



The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian * October 2025

Belonging and Becoming

A Message from the Session on Stewardship 2026

As we step into this season of stewardship, we do so with deep gratitude for all that we have received, and for all that we are still becoming.

Our theme this year is **“Belonging and Becoming.”** It is both a statement of who we are and an invitation to grow into who God is calling us to be. As a church community, we belong to one another, to the wider body of Christ, and to the mission of love and justice that God is unfolding in the world. *But belonging is not the end of the story. It’s the beginning of a lifelong journey of becoming.* Becoming more faithful. More generous. More grounded in grace. More open to where the Spirit leads.

In 2026, we will celebrate **70 years as a congregation.** Seventy years of worship and witness, prayer and presence, joy and justice. We are here because of the faith and generosity of those who came before us. And now, it is our turn. It is our time to shape what Southminster becomes in the next season of its life.

Faithful stewardship is one of the ways we live out this calling. When we give, we are not simply keeping the lights on or maintaining a building—we are making ministry possible. We are nurturing children in faith, comforting the grieving, standing in solidarity with the marginalized, creating beautiful worship, deepening discipleship, and proclaiming that every person is a beloved child of God.

Your pledge makes a real difference. It helps

us plan responsibly, grow wisely, and dream boldly. It is a tangible expression of your gratitude to God and your investment in a community that is trying to live the gospel with integrity and love.

This October, as you reflect on your financial commitment to Southminster, we invite you to consider what belonging means to you—and what you are becoming because of this place. How has this church shaped your life, your faith, your hope? How might your generosity help someone else experience that same sense of welcome, purpose, and transformation?

Pledge and commitment cards can be placed in the **stewardship box in the narthex** at any time during October. You can also submit your pledge online at link.spcboise.org/stewardship.

We know that everyone’s circumstances are different, and every gift matters. What we ask is simply this: that you pray, listen, and respond with faith.

Together, we are Belonging and Becoming.
With gratitude,

The Session of Southminster Presbyterian Church



**BELONGING
AND BECOMING**

Announcement Board

2026 Stewardship Commitment Cards

Throughout the month, commitment cards (pledge cards) for our 2026 budget will be available at the church and online. As your Session plans for the ministries God is calling us to do together in the next twelve months, it is important to have a good estimate of income.

Save the Date:

Holy Hoedown - Nov 9

Join us on Saturday November 9 for Sabbath Worship at 5:00 PM, then stick around for a down-home dinner and dancing! All ages welcome. Casual attire—boots and flannel encouraged. Y'all come!

World Communion Sunday - Oct 5.

On Sunday October 5, we will join congregations around the world celebrating World Communion Sunday, a nearly century-old tradition with a goal of global peace and unity. We will also receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, one of the 4 special offerings of the PC(USA).

Ecumenical Book Study: God, Gospel, and Gender

Gathering weekly on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30pm at Red Rock Christian Church now through November 18, five Boise Bench congregations are studying Margie Baker's book *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. A copy of the book may be helpful, but not required.

Adult Study: What Does the Lord Require?

The Adult Education study for October and November is "What Does the Lord Require?" led by Shana Woodbury, our Commissioned Ruling Elder. This study based on Micah 6:8 will explore the meaning of acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. 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. Adult Ed. meets on Sundays following worship at 11:00am.

Oct 5 - Intro to Micah

Oct 19 - Justice is A Way of Life

Oct 26 - Love Deeply

Nov 2 - Walk Humbly

Nov 16 - Jesus Calls Us to Bring Justice

Nov 23 - Group Wrap-up

SAGES Lunch & Learn - Oct 16

All are invited to the SAGES Lunch & Learn gathering on Thursday October 16. 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)

Sabbath Worship - October 11

Join us for Sabbath Worship on Saturday, October 11 at 5:00pm. Don't get too comfortable in your seat—we may be heading on a little "field trip" around the church as we give thanks for the story God has written (and is still writing) here at Southminster. The service will be livestreamed as usual.

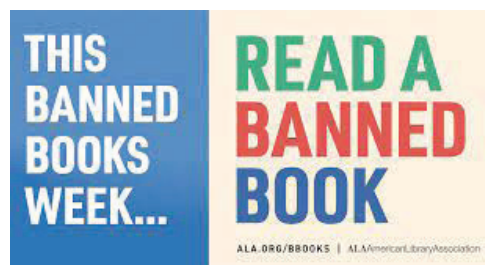
Trunk-or-Treat is Coming!

Get ready for some spooktacular fun! Join us for our annual Trunk-or-Treat on October 25th from 6-8 PM in the church parking lot. It's going to be a night full of creative trunks, candy galore, and lots of laughter!

Want to join the fun by decorating your trunk? Sign-ups are available in the Narthex, or you can email the church office to get on the list. Not feeling trunk-y but still want to contribute? Candy donations are NEEDED and WELCOME—whether you're decorating a trunk or just want to help fill the candy bowls! Let's make this a sweet night for everyone! We can't wait to see you there—costumes encouraged, fun guaranteed!

Youth Sunday School Begins Oct 5

A new Sunday School class for Grades 7-12 will launch Sunday October 5 at 10:30am in Classroom #5. Participants will dive into the Bible and discover how its stories and lessons connect with everyday life. Thanks to Julie Anderson and Bruce Walters for their leadership in this new gathering.



Banned Books Week 2025 is scheduled for October 5-11, 2025, with the theme “**Censorship Is So 1984. Read for Your Rights.**”

This annual event, organized by the American Library Association and the Banned Books Week Coalition, aims to raise awareness about book censorship and defend the freedom to read. Events are hosted by libraries, bookstores, and

schools. There will be displays for you to choose a banned book to read. Or google “banned books” These titles are newly banned in 2025:

- Orlando, a Biography
- Never Let Me Go. Ishiguro
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
- The Underground Railroad, a Novel
- Animal Farm
- 1984
- A Clockwork Orange
- Women, Race & Class
- The Picture of Dorian Gray

Sometimes books are banned because of the words, the idea, or the author. In the case of “blowing up Russia: The Secret Plot to Bring Back KGB Terror” by Yuri Felshtinsky and Alexander Litvinenko, it's all 3, as Ali Velshi said when he featured that title on his weekend Banned Book Club segment.

Books are still being banned in the U.S. in droves. However, it's much worse in Russia, where publishing something the government doesn't like can get you killed. That has not stopped Russian American historian and author Yuri Felshtinsky. The co-author of his book “Blowing Up Russia: The Secret Plot to Bring Back KGB Terror,” Alexander Litvinenko paid the ultimate price for speaking out against Mother Russia: death by radiation poison. He spoke with Ali Velshi about what he believes is now “a fascist state” akin to 1939 Germany and why “people are so afraid.”

There may be some banned books in our Little Free Libraries (LFL) on the Hummel Drive side of the Grove. Donate some or take some to read. That's the purpose.

Speaking of purpose: We need some children's books in the LFLs. If you happen to be downsizing and you would like to give away some children's books, we will take them, thank you very much.

Ministry Appreciation - Boise Pride

Southminster showed up with compassion, love, joy, and pride for Boise Pride 2025! For the 2nd year, we entered a float for the parade featuring our puppet team. A HUGE thank you to Rebekah Harvey for bringing her float design to fruition and driving it. Thanks to the following people who helped to build and/or ride the float: Ann Dearson, Dena Duke, Drew Harenberg, Heide Harm, Mike Humbert, Layton Remaley, Megan Remaley, TJ Remaley, Sue Sermon, Rylee Harvey Sermon, Mike Severtson, River Tooman, Xan Tooman, and Abby Wolford. Thanks, also to everyone who marched alongside the float, and all who volunteered in our booth at the festival.



Participating in Worship this month

October 5

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Jill Gertje
Ushers: Carla Middleton, Betty Grisso,
Juno Van Ocker, Sara Nevill
Nursery: Helen Winkle

October 11 – Sabbath

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Michelle Green
Ushers: Judy Varvel, Noreen Pusey,
Andy and Helen Winkle
Nursery: Sue Olszewski

October 19

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Lisa Baker
Ushers: Priscilla Oja, Bruce Mohr,
Betty Grisso, Juno Van Ocker
Nursery: Katie Fuze

October 26

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Genny Crume
Ushers: Andy and Helen Winkle,
Carla Middleton, Judy Varvel
Nursery: Sue Olszewski

October Birthdays

Evan Lauer	1
Kiran Spees	1
Marilyn Tate	4
Susan Buffington	5
Darleen Brown	6
Peter Fridel	6
Julie Anderson	9
Katie Fuze	10
Nancy Thomas	10
Richard Anderson	10
Pamela Smith	13
Theresa Fuze	13
Jim Inlow	17
Deanna Watson	21
Genny Crume	22
Jayne Black	25
El Smith	26
Darleen Gilbert	27
Jim Ritchie	27

If we missed your birthday,
please let the office know



October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:00 PW Gathering 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	2 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 TVCA 7:00 Book Club on Zoom	3 7:30 AA	4 10:00 Women's NA 10:00 NOW
5 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Youth and Adult Ed. 5:00 Just One Thing	6 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA 7:00 Connections	7 7:00 Deacons 7:00 <i>God, Gospel, & Gender</i> Book Study (at Red Rock)	8 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	9 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 TVCA	10 7:30 AA	11 10:00 Women's NA 5:00 Sabbath
12 no worship	13 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	14 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Casa Mexico 5:30 Building & Grounds 7:00 <i>God, Gospel, & Gender</i> Book Study (at Red Rock)	15 9:30 Ruth Circle 10:00 Naomi Circle 1:00 Rachel Circle 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	16 11:30 SAGES 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 TVCA	17 7:30 AA	18 10:00 Women's NA
19 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Youth and Adult Ed.	20 8:00 Merry Martha Circle 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	21 7:00 Session 7:00 <i>God, Gospel, & Gender</i> Book Study (at Red Rock)	22 10:00 PW CT 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	23 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 TVCA	24 7:30 AA	25 10:00 Women's NA 6:00 Trunk or Treat
26 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Youth and Adult Ed. 6:00 Brewed for Thought	27 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	28 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Life's Kitchen 7:00 <i>God, Gospel, & Gender</i> Book Study (at Red Rock)	29 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	30 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 TVCA	31 7:30 AA	



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