



The Worship theme for August is God's Unbreakable Love, which is a way to talk about the ways we can sometimes misunderstand the nature of Holy love. Unbreakable leaves no room for interpretation, an absolute. God's love is truly unbreakable.

Sometimes we tell ourselves Big Lies, either because we don't know better or are afraid to know better. When it comes to matters of the Spirit, these Big Lies can shape our very sense of what is holy and who is worthy. Often we decide that we are in one way or another unworthy - of love, or forgiveness, or grace, or patience, or even reconciliation.

Something we have thought or said or done is too hurtful or hateful or selfish to ever be tolerated by God, we assume.

And so, we assume ourselves out of the covenantal promise that is ours by inheritance as Children of God. We talk ourselves out of gratitude for the gracious God that Jesus taught us; reverting to fearing the jealous and vengeful God - a God that only exists in our human imaginings.

But the gospel truth is that God's love is unbreakable. There is no earthly experience that can disqualify you from the love of God. There is no sin, no misstep, no regrettable choice or tragic outcome that will separate you from the God in our midst. There is in fact nowhere to escape God's presence. All can be made new, all can be healed and saved and set free in faith.

Big Lies are often easier to swallow than the honest work of healing and repentance and forgiveness and reconciliation. We all have our reasons, but one of them can't be that God has deserted you - because, well, that is simply not a thing - God's love is unbreakable.

Grateful to be Church with you this month!!

Blessings and Praise,
Pastor Adam



Food Pantry

In July, items donated will be going to St. Thomas Church. Any non-perishable items are much needed.

Thank you!



August Giving

DMF \$1258.33
Foster Village \$250



Stewardship

Since my money is God's money, every spending decision I make is a spiritual decision.

- John Hagge



Creation Care

God intends our care for creation to reflect our love for the Creator.

- John Stott

Loving Our Neighbors



2026 Worship Theme

01

JANUARY

What Is Love?

02

FEBRUARY

Learning to Love Yourself

03

MARCHLent:
Learning to Love the Dust

04

APRIL

Who Is Our Neighbor?

05

MAYWhen Neighbors Feel
Like Enemies

06

JUNE

Love Wins

07

JULYPursuing a
Liberating Love

08

AUGUST

God's Unbreakable Love

09

SEPTEMBERStewardship Campaign:
When Love Is Enough

10

OCTOBER*A Just Love*

11

NOVEMBER

Responding to Love

12

DECEMBERAdvent:
Love Embodied

You Are Here



AUG. - GOD'S UNBREAKABLE LOVE

ARE WE WORTHY OF A LOVE LIKE THAT?



GOD'S
UNBREAKABLE
LOVE

August 2, 2026

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

Special Music: Saxophone Quartet, *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching

Paul has a moment of vulnerability in his letter to the Corinthians, when he shares about the time he pleaded to God to free him from a physical pain he was enduring. "A thorn in my side," as Paul described it. Something rare in the New Testament then happens - God speaks directly to Paul. What God tells Paul has kept preachers and scholars and Sunday school teachers pondering its deepest meanings for a couple thousand years. "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." We are going to give it our best shot!

August 9, 2026

Scripture: Job 12:7-10

Special Music: Brass Ensemble

Rev. Mason Fitch, preaching

Creation has a way of telling the truth about God's love long before we find the words for it ourselves. Mountains that refuse to move, oceans that keep rhythm, trees that bend without breaking; they all echo a love strong enough to hold us and steady enough to outlast our fear. "When Creation Speaks" invites us to listen for those quiet witnesses that remind us we're sustained by something far bigger and more faithful than we are. God's unbreakable love isn't abstract; it's woven into the world around us, steady as sunrise and persistent as spring. When creation speaks, it calls us back to the love that has always named us, claimed us, and carried us.

WHEN CREATION SPEAKS



GOD'S
UNBREAKABLE
LOVE

LETTING OUR LOVE MATURE



GOD'S
UNBREAKABLE
LOVE

August 16, 2026

Scripture: Psalm 51:1-12

Special Music: Adam Bradley, *Deeper Than the Holler* - Randy Travis

Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching

A maturing faith has very little to do with age, it has some to do with experience, but mostly it has to do with a deep understanding and embracing of the Christian call to repentance. Being able to notice where we ourselves fall short, and deciding to address our own failings in faith, is the best indicator of a maturing faith. We are all indeed children of God, but this truth does not require us to be childish. Instead, it asks that when we know better we do better; it asks of us accountability. Being teachable is faithful, being open to God's leading is foundational to being the people of God.

August 23, 2026

Scripture: Luke 12:6-7

Praise Team

Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching

In Luke 12, Jesus is quoted with this famous line, "Even the hairs of your head are all numbered [by God]." These words are offered as a balm to an anxious spirit. Don't worry, Jesus assures us. God's love is unbreakable, Jesus may as well have said. I think it is hard for us to even imagine the kind of divine intimacy required that God would know each hair upon our head. And maybe it makes us uncomfortable because in every other way we are told that our individualism and autonomy and personal sovereignty are central to our identity. That there is only one's self and their boot straps in this world. But then, God cares for us so deeply that every hair is known. How can we think of ourselves as individuals, when God's presence and attention never leave us. Think of it like this, when you notice God's presence it's like walking through the door at Cheers, and God's love is like the whole room offering a resounding, "Norm!"

LOVE THAT KNOWS OUR NAME



GOD'S
UNBREAKABLE
LOVE

WE CREATE BECAUSE GOD FIRST CREATED



GOD'S
UNBREAKABLE
LOVE

August 30, 2026

Scripture: Psalm 104:10-24,31-34

Vocal Quartet

Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching

Welcome to Fall Kick Off Sunday!! A Sunday that is designated for fun and fellowship as the official return from the summertime trips and vacations. It is my hope we will be invited to celebrate the work of the church by remembering first and foremost what a blessing it is to spend time with one another laughing, sharing, and loving on each other well. Our thematic focus for Kick Off Sunday is the wonder of God's creation and how human creativity is ultimately an expression of holy creativity. We are driven to creative expressions because God first created our world, and then us to be its stewards. Let us rejoice in this calling, and that we are made in the image of the great Creator of life!!



Sunday Morning Study We Call Ourselves Disciples led by Frank Wheeler

This summer, our Adult Sunday School class will explore We Call Ourselves Disciples, a collection of voices from across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) reflecting on what it means to live out our faith today. Each week, a different leader - Frank, Randy, Adam, or Mason - will guide the conversation around a chapter and its central theme, creating space to engage the real questions shaping our identity as Disciples. This isn't about having all the answers, but about growing together through honest conversation, shared experience, and a deeper understanding of what it means to live our faith in the world.



Responders Class led by Becky Sisk

In the Responders adult Sunday School class, we use Wired Word lessons each Sunday, 9-10 am. We examine current events from the point of view of the Bible and our faith. Come join us!



Weekly Bible Study

They are studying the 1st and 2nd books of Samuel, and you are welcome to join in! They meet Wednesdays at 10:30am.

Back to School Sunday



During worship in August 9th, we will be celebrating the new school year and blessing all of those who attend, work, and serve in the school system. So whether you're a student, teacher, staff, or whatever your role is, we want to bless your upcoming year!

Come From Away



Come From Away is a breathtaking, true-story musical about the 7,000 airline passengers stranded in the small Newfoundland town of Gander on September 11, 2001, and the locals who opened their hearts and homes to them. When US airspace was completely closed on 9/11, Gander International Airport—which was a massive transatlantic refueling hub in the early days of aviation but had since become quiet—suddenly welcomed 38 commercial flights in a matter of hours, instantly nearly doubling the small town's population.

To honor this poignant anniversary and the way this town 'welcomed the stranger', our church is organizing a group outing to see this powerful production at Peoria Players Theatre on Friday, September 11. It is a beautiful, uplifting reminder of how faith, hope, and humanity can shine through even the darkest of times. We have 25 tickets reserved for a group from First Christian for this special night of fellowship and theater, so please sign up at the information desk to reserve your seat. We do ask that you pay for your ticket when you sign up.

-Justice through Faith

August Birthdays

Cody Cheatham	8/7
Jan Cusac	8/12
Becky Sisk	8/16
Kathy Fenton	8/17
Adam Truelove	8/19
Be Gibson	8/20
Bob Parrett	8/20
Kate Spielman	8/21
Quentin Rodriguez	8/24
Laura Buckley	8/30
Lorie Mansfield	8/31



August Anniversaries

Mike & Laura Buckley	8/5
Dave & Connie Sinn	8/15
Mike & Sharon Gulley	8/16
Dianna & Matthew Julien	8/16
Frank & Kathleen Wheeler	8/19
Jake & Laura Cohen	8/23



Tasting Peoria Industry Brewing August 13th @ 6pm

Industry Brewing seeks to bring Peoria back to its roots – liquor. We strive to create something Peoria and its residents can be proud of by taking something simple – a beer... and putting our own spin on it. We bring the “Whiskey City” a product like no other in a unique and vibrant setting that completes your dining experience.

8012 N. Hale Ave, Peoria



Book Club Spoonbenders August 20th @ 6pm

Spoonbenders follows the rise and fall of the Telemachus family as its members, each with his or her own unique telekinetic or clairvoyant ability, navigate lives filled with frustrations, hilarity and intrigue.



Movie Night Singing in the Rain August 27th @ 6pm

When the transition is being made from silent films to ‘talkies’, everyone has trouble adapting. Don and Lina have been cast repeatedly as a romantic couple, but when their latest film is remade into a musical, only Don has the voice for the new singing part. After a lot of practise with a diction coach, Lina still sounds terrible, and Kathy, a bright young aspiring actress, is hired to record over her voice.



August Potluck - 8/30

Please sign up if you can help with prep and/or cleanup. Bring your own tableware to help reduce waste.



SERVING SCHEDULES

Date	Elders	Deacons	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Greeters	Counters
8/2/26	Chere Peters Jenny Tripses	Geraldine Runkle Laura Buckley Dan Cox Natalie Woods	Becky Sisk	Natalie Woods	Dave & Connie Sinn	Jim & Beth Smittkamp
8/9/26	Vickie Baker Riger Baker	Geraldine Runkle Laura Buckley Dan Cox Natalie Woods	Sandy Surface	Natalie Woods	Dave & Connie Sinn	Steve West Ralph Tegg
8/16/26	Becky Sisk Mike Buckley	Geraldine Runkle Laura Buckley Dan Cox Natalie Woods	Connie Sinn	Natalie Woods	Dave & Connie Sinn	Roger & Vickie Baker
8/23/26	Sandy Surface Carmen Nicoll	Geraldine Runkle Laura Buckley Dan Cox Natalie Woods	Larry Weber	Natalie Woods	Dave & Connie Sinn	Owen & Alice Jury
8/30/26	Kathleen Wheeler Frank Wheeler	Geraldine Runkle Laura Buckley Dan Cox Natalie Woods	Liz White	Natalie Woods	Dave & Connie Sinn	Mike & Laura Buckley

Date	Friends with Jesus	Growing Disciples	The Open Table
8/2/26	Jenny Tripses	Connie Julien	Randy Williams
8/9/26	Chere Peters	Connie Julien	Adam Bradley
8/16/26	Jenny Tripses	Kathleen Wheeler	Randy Williams
8/23/26	Linda Rex	Kathleen Wheeler	Adam Bradley
8/30/26		Kathleen Wheeler	Frank Wheeler

WE CALL OURSELVES *Disciples*

A Summer Sunday morning study about the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) denomination led by Frank Wheeler,
Randy Williams, Adam Bradley, and Mason Fitch.

June 7	Doing Theology
June 14	Disciples and the Bible
June 21	A Brief Overview of Disciples Polity
June 28	The Baptized Life
July 5	Communion
July 12	Social Justice as Embodied in Micah 6:8
July 19	Diversity and Inclusion
July 28	Turning Points in Disciples History
August 2	Liturgy and Worship
August 9	Global Missions
August 16	Congregations and Their Pastor
August 23	Christian Unity: Our Polar Star





SWARM FOR THE HIVES!
SUPPORT DR CONGO BEEKEEPERS
5K FUN WALK/RUN/BIKE

WHO: ILLINOIS VALLEY CLUSTER

WHERE: ROCK ISLAND TRAIL

WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026
TIME: 10:00 A.M. | **REGISTRATION FEE:** \$25.00
REGISTER BY: AUGUST 11

WHY: BUILDING BEEHIVES,
SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES
& WILDLIFE IN DR CONGO

Meet at the
Rock Island Trail lot
on Alta Road.

Join us for lunch
following the walk at Last
Chance Bar and Grill.

Last Chance
Bar and Grill