

# SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

## A THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

*Everything about the Crucifixion was humiliating... Before the cross was clean, it was filthy. Before the cross was transformed into a symbol of victory, it was a symbol of shame. Before the cross was glory, it was tragedy. Before the cross was a threshold for life, it was an instrument of death. Before the cross became blessing, it was curse. ~ Tina Boesch*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS** this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory Don Polito by his wife, Cheryl.

**CHILDCARE SUNDAY MORNINGS** is available for infants to 4 years from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Childcare Room of the Kingdom Keepers Wing which is located off the Rec Hall. (There will be no Sunday School this morning due to the All-Church Brunch, and no Sunday School or Childcare on Easter Sunday, March 31.)

**CHILDREN'S PRAISE PACKS**, containing coloring pages and other activities for kids to learn about today's message, are available at the Sanctuary entrances and at the Crossings worship service. Please return the bags at the end of the worship service.

**THE SOUTHMINSTER CAFÉ** is serving coffee and tea only this morning outside Fellowship Hall due to the All-Church Brunch at 10:00 a.m.

## HOLY WEEK PLANS AND ACTIVITIES:

### **PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24**

On this day we recognize the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem among the welcoming crowds. Children are invited to participate in a traditional Palm Processional at the beginning of each service. They may gather before the service in the back of Fellowship Hall for Crossings and in the Narthex for the Traditional Service.

### **EASTER EGG HUNT, MARCH 24**

This is a fun opportunity for kids to learn about the Christian meaning of Easter. We'll have a time of family worship and music, hunt for eggs that contain symbols of Easter, and hear the story of the Resurrection. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. Please RSVP to 412-343-8900 or [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org).

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28**

We will gather in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. for a Tenebrae service with Communion, in recognition of Jesus' Last Supper and his impending suffering on the cross.

### **GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

Please join us in the Chapel at 5:00 p.m. for a calm and contemplative worship service for ALL AGES. This will be a unique experience with activities and prayer stations, as we reflect on God's love for us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Questions: 412-343-8900 or [Info@spchurch.org](mailto:Info@spchurch.org).

### **EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

We will be celebrating the resurrection of our Lord at our regular service times: 9:00 a.m. with the Crossings band in Fellowship Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, both decorated with a beautiful display of spring flowers, and with a message and music recognizing the meaning and joy of the occasion. (There will not be Sunday School or Childcare this day, and we will not be offering the Café refreshments.)

**THE MONTHLY “LUNCH BUNCH”:** Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy our second outing, on Palm Sunday, March 24, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month through the Spring. Anyone interested can meet at the front of the Sanctuary right after the 11:00 a.m. service. Names will be randomly picked to form groups of 4-8 people. You’ll meet your group, decide where to go, and head out. (Everyone will pay for their own meal.)



**MEMORIAL FLOWERS:** If you would like to donate flowers for our services, there are openings available in April and going forward. Please let us know by emailing [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org) or calling the church office.

**MISSION OPPORTUNITY:** Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through the *One Great Hour of Sharing* collection to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. We will be collecting donations for this ministry on Palm Sunday and Easter Morning.



**OUR ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER** returns Saturday, April 20 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. (early departure fine, of course!). You’re invited, and friends and family are welcome. Meal addresses (four stops over the evening) will be provided at the opening appetizer location. Please RSVP by April 7 to [spchurchlife@gmail.com](mailto:spchurchlife@gmail.com), and if willing to host, please indicate your preferred course to serve and the number of people you can host (between 8 and 12 guests per course is typical). The cost is \$10 per person for non-hosting guests. We look forward to seeing you!



**SARAH’S CIRCLE:** Please join us on Tuesday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. at Southminster House for our monthly Sarah’s Circle meeting for women. The discussion will be based on W. Phillip Keller’s book “A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23,” with refreshments and time for fellowship. Please feel free to bring a friend. If you have any questions or plan to bring a guest, email [eileen@spchurch.org](mailto:eileen@spchurch.org).

**JESUS AND JOE MEN’S FELLOWSHIP:** This time of men’s fellowship meets every Friday morning from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. in Southminster House. Recently, Pastor Doug challenged us to *Remain* or *Abide* in Christ which prompted us to do a deeper dive into this subject using the Bible study “Abiding in Christ”. Please let Fred Barnes know if you would like to join our group by emailing [info@spchurch.org](mailto:info@spchurch.org) or calling the church office.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!** Save the dates for “The Great Jungle Journey” themed program: July 22 – 26 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Exciting details to come! If you are interested in volunteering, please email Jennifer at [jennifer@spchurch.org](mailto:jennifer@spchurch.org) or register using the following link: <https://southminster2024vbs.myanswers.com/jungle-journey/>. Registration for the kids will open soon!

**SAFE CHURCH:** Please join us for training on our Safe Church policies and procedures, on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be provided. Elders, Deacons, Sunday School teachers, youth volunteers and other volunteers should attend.

**SOUTHMINSTER CHILD CARE CENTER** is looking for energetic staff to join their team in the Toddler and Preschool classrooms. We offer comprehensive learning experiences that promote the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development of each child in a nurturing and loving environment. SCCC provides competitive wages with PTO and paid holidays. We are also offering a sign-on bonus after the completion of a probationary period. Health insurance assistance is also available. If you are interested, you may call 412-571-9229 or email [childcare@spchurch.org](mailto:childcare@spchurch.org).

**SOUTHMINSTER EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY** is currently enrolling students ages 1 year to Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are interested in registering your student or would like more information, please contact Lori Guenther at [lori@spchurch.org](mailto:lori@spchurch.org) or 412-770-8095.