



Autumn is my favorite season, and it isn't really even close. The brisk mornings sitting on the back deck with a cup of coffee. The changing of the leaves. The savory treats, warm soups, and pumpkin flavored everything. Fall almost feels like it should be the real New Year's, as the time coming just after all our summer sabbath travels come to an end. This is the season of new beginnings, as you can literally feel the change in the air.

In October, our Worship theme turns its attention to the divine call to justice.

October: A Just Love

Every Sunday morning this month, we will hear from a member of the Justice Through Faith team on a particular aspect of pursuing God's vision of justice. I am so grateful for this ministry team that makes their regular charge to examine our church's efforts as they relate to God's commandment that justice might roll down like waters (Amos 5:24).

Justice, by its nature, sees the harm of human inequity, abuse, objectification, violence, trafficking, and all other dehumanizing acts of treachery, as requiring fundamental and lasting change from the evil state of the status quo.

Justice requires us to take our convictions of faith from the safety of the Sanctuary to the wilderness of the real world. That we, as a people of deep faith and bold love, might hold our culture accountable to the standards of Holy love.

Justice is really that straightforward. Advocate, and where possible affect change, that will ever-better hold human power accountable to holy standards of love.

Justice requires the church to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Justice requires the church to develop discipleship in our people that is sturdy enough to stand up against the forces of darkness.

A Just love requires of us a willingness to faithfully follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, and in so doing, steward the church into being a sacred space where the lost can be found and where the blind can begin to see clearly.

One way we will tangibly create safe space this month is by hosting our annual Trunk or Treat Halloween event for neighborhood kids. Given Halloween is on a Saturday this year, and last year we had over 500 folks come through, we are planning on 750 people to participate this year. If you are able to donate some candy to the effort, donations are greatly appreciated!

Justice feels like wrongs being righted... how could anything be more Holy?

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Adam

Loving Our Neighbors



2026 Worship Theme

01

JANUARY

What Is Love?

02

FEBRUARY

Learning to Love Yourself

03

MARCH

Lent:
Learning to Love the Dust

04

APRIL

Who Is Our Neighbor?

05

MAY

When Neighbors Feel
Like Enemies

06

JUNE

Love Wins

07

JULY

Pursuing a
Liberating Love

08

AUGUST

God's Unbreakable Love

09

SEPTEMBER

Stewardship Campaign:
When Love Is Enough

10

OCTOBER

A Just Love

11

NOVEMBER

Responding to Love

12

DECEMBER

Advent:
Love Embodied

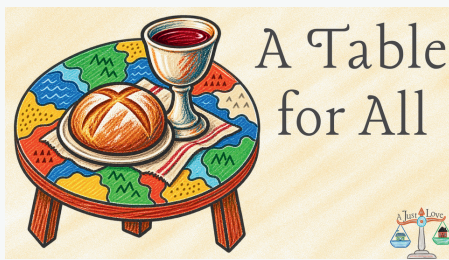
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WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

October 4, 2026

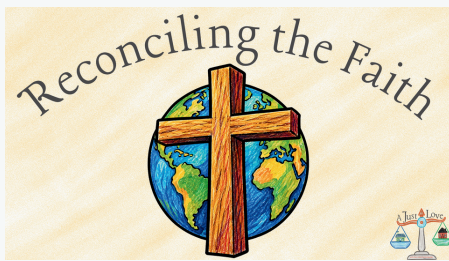
Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9 & Mark 14:22-26
Sanctuary Choir: *A Welcome Place* - Williams/Raney
Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching



Not often do we trace the impact of Christ's communion meal all the way back to the story of the Tower of Babel - but that is precisely what we will consider this World Communion Sunday. The shared human memory of a long-ancient time, before any recorded history, when broad cooperation existed between the whole human family, empowers stories such as the Tower of Babel. It is the same spirit we find when we bring ourselves humbly to the table of Christ. When we gather as Church, seeing past any difference and only left able to witness the divine in one another, we then erode the false boundaries between us. Our common human story is that we are, slowly and painstakingly, making our way back to union. As a billion Christians across the world join in the sacrament of Holy Communion today, let us give thanks and praise at the table which leaves us all equal before the Lord.

October 11, 2026

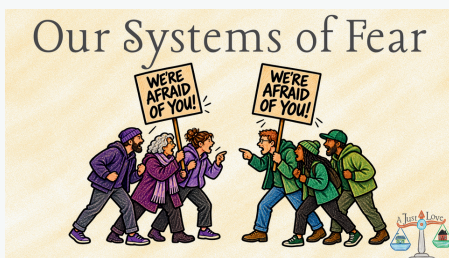
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Jubilate Ringers: *Break Thou the Bread of Life* - arr. Lloyd Larson
Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching



Paul's encouragement to the church in Corinth is also an encouragement to us. "Be ambassadors for Christ." In this powerful passage of scripture, a charge is given to all believers: accept God's assignment to a ministry of reconciliation. To restore friendly relations, that is the simply definition of reconciliation. But the truth of it is a messy mix of gracious listening, honest truth-telling, and the patience to allow one's heart to move. Disciples are called to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. In our cultural moment, the non-Christian world doesn't know what to make of Christians - because the loudest seem to be the least like Christ. A ministry of reconciliation requires us to advocate for the genuine gospel of Jesus Christ, one that enables the healing of the nations - not the superiority of one.

October 18, 2026

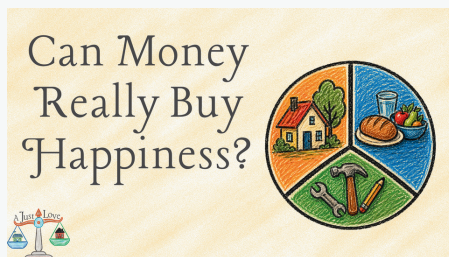
Scripture: 1 John 4:16b-19
Sanctuary Choir: *Ain't Got Time to Die (Ain-a That Good News?)* - arr. Philip Kern
Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching



The famous line of this scripture is, "God is love." The lesser well-known line is, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." As is often the case, historically, Christians have favored the philosophical God is love, and let the more practice-oriented (and convicting) perfect love casts out fear recede from prominence and priority.

October 25, 2026

Scripture: Isaiah 65:21-23 CEB
Jubilate Ringers: *Percussive Praise* - Kevin McChesney
Rev. Mason Fitch, preaching



Isaiah paints a picture of a world where God's justice looks like everyday people having what they need to live full, stable, joyful lives: houses they can afford, work that doesn't exploit them, food they can depend on, futures that aren't cut short. It's a vision where flourishing isn't a luxury but a birthright. "Money Really Can Buy Happiness" isn't about excess or greed; it's about the truth that when people have enough to live, truly live; communities become healthier, kinder, and more whole. A just love doesn't fear people's well-being; it seeks it. And Isaiah reminds us that God's dream has always been a society where everyone can thrive, not just survive.

Statement Regarding the Concern of Christian Nationalism Elders, First Christian Church

We profess, as a congregation, our mission is to live God's reverent and radical love. We acknowledge without hesitation that all people are made in the image of God, and so equally beloved in God's eyes. We seek wholeness in a fragmented world, advocate for equitable justice, practice empathy, find common ground wherever possible, and trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As elders we are compelled to name Christian nationalism as a heretical distortion of the authentic Christian faith we seek to live in covenant together.

Christian nationalism aims to use Christian language, imagery, ritual and tradition as ways to divide rather than unite. It advocates a faith that openly seeks to exercise control over politics, education, and culture. Motivated by fear and racism, Christian nationalism advocates an authoritarian ideology that would view minorities and immigrants as second class in their vision of a Christian nation. The Elders of First Christian Church do not accept Christian nationalism's ideology, hypocrisy, and methodologies, viewing them as distortions of the gospel and an abuse of Christian good will.

We strongly encourage members of the congregation to be vigilant against Christian nationalism's influence and ask our leaders to ensure that the Church does not communicate acceptance or acquiescence to the theological threat of Christian nationalism.



For Love of God & Country

Please join Pastor Adam in conversation about the Elders' Statement Regarding the Concern of Christian Nationalism at a town hall-styled gathering in the fellowship hall (with Pizza!) immediately following the Worship service on Oct 11th.

CHURCH LIFE



2026 Reconciliation Offering

The Reconciliation Special Offering will be taken on October 4, 2026. This offering is an invitation to move beyond restoration and help build a more just, faithful, and hopeful community. Your advocacy and financial support are much appreciated.



Fall Work Day

Joe Rex invites you to come and join in a outdoor work day at the church. Saturday, October 10th from 9AM to 1PM. If you able and willing please bring work gloves, yard rakes, weeders, pruning saw, leaf bags, etc. Refreshment will be provided. Thank you for keeping the church looking its best.



Mah Jongg

WOW! Sixteen people have signed-up for some Mah-Jongg fun! Those new to the game, just bring yourselves to any or all the following dates and times. If you already play and still have your 2025 card, please bring that with you.

Saturday 10/3 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Tuesday 10/6 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Thursday 10/8 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

So I know how many to expect on each date, there is now a revised sign up sheet with these dates on it. Please sign under the dates you can attend.

Thank you! I can't wait to Charleston with you!

Connie Julien



Food Pantry

In October, items donated will be going to Woodland Baptist. Any non-perishable items are much needed.

Thank you!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has already returned a commitment card during our Stewardship Commitment Season. We are so grateful for your participation and for the many ways you support the work of the church.



If you have not yet turned in your card, there is still time! Feel free to mail them or drop them by the church office or place them in the Stewardship mail cubby. We will continue collecting them over the next few weeks as we work toward our goal of 100% participation.

That goal is simple: every household matters, every person matters, and every response helps remind us that we all have a place in the ministry we share.

Thank you -- Debra Kreps, Stewardship Chair

Faith, Politics and Culture Conflicts

A Special 4-Week Sunday School Study for October Presented by the Responders Class
This October, the Responders Sunday School class is diving into John Fugelsang's bestselling 2025 book, Separation of Church and Hate. It is not necessary to have read the book to engage in the discussion but, of course, it is helpful.

When: Every Sunday in October

Where: Responders Sunday School Classroom

Time: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Come discuss, question, and grow with us as we reclaim the heart of Jesus' teachings: love, mercy, and authentic service.

All are welcome—bring a friend!



September Giving

DMF	\$1258.33
Pathway Ministries	\$250

October Birthdays

Carmen Nicoll	10/5
Lisa Cheatham	10/8
Hudson Wronkiewicz	10/15
Levi Holloway	10/16
Jenny Tripses	10/17
Elisa Peters	10/18
Steve Hinrichs	10/20
Andrew Dorbeck	10/21
Annie Dorbeck	10/21
Hannah Fitch	10/26
Katie Fitch	10/26
Betty Edwards	10/31
Gavin Ganschow	10/31



October Anniversaries

Adam & Christina Truelove	10/5
Adam & Michele Bradley	10/9
Jerry & Val Hornbacker	10/17
Peter & Lindsey Hinshaw	10/21
Barb Furkin	10/24
Paul & Lorie Mansfield	10/27



Tasting Peoria

Busy Corner

October 10th @ 8:30am

Busy Corner is a family restaurant where they are committed to creating a friendly atmosphere with quality and integrity served on every plate. Whether you are a local customer or just passing by, their customers turn into long time friends after one piece of our famous pie.

302 S. Eureka Street, Goodfield



Disciple Women

October 13th @ 12pm

Women Around the Region with Beth Rupe.

It's that time of year again to bring in your donations of individually wrapped Halloween candy. The Disciples Women will package them up on Oct. 13th and deliver them to several agencies around town. (Friendship House, South Side Mission, Neighborhood House, Center for Prevention of Abuse) Your donations are greatly appreciated. In the past we have made up 800-900 bags! That takes a lot of candy!



Book Club

Theo of Golden

October 15th @ 6pm

Theo of Golden is a quiet, character-driven novel about an 86-year-old

Portuguese widower who moves to the small Southern town of Golden, Georgia, for one year and quietly changes the lives of its residents through acts of personalized generosity.



Movie Night

Little Shop of Horrors

October 22nd @ 6pm

Meek flower shop assistant Seymour pines for co-worker Audrey. During a total eclipse, he discovers an unusual plant he names Audrey II, which feeds only on human flesh and blood. The growing plant attracts a great deal of business for the previously struggling store.



SERVING SCHEDULES

Date	Elders	Deacons	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Greeters	Counters
10/4/26	Chere Peters Jenny Tripses	Kelsey Reynolds Laura Buckley Dan Cox Debbie Presnell	Connie Sinn		Jan Cusac Pete Clausen	Roger & Vickie Baker
10/11/26	Vickie Baker Roger Baker	Kelsey Reynolds Laura Buckley Dan Cox Debbie Presnell	Connie Sinn		Jan Cusac Pete Clausen	Owen & Alice Jury
10/18/26	Becky Sisk Mike Buckley	Kelsey Reynolds Laura Buckley Dan Cox Debbie Presnell	Liz White		Jan Cusac Pete Clausen	Mike & Laura Buckley
10/25/26	Carmen Nicoll Sandy Surface	Kelsey Reynolds Laura Buckley Dan Cox Debbie Presnell	Larry Weber		Jan Cusac Pete Clausen	John & Lisa Best

Date	Friends with Jesus	Growing Disciples	The Open Table
10/4/26	Jenny Tripses	Kathleen Wheeler	Frank Wheeler
10/11/26	Chere Peters	Kathleen Wheeler	Frank Wheeler
10/18/26	Jenny Tripses	Cheryl Davis	Frank Wheeler
10/25/26	Chere Peters	Cheryl Davis	Frank Wheeler