



The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian * September 2026

a doe and her triplets at Camp Sawtooth

Wrestling with Some Tough Reads

There's a book on my nightstand I've started three times. Every time, something tightens in my chest and I put it down "for later." If I'm honest, I know why: it's asking me to look at something I'd rather not.

I don't think I'm alone in this. Most of us are good at reading things that confirm what we already believe. It's harder to sit with a book that complicates us. Harder still once it starts to feel personal. But our faith tradition was never meant to be limited to comfort reading, and this fall, Southminster is offering three ways to do some wrestling together — three books, three settings, three kinds of discomfort to sit with.

This fall, our **Sunday morning Adult Education class** takes up *Being Presbyterian in an Exvangelical America* by Ted V. Foote Jr. and P. Alex Thornburg — for anyone who's ever fumbled "so what do Presbyterians actually believe?", or anyone untangling themselves from a faith that no longer fits. Come think out loud with us about what we're holding onto, and why.

We also join our ecumenical partners — Redeemer Lutheran, Red Rock Christian, Whitney UMC, and All Saints Episcopal — for our fifth **Community Book Study**, hosted here at Southminster this time around. Together, we'll study *Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism* by Brian Kaylor and Beau Underwood. It's a hard history, because our own denominational families are implicated.

And our **Southminster Book Club** kicks off its fall series with *When God Became White: Dismantling Whiteness for a More Just Christianity* by Grace Ji-Sun Kim — asking how much of what we picture when we picture God is actually God, and how much is just an old cultural habit we've mistaken for theology.

Three books. Three rooms to be uncomfortable in together. Perhaps this is a better way to do it than alone on a nightstand. (You'll find more info about each of these study opportunities in the coming pages of *The Messenger*).

We won't necessarily finish these books agreeing with every page. But we'll definitely have the opportunity to learn something new. And as we read, we can allow the discomfort we feel to do its work instead of closing the cover, trusting the Spirit can use a hard paragraph the way she used a river, a wilderness, a stone rolled away — a place where something in us has to change shape before it can move forward.

I picked my nightstand book back up last week, by the way. I'm not through it yet. But I'm reading.

Consider this your invitation to some wrestling this fall... gathering in whichever room(s) you choose.

God's Peace

TJ

(he/him)

Announcement Board

IMPORTANT: Worship Schedule in September

For this month only, our monthly Sabbath worship service takes place on the third Saturday of the month (Sat. 9/19 at 5:00pm). 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 (note: special date)
- Sept 27 at 9:30am — Worship

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

Southminster at Boise Pride: Let's Show Up Together

The Boise Pride Festival is back at Ann Morrison Park September 18–20, and Southminster will be there in full force — with a booth at the festival and our beloved puppet float in Sunday's parade.

Our Booth

Find us Saturday from 11 am–6 pm and Sunday from 10:30 am–5:00 pm. We'll be handing out free stickers and Pride flags, and inviting visitors to write or draw on our white sheets. It's a simple, joyful way to tell our LGBTQIA neighbors: you are beloved children of God, and this church means it when we say all are welcome.

We need hands for setup, booth staffing throughout the weekend, and takedown Sunday evening.

The Parade

The parade steps off Sunday, September 20, at 10 am — and our puppet float has become a crowd favorite two years running. We need people to help assemble and decorate the float, walkers to join the procession, and (this is the big one) a truck and a driver willing to pull the float.

How to Help

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex, or reach out to Abby W. or Judy E. directly. Let's show Boise what it looks like when a church means its welcome!

Sunday School Begins Sept 13

Children's Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 13, during coffee fellowship time after worship. Pre-K through Grade 5 will meet in Classroom #1, while Grades 6-12 will meet in Classroom #2. (Note: the classrooms are the same as last year, but they've been renumbered!)

Adult Education: *Being Presbyterian in an Exvangelical America*

Starting September 13, join us Sunday mornings at 11am in the Jean Moore Lounge for an eight-week class on *Being Presbyterian in an Exvangelical America* by Ted V. Foote Jr. and P. Alex Thornburg. Our Commissioned Ruling Elder, Shana Woodbury, will lead the discussion, which runs through November 22 (excluding monthly Sabbath Weekends). Ten copies of the book are available for use, and while they're helpful, they're not required.

We'll be hosting this class in a hybrid format, so if you worship online, you're welcome to join us for the discussion via Zoom. Contact the church office for the Zoom link.

Ecumenical Community Book Study: *Baptizing America*

Beginning September 22, Southminster hosts our fifth Community Book Study alongside Redeemer Lutheran, Red Rock Christian, Whitney UMC, and All Saints Episcopal. We'll spend five Tuesday evenings, 7:00–8:30pm in the Cana Room, working through *Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism* by Brian Kaylor and

Beau Underwood. Clergy from the partner congregations will take turns leading each session. Drop in for one week or all five — no registration required. Having a copy of the book is helpful, but not required.

Southminster Book Club: *When God Became White*

Our monthly Book Club meets by Zoom on the first Thursday of each month (September-May) to discuss a variety of books together. The book club's first selection for the fall is *When God Became White: Dismantling Whiteness for a More Just Christianity* by Grace Ji-Sun Kim. Contact the church office for the Zoom link and join the conversation.

A Jubilee Birthday: Erasing Medical Debt

In the Bible, the Year of Jubilee was a time when debts were cancelled and captives set free, so no one stayed crushed by what they owed forever. (Yes, technically Jubilee is the 50th year. We're turning 70. We're taking some liberties.)

As Southminster continues to celebrate 70 years of ministry, we want to mark that birthday by helping erase as much as \$1,000,000 in medical debt for individuals across Ada and Canyon counties. A national nonprofit called Undue Medical Debt (formerly RIP Medical Debt) can erase \$1,000 in medical debt for every \$10 donated. To designate our gift to stay local, Southminster needs to donate a minimum of \$10,000.

The good news — we're already at \$5,853.55, which means we only need to raise an additional \$4,146.45 by the end of 2026 to hit our goal and give this congregation's 70th birthday a legacy of grace.

How to give:

- Write a check to Southminster with "Medical Debt" in the memo line
- Drop cash in an envelope marked "Medical Debt" (name optional)
- Give online on our church website. In the giving platform, click the Medical Debt Relief button (note: credit card gifts incur a small processing fee to the church)

What a testimony to God's grace it will be to celebrate 70 years by setting our neighbors free from debt!

Music & Arts Ministries Resume

Don't forget! Our groups have resumed weekly rehearsals. The Handbell Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the Genesis Room. The Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. And our P4 Puppet Team rehearses Sundays at 11:00am in the Genesis Room. Newcomers are warmly welcomed to any of our groups. Your participation will enrich our worship.

Hearts and Hands

Our open, intergenerational monthly get-together returns on **September 23rd from 10 am to noon**. Everyone is welcome, birth to 100-years-old, accommodation can be made for others to attend. Also, parents can drop off their children during this time for a couple of hours free-time. Crafts, games, and music abound! Come and join the fun!

Dinners for Eight Your Way Returns

Host a meal mid-September to mid-November, you choose when and where and what. You choose breakfast, lunch, or dinner. You choose what to have – will you provide the food, will it be pot-luck, or do you want to meet at restaurant for dinner. Dinner guest sign-ups will start September 6th!



Come join us for a night of Hawaiian dancing, food and fun! Dress in your best Hawaiian shirt, shorts and luau skirt. Dinner will be served from Kanack Attack. We will be having a trivia game of the last 70 years of SPC history. Stop by and take pictures at the photo booth and share memories from the last 7 decades.

Rides will be available to those who request.

RSVP at link.spcboise.org/70th

Bystander Training: Protecting Our Trans and Nonbinary Neighbors

Have you ever been out with a friend who's being bullied and not known what to do? Right now, our nonbinary and trans friends are facing more harassment than ever — targeted and ridiculed in public, afraid even to use a restroom without incident. How do we step in, firmly but without escalating, to help protect them?

Beloved Bodies, a Boise-based organization, is offering a bystander training on exactly this question — how to intervene safely and effectively when someone is being harassed. They'll be leading a workshop at Southminster on Wednesday, September 23, from 6:00-7:30pm in the Cana Room. Contact Pastor TJ to learn how to register for this free event.

World Communion Offering

The three special offerings of the PC(USA) draw Presbyterians from all over the nation and world together for a common purpose and mission. The annual "Season of Peace" is held each September, culminating with the World Communion Offering collected during worship on Sunday, October 4. This offering provides resources for peacemaking and reconciliation locally and globally. To participate, look for a specially-marked offering envelope on World Communion Sunday, or submit a "Peacemaking Offering" to the church office.

SAGES: Staying Safe from Scams

Join us Wed. September 24 at 11:30 am for our first SAGES Lunch & Learn of the fall. Come for lunch, and stay as Pastor TJ leads a conversation on spotting and avoiding scams — both within church communities and beyond. Sign up at link.spcboise.org/sages or contact Steve Crume.

New Names, New Uses: Upper Level Updates

If you've wandered the upper level of the building lately and felt a little turned around, you're not imagining things! Several rooms have new names and new purposes. Here's your cheat sheet:

- Classroom #3 is now the Heritage Lounge, which will include displays of our history as a congregation.
- Classroom #4 is now Classroom #1, home to Children's Sunday School.
- Classroom #5 is now Classroom #2, home to Youth Sunday School.
- The Jurries Library is now the Snake River Presbytery Office, while still home to a thoughtfully curated library.
- The CE Office is now the Ministry Supply Room.

Volunteers Needed: Event Coordinators

We're looking for a few members willing to serve as Event Coordinators as an on-site point of contact for certain building-use events and weddings. It's a volunteer, as-needed role: depending on how many people sign on, you might be called on just two or three times a year. Event Coordinators receive a stipend per event. No special expertise required, just familiarity with our building and a willingness to help things run smoothly. If you're interested or have questions, reach out to Pastor TJ.

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 are – nursery is, 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. Again, easiest peasiest! (Are those words?)

If this small service activity appeals to you, please text or email me, Priscilla O.

Note of Appreciation:

The Pitman Family is most grateful for their Southminster friends who supplied an air-conditioned Cana Room and also a crew to serve and welcome our guests for my 95th birthday. We were so fortunate to have chosen Southminster as our family church in 1956!

In loving appreciation,
Harvey, Greg, and Kemet

Ministry Appreciation

With the success of All Church Retreat we thank Seth W for leading great discussions; along with Drew H, Alix P, and Kielee C for providing child-care. We also thank Ruth G for filling in for TJ so that he and his family could also enjoy Camp.

New Meeting Location for PWS's Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle is now meeting at Garden Plaza of Valley View, 1130 N. Allumbaugh Street, Boise, ID 83704, beginning September 16, 2026 at 10:00.

Enter the Main Entrance/sign the guest book and walk straight down the hall to the Recreation Room by the Koi Pond. Contact Sara N with questions.

Greetings from PWS

We've had a nice couple of months off and are now getting ready to start a new year of PWS. Our first gathering will be September 2 and will include our own TJ Remaley. He will walk us through this year's Bible study which is called, United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other, based on Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Join us if you can. All are welcome.

Now that summer is rolling to an end, we are really gearing up for our Holiday Bazaar in October. Reminder of the dates October 23 and 24th with a half price sale after church on the 25th. Please check the sign-up sheet in the narthex for areas you can help or donations. We are asking that you hold onto your donations, if you can, until October 1 through the 14th. If that's not possible, we will have cupboards in the Cana room labeled for Holiday Bazaar items. Please label your donations for PWS Holiday bazaar and price if you can. Any questions that you have, you can reach Mary Poston or Phyllis Sanderson. Thank you! See you there and bring your friends and family!

Mary P, Moderator PWS

Participating in Worship this month

September 6

Preaching: TJ Remaley
 Liturgist: Genny C
 Ushers: Sue O, Cliff and Pat L, Betty G
 Nursery: Rebekah H

September 13

Preaching: TJ Remaley
 Liturgist: Kiran S
 Ushers: Andy and Helen W, Carla M, Carol T
 Nursery: Ann A

September 19 – Sabbath

Preaching: TJ Remaley
 Liturgist: Bruce M
 Ushers: Steve P, Judy V, Priscilla O, Noreen P
 Nursery: Roxann H

September 27

Preaching: TJ Remaley
 Liturgist: Shana W
 Ushers: Priscilla O, Sara N, Betty G, Steve P
 Nursery: Rae B



floor time with Robin at Camp Sawtooth

September Birthdays

Bonnie B	2
Ashley M	4
Paul W	4
Shana W	4
Cody V	6
Cheryle A	9
Emily S	9
Jordan V	12
Rebekah H	15
Carolyn F	20
Cheryl M	22
Claire S	25
Margaret R	25

If we missed your birthday,
 please let the office know



Claire rings the bell at Camp Sawtooth



campfire time at Camp Sawtooth

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



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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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