



The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian * July 2025

Chapel of the Transfiguration, Grand Teton NP

Engaged in the World

In a world that often feels fragmented, polarized, and exhausting, it can understandably be tempting to tune it all out... to find a quiet corner and stay there. But the call of the gospel has never been about disengagement. It's about presence. It's about showing up in faith and with boldness for the work of justice, mercy, and joy.

This past month, members of Southminster offered two more ways of what it can look like for us to show up.

Four of us (Ann Agnew, Randy and Cheryl Marshall, and I) traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of Bread for the World's Advocacy Summit. Our congregation commissioned us for this sacred work in worship, and together we made up the majority of Idaho's five-person delegation. While there, we met with the offices of Senators Risch and Crapo and Representative Simpson to advocate for programs that feed and nourish vulnerable neighbors: SNAP, Modern WIC, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program, and Food for Peace.

And we didn't go alone. We worshiped in a venue filled with people of all backgrounds, ages, races, regions, and denominations... united in prayer and song before walking into the halls of power. That worship strengthened us for the journey. For people of faith, engagement in the world doesn't begin with a political strategy... it begins with the Spirit.

That same Spirit was alive and well at our *All Kinds of Awesome* picnic on the 21st. Planned as a joyful celebration of all gender identities, orientations, and beloved bodies, the event gathered the community for a simple evening of welcome. Lawn chairs and laughter, games and live music, old friends and new ones... all as a public act of affirmation that everyone belongs. This was a time of fellowship more than an act of worship, but make no mistake: *this* was church. And it didn't go unnoticed! Our *All Kinds of Awesome* event was [picked up by Religion News Service](#), which is essentially the Associated Press for the faith world.

At Southminster, we don't believe engagement is limited to a ballot box or a protest sign. It's also a prayer. A presence. A picnic. A willingness to show up for one another and for the world God so loves.

Let's keep showing up. Together.

God's Peace

TJ



(he/him)

Announcement Board

The Gospel According to Board Games: A Summer Sermon Series

This summer, our worship takes a playful turn as we explore what classic board games can teach us about living a life of faith. Each week, we'll pair a beloved game with a passage from scripture, drawing connections between the way we play and the way we follow Christ.

July 6 – The Game of Life (Micah 6:6-8)

July 12 – Monopoly (Luke 12:13-21)

July 20 – Clue (Proverbs 2:1-6)

July 27 – Jenga (Matthew 7:24-27)

August 3 – Chutes & Ladders (Genesis 37-50, selected verses)

August 9 – Candyland (Matthew 18:1-5)

August 17 – Risk (Matthew 14:22-36)

August 24 – Scrabble (James 3:1-12)

August 31 – Uno (Matthew 20:1-16)

Whether you're a lifelong board game lover or haven't touched one in years, this series invites all ages to consider how God's wisdom and grace show up in unexpected places. Join us for The Gospel According to Board Games—and don't be surprised if you leave church with a little extra joy.

All Church Retreat Registration Open

Registration is now open for our annual All Church Retreat, which will be the weekend of August 8-10, 2025. The low cost of \$30 per person (with a \$70 maximum per family) will cover five meals, plus two nights lodging at Camp Sawtooth. Scholarships are available if needed and can be confidentially requested by contacting Pastor TJ. To register, go to link.spcboise.org/sawtooth. Paper registration forms will also be available in the narthex from now until August 3. Checks for payment may be submitted to the church office with "All Church Retreat" in the memo line.

2025 All Church Retreat Registration Form (also available online: link.spcboise.org/sawtooth)

Are you getting ready for Southminster's annual All Church Retreat in the beautiful Sawtooth mountains? Join us for a fun and formative weekend at Camp Sawtooth, **August 8-10, 2025**. Check-in begins **Friday at 5:00 pm**. Friday evening dinner will *not* be provided, so plan to provide your own. Three meals will be provided Saturday, as well as breakfast and lunch on Sunday. We will work together to clean up the camp and depart on **Sunday by 1:00pm**.

The low cost of **\$30 per person (\$70 maximum per family)** will cover all meals and lodging. Children 3 and under are free. Scholarships are available if needed and can be confidentially requested by contacting Pastor TJ. Checks should be made out to Southminster with "All Church Retreat" listed on the memo line. The deadline to turn in your registration to the church is **Sunday, August 3**.

(Did you know? The actual cost of the All Church Retreat is approximately \$70 per person. By the Grace of God and the generosity of our members, the congregation's annual budget and endowment investments are able to subsidize a significant portion of the weekend. You are welcome to make an additional donation to offset total expenses or to provide a camp scholarship).

Name

Email Address

Participants Attending

Names of Other Participants (and ages, if children)

Dietary Restrictions (if any)

Lodging Plans: Need Lodging ____ Bringing RV ____

Paid by check \$ _____ Check # _____

Paid by cash \$ _____

Session Looks to the Year Ahead

In early June, your Session gathered for a half-day retreat to reflect, re-center, and look ahead to the coming year of ministry. We began with a devotion on abundance and trust, called to lead not from fear, but from faith. After a brief business meeting, we welcomed new elders, shared stories, and spent time dreaming together about how Southminster can continue to be a beacon of justice, joy, and belonging in the year ahead. Stay tuned for more: by God's grace there's good and faithful work for each of us to do together.

2025-2026 Elders & Deacons

Let us give thanks for the elders and deacons serving in the coming year. (*Italicized are individuals who are beginning their term*)

SESSION: Larry Andrews, Janice Burkholder, *Genny Crume*, *Peter Fridel*, Jill Gertje (clerk), Rebekah Harvey, *Larry Hansen*, Cheryl Marshall, Sue Olszewski, Greg Pitman, *Jordan Vaquera*, Andy Winkle, Abby Wolford

DEACONS: *Ann Agnew*, Darleen Brown, Dena Duke, Jan Eggleston, *LeAnn Mohr*, *Steve Piontek*, Noreen Pusey, Carol Town, *Helen Winkle*

Introducing our New Custodian:

Michael Humbert

The Personnel Committee is excited to welcome Mike Humbert to our Southminster family, as our new part time custodian. Mike will be responsible for custodial and maintenance needs for our building, working approximately 15 hours per week. Welcome, Mike!

Limited Office Hours July 8-10

Our office manager Alix will be on vacation the week of July 8-10. The church office will be staffed by volunteers for limited office hours that week, 9:00am-12:00pm.

Narthex Doors During Worship

To help create a safe and smooth experience for all worshipers, the Session is experimenting with a practice of locking the Narthex doors 5-10 minutes after the service starts. An usher will be in the narthex to assist latecomers in entering.

Grace Jordan Food Pantry

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we have been able to continue supplying the food pantry at Grace Jordan throughout the summer months. As a reminder, in addition to our standard shopping list, we also announce the pantry's "greatest needs" when we're aware of them. Visit link.spcboise.org/pantry

Worshiping Online

Whether you're traveling this summer or simply worshiping from home, remember that our church website has a one-stop landing page for Online Worship! There, you'll find the weekly bulletin, a virtual friendship pad, online giving, and an archive of past worship videos. It's never been easier to stay connected to your faith community, no matter where you are!

www.spcboise.org/worship

Traveling Art Exhibit in Boise

Looking for an inspirational opportunity to get out of the summer heat? The Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate traveling art exhibition is in Boise from now through August 7. This free exhibit features art made from white supremacist propaganda in ways that reimagine hate into hope and change. Art is displayed in three locations: Erma Hayman House; Albertsons Library at BSU; and The Wassmuth Center for Human Rights. For more information, visit www.speakingvolumes.net

Reminder of Potential Scams

Churches are frequent targets of scammers wishing to prey on the trusting relationships within a congregational community. Remember: Pastor TJ and the rest of the church staff will never ask individual members for money, gift cards, or other favors. All of our ministries, including charitable giving, are through official church financial channels. Helpful Hints:

- Always check the sender's email address. TJ will only email you from his official church email, which will end with: @spcboise.org
- TJ will only contact you from the church office number, or his work cell phone. Both of these are 208 area codes.
- If you ever doubt if a request for information is legitimate, call the church office directly to confirm before you take any further action.
- Earlier this year, a Presbyterian pastor was a victim of an AI-voice scam, where a computer was able to accurately match the pastor's voice on a phone call. While this technology is still quite new and not yet in widespread use, be aware that scammers may someday be able to replicate TJ's voice. When in doubt, hang up and call the church office directly.

Note from PWS

We hosted the Boise Presbytery PW Spring Gathering on April 26th. The theme of the Gathering was being good stewards to God's creation which we correlated with Earth Day. We started with a light breakfast and fellowship. Our own Dena Duke presented the devotion and Deanna Watson did the meditation at the brief worship service. The speaker for the day was Catherine Chartudi, a retired member of the recycling services here in Boise, who spoke about recycling, and how to recycle, and the many changes that have happened, and will be happening in recycling in the Treasure Valley and surrounding areas. A very pertinent topic for today's climate change environment and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The attendance was good and included several attendees from local Presbyterian churches.

I hope you were able to attend, either in person or online, our Gifts of Women service on June 1. We installed and commissioned new and returning officers to PWS. Helen Winkle was honored with the Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Honorary Life Membership for her faithful service within the church. Congratulations, Helen!

We will be off for the summer, but will have a planning meeting to gather ideas for our programs for the upcoming year. We will begin our gatherings again on September 3rd. A reminder that our gatherings are on the first Wednesday of each month from September through June. All women of Southminster are invited to attend. You do not need to be a member of the church to attend. We love to see new faces. Welcome!!

Mary Poston
Moderator PWS

Participating in Worship this month

July 6

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Michelle Green
Ushers: Noreen Pusey, Betty Grisso,
Carol Town, Sara Nevil
Nursery: Julie Anderson

July 12 – Sabbath

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Lisa Baker
Ushers: Bruce Mohr, Carla Middleton,
Sue Olszewski, Juno Van Ocker
Nursery: Kristy Wymond

July 20

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Genny Crume
Ushers: Judy Varvel, Juno Van Ocker
Noreen Pusey
Nursery: Sue Olszewski

July 27

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Kiran Spees
Ushers: Priscilla Oja, Sue Olszewski,
Bruce Mohr, Betty Grisso
Nursery: Helen Winkle

July Birthdays

Andy Winkle	2
Sue Whitted	2
Dawn Phillips	2
Linda Tuley	2
D'Artanyon Vaquera	3
Julie Estrera	3
Margaret Grisso	7
Sara Nevill	9
Roxann Hansen	12
Christian Middleton	20
Rita Multerer	23
Harvey Pitman	31
Larry Chase	31

If we missed your birthday,
please let the office know



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 5:30 TVCA rehearsal	4 7:30 AA	5 10:00 Women's NA 10:00 NOW
6 9:30 Worship 11:00 Puppets 5:00 Just One Thing	7 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	8 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Casa Mexico 5:30 Building & Grounds 5:30 TVCA rehearsal	9	10 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 5:30 TVCA rehearsal	11 7:30 AA	12 10:00 Women's NA 5:00 Sabbath
13	14 2:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	15 5:30 TVCA rehearsal 7:00 Session	16	17 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 5:30 TVCA rehearsal	18 7:30 AA	19 10:00 Women's NA
20 9:30 Worship 11:00 Puppets	21 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	22 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Life's Kitchen 5:30 TVCA rehearsal	23	24 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 5:30 TVCA rehearsal	25 7:30 AA	26 10:00 Women's NA
27 9:30 Worship 11:00 Puppets 6:00 Brewed for Thought	28 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	29 5:30 TVCA rehearsal	30	31 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 5:30 TVCA rehearsal		



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Electronic Service Requested

An open and affirming community seeking a caring and just society

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This monthly periodical is published by Southminster for free distribution to congregation and friends.

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Clerk of Session..... Jill Gertje
Office Manager Alix Paul
Organist..... Susan Pohl
Choir Director..... Claudia Sutherland
Handbell Director..... Kiran Spees
Sabbath Musician Sean Rogers
A/V CoordinatorClaeo McDermott
Custodian..... Mike Humber

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Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday 9AM to 3:00PM

If you no longer wish to receive this publication please notify the church office at office@spcboise.org or 208-375-5330.