



The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian * February 2026

Practicing Love in Public

February gives us Valentine's cards, candy hearts, and an entire industry devoted to love. There's nothing wrong with that—love is worth celebrating. But the Christian tradition has always insisted that love is more than a feeling we cultivate in private. Love is an action. Love shows up.

We are now nearly a month into Idaho's annual legislative session. For thirteen years now, people of faith (including Southminsterians) have gathered weekly on the Capitol steps for silent prayer vigils, standing in stillness to bear witness to love. It is a simple act, and a demanding one. It requires time and patience, not to mention a willingness to brave the cold wintry winds. The practice has endured because it is rooted in love—for our neighbors, the common good, and the dignity of every person.

This year marks a new chapter in that work. The Interfaith Equality Coalition (IEC) has merged with the Interfaith Alliance of Idaho to become Interfaith Justice Idaho (IJI). Just as we were with IEC, we will be a congregational member of the newly formed organization, and we give thanks for this strengthened witness. Interfaith Justice Idaho will continue to organize, educate, and advocate for justice and equality across our state—bringing together people of many faiths who share a commitment to human dignity.

Alongside that work, there are also groups of clergy and faith leaders organizing regular direct actions during the legislative session,

speaking clearly *against* the heresy of Christian Nationalism and speaking *for* a vision of faith grounded in love of neighbor. This, too, is love in public. It's love not as a saccharine sentimentality, but love as courage. Love that refuses to stay silent when faith is distorted into a tool of exclusion or harm.

Public love does not require everyone to do the same thing. Some show up at vigils; others attend committee hearings. Some call or write letters to their local, state, and national legislators. Some stay informed and help others understand what is at stake; others offer compassionate care to those on the margins. Some set an intention to truly know their neighbors. All of these are concrete ways of loving those with whom we share life's journey.

Valentine's Day reminds us that love involves choosing someone again and again. Faith invites us to widen that circle. To choose our neighbors. To choose justice. To choose hope. Love, after all, is not only something we feel, but something we practice. And sometimes practicing love means stepping out of the private spaces of our lives and letting it be seen—quietly, faithfully, persistently—in the public square.

See you out there.

God's Peace

TJ 
(he/him)

Announcement Board

Congregational Meeting: Feb 1

Reminder! Southminster's Annual Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, February 1st following worship.

Weekly Prayer Vigils

Every week that the Idaho Legislature is in session, we join our partners from Interfaith Justice Idaho (formerly Interfaith Equality Coalition) for silent prayer on the steps of the State Capitol. This group works to bring equality, justice, and dignity to all people in Idaho, particularly LGBTQIA+ people. Join us in strengthening our silent witness as we remind beloved friends and neighbors they don't stand alone. Wednesdays from 12:00 to 12:30pm. Questions? See Pastor TJ.

Ash Wednesday Worship

The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to the promise of resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. Join us for worship (in-person and online) on Wednesday February 18 at 7:00pm as we gather to worship and to receive the imposition of ashes.

Important Update about the PC(USA) Special Offerings

This year, the PC(USA) has moved to three churchwide special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing; World Communion (formerly Peacemaking); and Christmas Joy. The Pentecost Offering has been discontinued, though the ministries it had supported will now be supported by the remaining three offerings. Southminster will continue to be an eager participant in all three PC(USA) Special Offerings.

Sabbath Worship - February 14!

Heads up! In February, the 2nd Saturday falls late on the calendar. Sabbath Worship will be February 14. (Sunday services are the 1st, 8th and 22nd).

Sabbath Worship: Transfiguration (And Blacklights!)

We celebrate the Transfiguration during our Sabbath Worship on Saturday February 14, with the story of Jesus' radiant glory being proclaimed in a new and vivid way. During the sermon, our Puppet Team will proclaim the word through a blacklight presentation—revealing light, color, and meaning that aren't always visible at first glance. It will be creative, unexpected, and deeply rooted in the mystery of God's transforming presence among us. Come ready to see and hear the gospel in a new light!

Lenten Devotionals

Our Spiritual Formation Committee is again sponsoring a devotional to assist you in your Lenten spiritual disciplines. This year's booklet is entitled "Discipleship in a Divided Age: A Lenten Journey through Matthew's Gospel." The devotions will be sent via email with our worship bulletins during the season of Lent. Printed booklets will be available in the Narthex for those who prefer a hard-copy. Contact the church office for Alix to send one by mail. (Our Adult Ed study during the Lenten season will also be using these devotions on Sunday mornings.)

Yes, Funerals are Livestreamed!

We make every effort to livestream funerals and memorial services at Southminster so members who are unable to attend in person can still participate as we gather for worship. Please note that, for privacy reasons, the process differs slightly from our regular worship services:

- Funerals/Memorials are only available live (in real time) and not archived for later viewing.
- The livestream is shared only on our church website and Youtube channel, not on Facebook.

With Gratitude to Sadie

We give thanks for Sadie Saunders, who has served faithfully as our Childcare Attendant for nearly three years, helping to nurture and care for the youngest among us. Through her patience, attentiveness, and quiet faithfulness, Sadie has been a steady and trusted presence for our families. We are deeply grateful for the love and care she has shared, and we wish her every blessing in the days ahead as she steps away from her ministry among us.

NOW HIRING: Childcare Attendant

We are seeking to hire a new Childcare Attendant for approximately two hours per weekend, starting at \$17 per hour. Applicants must be at least 15 years old, certified in CPR and First Aid, and have childcare experience. Please contact Pastor TJ for more information, and help spread the word to those who may be interested.

Save the Date: A Bunny Hop!

Join us "At the Hop" for a dinner and sock-hop style dance on Saturday April 11 after Sabbath worship. More details coming soon.

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.

Digital Friendship Pad

Are you attending worship online? If the answer is yes please consider signing our digital friendship pad! Links to this friendship pad can be found on the Worship Online page of our website, and on each week's Youtube stream.

Hearts and Hands/Parents Day Out

February 28th from 10 am to noon, all are welcome to join the fun, and parents are welcome to drop their children at the church to have a snack, craft time, game time and music time with our volunteers guidance and care providers. Contact Genny Crume

Dinners for 8 Group Meals

Hosts are still welcome to sign up & guests can sign up to get together for a meal. Hosts can choose the date, time, location and whether they'd like folks to bring food or not. See sign up table in the Narthex or contact Genny Crume.

Participating in Worship this month

February 1

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Genny Crume
Ushers: Priscilla Oja, Sue Olszewski,
Bruce Mohr, Betty Grisso

February 8

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Kiran Spees
Ushers: Betty Grisso, Juno Van Ocker,
Carol Town, Sara Nevill

February 14 - Sabbath

Preaching: Puppets
Liturgist: Bruce Mohr
Ushers: Andy and Helen Winkle,
Carol Town, Judy Varvel

February 22

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Shana Woodbury
Ushers: Bruce Mohr, Carla Middleton,
Sue Olszewski, Juno Van Ocker

February Birthdays

Luke Savage	3
Larry Hansen	7
Leila Inlow	7
Samuel Sutherland	8
Sue Olszewski	11
Rex Reagan	13
Barbara Flinn	15
Bill Brunlinger	15
Patsy Chase	15
Janice Burkholder	19
Eli Baker	25
LeAnn Mohr	25
Loleeta Gwin	26
Janet Cameron	27

If we missed your birthday,
please let the office know

Ministry Appreciation

What amazing Deacons we have! They had not one but TWO funerals to plan and serve—and both within one week! Extra tables had to be found and set up, extra chairs lugged up into the narthex, extra dishes had to be washed. We are thankful also to all the people who brought desserts and the volunteers who helped out; you made these funerals very special for the grieving family and friends!



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



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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.