



The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian * December 2025

What Are You Waiting For?!?

Every December, I hear the same question. The post office. The grocery line. The parking lot to Costco. The baggage check at the airport. *What are you waiting for?!?*

Most of the time it's asked with impatience, a reminder that December seems built on delays. Lines move too slowly. Packages take their time. Children count down the days as if the calendar itself could be pushed along by sheer will.

It's a funny thing, though: even with all the hurry of this season, the church calendar invites us into a different kind of waiting. Advent waiting doesn't rush or demand. It doesn't pretend the world is tidier than it is. Advent waiting takes the world seriously—its beauty, its need, and its longing—and asks us to watch for how God is moving in the midst of it.

This kind of waiting is hopeful, but it's not passive. Think of Mary, whose waiting was marked by courage and trust, even as she named her fear. Think of the prophets, who waited by telling the truth about the world and insisting that God's promise was more reliable than the powers of their day. Think of John the baptizer preparing a people for what God was about to do next. None of them sat still. They waited, but with their sleeves rolled up.

I wonder what that looks like for us this December.

Some of us are waiting for clarity: a next step, a needed answer, a bit of peace we haven't

yet found. Some are waiting for healing or relief. Some, for a holiday season that doesn't carry so much grief. And some are waiting in joyful expectation: for family visits, new babies, winter traditions, or the simple delight of a candlelit sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

Wherever you find yourself, Advent reminds us that we don't wait alone. God meets us right where we are, even in the shadows. And this community—this particular gathering of people who try to follow Jesus with honesty and compassion—stands ready to wait alongside you.

This month, our worship invites us to lean into that kind of shared hope. Week by week, as we light each Advent candle, we're reminded that the light grows steadily, even if the world outside feels cold or anxious. Our ministries continue to embody that light, too: in the care we show our neighbors, in our generosity toward those in need, and in the small, faithful acts that make Southminster a place of welcome and love.

So let me ask you again: *What are you waiting for?* And how might God be preparing you to greet whatever comes with courage, kindness, and trust? May this season open our eyes to the quiet ways God draws near. And may Christmas find you surprised by hope.

God's Peace

TJ



(he/him)

Announcement Board

Play It Forward: A Holiday Piano Concert & Cozy Book Drive Friday December 12 at 7:00pm

Come one, come all—and invite your friends and neighbors! Our own Sean Rogers will share his abundant musical talents with us during a free holiday concert at Southminster. A free-will offering will be received to support the brand new Interfaith Sanctuary shelter. Financial gifts are welcome, or bring your favorite feel-good read for the Interfaith Sanctuary library, and leave a story of hope behind.

Christmas Handbell Concert Sunday December 14 at 2:00pm

A Southminster Christmas tradition: come hear your handbell choir perform a variety of solo, ensemble, and full choir songs to celebrate the Christmas season. If you've always wanted to ring a bell while singing some carols, this is also your chance! Please join us!

Longest Night Worship Service, An Ecumenical Service of Wholeness Saturday December 21 at 7:00pm at Whitney Methodist Church

For many of us, Christmas can be a bittersweet time of year, where joy and gratitude mixes with grief and loss. On this Winter Solstice—the night—the night of longest darkness in our hemisphere—we'll gather with some of our ecumenical friends on the Boise Bench for a quiet meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. This service will be at Whitney United Methodist Church (3315 W Overland Rd), with participation from All Saints Episcopal, Immanuel Lutheran, Redeemer Lutheran, Red Rock Christian Church, Whitney UMC, and Southminster.

Advent Devotionals

Our Spiritual Formation Committee is once again providing a daily Advent Devotional to assist you in preparing your hearts and minds for Christmas. This year's booklet is entitled "Draw Near" published by the Presbyterian Outlook. Devotions will be sent via email with our worship bulletins during Advent. Printed booklets will be available in the Narthex for those who prefer a hard copy, or contact the church office for Alix to send one by mail.

"And Mary Said..."

Adult Ed in Advent

In this advent season we turn to the first chapter of Luke's Gospel, to the proclamation Mary made about God's goodness, power, and glory; and to the masterful way Bach set this text to music, creating the most magnificent choral work of all time. Join us for adult education on November 30, December 7, and December 21 for a review of the Bach Magnificat, Luke's text, and how Bach brought that text to life.

Christmas Joy Offering – Dec 21

During worship on Sunday, December 21 we will collect the Christmas Joy Offering—one of the four special offerings of the PC(USA). This offering supports current and retired church workers in times of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

STAR Words

We will receive our Star Words in worship on Sunday January 4 at 9:30am, as we celebrate Epiphany.

Church Office Schedule & Pastoral Care — Dec 25-Jan 1

The church office will be closed from Christmas through New Year's Day. For emergency pastoral care during this time, call the church office number and press 3 for your call to be forwarded to Shana Woodbury, who will be offering emergency pastoral care that week.

Potential Snow Delays

When it snows in Boise, there's a chance the church office may have a delayed opening or remain closed to promote safety on our roads and our campus parking lot. As a friendly reminder: if it's snowing, call the office or check our church Facebook page first to make sure the office is open.

Spiritual Formation Schedule

There will be no Sunday School Classes (children or youth) on December 28; classes resume January 4. There will be no Adult Education Classes on December 28 or January 4; Adult Ed. resumes on January 18.



Hearts & Hands

December 6th at 10:00

All are welcome to this multigenerational event of crafting, game playing and singing. Parents are welcome to leave their children with our volunteer care providers as well.

When: Saturday, December 6th, 10 am to noon.

Where: Southminster Narthex.

Contact: Genny Crume.

2026 Giving Envelopes

Monthly Giving Envelopes are available in the church narthex/lobby for anyone who needs them. Software upgrades mean we no longer need to assign envelopes by number, and we can start purchasing envelopes in bulk. In other words: all envelopes are the same!

Donating to the SAINT Fund

The SAINT Fund has been put to good and frequent use this year—quietly meeting needs and easing burdens for members and friends of Southminster. As 2025 comes to a close, you're invited to consider a special gift to ensure we can keep responding with compassion in the year ahead. Every contribution, large or small, strengthens our ability to make a real difference in moments that matter. Thank you for your generosity and care for our congregation.

Ministry Appreciation:

Fall Clean-up

Many thanks to the Building & Grounds Committee and ALL VOLUNTEERS for the fall clean up of the grounds—from sweeping leaves out of the basement doorway to weeding garden beds and pulling lost balls out of the bushes—you keep our church looking great!

2026 Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who has already returned a pledge card for the 2026 Belonging & Becoming Campaign. As of this week, we have received 71% of our typical number of pledges, and the early signs are encouraging. Fourteen households (38%) have maintained their level of giving for the coming year, and twenty households (54%) have increased their financial commitment. We also celebrate two first-time pledgers, a sign of growing connection and shared purpose within our congregation. Thank you!

As economic circumstances continue to shift and costs rise, having an accurate sense of anticipated giving is especially important. We remain hopeful, trusting both our historical patterns of generosity and the Spirit's ongoing work among us. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, we encourage you to do so soon. Your commitment—of any size—helps us plan faithfully and supports the ministry we carry out together.

As you review your year-end giving and look ahead to 2026, please keep Southminster in your prayers. Join us in praying for the mission of our church, the resources needed to fulfill that mission, and for wisdom and discernment as you consider your own financial commitment to Southminster. Thank you for your faithfulness and your partnership in ministry.

Notes from PWS

Welcome to Advent season. I hope you all enjoy the excitement of this season.

Our Hopefully Yours flea was a semi success. We made about \$1,372.15 after all receipts were collected. Not quite enough to cover our backpack/missions programs for next year. Our budget committee met on October 20 to discuss paring down a bit. Fortunately, we received a generous donation and by using the interest from this year's money market account, it looks like we will be able to fill our backpack quota. We are very excited and relieved about that, but we can always use some extra help. As we all know prices are higher this year with the tariffs, and who knows what the prices will be like next year.

PWS is back in full swing. Our first gathering was September 3rd with TJ introducing this year's Bible Study. Oct 1st we had Zach Springer from Hallmark Homecare come and speak to us about remaining in our homes as we get older. He had a different outlook on hiring home health care. It was an interesting and informative program. There are pamphlets from Hallmark Homecare in the Narthex for anyone who might be interested in home health care. Our next gathering was on November 5th. Harvey Pitman came and told us all about his history at Southminster and living in Boise. It was a lot of fun and very interesting. I want to be Harvey Pitman when I grow up. Our next gathering will be Dec 3rd and we will be plating cookies to be distributed to the Grace Jordan staff and our own Southminster staff. In addition we will be signing Christmas cards to be sent to shut in members of our congregation. Evelyn Cates will be playing Christmas tunes on the piano while we work. Come join us for lunch and some great holiday spirit.

Mary Poston-Moderator PWS

Participating in Worship this month

December 7

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Cheryl Marshall
Ushers: Noreen Pusey, Betty Grisso,
Carol Town, Sara Nevill
Nursery: Kristy Wymond

December 13 – Sabbath

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Deanna Watson
Ushers: Carla Middleton, Sue Olszewski,
Priscilla Oja
Nursery: Cheryl Marshall

December 21

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Ann Dearson
Ushers: Judy Varvel, Juno Van Ocker,
Noreen Pusey,
Nursery: Rae Buse

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Peter Fridel
Ushers: Priscilla Oja
Nursery: Carol Town

December 28

Preaching: Shana Woodbury
Liturgist: Carol Town
Ushers: Priscilla Oja, Sue Olszewski,
Bruce Mohr, Betty Grisso
Nursery: Helen Winkle

November Birthdays

Billie Farley	3
Ruth Goldthwaite	5
Rae Buse	7
River Tooman	10
Robert Hamilton	14
Nina Chambers	16
Noreen Pusey	17
Steve Ahrens	18
Dana Kelly	19
Adam Savage	20
Carol Garrison	21
Matthew Kelly	22

If we missed your birthday,
please let the office know



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00 Choristers 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 Hearts and Hands craft time 10:00 Women's NA 10:00 NOW
7 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Adult Ed. 5:00 Just One Thing	8 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 3:00 Administrative Committee 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	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 7:00 Play it Forward Concert	13 10:00 Women's NA 5:00 Sabbath
14 no worship 2:00 Handbell Christmas Concert	15 8:00 Merry Martha Circle 12:00 Choristers 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 10:00 Women's NA
21 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Adult Ed.	22 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	23 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Life's Kitchen	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Worship	25 12:00 Al-Anon Christmas - office closed	26 7:30 AA	27 10:00 Women's NA
28 9:30 Worship 6:00 Brewed for Thought	29	30 office closed	31 office closed			



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