



The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian * August 2026

What I Learned About Peace

Earlier this summer, I spent two weeks in Virginia as the keynoter/preacher for the nearly 600 middle school students who attended the Middle School Conferences at Massanetta Springs. If I'm honest, though, I actually didn't spend that much time with the middle schoolers themselves. I was the spiritual leader for a team of 22 incredible high schoolers, so that *they* could be the spiritual leaders for all the middle school attendees.

You read that correctly. The theology, the worship, the songs, the games, the whole spiritual center of gravity for the week – it all belongs to the high schoolers. My job was simply to make their work come to life through storytelling and preaching.

This year's theme revolved around peace. Not the greeting card kind of peace, but the wrestling kind... the peace that scripture promises and the world keeps failing to deliver. The high school leadership team didn't want to hand the middle schoolers a tidy answer. They wanted to dig into the mess of it: what peace costs, who gets to have it, why it's so hard to hold onto. So we dug.

One of the ways we dug was through a series of skits set in a community garden. One of the skits was built around Micah's vision of swords beaten into plowshares – a text that's easy to nod along to and much harder to believe. It wasn't until after the dress rehearsals for our skits that we learned the garden trowel we'd been using as a prop was literally made from a decommissioned

gun. Scripture came to life right before our eyes.

I wish I could tell you we planned that. We didn't. By God's grace, we just got lucky enough to be handed a metaphor made real, and I watched it land on the hearts and minds of 600 middle schoolers in a way no amount of careful sermon-writing could have manufactured.

I also had the privilege of presiding at the Communion Table that week alongside four of the high schoolers, as three of them were ordained as ruling elders and one as a deacon. Four teenagers, vested in the authority their congregations had already recognized in them, standing with me to break bread and pour the cup for a room full of middle schoolers who were watching what it looks like when young people are trusted with sacred things.

This was my first time at Massanetta, so I didn't know what to expect. In my view, it's a shining example of what church can (and should) look like. The church's future isn't a problem to be solved. It's already here, and it already knows how to preside at a table. My job — our job, as the adults in the room — isn't to hand the next generation a peace we've figured out. It's to get out of the way long enough for them to build it themselves. Gun-trowels and all.

God's Peace

TJ



(he/him)

Announcement Board

A New Date for Sabbath Weekend in September!

Mark your calendars now! For September only, our monthly Sabbath worship service will take place on the third Saturday of the month (September 19 at 5:00pm) to avoid conflicting with the Boise Pride Parade on Sunday morning. Here's the worship schedule for September:

- Sept 6 at 9:30am — Worship
- Sept 13 at 9:30am — Worship (not sabbath weekend)
- Sept 19 at 5:00pm — Sabbath Worship (instead of Sunday)
- Sept 27 at 9:30am — Worship

Thanks for helping us stay flexible and faithful, and for showing up with joy whenever we gather!

Grace Jordan Food Pantry Donations

Grace Jordan Elementary School will open for a new school year in mid-August and in preparation for this we are once again collecting food along with monetary donations! You're invited to grab one of the "greatest needs" shopping lists (located in the Narthex near the shopping cart) and pick up a few things for our neighbors during your next grocery shopping trip. As an added spiritual practice, consider saying a silent prayer of gratitude for the ready availability of items on the shelves, and for the families who will receive them. We thank everyone for their support last year and we hope to be able to be just as generous this school year!

Let's Party for our 70th Anniversary! Sat. October 3rd

Southminster family and friends are going to celebrate Southminster's 70th birthday in Hawaiian style on October 3, 2026 from 4pm until 9 pm at Kleiner Park. There will be catered food from Kanak Attack, Hawaiian decorations and photo opportunities, Southminster Presbyterian Church trivia contest, fun music with dancing and even a limbo game. More information is coming so save this date on your calendars so we can all celebrate this great community!

Last chance to Register for the All Church Retreat!

Time is running out to sign up for our annual All Church Retreat, happening the weekend of August 7-9 at Camp Sawtooth. For just \$30/person (\$70 maximum per family) you'll enjoy five meals, two nights of lodging, and plenty of meaningful connection with your church family. Registration closes August 2, so don't wait. Sign up using the paper form in the narthex, or by visiting link.spcboise.org/sawtooth. Checks can be submitted to the church office with "All Church Retreat" in the memo line.

Holiday Bazaar Planning Meeting

Plans are underway for the annual Holiday Bazaar sponsored by the Presbyterian Women of Southminster. Note that the next planning meeting is rescheduled to Wednesday August 19 at 10:00am.

Called to Serve on a Committee?

As Presbyterians, ministry comes to life through committee work. Want to get involved? There are opportunities to serve on several of our committees:

- Building & Grounds — helps care for our church property, manages facility needs, and oversees maintenance projects.
- Connections — plans fellowship events, supports coffee hour, and builds intergenerational relationships within the church.
- Peace, Justice, & Outreach — guides our ministry beyond the walls, supporting mission partners and advocating for justice.
- Personnel — supports staff well-being, coordinates evaluations, and ensures faithful employment practices.
- Spiritual Formation — provides for creative and faithful worship and education across the lifespan.
- Stewardship & Finance — oversees the church budget, supports generosity initiatives, and manages financial stewardship.

Your participation can breathe life into our congregation, and into your own faith journey. Want to learn more? Reach out to Pastor TJ.

Prayground and Grant Updates

Thanks to the "Wonder of Worship Extension Grant" we received from Columbia Theological Seminary and its support through the Lilly Endowment, our Prayground in the front of the sanctuary is getting some exciting upgrades! New child-friendly flooring has just been installed. New chairs, built-in shelving, and a custom-built children's podium are in process. The grant has also funded our new children's bibles, as well as children's handbells. Thanks be to God for all the hands that are bringing these projects to life.

Coming This Fall:

An Ecumenical Book Study on Christian Nationalism

Southminster will once again gather with our ecumenical friends on the Boise Bench for a shared book study, meeting Tuesday evenings, 7:00–8:30 p.m., from September 22 through October 20. This year's book is *Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism* by Beau T. Underwood and Brian Kaylor. Having a copy is encouraged but not required, and no RSVP is needed. Southminster will host. Questions? See Pastor TJ.

Holiday Bazaar is Coming!

We know it is Summer and Fall seems far away, but we wanted to let you know ASAP. Please consider what you could make and donate for the sale. While it's hot outside, you can stay cool inside and work on some Fall and Christmas bazaar items! If possible please price your items. This will help us tremendously at set-up..Thank you in advance!

Mark your calendar and plan to join us October 23 and 24. More details will be in the September and October newsletters. If you have questions, Mary and Phyllis are bazaar coordinators or ask anyone in PWS.

Worshipping God with Gladness

Do you enjoy joining your voice with a vocal choir? Have you wondered what it would be like to ring handbells? Does the thought of spreading joy with a puppet bring a smile to your face? New members are welcome to join the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, or Puppet Team at any time of the year, but there may be no better time than the start of a new program year!

Chancel Choir

- Provides worship leadership through choir anthems for Sunday worship services.
- Practices Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

(Contact Claudia Sutherland, Choir Director, for more info)

Handbell Choir

- Plays monthly in a Sunday worship service; typically the 3rd weekend of the month.
- Practices Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the Genesis Room.

(Contact Kiran Spees, Handbell Choir Director, for more info)

Puppet Team

- Provides a puppet proclamation about once per month.
- Practices Sundays at 11:00am in the Genesis Room

(Contact Drew Harenberg, Puppet Team Coordinator, for more info).

Are you an Instrumentalist? If you have experience playing a musical instrument and would like to share your gifts by accompanying the choir or playing a solo during worship, please contact Claudia Sutherland, Susan Pohl, or Pastor TJ for more information.

Ministry Appreciation

We would like to thank the members of the Men's Luncheon Group for providing the barbeque and car show after the Sabbath Service on 11 July. The food was great and filling; though it was a good idea to eat inside the air conditioned building. It was wonderful to see the old cars.

Alternative Options for Financial Giving

If you're hoping to wean yourself off of writing paper checks, there are several other options for making financial contributions to Southminster. Our church website has an online giving platform for single or recurring gifts. You can also explore your financial institution's bill pay or bank transfer capabilities. Finally, those who are over the age of 70½ may be able to contribute directly from their retirement accounts through a Qualified Charitable Distribution. For more information about any of these options, contact Larry Andrews (treasurer) or Alix in the church office.

Participating in Worship this month

August 2

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Carol T
Ushers: Betty G, Bruce M,
Carla M, Judy V
Nursery: Helen W

August 8 – Sabbath

Preaching: Ruth Goldthwaite
Liturgist: Priscilla O
Ushers: Andy and Helen W,
Sue O, Maggie S
Nursery: Ann A

August 16

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Michelle G
Ushers: Betty G, Noreen P,
Steve P, Sara N
Nursery: Genny C

August 23

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Lisa B
Ushers: Sue O, Carol T,
Priscilla O, Bruce M
Nursery: Carol T

August 30

Preaching: TJ Remaley
Liturgist: Jill G
Ushers: Carla M, Maggie S,
Cliff and Pat L
Nursery: Sue O

August Birthdays

Carla M	1
Mike Z	2
Evelyn C	2
Aaron E	5
Bruce W	5
Drew H	7
Ann D	8
Bob B	8
Darla W	11
Michelle G	12
Verna S	16
Priscilla O	21
Seth W	23
Finn A	31

If we missed your birthday,
please let the office know

August

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



Southminster Presbyterian Church
6500 W. Overland Road
Boise ID 83709-2099

Electronic Service Requested

An open and affirming community seeking a caring and just society

Issue 2026:8 The Messenger

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

Pastor Rev. TJ Remaley
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 Musician Sean Rogers
A/V Coordinator Claeo McDermott
Custodian. Mike Humbert

Southminster Presbyterian Church

6500 West Overland Road

Boise, Idaho 83709-2099

Phone: (208) 375-5330

E-mail Address: office@spcboise.org

Web: www.spcboise.org

Church Office Hours

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday 9AM to 3:00PM

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