



Southminster Presbyterian Church

“A Christ-centered ... intentionally missional congregation ...”

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Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Celebration of Worship August 13, 2023 10 a.m.

Prayer of Preparation

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

Gracious God,
We gather once again together for worship.
We come with our prayers, our hurts, our hopes, and our doubts.
And You meet us here.
Grant us grace to worship You in spirit and in truth.
Through the power of Your Holy Spirit,
open our eyes to recognize You here among us.
Give us courage to step out in faith to meet You,
And confidence to follow where You lead.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prelude

Meditation on “Faithfulness”

Michael R. Kearney (b. 1995)

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Laura Bentley

* Call to Worship

Leader: God laid the foundations of the Earth.

People: The morning stars sang together and all of heaven shouted for joy.

Leader: From the midst of the whirlwind, God spoke with power.

People: We have heard the word of God, promising us life abundant.

Leader: We have seen the acts of God, the One who stills the storm.

People: We have witnessed the grace of God, making all things new.

All: Let us worship the Lord!

* Hymn # 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

* **Prayer of Adoration**

Laura Bentley

Call to Confession

Fred Barnes

Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

**Merciful and loving God,
We confess that we do not always understand Your ways.
We are easily discouraged when life takes unexpected turns
and our carefully laid plans and dreams come to nothing.
We confess that we are quick to give up when things get difficult,
and quick to question Your presence and Your power.**

Forgive us.

**Grant us patience to wait for Your good timing.
Open our eyes to recognize Your leading in our lives –
to listen for Your gentle whisper when we least expect it.
And then give us courage to step out in faith and obedience,
Trusting in Your leading even when we cannot yet see the outcome.**

(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

Jennifer Stampfel

Prayer for Illumination

Laura Bentley

Old Testament Lesson

Job 38:1-18

p. 420

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 14:22-33

p. 796

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Where Does Faith Come From?”

Laura Bentley

* Hymn # 399

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

AZMON

We walk by faith, and not by sight; No gracious words we hear
From Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke; But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near And seek where You are found:

That, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are, With full and endless sight.

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

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
Summer Choir

Sebastian Temple

* 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 # 434

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

Today we are all called to be Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captives free, Make plow-share out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first, Our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth Ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, Responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud, We sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud That threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down As in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town To cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore An earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for A harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God Act out the living Word,
And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we Give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be Disciples of the Lord.

*** Charge and Blessing**

Laura Bentley

*** Postlude**

Prelude, Fugue, et Chaconne

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

*** 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

The Rev. Dr. Donald R. Ewing, Interim Pastor
The Rev. Laura A. Bentley, Designated Associate Pastor
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. Valerie Wilson, Director of Administrative Operations & Assistant to Senior Pastor
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 AUGUST 13, 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.

THANK YOU! We thank Ryan Croyle for sharing his musical talents with us these past two weeks. Your music has provided a spirit of worship.

THE FLOWERS in the *Sanctuary* this morning, are given by Sue Remely in honor of Donna Bickar for her 92nd birthday!

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE: is available from 8:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in Room 409 for infants to 4 yrs.

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

OUTDOOR WORSHIP ON SOUTHMINSTER HOUSE LAWN! Sunday, September 3rd we will join together at 10 a.m. on South House Lawn for combined worship. The Crossings Band will lead us in both contemporary and traditional worship. Bring a chair and join us on the lawn for a blended worship experience! If there is inclement weather, combined worship will move inside to fellowship hall. More details to follow.

SUMMER WORSHIP Crossings Worship will be at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and the Celebration of Worship will be at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Both services can be viewed via Livestream.

LEMONADE IN THE BREEZEWAY will immediately follow the 10 a.m. Celebration of Worship. Stop by for a cool drink, a cookie, and fellowship. Children are encouraged to play on the playground, but please keep food in the Breezeway.

**HOPE
MADE
REAL** **THE AUGUST HUNGER OFFERING.** This month, the Hunger Offering will be collected for the **Urukundo Learning Center**, a school for over 1,000 children of low and no-income families in Rwanda. It was founded by Arlene Brown, affectionately known as “**Mama Arlene,**” a former relief worker in the refugee camps following the Genocide in that country who felt called at the age of 75, with the aid of others, to stay and help the vulnerable children of the area. For more information, you can go to hopemadereal.org. Our own Margie Krogh who, in this interim time, acts as a consultant at Southminster with our Children’s Ministry, has visited **Urukundo** (which means ‘love’) many times and brought to the attention of the Outreach Committee Mama Arlene’s great need for an improved kitchen to meet the demands of feeding so many young children. In response, the Outreach Committee will contribute a matching amount to any & all funds provided by the congregation in this offering. The Hunger Offering will be received at worship today and throughout the month of **August**. You can also give online or by mailing a check to the church office.

BIBLE STUDY BUDDIES. Please join us on **Thursday, August 17th** for our monthly Bible study planned just for kids who have finished first, second and third grades! Learn more about how to read your Bible, read and listen to Bible stories, find out what the Bible tells you about Jesus, and do a Bible craft. Come be a part of the Bible Study Buddies at Southminster!



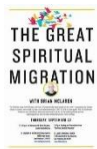
LAUREL CAVERNS AND CUCUMBER FALLS YOUTH OUTING Friday, **August 25, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.:** Join the SPC Youth Group for a final summer hurrah! All students entering 6th-12th grade are invited to a fun and inspiring day outdoors. We’ll meet at 9 a.m. in the church parking lot to carpool to Laurel Caverns for a tour and gemstone panning. We’ll enjoy a picnic lunch at the caverns then head to Ohio Pyle for a short hike to Cucumber Falls. Students must have a signed permission form for this day trip. Friends are also welcome! RSVP to

Pastor Laura by **August 16**. Chaperones and drivers will be needed, reach out if you are interested to info@spchurch.org!



BLESSINGS OF THE BACKPACKS! Let's support our students as they go back to school. On **August 27th** during the 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship, we will be blessings the Backpacks! All ages are welcome. Children are encouraged to bring their backpacks for a special blessing! Hope to see you and bring a friend to get their backpacks blessed.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REUNION! August 27th at 4 p.m. Bring a chair or a blanket and come fellowship on Southminster Lawn! Children and families are welcome to come and play games, listen to music, and enjoy a light snack while reminiscing about the fun had at this year's FOOD TRUCK PARTY VBS! If you are planning to join us, please **RSVP to info@spchurch.org by August 21st!**



PASTOR LAURA'S BOOK CLUB will meet **Thursday, August 31, 4-6 p.m.** to discuss "The Great Spiritual Migration" by Brian McLaren. Location TBD. If you are interested in joining, please purchase or borrow the book and let Pastor Laura know you plan to join by emailing info@spchurch.org.

ADULT INTEREST CENTER (AIC) is gearing up for the fall and we are excited about the upcoming Season! **SAVE-THE-DATES:** September 8 & 22, October 6 & 20, November 3 & 17, and December 1 & 15. The 49th year of AIC will begin on September 8th. We have old favorites coming back and some surprises in store. You won't want to miss this. Make sure you are on the mailing list or visit our website at spchurch.org. Invite a friend or neighbor to join the group!



APPLICATION FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONCILIATION ALLIANCE.

What are the stories of Black Presbyterian Churches in the Pittsburgh Presbytery? How have we failed as a Presbytery to love them as we love ourselves? How can we heal the breaches with our brothers and sisters in Christ? The Pittsburgh Presbytery created the Repair and Reconciliation Alliance to thoroughly review the historical experiences of these congregations and offer recommendations on actions of repair and reconciliation. Over the next two years, the Repair and Reconciliation Alliance needs various people to begin this task: leaders, researchers, writers, videographers, accountants, and more. If God has given you a gift the Alliance could use, please contact the church at Info@spchurch.org and we will get the necessary information to you. Thank you for your interest.

SOUTHMINSTER CHILDREN'S MINISTRY cordially invites you to the **Grand Opening of our new Children's Wing...KINGDOM KEEPERS!**



This year's Sunday School theme: "Dig In: The Bible in One Year." Students will read through the entire Bible over the course of the year. Surrounded by All Things Bright and Beautiful, they will be encouraged to think about Creation as they learn about God. Join us for Sunday School on Kick-Off Sunday, September 10th, at 10 a.m. Worship is at 9 & 11 a.m. and then there will be a picnic on the lawn. We can't wait to see you there!

