



The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian * July 2026

Santa Barbara Mission

A Retreat, a Vision, and a Church Worth Celebrating

Last month, your Session gathered for a half-day retreat. We took care of some necessary business, like hearing financial updates and welcoming newly-examined elders. But most of our day was reserved for something that doesn't always make it onto a church agenda: pausing to listen for the movement of the Spirit as we discerned an important question: "*where is God calling us next?*"

The answers were worth hearing. Of course, that's what happens when you put a group of faithful, thoughtful people in a room together and give them permission to dream!

Your elders came ready. Not just prepared in the logistical sense (though they were that too), but prepared with a genuine investment in this congregation, in this neighborhood, and in the particular work Southminster has been doing for decades and is still being called to do. As your pastor, I can't tell you how encouraging it is to watch your spiritual leaders engage a visioning process like this. These are people who love this church — *and it shows!*

What emerged from our time together wasn't a tidy strategic plan. That'd be impossible in just four hours' time. Instead, we left with an ever-deepening conviction that Southminster's mission isn't a relic of a more optimistic era but a living, breathing call: *to be an open and affirming congregation genuinely seeking a caring and just society*. Not as a tagline, but as a way of being in the world.

We are, after all, in our 70th year of ministry together. Think about that: 70 years of baptisms and funerals; 70 years of confirmation classes and difficult conversations; 70 years of showing up for Boise when Boise needed someone to show up; 70 years of people who decided that faith and justice belong together, even when — especially when — that wasn't the easy position to hold.

The retreat reminded me that we don't celebrate an anniversary by looking backward. We celebrate it by asking what the next chapter is supposed to be, and then having the courage to write it. That's exactly what your Session began doing in that room.

There is good work ahead. Faithful, meaningful, 'worth-getting-out-of-bed-for' work. The kind of work that only happens when a community decides together that it's worth doing.

I left that retreat grateful — for these elders, for this congregation, and for a God who isn't finished with Southminster Presbyterian Church yet. Stay tuned.

God's Peace

TJ



(he/him)

Announcement Board

America at 250 – July 5th Worship

The United States of America turns 250 years old this month, and that milestone deserves more than a birthday cake. On July 5, Pastor TJ will preach "For the Welfare of the City," a sermon drawn from the prophet Jeremiah's surprising call to God's people living in exile: seek the welfare of the city where you find yourselves. Pray for it. Work for it. Even and especially when it's complicated. It's a service for people who love this country enough to tell the truth about it: the experiment, the aspiration, the failures, and the ongoing, unfinished work of becoming what we've always claimed to be.

What Sunday School Didn't Teach Summer Sermon Series

You probably know the stories. You learned them with felt boards and flannel graphs and maybe a catchy song or two. But Sunday school had to leave some parts out! This summer in worship, we'll be going back for a closer look at the stranger details, the harder questions, and the endings that don't resolve the way we remembered. Join us as we take a look at what Sunday School didn't teach.

- July 11 - The Story of Creation (Genesis 1-3)
- July 19 - Noah (Genesis 6-7; 9)
- July 26 - David & Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
- August 2 - The Syrophenician Woman (Mark 7:24-30)
- August 8 - Jonah (Jonah 3:10-4:11)
- August 16 - The Laborers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)
- August 23 - Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
- August 30 - Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-3; John 20)

July Sabbath Get-together

Please join us in the Grove after the Saturday July 11 Sabbath Service for BBQ/ Pot Luck and Car Show. Pulled Pork Sandwiches and Potato Salad will be provided by the Men's Lunch Group. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share with your church family.

If you have a Classic Car and would like to share your special car with your church friends, please contact Greg or Steve C. that you're going to show your special car.

Cafe Justo Coffee

Southminster is now serving Café Justo (Just Coffee) for our weekly coffee fellowship! Café Justo is a grower-owned cooperative based in southern Chiapas, Mexico. A longtime PC(USA) mission partner, their coffee is organic, shade-grown, and delicious! Your purchases will help us go further! When you buy coffee for your home use, we can offset shipping costs for the congregation. See the flyer in the Narthex for more info.

All Church Retreat: August 7-9, 2026

Registration for our annual All Church Retreat begins this month. The low cost of \$30 per person (with a \$70 maximum per family) will cover five meals, plus two nights lodging at Camp Sawtooth. Scholarships are available if needed and can be confidentially requested by contacting Pastor TJ. To register, look for the forms in the Narthex/lobby or visit link.spcboise.org/sawtooth to sign up online. Make payment by a check made out to SPC with "All Church Retreat" in the memo line.

Save the Date:

Our 70th Celebration!

Please put Saturday October 3 on your calendars —the whole congregation will be invited to a big 70th anniversary party! More details coming soon.

Grace Jordan Pantry Reminders

With school out for the summer, we have taken a brief hiatus on our efforts for the Grace Jordan Food Pantry. In August, we will resume collecting food staples, toiletries, and cleaning supplies so the pantry can be fully stocked in preparation for the new school year. Until then, we will gladly accept financial contributions to help us get a jump start on the fall.

PC(USA) General Assembly

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is meeting June 22–July 2 in Milwaukee, with committee work giving way to plenary sessions that will conclude with the election of new Co-Moderators to lead the denomination for the next two years. Our own Shana Woodbury is serving as a Ruling Elder Commissioner representing Snake River Presbytery — we're proud of her witness on our behalf. Watch for a post-Assembly bulletin insert with more on the decisions made there.

Wanna Be?

Have you ever said to yourself as you were taking a bulletin for our church services: "I could do that." Well, here is your opportunity to share your smile. Look at it this way, you are at church anyway so there's not extra meeting involved. Your turn would come up once a month, maybe two. And the more volunteers we have the less often your turn would roll around.

Here's what's involved: Arrive 30 minutes prior to the service. Wear your name tag, greet people, offer bulletins, offer help to visitors such

as bathrooms and nursery locations, collect the offering, collect the attendance sheets from the black folders, and gather the communion cups after the service (including the choir loft). One usher will count the number of worshipers and record it on slip to put in office box. Easy Peasy as they say.

And, you're not locked in to your turn as it shows on the emailed-to-you-roster. If you have a conflict you just let the rest of us know and ask for someone else to trade with you or cover for you.

If this small service activity appeals to you, please contact Priscilla.

Holiday Bazaar

Presbyterian Women of Southminster are getting excited about our Holiday Bazaar! We know it is a Summer and early Fall away, but we wanted to ask a favor. Please consider what you could make for the sale! We can NOT have a successful fun sale without you and your talents! Many hands make light work for all!

Suggestions:

- Baked goods
- Gift containers with candy
- Sewing--Fall and Christmas table runners, aprons, potholders
- Woodworking--birdhouses, serving boards, signs
- Floral arrangements and holiday wreaths
- Handmade gifts--crochet, knitting, soap, kid's gifts, holiday kitchen items, guy stuff
- Small themed filled gift baskets, maybe even an office gift basket!
- Use your imagination!

We will have a jewelry table, so we will need boxes to display earrings and rings. And we accept any jewelry also. We would appreciate it if you could price any items prior to donation.

So, please mark your calendar for October 23-24. All of the money raised at this sale goes to support the mission projects of PWS.

Contacts for the bazaar are Mary P and Phyllis S.

Participating in Worship this month

July 5

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Shana W
Ushers: Betty G, Juno Van O,
Carol T, Sara N
Nursery: Cheryl M

July 11 – Sabbath

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Janice B
Ushers: Andy and Helen W,
Judy V, Sue O
Nursery: Cheryl M

July 19

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Cheryl M
Ushers: Carla M, Priscilla O,
Bruce M, Noreen P
Nursery: Cheryl M

July 26

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Bruce M
Ushers: Juno Van O, Carol T, Sara N
Nursery: Helen W

July Birthdays

Andy W	2
Sue W	2
Dawn P	2
Linda T	2
D'Artanyon V	3
Julie E	3
Betty G	7
Sara N	9
Roxann H	12
Christian M	20
Rita M	23
Harvey P	31
Larry C	31

If we missed your birthday,
please let the office know



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1	2 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	3 7:30 AA	4 10:00 Women's NA 10:00 NOW
5 9:30 Worship 11:00 Puppets 2:00 PSL meeting 5:00 Just One Thing	6 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	7 6:00 TVCA 7:00 Deacons	8	9 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	10 7:30 AA	11 10:00 Women's NA 5:00 Sabbath 6:00 BBQ Potluck
12 no worship 2:00 PSL meeting	13 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	14 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Casa Mexico 5:30 Building & Grounds 6:00 TVCA 7:00 Spiritual Formation	15	16 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	17 7:30 AA	18 10:00 Women's NA
19 9:30 Worship 11:00 Puppets 2:00 PSL meeting	20 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	21 6:00 TVCA 7:00 Session	22 10:00 PC(USA) Advocacy Hour on Zoom 10:00 PW Program Meeting	23 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	24 7:30 AA	25 10:00 Women's NA
26 9:30 Worship 11:00 Puppets 2:00 PSL meeting 6:00 Brewed for Thought	27 12:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Men's AA 7:00 OA	28 11:30 Men's Lunch @ Life's Kitchen 6:00 TVCA	29	30 12:00 Al-Anon 1:00 Dominoes 6:00 PSL meeting 6:00 TVCA	31 7:30 AA	



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6500 W. Overland Road
Boise ID 83709-2099

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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- Handbell Director..... Kiran Spees
- Sabbath MusicianSean Rogers
- A/V CoordinatorClaeo McDermott
- Custodian. Mike Humbert

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