



Puppets are a Microcosm of Church

There are moments in congregational life when something small reveals something much bigger.

During our Sabbath worship service a few weeks ago, the sanctuary went completely dark. Windows covered. Lights off. A holy hush. And then, under blacklight, the gospel began to glow.

What most of us saw was beauty and creativity. What many of us *didn't* see were the hours (LOTS of hours!) spent beforehand: taping, draping, adjusting, re-taping, lighting, and rehearsing. The kind of quiet labor that makes it all possible.

It occurs to me that the Puppet Proclamation that night is a parable of what it is to be church together.

Our puppet team ranges in age from 8 to 82, and everything in between. People who are new to the artistry and people who've been doing it for years. People who don't mind the spotlight and people who prefer the shadows. They show up together. They laugh together. They encourage one another. They eat pizza together. They proclaim the good news of the gospel together.

It's a living picture of what God calls the church to be.

The puppets don't come to life on their own (even though in the darkness that night, it almost seemed like it!). Someone is underneath them, making them move. Someone adjusts lights. Someone watches for cues. Someone helps with props. Proclamation becomes a shared act. The good news shines because many hands are involved.

In a culture that likes to divide us by age or ability, that kind of togetherness almost feels radical. An

8 year old learning confidence from an 82 year old. An elder delighting in the creativity of a young adult. Generations leaning toward one another instead of drifting apart.

The church, at its best, is intergenerational. It's playful. It works hard. It appreciates beauty. It takes the gospel seriously without taking itself too seriously. It understands that fellowship over pizza can be just as formative as an hour spent in a committee meeting or in the Sunday School classroom, because belonging is formed in ordinary moments.

Watching our Puppet Team that weekend, I was reminded that what we're building at Southminster is not simply programming. We're building trust. Shared memory. Courage. Joy. A community where different ages and experiences are not obstacles, but gifts.

In the season of Lent, we speak of transformation. Sometimes that transformation glows brighter than we expect. Sometimes it looks like fluorescent fabric in a darkened sanctuary. Sometimes it sounds like laughter during rehearsal. Sometimes it looks like climbing tall ladders to hang black plastic in just the right places.

However it appears, the light breaks through when we offer our gifts together.

And it is so incredibly beautiful to behold.

God's Peace

TJ

(he/him)

Announcement Board

Sabbath Worship – March 14!

Heads up! In March, the 2nd Saturday falls late on the calendar. Sabbath Worship will be March 14. (Sunday services are the 1st, 8th, 22nd, and 29th).

Discover Southminster – March 12

Pastor TJ will be hosting a "Discover Southminster" gathering on Thursday March 12 at 7:00pm in the narthex. Those who have been visiting Southminster or who are thinking about joining our membership will find this to be a great opportunity to explore our questions and callings together. To attend, please RSVP to Pastor TJ, or contact the church office.

Lenten Devotions & Adult Education

The Spiritual Formation Committee is once again providing a Lenten Devotional to the congregation, with this year's booklet entitled "Discipleship in a Divided Age." The devotions are being sent via email with our worship bulletins during the season of Lent, and a limited number of printed booklets are available in the Narthex. (Our Adult Ed study during Lent will also use these devotions on Sunday mornings.)

See You...At the Hop!

Plan to join us for a dinner and dance after our Sabbath service on April 11th in the Cana Room! Diner-style staples of meatloaf, chicken tenders, mashed potatoes and gravy will be provided with potluck sides and desserts. RSVP that you'll come, help and if you'd like to bring a dish starting March 8th by the coffee set-up in the Narthex. Now, where is my poodle skirt?

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

On Easter Sunday (April 5), we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, one of the three special mission offerings of the PC(USA). Joining with Presbyterians from all over the nation, OGHS supports hunger, disaster relief, and economic redevelopment efforts around the world. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

(Reminder: beginning this year, there are only three denominational Special Offerings. While the Pentecost offering has been discontinued, we will continue to eagerly support the remaining three: OGHS, World Communion, and Christmas Joy.)

SAGES: Artificial Intelligence, Part 2!

You're invited to the next SAGES Lunch & Learn gathering on Thursday March 26, 2026. Lunch begins at 11:30am, with a program to follow. By popular request, Pastor TJ will lead a follow-up conversation from the last SAGES gathering, on the promise and perils of Artificial Intelligence (AI). To ensure there's enough food for lunch (suggested donation of \$10 each), please RSVP to Roger and Darleen Brown, Kathryn Nicholas, Rex Reagan, or the church office.

Easter Egg Hunt – April 4 at 11:00am

Save the Date! Southminster Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4th in the Grove at 11:00. Bring your kids, grandkids, or the neighbors' kids! Donations of filled eggs or small, individually wrapped candy are needed! We can also always use volunteers to help hide the eggs starting at 10:00AM on the 4th.

Hearts & Hands/Parents Morning Out

On March 21, 2026, from 10 am to noon we'll have our monthly crafting event. Adults are welcome and there are devoted adults to be with children for a time-out for parents. We'll have a snack, craft, play games and have music time. Y'all come!

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.

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.

Narthex Doors During Worship

As a friendly reminder, the main Narthex/Lobby doors are typically locked 5-10 minutes into each of our worship services. An usher will be in the Narthex to assist latecomers in entering. Thank you for your flexibility (and for arriving to worship on time!)

Spring Book Club Picks

March 5: "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah

April 9: "This Time Together: Laughter and Reflection" by Carol Burnett

May 7: "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans

A Look Ahead at Holy Week Worship

- Sun. 3/29 at 9:30am - **Palm Sunday** Worship
- Thu. 4/2 at 7:00pm - **Maundy Thursday** Worship (at First Presbyterian)
- Fri. 4/3 at 7:00pm - **Good Friday** Worship (at Southminster)
- Sat. 4/4 at 7:00pm - **Ecumenical Easter Vigil** (at All Saints Episcopal)
- Sun. 4/5 at 9:30am - **Easter Sunday** Worship

Greetings from PWS

Believe it or not, we are already planning our holiday bazaar! It will be in October (dates and times to be announced in a later messenger). This year's bazaar will also include outside vendors. There's lots to do to prepare for this annual event so we decided to get a head start. We are inviting the entire congregation to help us out. We need volunteers, (sign-up sheet will go up soon), baker's, crafters and artists to help us fill our tables. Look for further information in future messengers. If you would like to be a vendor contact anyone in PWS and they will direct you to the right person to sign you up. We're working on a registration form.

We are also planning our Women's Sunday on June 7. Shana Woodbury will be leading us in worship as well as Deanna Watson sharing the message. We hope to see you all there!

Our next gathering will be March 6 instead of the March 4. We will be carpooling over to Saint Mark's Catholic Church to follow the stations of the Cross. Lunch will be included for a small free will offering. If you're interested call Jackie Benjamin for more information.

Mary Poston - Moderator PWS

Participating in Worship this month

March 1

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Stacy Piontek
Ushers: Carla Middleton, Betty Grisso,
Sara Nevill
Nursery: Rae Buse, Alix Paul

March 8

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Dena Duke
Ushers: Judy Varvel, Noreen Pusey,
Andy and Helen Winkle
Nursery: Roxann Hansen, Rae Buse

March 14 – Sabbath

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Peter Fridel
Ushers: Priscilla Oja, Bruce Mohr,
Sue Olszewski, Judy Varvel
Nursery: Cheryl Marshall, Sue Olszewski

March 22

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

March 29

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Kiran Spees
Ushers: Noreen Pusey, Carol Town,
Sara Nevill, Betty Grisso
Nursery: Sue Olszewski, Alix Paul

March Birthdays

Alix Paul	2
Jim Smithers	5
Sydney Middleton	10
Lisa Baker	13
Carl Tate	17
Carolyn Blackhurst	19
Steve Smith	22
Bruce Mohr	26
Delores March	26
Juno Van Ocker	27
Alan Cameron	30

If we missed your birthday,
please let the office know

Ministry Appreciation

A huge shout out to Drew Harenberg for putting together the amazing Blacklight Puppet Show for our February Sabbath worship service. Thank you also to the puppeteers: Dena Duke, Layton Remaley, Megan Remaley, Randy Marshall, Rita Wood, Heide Harm, and Abby Wolford. Thank you to our blacklight painter, Carolyn Blackhurst. Thank you to the stage manager, Sue Olszewski. And thank you to Cheryl Marshall for helping cover and then uncover the windows and prepare the sanctuary for the evening. The evening was special and one we will remember!



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Adult Ed. 2:00 PSL meeting 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	4 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	5 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 TVCA 7:00 Book Club on Zoom	6 11:00 PW Gathering 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. 2:00 PSL meeting	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	11 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	12 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA 7:00 Discover Southminster	13 7:30 AA	14 10:00 Women's NA 5:00 Sabbath
15 no worship 2:00 PSL meeting	16 8:00 Merry Martha Circle 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	17 7:00 Session	18 9:30 Ruth Circle 10:00 Naomi Circle 1:00 Rachel Circle 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	19 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	20 7:30 AA	21 10:00 Hearts and Hands craft time 10:00 Women's NA
22 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Adult Ed. 2:00 PSL meeting 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 10:00 PC(USA) Advocacy Hour on Zoom 1:00 PW CT Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	26 11:30 SAGES 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	27 7:30 AA	28 10:00 Women's NA
29 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Adult Ed. 2:00 PSL meeting	30 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	31				



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An open and affirming community seeking a caring and just society

Issue 2026:3 The Messenger

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

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