

The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian * May 2026



Wednesday morning, April 1st, in the very middle of Holy Week, we prepared, one last time this season, to ask for justice and compassion from our legislature and governor. We were Christians and Jews, Humanists and Buddhists and Atheists, trans and cis, LGBTQ+ and allies. Dozens of us who had been testifying and singing and praying and standing in silence for months.

On each floor of the state house we walked the halls, singing or reciting prayers of hope, love, resistance. We ended outside Governor Little's office, massed against the far wall while Rev Sara LaWall offered a prayer for our mission. Then we went inside.

Would the governor see us? we asked. We wanted to talk about one last bill he still had the opportunity to veto, a bill that would harm transgender children and communities that want to support them. We were told the governor was not in and we could not make an appointment.

That's okay; we'll wait.

So we did: standing near the secretary's desk while she mostly carried on her daily work; sitting on the couches, on the floor; singing songs and reading poetry in the hallway to say We are here. We are not going away.

5:00 was closing time. As a pizza delivery arrived for our persistent petitioners, the state police told us that anyone still in the office after closing would be arrested for trespassing.

Nine people stayed. Nine people were led away in handcuffs. ▶



Carolyn B was one of those nine who were taken to Ada County jail and quickly released on bail. I asked her if she had anything to share about her involvement and, true to form, she highlighted other people.

It was an honor to share space with the 8 other brave people who were arrested during our peaceful sit-in protest. We could hear the beautiful prayers, poems and songs from the protesters in the hallway and some of us joined them in singing. I felt loved, supported and held; I was nourished as well by the snack bag Kiran thoughtfully and lovingly prepared for each of us.

Aww, thank you Carolyn.

I've been reflecting on my own experience of the legislative season, which lined up almost perfectly with lent this year. Our weekly actions inside the State House reading scripture, holding signs, singing, and praying, and our persistent testifying at committee hearings, speaking against bills to cut public services and healthcare, take away local legislative control, and criminalize the queer community, all had a depressing lack of tangible results. But, honestly, we knew that would be the case when we started.

My favorite song I learned in this time goes like this:

*There is more Love somewhere
There is more Love somewhere
I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it
There is more Love somewhere*

Despite our legislators being so unconcerned by our protests that they didn't even bother to tell us to be quiet or go away, confident they could ignore us without consequence, **We kept on. And we found that more Love in each other.**

More importantly, we gave that Love, and the Hope and Joy and Peace that comes in later verses, to others. We showed up to tell the outcast You are loved. You are seen. You are not alone. We came to speak when the marginalized could not safely speak for themselves. Multiple trans comrades who joined the sit-in told me they are not religious but were amazed and encouraged to have "old church ladies" standing beside them.

We all found real community together in that space. Community that gives abundant life. In other words: the Kingdom of God. May we continue the Work.

—Kiran Spees



Announcement Board

How Is Religion Being Shaped by AI?

May 3 from 11:00am-12:15pm

Artificial intelligence is no longer a distant technological curiosity — it's reshaping how we work, communicate, learn, and make decisions. The church is not exempt from that reshaping. On Sunday May 3 (11am-12:15pm), we'll welcome Rev. Dr. Andy Morgan as our guest presenter for a special Adult Education session entitled "How Religion Is Being Shaped by Artificial Intelligence." Andy has an M.Div. and M.A. of Christian Education from Union Presbyterian Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He is the Director of Family Faith Formation at First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, TN, serves as a spirituality consultant for an AI startup, and has become one of the PC(USA)'s leading voices on the ethical use of AI in ministry and congregational life.

Boise Music Week Worship

Boise Music Week has been a beloved annual tradition since 1919. Pastor TJ has been invited to preach at this year's Community Worship Service, an ecumenical celebration celebrating the gift of sacred music. The service will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Boise on Sunday May 3 at 7:00pm. All are welcome.

Ushers Needed

Ushering is one of the most tangible ways to practice hospitality at Southminster, as ushers are often some of the first faces someone sees when they walk through the door. We could use a few more folks to join the rotation of ushers. No experience needed. Just a willingness to show up and welcome people in. Interested? Contact Juno Van O or the church office.

Grace Jordan Spring Concert

May 14 at 12:30pm

For our next SAGES Lunch & Learn, the Grace Jordan Elementary School choirs will once again offer a concert at Southminster, on Thursday May 14, 2026 at 12:30pm. In addition to the congregation, parents/guardians of students will also attend the concert. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this free concert, to offer support and enjoy some great music.

Want to enjoy a lunch beforehand? Join SAGES for lunch in the Cana Room for a recommended donation of \$10/each. To attend the lunch, please RSVP to Darleen or Roger B or contact the church office.

Adult Ed. - May 17 & 24

Vote Forward & Bread for the World

Our Adult Education season will conclude with two weeks of letter-writing campaigns. On May 17, we'll write letters in support of Vote Forward, encouraging US citizens to participate in the civic process of elections. On May 24, we'll write letters to Idaho's congressional delegation in support of Bread for the World, asking for strong support of national and international nutrition programs. Last year "Bread" was able to claw back an increase in the Child Tax Credit and to persuade Congress to fully fund WIC at \$7.6 billion for 2025!!!

Congrats to Alix Paul!

Southminster's beloved Office Manager Alix Paul has been named the Administrative Assistant for the new Snake River Presbytery (formed after the former Boise and Kendall presbyteries merged). Don't worry – she's not leaving Southminster; this new position will be in addition to her work here. To accommodate this new work, Southminster will soon host a new presbytery office space for Alix to work in that new role.

Camp Sawtooth Work Weekend

Camp Sawtooth will be officially opening over the long Memorial Day Weekend. Work will begin on Thursday May 21st at 7:00pm and continue through lunch on Sunday, May 24th. (The new Snake River Presbytery will hold its first in-person meeting at Camp Sawtooth May 24-25). There are lots of projects to prepare the camp for the summer; ALL ages and skills are needed, and participants are welcome to come for the entire time or just the time they have available. All tools and instructions will be provided. Register via email to Kevin Dutcher, the camp director.

Southminster Book Club

SPC Book Club will meet for its final book of the spring on May 7 at 7:00pm via Zoom, reflecting upon “The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans. After this, the club will take a summer break until the first Thursday of September. Curious about the book club? This is a great time to check it out!

Scholarship Applications

Scholarships are available for students who attend Southminster and who are planning on attending post-secondary school. Applicants must be planning to enroll full-time for the 2026 fall semester. Applications are in the narthex, or email the church office for a copy. They are due by July 10th.

Easter Vigil Support of Interfaith Sanctuary

At the Ecumenical Easter Vigil Service on Saturday, April 4, a total of \$763 was received as an offering in support of the new Interfaith Sanctuary shelter home here in Boise. Thanks be to God for the generosity of our collective faith community!

Thanks to Our Musicians

The month of May marks the end of the season for our Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir. Many thanks to all who give so freely of their time for rehearsals and for enriching our worship with God's great gift of music.

Bread for the World

Advocacy Summit

June 9-10

You're invited to join Southminster's own Randy M in Washington, D.C., June 9–10 for the Bread for the World 2026 Advocacy Summit. The summit brings together advocates from across the country for training, panel discussions, and face-to-face meetings with congressional offices, including Idaho's delegation, which holds real influence over domestic and international hunger policy. If you've ever wanted to connect your faith in a God who feeds the hungry with direct policy advocacy, this is a concrete way to do it. Hotel discount rates end May 8 — visit bread.org to register or learn more.

Hearts & Hands/ Parents Morning Out.

All are welcome on Saturday, May 16, 2026 from 10am to 12noon for crafting, games and music. Parents are welcome to bring their children to participate and have a couple of hours of free time. Our summer plans include another event on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 10 am to 12noon with a summer break in July and August. See you there!

Ministry Appreciation

A HUGE “Thank You!” to all the volunteers who repainted the Jean Moore Lounge! With the brighter lighting and new furniture, this room is now a wonderful place for meetings and even Tai Chi classes!

Privacy in the Newsletter

Starting with this issue, the newsletter will no longer include last names for congregation members (staff will still be listed by full name). If you're ever unsure who someone is, the church directory is your best resource — or feel free to reach out to the office.

Presbyterian Women

Moderator Musings

HELP! PWS needs you artists, photographers, quilters and other talented folks to be thinking about what you might be able to donate to our wonderful Holiday Bazaar in October. The Bazaar will be Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24 from 9 to 2. Hope you'll plan to come and invite your neighbors and friends.

May 7 will be our next Gathering and our own Judy E will educate us on the use and prep of many common herbs. Meeting at 11, lunch at noon and program at about 12:30. Everyone is welcome!

See you at the Bazaar!

Mary P
Moderator PWS

PWS Holiday Bazaar

Presbyterian Women of Southminster are hosting the Holiday Bazaar again this year! It is only May, but the bazaar will be coming up soon!

Please mark your calendar for Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24. The bazaar will be open 9 - 2 each day. In addition to our own sales, there will be outside vendors in the Cana room and also upstairs in the Genesis room. Please consider what you can make and donate for the sale and if you can volunteer some time to help! We have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for donations, set-up help, pricing, sales volunteers, and a clean-up team!

Suggestions for items to make and donate:

- Baked Goods of any kind, gift containers with candy
- Home Sewn Items: table runners, placemats, potholders, aprons, pillows, tree skirts, baby blankets, bibs, Quilted items of any kind.
- Artwork: pottery, paintings. drawings, clay, macrame, painted rocks
- Potted plants, terrariums, fairy gardens
- Holiday: Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas decorations, Christmas trees, table decorations, wreaths, dishes, and kitchen items
- Woodworking: birdhouses, birdfeeders, planters, serving boards, signs
- Handmade Gifts: crochet, knitting, kid's toys, soap , sachets, cards picture frames, jewelry boxes
- Gift Baskets
- Costume Jewelry
- Antiques
- Collectables
- Artwork: pottery, paintings. drawings, clay, macrame, painted rocks

Our shoppers really like that we have a variety of things at our sale!

Set-up: We will start putting items on tables Wednesday and Thursday getting everything in place and ready to open Friday AM

Watch for future bazaar updates in upcoming issues of The Messenger.

Participating in Worship this month

May 3

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Priscilla O
Ushers: Noreen P, Betty G,
Carol T, Sara N

May 9 – Sabbath

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Lisa B
Ushers: Carla M, Sue O,
Priscilla O, Juno VanO

May 17

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Jill G
Ushers: Judy V, Noreen P,
Andy and Helen W

May 24

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Genny C
Ushers: Priscilla O, Sue O,
Bruce M, Betty G

May 31

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Kiran S
Ushers: Andy and Helen W, Carla M,
Juno VanO

May Birthdays

Judy E	3
Roger B	4
Phyllis S	6
Carol VanD	7
Sally T	11
Kay H	14
Barry R	16
Jason N	17
Kate S	20
Jim M	21
Jan E	24
Lee P	24

If we missed your birthday,
please let the office know



TJ and Robin on Easter morning



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 AA	2 10:00 Women's NA 10:00 NOW
3 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Adult Ed. 2:00 PSL meeting 5:00 Just One Thing	4 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	5 5:30 TVCA 7:00 Deacons	6 11:00 PW Gathering 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	7 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 7:00 Book Club on Zoom	8 7:30 AA	9 10:00 Women's NA 5:00 Sabbath
10 no worship 2:00 PSL meeting	11 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	12 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Casa Mexico 5:30 Building & Grounds	13 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	14 12:00 Al-Anon 11:30 SAGES 12:30 Grace Jordan concert 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	15 7:30 AA	16 10:00 Hearts and Hands craft time 10:00 Women's NA
17 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Adult Ed. 2:00 PSL meeting	18 8:00 Merry Martha Circle 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	19 7:00 Session	20 9:30 Ruth Circle 10:00 Naomi Circle 1:00 Rachel Circle 10:00 PC(USA) Advocacy Hour on Zoom 10:00 PW CT Meeting	21 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	22 7:30 AA	23 10:00 Women's NA
24 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Puppets 11:00 Adult Ed. 2:00 PSL meeting 6:00 Brewed for Thought	25 12:00 Choristers 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	26 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Life's Kitchen 7:00 Theatre and Theology	27	28 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	29	30 10:00 Women's NA
31 9:30 Worship 11:00 Puppets 2:00 PSL meeting						



Southminster Presbyterian Church
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Electronic Service Requested

An open and affirming community seeking a caring and just society

Issue 2026:5 The Messenger

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

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- 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 MusicianSean Rogers
- A/V CoordinatorClaeo McDermott
- Custodian. Mike Humbert

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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.