open.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord and bow down.

People: Let us offer our praise to God who has redeemed us. Amen.

*Hymn #554

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Almighty and merciful God,
 we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much
 the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
 and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those you are penitent,
 according to your promises declared to the world
 in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O merciful God, for his sake,
 that we may live a holy, just, and humble life
 to the glory of your holy name.

(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

Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, as He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee, saying, "Let them come to Me."
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Time With the Young Church

Cecile Usner

Prayer for Illumination

Fred Barnes

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 100

p. 481

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 25: 31-40

p. 807

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“A Lesson From Our King”

Fred Barnes

* Hymn #139

Come, Thou Almighty King

ITALIAN HYMN

Come, Thou Almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise: Father, all-glorious,
O'er all victorious, Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend: Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success; Spirit of holiness,
On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour: Thou who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart, And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three, The highest praises be,
Hence evermore! Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see, And to eternity
Love and adore.

Prayers of God's People

Beth Frear Hosking

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

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Richard Hillert
Words by Robert L. Edwards

Chancel Choir

* 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 #142

All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name

CORONATION

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all!
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!

* Benediction

Fred Barnes

* Postlude

Festival March on "St. George" (Elvey)

P.E. Fletcher

** If you are able, please stand.*

We thank Liz Peters for being our organist today.

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 NOVEMBER 26, 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 are given to the glory of God in memory of n memory of Stella Brown from the Schnatterly family.

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE: There will be no Childcare today.

NO CAFÉ OR SUNDAY SCHOOL ON NOVEMBER 26: There will be no Café or Sunday School today.

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



THE SOUTHMINSTER WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE is pleased to introduce, to the glory of God, new sanctuary banners! Each banner has a special religious symbol, or “Chrismon”, silk screened on it, reflecting important events in the life of Jesus and the Christian church. The shape of the banners was chosen in keeping with Southminster’s Norman Gothic architectural style and the color draws out the vibrant sapphire blues in the stained-glass windows. The committee, as a whole, reached a consensus on the banner shape, the Chrismons, the fabric type and the color. Sarah Cannon, a retired Art Therapist, drew the designs and constructed the banners. Mr. Raymond Clayton, Facilities Superintendent, oversaw the installation of the banners. More information regarding the banners will be forthcoming at a later date. Sarah prayerfully hopes that these banners inspire, inform, and enhance our spiritual lives. Praise God!

HELPERS ARE NEEDED to decorate the church for Christmas! The days and times are Friday, December 1 from 4 pm to 8 pm and Saturday, December 2 from 10 am to 12 noon. Please email info@spchurch.org or call the Church Office if you have any questions.



CHRISTMAS DINNER, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12! Please join us Tuesday, December 12, 2023 for our annual Christmas Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be singing and delicious food. There is no cost for the dinner but a “Free Will” offering will be accepted, Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 6 by calling the church office (412-343-8900) or emailing info@spchurch.org with the number of adults and children in your party. Your RSVP will assist us in preparations and ensure that we have enough food for everyone!

WOMEN’S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH will be Saturday, December 9, at 9:30 a.m. Join us for a morning of food and fellowship. The speaker will be Elaine Wertheim - - "A Visual Journey to Bethlehem." All women of SPC and their guests are welcome. Please extend an invitation to friends, family, and neighbors. The cost is \$15 per person. **RSVP by Monday, December 4th** to spchurchlife@gmail.com or by calling the Church Office (412-343-8900). Payments can be made in advance by sending a check or going online at the **DONATE NOW** Link. Enter “Women’s Brunch” in the additional instructions field.



TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS! It is a tradition at Southminster to decorate the worship spaces with poinsettias for the Christmas season. To order memorial or honorary poinsettias for Sunday, December 17, please complete the form (found in the Sunday bulletin) and send it to the Church Office with your check payable to Southminster Presbyterian Church. You may also email your order to info@spchurch.org and pay using the **DONATE NOW** button on the SPC website. The cost of poinsettias is \$10 each. The deadline for orders is Tuesday, December 5. Poinsettias may be picked up after each Celebration of Worship on Sunday, December 17.



ANGEL TREES 2023!!! It's hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner! Please help us provide gifts for children and seniors from our area. There are two ways to be an Angel this year: **1) Take tag from the trees which are in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall. Purchase the gift requested and return unwrapped items, with tag attached to the collection box at Main Entrance (glass doors) to the Church by November 28, 2023. 2) Make a monetary donation by using the DONATE NOW link on church website or use The Angel Tree envelopes found in the pews.** Please note on the check or on the website that it is for The Angel Tree. Place envelopes in the collection plate of mail to church office. This year's gifts will go to East Liberty Family Health Care Center children and the men and women of Washington Presbyterian Senior Care System. Questions? Contact: Carol Bengston or Sue Robinson or email info@spchurch.org.



THE STEWARDSHIP MAILING for 2024 was sent out this week. If you did not receive your mailing, please let the church know. We are asking that you return your pledge by Sunday, December 10th. It is very helpful in planning our budget to hear from as many people as possible. We appreciate your continued support of Southminster Presbyterian. Thanks to The Stewardship Committee: Suzanne Gruneberg, Bruce Leary and Rick Purcell.

ADULT INTEREST CENTER (AIC): Now in our 49th year, AIC continues to provide fellowship, fun and food for all seniors who attend. All seniors in the South Hills area are invited to attend. We will meet on Friday, December 1st at 11 am with a guest speaker – Dr. William White speaking on “Training to Live Well”. We will also meet on Friday, December 15th at 11 am for a Christmas concert by Mr. Steve Tori, a well known local singer and musician. A wonderful home cooked lunch will follow at Noon for only \$9.00. Please consider joining this group at this festive time of year.



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). No voice is too small to glorify the Lord and celebrate Jesus's birth!



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? Youth from 2nd grade on up are welcomed! Please let Samantha DeFurio (psurn99@gmail.com) know if you are planning on attending.

THE ADULT SUNDAY SEMINAR – IN MEMORY OF ED SELL: This class meets during the Sunday School hour (10 am) on Sundays. There will be no class, however on Sunday, November 26th, December 24th or December 31st because of the holidays. Please join us for a look congregational mission by authors S. Bala Khylllep and Hunter Farrell on December 3rd and 10th. They co-wrote a new book entitled “Freeing Congregational Mission”. They will lead us through a time of looking about how the church does mission in the future. On December 17th our guest speaker will be Geoff Hurd speaking about the life of Philip Brooks. Don't know who Philip Brooks is? Come join us and find out.

NOVEMBER HUNGER OFFERING: In November the Hunger Offering will be directed to Family Promise of Southwestern Pennsylvania. This family-oriented organization connects homeless children and their families with a network of community services and resources, all focused on providing them with shelter, meals, hospitality, and support until they are able to return to sustainable, independent lives in their own homes. The Hunger Offering will be collected at the worship service on Sunday, November 5th and throughout the month of November. You can also give online at the web site spchurch.org or mail a check to the church office.