

The Messenger

Southminster Presbyterian Church ~ April 2020

Dear Southminster,
Here's an update since last month's changes were announced. It feels like so much has changed each day, because it has. The learning curve for all of us has been so steep. I hope you've been able to give yourself grace and mercy as we adapt to everything.

Worship

We will gather remotely for worship for a while longer than we hoped. At this point, I'm pretty confident our instructions to "physically distance" will remain in place through sometime in May, or later. This includes Holy Week and Easter. We will still worship those days, but whichever day it is we're allowed to worship together in one place again will be another Easter. We will have much to celebrate, including the sacraments of communion and baptism. For now, we're using the church's facebook page to stream the services. You do not need to have a Facebook account to watch the video. Go to this link <https://www.facebook.com/SPCBoise/> Sunday at 9:30 and worship along with us.

We are still working on non-Facebook ways to live stream. Check the website for updates. You can also find worship videos later Sunday night on Vimeo. www.vimeo.com/marciauldglass

Daily Meditation

Each morning at 7:30, I'm reading a short reading on Facebook Live from my profile page, before I go do my morning centering prayer. If you'd like to pray alongside me in the mornings, those devotions can be found here.

<https://www.facebook.com/marci.glass> If you don't believe in Jesus at that hour, you can watch the videos later in the day too. Pray whenever it works for you!

In Person Gatherings Canceled

Until the CDC changes its guidelines, all in person meetings of church groups will not happen. We have asked the groups that use the building to also meet remotely, as they can, and we will continue to clean the building, but are hoping to not have our building become a place where someone catches the virus. Pastor Marci is setting up a Zoom account, which will allow committees, bible studies, etc, to meet on their computers, but that didn't happen this week. Stay tuned!

Financial Support of Southminster

We expect the coming months will be a challenge for many financially. We expect that to be true for Southminster too. If you can continue your financial support, that will help us pay the staff, and support the ministries that support people. You can mail your contributions to the church, or you can set up the church as a 'bill' to pay through your online banking program, if you do that. Additionally, there's a link on the website that allows you to donate online.

<http://www.spcboise.org/donate/>

We are trying to conserve the resources we have and to spend them wisely, but we still have some fixed expenses, just like each of us does individually.

Self Exile for the Good of the Realm

If you haven't gotten the message yet about how important it is that we stay in our homes as much as we can, and stay away from crowds, and follow CDC guidelines about washing hands, etc, let me implore you to take the CDC's advice seriously. It looks like as much as half of the world may contract this virus at some point, and while it is not dangerous to everyone in equal measure, what we don't want is for everyone to get sick at the same time and overwhelm the health care system. People who are not symptomatic may still have the virus and are able to spread the disease when they don't know they have it. The best way to slow down the speed of infection is to stay away from other people.

Connection for the Good of the Realm

Just because we can't all be in the same room together at the same time doesn't mean we can't be in contact with people. Brenda Janzen shared some ways a former church of hers is encouraging people to be connected safely. I've adapted it for us:

- Form Well-Being Buddy relationships. Choose 1, 2 or 3 people from SPC to partner with to contact by phone, email, or text to stay in touch about each other's well-being and pray for one another for the next months.
- Send cards to our members that may feel especially isolated due to restrictions on visitation where they live for their own protection.

Send cards, emails and texts to those in our church family, especially those who are going through cancer treatment or have underlying health issues that put them at high risk to contract other illnesses. We will have a list of such individuals in the prayer chain. If you'd like to subscribe to the prayer chain, contact Phyllis Sanderson at pjsanderson@fiberpipe.net.

- Wash your hands as a spiritual discipline. Say breath prayers as you wash them for at least 20 seconds.
- Go on prayer walks around your neighborhoods, praying especially for those who may be vulnerable or ill.
- Remember those who may face food insecurity due school or work closures, financial strain or other factors. Deliver groceries if that is possible for you. Donate to Meals on Wheels, the Foodbank, or other non-profits that are feeding people.

- Use Skype or FaceTime to connect with people
- Record special video messages to share with loved ones and friends.
- Practice your best smiles, kindness and patience when you are in public spaces. Offer encouraging words to healthcare, retail, restaurant and other workers who interact with the public regularly.
- Form a prayer circle with a group from SPC and agree to be praying at a specific time each day in your own spaces for common concerns.

Stay tuned to SPC happenings, announcements, and prayer concerns via email, Facebook, and SPC website (www.spcboise.org).

- Send cards of love and reassurance to children and youth in our congregation.
- Post Scripture passages, encouraging quotes or messages on your Facebook feed. Pay attention to responses.
- Use some possible extra time you might have to clean out a closet or room and donate items that others could use. (Hopefully Yours Sale may end up being late this year, but we are still planning on having it, so household goods, books, furniture, etc can be saved for that).
- Spend time outside in God's creation, six feet apart from other people. Lots of trails in the area allow that distancing.
- Take pictures and share on social media on ways you are connecting with others.

Share stories with the pastoral team of other creative and cautious ways you are connecting with others.

Choose one or two of these areas to give of your energy and gifts. Share your stories. Of course, it is paramount that you care for yourself, wash your hands often, and take other important steps to stay healthy and protect others. Should any of you in the congregation contract the coronavirus, please let the office (208-375-5330) know so that we can help to provide special support for you.

The church office is staying open, at least part time through all this. You may want to call the office before you stop by to talk to Susan (from 6 feet apart...), but please do call her if you need contact information for someone, or have other church related questions. Pastor Marci's cell phone is 208-473-0392. Please text or call her if you need anything too. Cell phone is better than leaving a message at church.



PWS MODERATOR MUSINGS

As I write this on March 18 I wonder "where we'll be" when you read this. May we make kindness and patience our motto.

As I hope you know by now the April 1 Gathering is cancelled and the Hopefully Yours Sale is postponed. We'd appreciate you saving bags for us to use at the sale. The Trader Joe paper bags are great but plastic is fine. Thanks!

Ladies, please be thinking of program ideas for next year. Write your ideas with your name and phone number and give to Sara Nevill or me.

Take care, stay safe and be kind.

Carolyn Warner
208-343-5421

The following nominations for PWS Officers for the coming year have been approved by the Coordinating Team and are submitted to you for consideration. Election will take place in May.

Moderator - Helen Winkle
Vice Moderator - Marva Wertz
Search Committee - Sharon Bancroft

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
While this calendar looks sad and empty, it also looks like people taking the health of the community seriously. Thank you for that.			1	2	3 AA Group 7:30pm	4
5 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Worship online 9:30am	6	7	8	9 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Worship service First Pres. 7pm Live stream	10 <i>Good Friday</i> Worship service online SPC 7pm AA Group 7:30pm	11
12 <i>Easter</i> Worship online 9:30am	13	14	15	16	17 AA Group 7:30pm	18
19 Worship online 9:30am	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24 AA Group 7:30pm	25
26 Worship online 9:30am	27	28	29	30		

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**An open and affirming community, celebrating God's love for all
by seeking a caring and just society: there is a place for you here.**

Issue 2020:04 *The Messenger*

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

Pastor Rev. Marci Auld Glass
Liz Leonardson Commissioned Lay Pastor
Administrative Assistant Susan Dunn
Custodian Sam Davila
Organist. Susan Pohl
Choir Director Claudia Sutherland
Handbell Director Phyllis Tincher
Sabbath Musician. Sean Rogers
Nursery Coordinator Claeo McDermott
Clerk of Session Jill Gertje

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Church Office Hours

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM
**Hours are subject to change for the month of April -
please call first**
Closed Monday and Friday

If you no longer wish to receive this publication
please notify the church office.

Holy Week and Easter Services



Worship with us On Line

Maundy Thursday Worship on First Presbyterian
Live Stream

April 9th 7:00pm

Good Friday Worship on Southminster Live Stream

April 10th 7:00pm

Blessing of the Animals & Easter Egg Hunt - Canceled

April 11th

Easter Worship on Southminster Live Stream

April 12th 9:30am