

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

A THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

*Palm Sunday shows us how often we misinterpret God's love, as well as our love for God.
The true measure of our love must comprise the capacity to extend ourselves
in real acts of compassion toward the afflicted, forcing us to come out of ourselves.*
Michael Battle

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 remembrance of Loved Ones by the Schnatterly Family.

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 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 open from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Rec Hall. Please come in for donuts, bagels, fruit, coffee, tea, or juice, anytime throughout the morning. (We will not be offering café refreshments on Easter Sunday.)

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. RSVP's are encouraged but not required: 412-343-8900 or 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.

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”: Please join us this afternoon to enjoy our second outing, held the 4th Sunday of the 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 for lunch. (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 or calling the church office.

ADULT SUNDAY SEMINAR: This class meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel and is open to all adults and high school students. This Sunday Chris Edwards from our Crossings Band will discuss contemporary Christian music. Pastor Doug will lead us in April discussing the life and theology of C.S. Lewis. (There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, March 31.)

MISSION OPPORTUNITY: One Great Hour of Sharing provides a way to change lives in Christ’s name through the ministries of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. From initial disaster responses to ongoing community development, your gifts provide safety, sustenance, and hope to individuals and communities in need. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received this morning and on Easter Sunday. You can use the envelope provided or donate online, or by mailing a check (indicate OGHS in the memo line) to the church office.



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, 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, please email eileen@spchurch.org.

SOJOURNER HOUSE FUNDRAISER: Ladies are invited to the 20th Annual Victorian Tea to support this organization providing residential rehabilitation for women in recovery. The event is Sunday, April 14 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Omni William Penn Hotel. The ticket price for Southminster members is \$95. RSVP to Sue Robinson at sbr611@comcast.net or 412-849-3936.

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 the group by emailing 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 or register using the following link: <https://southminster2024vbs.myanswers.com/jungle-journey/>. Registration for the kids will open soon!

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 or 412-770-8095.

SAFE CHURCH: Please join us for training on our Safe Church policies and procedures, on Sunday April 7th 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.