



The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian * November 2025

Scrappy, Faithful, and Thriving

A few weeks ago during our Sabbath worship “pilgrimage” from room to room, our charter member of nearly 70 years, Harvey Pitman, shared a beautiful story from our humble beginnings.

Back in the early days, when the congregation was still growing into the vision God had set before it, children gathered for Sunday School in the janitor’s closet. Literally. There weren’t enough chairs, so Harvey—our first Sunday School teacher—scrounged up seats from around the building and made it work in a space that now holds a water heater. It wasn’t fancy. It probably wasn’t OSHA-approved. But it was church.

That image has stayed with me: a handful of believers wedged into tight spaces, gathering whatever chairs they could find, because they believed God was doing something worth showing up for.

Last month’s “pilgrimage” reminded us that Southminster has always been a little scrappy—not in a “barely hanging on” kind of way, but in a “*we will do what it takes to follow God’s call*” kind of way. When there wasn’t enough, we figured it out. When the space was too small, we rearranged it. When the way forward wasn’t obvious, we prayed, talked, debated, and stepped out in faith.

We have never been the biggest church in town. We don’t have a sprawling budget, a staff of thirty, or a sanctuary made of imported marble. But, we do have something just as important: a holy stubbornness rooted in hope. A belief that

even a small group of committed people—with folding chairs, broom closets, and hearts full of love—can create community, and make a difference.

As we prepare to celebrate 70 years as a congregation, we look toward the future with excitement, not because we have all the answers, but because we are determined to remain faithful to the call of being Christ’s hands and feet in the world. We have always been a church that finds a way.

And we have countless gifts to share! We have each other. We have a calling. We have a Savior who knows how to do miraculous things with ordinary offerings. And apparently, we have a long history of making big things happen in small spaces.

Here’s to the next season of creativity, faithfulness, and a little holy scrappiness.

God’s Peace

TJ 

(he/him)

PS – if you weren’t with us for the Pilgrimage worship service on October 11, I encourage you to find the archived video. Our tech team figured out how to livestream (for free!) without access to our usual equipment... yet another example of Southminster scrappiness in action!

Announcement Board

Supporting Grace Jordan in a Time of Need

As you know, Southminster partners with Grace Jordan Elementary to stock their school pantry, providing essential food and hygiene items for students and families in need. With SNAP (food assistance) benefits expected to be frozen during a prolonged federal government shutdown, we're preparing for a higher-than-usual demand.

Although SNAP only covers food, we're still collecting basic hygiene items to help families stretch their limited resources further. When we supply shampoo, deodorant, or hand soap, it can free up a family's budget for fresh produce, dairy, and other perishable items that the Grace Jordan pantry isn't able to store.

We're aiming to stock the shelves more fully than ever in the coming weeks. The school social worker and counselor have identified "high need items" for the coming weeks. If you're able, please consider donating from the list below. Items can be dropped off in the Narthex/Lobby during regular hours or on worship days.

High-Need Items:

Spaghetti • Mac & Cheese • Cereal (Honey Nut Cheerios are especially popular) • Rice • Mashed Potatoes • Peanut Butter • Jelly • Cup of Noodles • Vegetable Oil • Vinegar • Flour • Sugar • Toilet Paper • Deodorant • Shampoo & Conditioner • Hand Soap

Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors with both compassion and abundance.

All Saints' Sunday - November 2

On November 2 during worship, we'll gather around the Communion Table in recognition of All Saints' Day (a holiday officially celebrated on November 1). As we pray during this service, we'll lift up the names of Southminster members who've entered the Church Triumphant in 2025, and will make space to name others in our lives whom we've loved and lost this year.

2026 Stewardship Commitment Cards

Southminster's annual budget is prayerfully shaped by our ministry needs, our vision for mission, and historical patterns of financial generosity. While submitting a traditional "pledge card" is not required, it greatly helps Session plan responsibly with a realistic estimate of expected giving. Unlike many nonprofit organizations, Southminster's ministries are 100% donor-funded; our worship, outreach, fellowship, and campus are sustained by God's grace and the shared gifts of this community. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex, as well as online at link.spcboise.org/stewardship. Thank you for your ongoing commitment, support, and prayers!

Holy Hoedown - Saturday November 8

Y'all come for our Holy Hoedown—Saturday, November 8! We'll gather for Sabbath Worship at 5:00pm (with music and liturgy appropriate for the celebration!), then head straight into a church-wide dinner, dancing, and games at 6:00pm. The meal will be provided, but folks are welcome to bring a dessert to share (signups are in the Narthex). God has brought us into a beloved community, and this hoedown is a fun way to celebrate that good and gracious gift. Want a ride to and from church that night? Contact Genny Crume or the church office. All ages welcome. Casual attire. Friends and neighbors encouraged!

Limited Office Hours - Nov 11-13

Alix will be out of the office the week of November 11-13. The office will be staffed by volunteers for limited hours that week, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from Noon to 3:00pm.

Challenging Christian Nationalism Event

Several local congregations are sponsoring a day-long event with Drew Strait, Ph.D., author of *Strange Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism*. The event will be held at Boise First United Church of Christ (2201 Woodlawn Ave) on Saturday November 8 from 10:00am-5:00pm. Attendance is free, but registration is required. A link will be shared in Southminster's "SPCBoise Connect" Facebook group.

Trans Day of Remembrance Vigil - November 20 at 7:00pm

On Thursday, November 20 at 7:00pm, Southminster will host a Trans Day of Remembrance Vigil in our Sanctuary, together with other Boise Bench congregations (All Saints Episcopal, and Whitney United Methodist). We will gather in prayer, reflection, and solidarity to remember the transgender and gender-diverse individuals who have lost their lives to violence this past year. All are welcome to join in this sacred space of lament, support, and hope as we lift our voices for dignity, safety, and love for all of God's children.

Snake River Presbytery - Church of the Month

By God's Grace, the Boise and Kendall Presbyteries will become the Snake River Presbytery in 2026. As we join together, there will be a "church of the month" to become better acquainted with one of the congregations who will be part of this new chapter alongside us. November's featured congregation is Covenant Presbyterian Church of Boise. Stop by the bulletin board display in the narthex to learn more about their ministry, their story, and the ways God is moving in their community... and be in prayer for ALL the congregations of our presbyteries as we grow into this shared future together.

Adult Study: What Does the Lord Require?

Our fall Adult Education series, "What Does the Lord Require?," continues through November led by our Commissioned Ruling Elder Shana Woodbury. Based on Micah 6:8, the study explores what it means to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God in daily life. Join the conversation in Classroom #3 at 11:00am on Sundays Nov 2, Nov 16, and Nov 23.

Looking for Community?

Southminster offers a variety of groups where you can connect with others, grow in faith, and share life together. Whether you're looking for deep conversation, casual fellowship, or a good book discussion, there's something for everyone:

- Just One Thing – Faith & Action conversation: 1st Sundays at 5:00pm
- Brewed for Thought – Theology over dinner & drinks: 4th Sundays at 6:00pm
- Book Club – Thoughtful reads & conversation: 1st Thursdays at 7:00pm (Sept–May)
- Mexican Train Dominoes – Fun & fellowship: Every Thursday at 1:00pm
- Women's Circles – Fellowship & study for women: Various days/times (Sept–May)
- Men's Lunch – Lunch & conversation: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 11:30am

Curious to learn more or ready to join in? Visit spcboise.org/groups for details. Come as you are—your presence matters!

Books for Interfaith Sanctuary

Interfaith Sanctuary has three new libraries that need books! All books for adults and kids accepted. Call Carolyn Warner for details.

Craft Day - Nov. 15 10am-Noon

Hearts & Hands is a creative, intergenerational gathering where kids and older adults play, craft, and connect—giving parents/guardians a chance for a quiet morning, a breakfast date, or a well-earned break. Join us! Saturday November 15 at 10:00am in Cana Room.

Be on the Lookout for Advent Devotionals!

The season of Advent begins November 30. Our Spiritual Formation Committee will again sponsor a daily devotional to assist you in preparing your hearts for Christmas, our Worship & CE Committee is again sponsoring an Advent Devotional. This year's booklet, Draw Near, will be sent via email with our worship bulletins, and available as printed booklets in the Narthex.

A Look Ahead at Advent & Christmas

Don't look now, but the holidays are fast approaching! If you like to plan ahead, please take note of these upcoming worship services:

- Sun Nov 30 at 9:30am: 1st Sunday of Advent
- Sun Dec 7 at 9:30am: 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Sat Dec 13 at 5:00pm: 3rd Weekend of Advent (Sabbath Worship)
- Sun Dec 14 at 2:00pm: Handbell Christmas Concert
- Sun Dec 21 at 9:30am: 4th Sunday of Advent (The Joy of Music)
- Sun Dec 21 at 7:00pm: Longest Night Ecumenical Service (More Details Coming Soon)
- Wed Dec 24 at 7:00pm: Christmas Eve Worship
- Sun Dec 28 at 9:30am: Worship (No Adult Ed)

Treasurer's Update

With the end of 2025 approaching, it's appropriate to provide an update on the finances of Southminster. Based on our 2024 financial results, our 2025 operating budget was set at \$278,500. The operating budget includes staff compensation, facility upkeep, mission giving, programs, etc.

As of the end of September 2025, our income is about \$9,000 less than a year ago at the same time, while expenses are about \$8,500 higher.

Please prayerfully evaluate your contributions to Southminster and its mission. We are a thriving community. Please help us collectively continue our ministry and mission.

Ministry Appreciation

Kudos to the Tech Team (Bret Gertje, Randy Marshall, Claeo McDermott, Jim Smithers, Paul Whitted) and our custodian (Mike Humbert) for the work they did to make October's "Traveling Service" this past Sabbath possible. The Tech Team's video and audio support made TJ's vision reality while allowing both those online and those unable to join the procession to be part of the service. Mike set up the Cana and Genesis rooms, providing a memory of the rooms as they were originally.



Participating in Worship this month

November 2

Preaching: TJ Remaley
 Liturgist: Kiran Spees
 Ushers: Noreen Pusey, Carol Town,
 Sara Nevill, Betty Grisso
 Nursery: Genny Crume

November 8 – Sabbath

Preaching: TJ Remaley
 Liturgist: Bruce Mohr
 Ushers: Bruce Mohr, Carla Middleton,
 Andy and Helen Winkle
 Nursery: Carol Town

November 16

Preaching: TJ Remaley
 Liturgist: Stacy Piontek
 Ushers: Judy Varvel, Juno Van Ocker,
 Noreen Pusey, Sara Nevill
 Nursery: Katie Fuze

November 23

Preaching: TJ Remaley
 Liturgist: Dena Duke
 Ushers: Priscilla Oja, Sue Olszewski,
 Juno Van Ocker
 Nursery: Julie Anderson

November 30

Preaching: TJ Remaley
 Liturgist: Janice Burkholder
 Ushers: Andy and Helen Winkle,
 Carla Middleton, Bruce Mohr
 Nursery: Rebekah Harvey

November Birthdays

Carolyn Warner	1
Barbara Cole	3
Joanne Pettridge	4
Marva Wertz	4
Dena Duke	6
Judy Varvel	7
Suzanne Sermon	11
Pam Ahrens	15
Larry Andrews	17
Barb Pickering	19
Heide Harm	19
Scott Blackhurst	19
Brenda Janzen	21
Stacy Piontek	22
Carol Town	23
Dave Smith	29

If we missed your birthday,
 please let the office know



Trunk or Treat was a blast!
 Thanks to everyone who provided candy and trunks!



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



Southminster Presbyterian Church
6500 W. Overland Road
Boise ID 83709-2099

Electronic Service Requested

An open and affirming community seeking a caring and just society

Issue 2025:11 The Messenger

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

Pastor Rev. TJ Remaley
Clerk of Session..... Jill Gertje
Office Manager Alix Paul
Commissioned Ruling Elder..... Shana Woodbury
Organist..... Susan Pohl
Choir Director..... Claudia Sutherland
Handbell Director..... Kiran Spees
Sabbath Musician Sean Rogers
A/V Coordinator Claeo McDermott
Custodian..... Mike Humbert

Southminster Presbyterian Church

6500 West Overland Road

Boise, Idaho 83709-2099

Phone: (208) 375-5330

E-mail Address: office@spcboise.org

Web: www.spcboise.org

Church Office Hours

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.