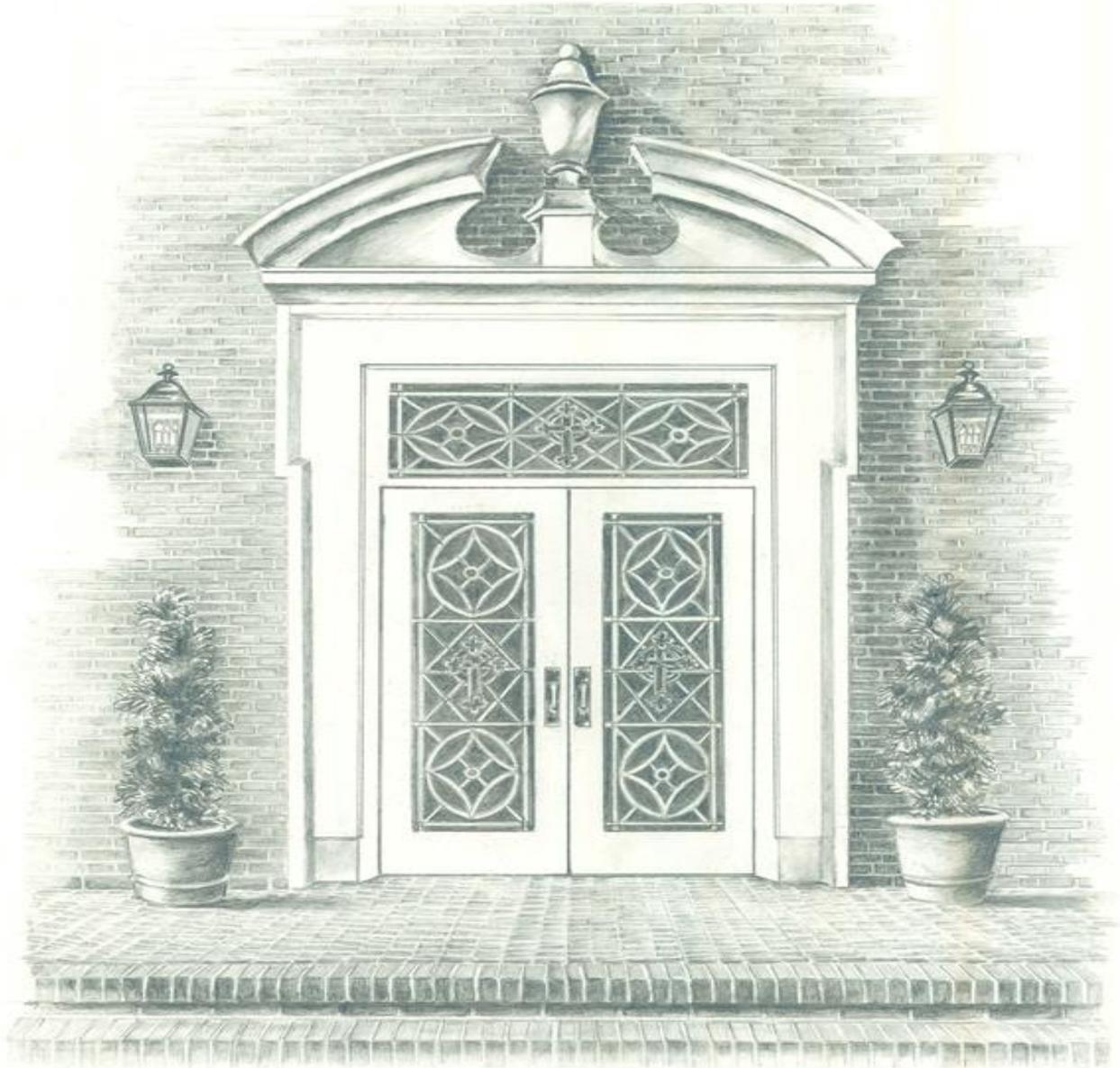


Southminster Presbyterian Church



“Welcome one another, as Christ has welcomed you.”
Romans 15:7

1124 Montgomery Hwy.
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
Telephone: (205) 822-1124
Fax: (205) 822-6739
Email: southmin@bellsouth.net
Website: www.southminsterpcusa.org

**BEGINNING THE WEEK ON A MOUNTAINTOP WITH GOD
THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10:30 AM

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

"This Is My Father's World"

Mark Sedio

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRAYER

Robert Newman

CHORAL INTROIT

"O Radiant Light, O Sun Divine"

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

*O radiant Light, O Sun divine, of God the Father's deathless face,
O image of the Light sublime, that fills the heavenly dwelling place.
O Son of God, the source of life, praise is your due by night and day.
Our happy lips must raise the strain of your esteemed and splendid name.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Laura Bannon

One: On this morning, as every morning,
Many: we are surrounded by God's grace.
One: In these moments, as every moment,
Many: we are called to costly discipleship by Jesus.
One: Throughout this day, as every day,
Many: we are taught peace and hope by the Spirit.

HYMN NO. 265

"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

DUKE STREET

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.
People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.
Blessings abound where'er he reigns; the prisoners leap to loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!*

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Laura Bannon

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS (*Unison*)

All we need to do is open our mouths, Teacher of hearts, to show that we give our tongues free rein. We claim we love others, but speak bitter words to them. We think we are good and gracious people, but hurl insults at those we do not like, or those we fear. We are quicker to speak of judgment for others, rather than being voices for justice. But with your gracious mercy, Tender-hearted God, you can put out the wildfires of bitterness sparked by our words. You can stop the words on the tips of our tongues and transform them into whispers of peace and love. You can open our ears so that we can hear all that your Teacher of grace and hope, Jesus the Messiah, has to share with us, in these moments and all those to come. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

GLORIA PATRI

***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.***

THE PEACE

Robert Newman

***Leader: ...The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.***

(The people may greet one another in peace.)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Laura Bannon

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Unison: Thanks be to God.**

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Robert Newman

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

James 3:1-12

Robert Newman

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Unison: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Sticks and Stones ..."

Robert Newman

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

HYMN NO. 39

"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 wilt 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

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

All join the Leader in saying, "***Alleluia! Amen.***"

BENEDICTORY RESPONSE

"Amen"

POSTLUDE

"Psalm 19"

Benedetto Marcello

Prayer Concerns

- Ashley, Tom, Michael and Henry Bryson and family at the loss of Ashley's father, Hugh Fonville.
- Emily Phillips and family at the loss of her grandmother

Announcements

Children's Bulletins and Large Print Bibles and Hymnals are available in the narthex.

Many thanks to Robert Newman for leading the service today and bringing us the message, allowing Dr. Tom, Ashley, and the boys to remain in Mississippi with family following the service for Ashley's father.

Our **Sunday School** classes continue, and we hope you will make plans to join us each Sunday morning in Grace Hall at 9:15 when all the adult classes meet together as Cassie Forbes leads us in a study entitled "Building the Great Churches." Children and Youth Classes meet at 9:15 as well!

We are now packing 30 weekend food bags for children in need at **Vestavia West Elementary**. Thank you for your overwhelming response thus far! If you would like to help with the food donations, we have created an Amazon Wishlist where you can go online and order whatever you wish to donate, and they will ship it directly to the church. The link is: [Amazon Vestavia West Wish List](#)

Also, we have a food packing station set up outside of the Church Office. After Sunday School or worship, if you would like to pack a bag, that would be very helpful. Questions? Ask Robert Newman or call the Church Office. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ as we serve those in need!

If you would like to place **Flowers in the Sanctuary** on a Sunday in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Betsy Murphy in the Church Office at (205) 822-1124.

Mark your calendars for the **Southminster Scamper, Saturday, October 23rd**! Go to www.southminsterpcusa.org to sign up. The link will direct you to sign up for the 5K race (\$35) the Kids Fun Run (\$20), or the Sleep-In (\$25) which is for those who don't want to run but would still like to contribute to the cause. The proceeds will go to The WellHouse and the Southminster Day School Scholarship Fund.

At **Living River** we close every campfire with the singing of "Trees of the Field." Here's one version of the song: [Trees of the Field](#).

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12TH – 19TH

Sunday	9:15 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
	10:30 AM	The Service for the Lord's Day – Sanctuary
	4:00 PM	BYG Kickoff – Parent/Youth Meeting – Lower Parking Lot and Back Door
	5:30 PM	Session Meeting – Hybrid
Tuesday	10:00 AM	Circle Meetings – Grace Hall
Thursday	10:00 AM	Bible Study led by Margaret Northern – Grace Hall
Friday	9:00 AM	Day School Chapel – Sanctuary
Sunday	9:15 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
	10:30 AM	The Service for the Lord's Day – Sanctuary
	4:00 PM	BYG – Lower Parking Lot

THE CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson
Robert Newman
Dr. Larry E. Hardin
David Renaker
Jeanie Covin
Betsy Murphy
Dereck Stewart

Pastor
Program Director
Director of Music Ministry
Organist
Director of Day School
Church Administrator
Sexton

Rick, Reed, Treasurer

Mark Ezekiel, Clerk of the Session Natalie Reed, Assistant Clerk of the Session

THE SOUTHMINSTER SESSION

CLASS OF 2021

Connie Currin
Marian Deslattes
Margaret Dormon
Charles Goodman
deNay Kirkpatrick, Trustee
Al Nebrig

CLASS OF 2022

Justine Bonnell, Trustee
Tom Carey
Judy Reed
David Stephens
Ron Trolard

CLASS OF 2023

Garrett Chow
Brooke Heisler
Richard Holbert
Brian Tielking
Sherri Van Pelt, Trustee
Jonathan Wright