



# The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian \* January 2026

## Southminster Turns 70

This year, Southminster turns seventy.

That sentence alone is worth lingering over. Seventy years of prayers spoken. Seventy years of hymns sung in joy and through tears. Seventy years of children baptized, youth confirmed, couples married, saints commended to God's eternal care. Since 1956, this congregation has been shaped—sometimes gently, sometimes painfully—by God's persistent faithfulness.

Anniversaries are not simply about marking time. In scripture, milestones are moments to remember and to listen. "*Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you,*" Moses tells the people, not so they can live in the past with unbridled nostalgia, but so they can step into the future with courage and trust. Remembering is a spiritual practice. It steadies us. It reminds us who we are.

As we celebrate seventy years of Southminster, we'll spend this year telling stories about how God has worked in and through this community. We will give thanks for those who dreamed boldly, who built and rebuilt, who stayed when it would have been easier to leave, who took risks for the sake of love and justice. None of us stands alone; we inherit a faith shaped by many faithful hands.

But this year is not only about looking back. It's also about looking ahead!

A rallying cry for Presbyterians everywhere is *Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda*

*Secundum Verbi Dei* – "The church reformed and always being reformed according to the word of God." We are called, then, to discern what faithfulness looks like in this time, in this place. The question is less "how do we preserve what once was?" but "what is God inviting us to next?" Who are we being called to serve? What gifts has God placed among us for the sake of the world? What does hope look like in the next chapter of our life together?

Over the coming months, you'll see opportunities to celebrate, to reflect, to imagine, and to participate. My prayer is that this anniversary year will be less about nostalgia and more about renewal, less about survival and more about vocation. That we will root ourselves deeply in gratitude while opening ourselves boldly to God's future.

Seventy years in, and this much is certain: God is not finished with Southminster. The Spirit who stirred this congregation into being in 1956 is still moving, still calling, still shaping us for lives of love, welcome, courage, and justice.

Thanks be to God for what has been. And thanks be to God for what is still unfolding.

God's Peace

TJ



(he/him)

# Announcement Board

## Epiphany and Star Words

Our celebration of the Christmas season concludes with Epiphany, which will guide our worship together on Sunday, January 4. The word "epiphany" means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God, and the word has its roots in the word for dawning light. We rejoice that the Light of God's love found in Jesus the Christ is for all people! To set our intentions for our life of faith in the coming year, we will select Star Words at the end of the worship service.

## Remembering Our Baptisms

We will celebrate Baptism of Our Lord day during our Sabbath worship service on Saturday, January 10. In addition to gathering around the Lord's Table for Communion, we will also gather at the baptismal waters to remember our baptisms.

## Thanks for Bringing Joy!

A big thank you to all who provided music and worship assistance during the Advent and Christmas seasons -- soloists, accompanists, the Chancel Choir, the Handbell Choir, P4 Puppet Team, sanctuary decorators, Sean Rogers, the Tech Team, Advent candlelighters, and more! Thank you for helping us to celebrate Christ's birth, and for making the joy of our worship more complete.

## Tree City Chamber Players - Jan 11 at 3:00pm

You are invited to "Winter Serenades," the winter program of the Tree City Chamber Players, -- Sunday, January 11 at 3:00pm in the Southminster sanctuary. This quartet, comprised of flute, oboe, violin, and piano, will play a variety of classical and modern pieces. Donations will be received for Idaho Concerts in Care. For more information, visit [www.treecitychamberplayers.com](http://www.treecitychamberplayers.com).

## SAGES - Promise and Perils of AI

You're invited to the next SAGES Lunch & Learn gathering on Thursday January 15, 2026. Lunch begins at 11:30am, with a program to follow. Pastor TJ will be sharing a high-level overview of the promise and perils of Artificial Intelligence (AI), blending ethical conversation, practical tips, and a few live demonstrations. To ensure there's enough food for lunch (suggest donation of \$10 each), please RSVP to Roger and Darleen Brown, Kathryn Nicholas, Rex Reagan, or the church office.

## Worship with CABI (Jan 16)

Our neighbors at Congregation Ahaveth Beth Israel have invited several Christian leaders, including Pastor TJ, to participate in a Jewish service honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Friday January 16. Members of the Southminster congregation are invited to attend this worship service at CABI. For more information (including exact times) please contact Pastor TJ.

## Snake River Presbytery

The many (many!) steps of merging presbyteries are now complete. Southminster is officially a member congregation of the new Snake River Presbytery (formerly the Boise and Kendall presbyteries). Our new Presbytery includes the entire geography of Southern Idaho, plus Malheur County, Oregon. Please be in prayer for all the ministries to which God is calling faithful Presbyterians in this region as we begin this new life together.

## 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!

## **Annual Congregational Meeting - February 1**

Session has called our Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday February 1, 2026 following worship. This meeting is for the purpose of (1) receiving the 2025 financial report and 2026 operating budget; (2) acting upon a report from the congregational nominating committee; (3) receiving staff, committee, and ministry reports; (4) hearing progress updates of the work of our Long Range Planning Team; and (5) approving our pastor's terms of call.

## **"Belonging & Becoming" Stewardship 2026**

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted a pledge for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. If you have not submitted a pledge yet, there's still time! Please place them in the box located in the narthex/lobby, or turn them into the church office at your earliest convenience.

## **Per Capita Apportionment**

In a connectional church like the Presbyterian Church (USA), all members share in the mission and ministry of our denomination for our presbytery, synod, national church, and international mission. The "per capita" donation is a responsible and representative way of sharing costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian community at large.

For 2026, the per capita rate is \$38 per church member. If every member contributes their share to the per capita fund, Southminster can offset its operating budget by over \$5500, allowing more of our budgeted funds to do God's work in our local setting. Your donation helps keep us connected for the good of the whole body, here and around the world!

## **Year-End Giving Statements**

Year-end giving statements will be mailed and emailed later in January. If you have questions or need corrections, please contact Larry Andrews, our treasurer, or the church office.

## **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.



**Hearts & Hands**

## **January 17<sup>th</sup> 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, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to noon.

Where: Downstairs, Cana Room.

Contact: Genny Crume.

## **Church Women United**

Tuesday January 13 starting at 6:30pm, in the north wing Channing room of Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BUUF) you can be part of a remarkable and illuminating experience. Former Federal Judge and current advisor to many of our indigenous communities, Steve Aycok, will lead us through the challenges faced by those who have experienced violence or abusive relationships. Step into one of the many roles and face your choices, one night only. Sponsored by BUUF Humanists and Church Women United. The BUUF address: 6200 north Garrett street, Garden City.

For more information, contact: Jeanette Ross  
[jjross@fortboise.org](mailto:jjross@fortboise.org)

## Southminster Prayer Team

Did you know that the prayers requested on Sunday mornings or at Sabbath Church are directed to this group of 60 dedicated people who pray for the needs requested? That is an impressive team of people to have on your side whether you need prayers for yourself or others!

Studies have been done to determine what value prayer is for sick people and in each study, it was found that ill people who had people praying for them were better off than those who had no one praying for them. Even if the person did not realize people were praying for them, they still benefited from the prayers in their healing, whatever form that took. PRAYER WORKS AND IS A VALUABLE ASSET WHEN WE ARE IN NEED!

What if you need prayers for yourself or someone else between church services? You can call or email me, Phyllis Sanderson (contact info in the church directory). If I am unable to answer the phone, please leave a message with the need and I will e-mail it to the prayer team. You can also call or e-mail your request to Southminster's office or to Rev. T.J. and they will either put the request in an e-mail to the prayer team or refer it to me for referral. If you know someone who is on the prayer team, you may contact them and they will get the request to me or to the prayer team for immediate action. And if you would like to join the prayer team, please let me know also.

Sometimes when we are very ill, it is hard to pray for ourselves, so let us intercede for you while you rest and recover. Thank you for allowing us to help you pray for yourself, family, friends or acquaintances!

Blessings, Phyllis

## Adult Ed: "For Such a Time as This" by Hanna Reichel

Devotional discussion based on what Mordecai said to Queen Esther:

Jan 18: Prepare Yourself

Jan 25: Hear the Word

Feb 1: Become What You Have Received

Feb 8: Go Into the World

## "Borders & Belonging" - Ecumenical Book Study

This winter, Southminster is joining with our ecumenical friends in Boise for a shared book study on *Borders & Belonging: The Book of Ruth—A Story for Our Times* by Pádraig Ó Tuama and Glenn Jordan. Together, we'll explore the ancient story of Ruth as a lens for reflection on forced migration, faithfulness, and what it means to belong in a world shaped by borders.

The group will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00–8:30pm from January 13 - February 17 at Redeemer Lutheran Church (2920 W. Cassia Street, Boise). The clergy of the sponsoring congregations will take turns facilitating discussion. Books are encouraged, and all are welcome—whether you come with deep familiarity with Scripture or simply a desire for thoughtful conversation across traditions.

## Southminster Book Club

Jan (Winter break)

Feb 5 *Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd

Mar 5 *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah



## **Participating in Worship this month**

### **January 4**

Preaching: TJ Remaley  
Liturgist: Michelle Green  
Ushers: Andy and Heien Winkle,  
Carla Middleton, Juno Van Ocker  
Nursery: Betty Grisso

### **January 10 – Sabbath**

Preaching: TJ Remaley  
Liturgist: Priscilla Oja  
Ushers: Noreen Pusey, Carol Town,  
Sara Nevill, Bruce Mohr  
Nursery: Sue Olszewski

### **January 18**

Preaching: TJ Remaley  
Liturgist: Lisa Baker  
Ushers: Betty Grisso, Carla Middleton,  
Sue Olszewski, Juno Van Ocker  
Nursery: Roxann Hansen

### **January 25**

Preaching: TJ Remaley  
Liturgist: Jill Gertje  
Ushers: Judy Varvel, Noreen Pusey,  
Andy and Helen Winkle  
Nursery: Rae Buse

## **January Birthdays**

Gloria Levis	4
Rylee Harvey-Sermon	9
Rita Wood	12
Kristan Wymond	14
Stephen March	14
Greg Pitman	15
Harlene Blair	15
Murray Anderson	15
Helen Winkle	16
Jacky Wood	16
Kem Clark-Tanner	16
Rebecca Braverman	17
Ron Baker	18
Mary Poston	21
Megan Remaley	22
Joseph Estrera	25
Barb Zeller	28
Steven Sanderson	28
Steph Leftwich	30
Ruth Ann Alm	31

If we missed your birthday,  
please let the office know

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>office closed</b> 12:00 Al-Anon 6:00 PSL meeting	2 7:30 AA	3 10:00 Women's NA 10:00 NOW 11:00 Sharon Bancroft memorial
4 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets  5:00 Just One Thing	5 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	6 7:00 Deacons	7 11:00 PW Gathering  6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	8 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	9 7:30 AA	10 10:00 Women's NA  5:00 Sabbath
11 no worship  3:00 Tree City Chamber Players concert	12 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 3:00 Administrative Committee 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	13 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Casa Mexico  5:30 Building & Grounds 7:00 Session 7:00 Book Study at Redeemer Lutheran	14 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	15 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	16 7:30 AA	17 10:00 Hearts and Hands craft time  10:00 Women's NA
18 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Adult Ed.	19 8:00 Merry Martha Circle  12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	20 7:00 "Borders and Belonging" Ecumenical Book Study at Redeemer Lutheran	21 9:30 Ruth Circle 10:00 Naomi Circle 1:00 Rachel Circle  6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	22 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	23 7:30 AA	24 10:00 Women's NA
25 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Adult Ed.  6:00 Brewed for Thought	26 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	27 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Life's Kitchen  7:00 Book Study at Redeemer Lutheran	28 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	29 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	30 7:30 AA	



Southminster Presbyterian Church  
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**An open and affirming community seeking a caring and just society**

## Issue 2026:1 The Messenger

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

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### **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](mailto:office@spcboise.org) or 208-375-5330.