



The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian * September 2025

A Congregation That Cares

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

One of the most beautiful things about being the church is that we never have to carry life's joys or sorrows alone. In an individualistic, "pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps" culture where even friendships can be pushed to the margins or treated as transactions, I'm convinced that the church remains one of the last places where we can share our lives with compassion and be met with care.

At Southminster, this care is not the work of one person alone, but a ministry we share together—each of us helping to bear one another's burdens in the spirit of Christ.

This month, we celebrate a new chapter in that ministry as our own Shana Woodbury joins the staff as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE). In this volunteer position, encompassing 15-20 hours monthly, Shana will be able to expand our pastoral care ministry, offering visits, prayer, and presence to those in seasons of illness, grief, or transition. She will also contribute to our spiritual formation ministry through occasional classes, retreats, and other opportunities to help us grow in faith together.

At Southminster, care happens in many ways:

- **Member-to-Member Care:** Every time one of you makes a call, writes a note, or offers a helping hand, you're a vital part of our care ministry.

- **Deacon Care:** our deacons visit, call, bring meals, provide transportation, and organize memorial service receptions.
- **Prayer Chain Care:** Our email prayer chain, lovingly maintained by member Phyllis Sanderson, lifts up joys and concerns in real time. To receive these emails, contact Phyllis or the church office.
- **SAINT Fund care:** this fund offers direct financial support to members and friends experiencing difficult times. (To request assistance, look for information in the Narthex/Lobby, or talk to me).
- **Pastoral care:** Shana and I are available for visits, calls, and spiritual support whenever you or someone you know is need. (Of course, our other staff members provide this same care to those with whom they work!).

With Shana's commission to serve as a CRE here, we have even greater capacity to walk alongside one another. If you could use a listening ear, a prayer, or a visit, please reach out to me, to Shana, to your deacon, to your pew-mate, or to the church office. Together, we are the body of Christ, and together, we care.

God's Peace

TJ



(he/him)

Southminster Receives \$5,000 Wonder of Worship Grant

In 2024, Southminster received a grant of \$1,000 from Columbia Theological Seminary's "Wonder of Worship" program to help us take quick, meaningful steps toward including children more fully in worship. Since then, we've created a new liturgical banner, added children's Bibles in the pews, purchased new child-friendly musical instruments, and produced a how-to guide for worshipping as a family. Those "quick wins" made a visible difference in our sanctuary and our life together.

This summer, the Wonder of Worship team announced a competitive second round of funding geared toward congregations whose initial work shows potential for continued growth and flourishing. We've just learned that Southminster was chosen to receive an additional \$5,000 to build on our momentum! This next phase will focus on creating a more visible, welcoming, and participatory worship experience for children by:

1. **Enhancing our space** – improving our Playground with new furniture, built-in storage, a soft rug, visual warmth, and better visibility from the sanctuary entrance.
2. **Expanding creative leadership opportunities** – launching a KidsPlay handbell program, adding puppetry, and creating a child-sized podium so children can serve as liturgists.
3. **Equipping families** – adding more children's Bibles, creating family worship resources, introducing small prizes for children's bulletins, and installing an emergency alert system between the sanctuary and nursery for peace of mind.

These upgrades will unfold over the next two years. Each step will be guided by our vision of children as full participants in worship, not just passive observers. We believe that when children are visibly welcomed, given meaningful roles, and equipped to engage worship with their loved ones, the whole congregation grows in faith.

We are grateful to the Wonder of Worship team for their generosity and support of the worshipping life of our faith community. As we move forward, there will be opportunities to lend a hand, so stay tuned. For now, thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and openness to creative ways of worshipping together. May our worship be another way we reflect God's welcome for all.



Advocacy Takes Many Forms

At Southminster, we believe that living our faith includes showing up for justice and inclusion in visible ways. Advocacy takes many forms, from phone calls, to prayer vigils, to public protests. This summer, member Harlene Blair organized an "Everyone Is Welcome Here" t-shirt campaign at Valley View Senior Living, a visual demonstration of hope and solidarity in our community. Many familiar Southminster faces proudly wore the shirts for a recent photo, embodying our commitment to welcome and affirm all people as beloved children of God.

Announcement Board

IMPORTANT: Worship Schedule in September

For this month only, our monthly Sabbath worship service takes place on the first Saturday of the month (Sat. 9/6 at 5:00pm). Here's the worship schedule for September:

- Sept 6 at 5:00pm — Sabbath Worship (special date)
- Sept 14 at 9:30am — Worship (not sabbath weekend)
- Sept 21 at 9:30am — Worship
- Sept 28 at 9:30am — Worship

Thanks for helping us stay flexible and faithful... and for showing up with joy whenever we gather!

Just One Thing – 2nd Sunday of September

For the month of September only, our “Just One Thing” discussion group will also move to a different date so it won’t be on a Sabbath Weekend. This group will meet Sunday September 14 at 5:00pm in the Jean Moore Lounge.

Join us for Boise Pride this year!

Who: All of us!

What: Hosting a booth at the Pride Festival, and marching in the parade (with a float featuring our puppet team!)

When: September 6 (11am to 9pm) and September 7 (11am-5pm). Booth setup at 7am on Saturday. The parade will be on Sunday morning; since the 6th is Sabbath, plan to come to march or ride in the parade with Southminster during regular church time.

Where: Ann Morrison Park

Why: Because we love God and love people, and we want to show God’s love to all in our community.

Read Freely Project: Banned Book Opportunity

Through Rediscovered Books’ “Read Freely Project,” Pastor TJ has been awarded 10 copies of the graphic novel *Trans History: From Ancient Times to the Present Day* by Alex L. Combs and Andrew Eakett. This engaging and accessible book offers a rich look at the history of transgender people across cultures and centuries.

Now, we need 10 members of the congregation to receive a copy of the book, read it, and pass it along to someone else in their life. The Read Freely Project aims to help stories and history that have too often been erased find their way into more hands and hearts. Ready to participate? Contact TJ. Copies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

September Sermon Series:

Re-Boot – Lessons from 1 Timothy

This September, we’ll spend three weeks exploring wisdom from the Second Testament book of 1 Timothy, a short letter written to a young church leader navigating complex challenges. We’ll consider how its encouragement can still “reboot” our own faith today.

- Sep 14 – Reimagining Regret (1 Timothy 1:12–17)
- Sep 21 – Reframing Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1–7)
- Sep 28 – Rethinking Happiness (1 Timothy 6:6–19)



JoAnn Thiry (COM) and Susan Knights (moderator) present Shana to the presbytery

Welcome, Shana Woodbury – Our New Commissioned Ruling Elder

On August 23, Boise Presbytery commissioned Shana Woodbury to serve Southminster as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE). In this volunteer role (15-20 hours monthly), Shana will partner with Pastor TJ to expand our pastoral care ministry through visits, prayer, and presence, and will also offer leadership in adult spiritual formation.

Shana has served in ministry roles for more than 25 years, in a variety of volunteer and paid capacities. After completing the Boise Presbytery “Seminary Without Walls” program, she was commissioned to serve as Director of Family & Community Ministry at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Currently, she serves as a Hospice Chaplain and Volunteer Services Manager. Shana brings deep compassion, a gift for teaching, and a heart for walking alongside people in every season of life. In her free time, Shana enjoys time with her two young adult children (Lily and Anya) and her friends who are her chosen family.



Southminster and Covenant friends pray for Shana's ministry

Music & Arts Ministries Resume

Don't forget! Our groups have resumed weekly rehearsals. The Handbell Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the Genesis Room. The Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. And our P4 Puppet Team rehearses Sundays at 11:00am in the Genesis Room. Newcomers are warmly welcomed to any of our groups. Your participation will enrich our worship.

Sunday School Begins Sep 14

Children's Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 14, during coffee fellowship time after worship. Pre-K through Grade 5 will meet in Classroom #4. A second class for Grades 6-12 is also being planned and will begin at a later date.

Grief Support Group Begins Sept 8

Grief can feel isolating, but you are not alone. This fall, members Roger Hiles and Cheryle Andrews will lead a small group for those navigating loss. The group begins Monday, September 8 at 11:30am and will meet in Room #5 (upstairs).

Participants will use a guided book and journal—\$26 total, with scholarships available if needed. The group is limited to 12 participants; contact the church office to sign up.

Discover Southminster — September 29 at 7:00pm

Pastor TJ will be hosting a "Discover Southminster" gathering on Monday September 29 at 7:00pm in the narthex. Those who have been visiting Southminster or who are thinking about joining our membership will find this to be a great opportunity to explore our questions and callings together. To attend, please RSVP to Pastor TJ, or contact the church office.

New Ecumenical Book Study: *God, Gospel, and Gender*

Join with friends from five Boise congregations for a fall book study of Margie Baker's *God, Gospel, and Gender*. Open to most any age, this study offers something of worth for everyone, whether you're encountering the ideas for the first time or continuing a lifelong journey of learning.

Beginning with an exploration of what it means to be made in God's image—and the ways God is represented with both male and female imagery—the book moves toward a powerful conclusion: love for all our siblings is central to God's relationship with humanity. Along the way, it invites honest, faithful conversation and highlights the thread of inclusion running through the Bible.

When: Tuesdays, 7:00–8:30pm, September 30 – November 18

Where: Red Rock Christian Church (1124 S Roosevelt St, Boise)

Who: All Saints Episcopal, Red Rock Christian, Redeemer Lutheran, Southminster, and Whitney UMC

Participants will take turns providing light snacks. Books can be ordered online.

SAGES Lunch & Learn - Sept 18

All are invited to the SAGES Lunch & Learn gathering on Thursday September 18. Lunch will be at 11:30am, with a suggested donation of \$10. Following lunch, the group will enjoy a presentation by Jodi Peterson-Stigers of Interfaith Sanctuary. (Contact Roger Brown or the Church Office to RSVP so there's enough for everyone to eat)

Season of Peace and Peacemaking Offering

The four special offerings of the PC(USA) draw Presbyterians from all over the nation and world together for a common purpose and mission. The annual "Season of Peace" is held each September, culminating with the Peace & Global Witness Offering collected on World Communion Sunday, October 5. This offering provides resources for nurturing reconciliation locally and globally. To participate, look for a specially-marked offering envelope on World Communion Sunday, or submit a "Peacemaking Offering" to the church office.

Yarn Needed

Friends: I have a friend who knits cat mats for various animal rescue programs here in the valley. When adopted, the cat can take it's mat to the new home and have something familiar. My friend is desperately in need of yarn. If you or anyone you know can donate please bring to me at church or let me know and we can make arrangements to get it. This is an ongoing project. We so appreciate your help.

Thanks in advance, Carolyn Warner.

Adult Ed Fall Schedule

Sept 14-21 – Singing our Faith 2.0

Sept 28 – Sing 4 Joy

Oct 5-Nov23 – Micah 6:8 What Does the Lord Require?

Participants will delve into the context of the verse, its implication for daily life, and how it connects to broader biblical themes. Participants can expect time for group discussion and brainstorming of practical applications, as well as time to reflect on how we each can live out God's directive of joining Him in loving deeply and ensuring justice in our world.

Pastor TJ Travel Schedule

- Sept 16-20 - TJ will be in Roanoke, VA with his seminary classmates for study and renewal.
- Sept 25-29 - TJ will be in Indianapolis, IN for the Covenant Network of Presbyterians board meeting and a regional conference.

Notes From PWS

I hope everyone has been enjoying this fabulous summer! Now the kids are back in school and it's time to begin planning our PWS year.

We're beginning by organizing our fall Fundraiser. It will be called Hopefully Yours Flea. It will be a flea market in the parking lot of the church. We are also tentatively planning a mini bazaar/bakery sale along with a soup and sandwich lunch down in the Cana room. It is scheduled for September 20 and we hope you all will come out and join us. We may need additional volunteers to help us put this event together. More on that as our plans progress. It should be fun!

Our PWS Gatherings will begin again on September 3rd and our first program will be with TJ as he introduces us to this year's bible study, which is: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ. We are looking forward to it and are hoping many will join us to start out our new year

Mary Poston Moderator PWS

HOPEFULLY YOURS
FLEA MARKET

September 20, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Proceeds support Mission Projects

A New Chapter: Snake River Presbytery Approved

History was made on August 23 as the Boise and Kendall Presbyteries gathered in Twin Falls for a joint meeting to consider a proposed Plan of Merger. We are thrilled to share that the motion passed unanimously in both presbyteries—officially setting us on the path to becoming the new “Snake River Presbytery.” This request now goes to the Synod of the Pacific, and then to the PC(USA) General Assembly, for official approval.

The formation of Snake River Presbytery is more than a change in name. It represents a renewed vision for ministry together—combining resources, deepening connections, and strengthening our witness as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) across this region. There will be many details to work out in the months ahead, but for now we celebrate this important step and give thanks for the Spirit’s leading. Please continue to keep our presbytery leaders in prayer as we move into this exciting new season of shared ministry.



joint Presbytery meeting in Twin Falls

About Those White Trash Receptacles

You have probably noticed the white trash receptacles around the church. There are six of them in various gathering places. They really ARE NOT for trash, but for recycling items marked in a triangle 4, 5, 6, and 7 on the bottom. Then there are the blue bins for items marked in a triangle 1, 2, and 5. Of course last of all are waste baskets as in the olden days for all the other stuff that will go to the landfill.

Please try to be a responsible steward of our earth and area of it by checking the underside of plastic to put it in the proper bin. The bins should be clearly marked. All you have to do is pay attention.

Other items for the white bin with an orange bag (more orange bags are above the sink in the narthex): Clean and dry plastics labeled 4, 5, 6, and 7 on the bottom, plastic bags, wraps and films, Styrofoam, plastic cutlery and plastic straws.

Other items for the blue bins: Plastic bottles, jugs and jars marked 1 and 2. Plastic food tubs labeled 5. Office paper, magazines, envelopes, junk mail, newspapers and phone books. Clean cardboard without grease stains and metal cans.

What about number 3? Trash it! Items such as children’s toys, PVC pipe and shower curtains = trash. Clamshell containers and boxes made to go in fridge or freezer = trash.

We are so fortunate to have a lovely environment in which to live. We need to be responsible for keeping it.

Participating in Worship this month

September 6 – Sabbath

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Ann Dearson
Ushers: Andy and Helen Winkle
Betty Grisso, Juno Van Ocker
Nursery: Ann Agnew

September 14

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Priscilla Oja
Ushers: Noreen Pusey, Carol Town,
Sara Nevill, Judy Varvel
Nursery: Julie Anderson

September 21

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Carol Town
Ushers: Bruce Mohr, Carla Middleton
Sue Olszewski, Juno Van Ocker
Nursery: Rae Buse

September 28

Preaching: Randy Marshall
Liturgist: Deanna Watson
Ushers: Judy Varvel, Juno Van Ocker,
Noreen Pusey
Nursery: Genny Crume

September Birthdays

Bonnie Bond	2
Ashley Morgan	4
Paul Whitted	4
Shana Woodbury	4
Cody Vaquera	6
Cheryle Andrews	9
Emily Sutherland	9
Arvin Spofford	10
Jordan Vaquera	12
Rebekah Harvey	15
Carolyn Florence	20
Cheryl Marshall	22
Claire Green	25
Margaret Ritchie	25

If we missed your birthday,
please let the office know

Ministry Appreciation:

All Church Retreat

What a *great* weekend! Many thanks to all who came together to make this a fun and nurturing experience—especially to Kiran Spees, discussion leader and guitarist; Drew Harenberg, child care leader with Alix Paul and Cheryl Marshall helpers; and Pastor TJ, Sunday Service leader; plus Susan Pohl and Randy Marshall, providers of funny songs!

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	2 7:00 Deacons	3 11:00 PW Gathering 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	4 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 7:00 Book Club on Zoom	5 7:30 AA	6 10:00 Women's NA 10:00 NOW 5:00 SABBATH Boise Pride
7 NO WORSHIP Boise Pride	8 11:30 Grief Support 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA 7:00 Connections	9 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Casa Mexico 5:30 Building & Grounds 7:00 Spiritual Formation	10 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	11 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes	12 7:30 AA	13 10:00 Women's NA
14 9:30 Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00am Adult Ed. 5:00 Just One Thing	15 8:00 Merry Martha Circle 11:30 Grief Support 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	16	17 9:30 Ruth Circle 10:00 Naomi Circle 1:00 Rachel Circle 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	18 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes	19 7:30 AA	20 9:00 Hopefully Yours Flea Market 10:00 Women's NA
21 9:30 Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00am Adult Ed.	22 11:30 Grief Support 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	23 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Life's Kitchen 7:00 Session	24 10:00 PW CT 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	25 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes	26 7:30 AA	27 10:00 Women's NA
28 9:30 Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00am Adult Ed. 6:00 Brewed for Thought	29 11:30 Grief Support 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	30 7:00 God, Gospel, & Gender Book Study (at Red Rock)				



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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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