

The Peoria Christian

November 2025
Vol 115 - Issue 3



I really love the season of autumn. I love the fall all the more because I grew up on the west coast where it never gets cold enough to feel like a new season has arrived. But in the last decade of living in other places, places which did have definitive seasons, I have learned the deeply felt meaning of needing to break out that flannel coat or the weather-proof boots. Seasons are one of the ways we orient the rhythms of our lives.

Another way we are oriented are the rhythms of our Worship. The scripture passages we choose to hear, the topics and issues we address, the needs and burdens of daily life upon our shoulders as we enter God's holy space, all play a

role in how we are responding to one another in love and empowering one another through faith. How we choose to focus our spiritual practices and praises can help to equip us all for meaning-making in a fragmented world.

I am very excited to share with you our Gospel Focus for 2026, **Loving Our Neighbors**. Throughout all of next year, we will be using this foundational commandment of Jesus, to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:34-40), to guide our gatherings for Worship, fellowship, and service. Soon, we will publish a schedule that shares more specifically where our Gospel Focus will lead, including weekly sermon titles and scripture selections for the whole year. But let me at least share with you now the monthly focus:

January - What is Love?
February - Learning to Love Yourself
March - LENT: Rebuilding From the Dust
April - Who is Our Neighbor?
May - When Neighbors Feel Like Enemies
June - Love Wins!
July - Pursuing a Liberating Love
August - God's Unbreakable Love
September - STEWARDSHIP: When Love Is Enough
October - A Just Love
November - Responding to Love
December - ADVENT: Love Embodied

Loving our neighbors is as much about who we are as it is who they are. Building our capacity to love in the ways we are called by Christ requires attention and intention. In our worship in 2026, we will strengthen our ability to respond with grace, extend forgiveness, hear with patience, and hope with expectation by always reminding ourselves how God's love can mend and heal and set free. For when we lean into love, we are leaning into the strength of God the Creator, Jesus the Christ, the Spirit of the Most High, and all the angels and saints of heaven. Love is all that is next for us, so in the meantime, let our love make Earth more like Heaven.

Blessings in Love, Pastor Adam



Food Pantry

In November, items donated will be going to Friendship House. Any non-perishable items are much needed.

Thank you!



October Giving

DMF \$1258.33
Midwest Food Bank \$250



Stewardship

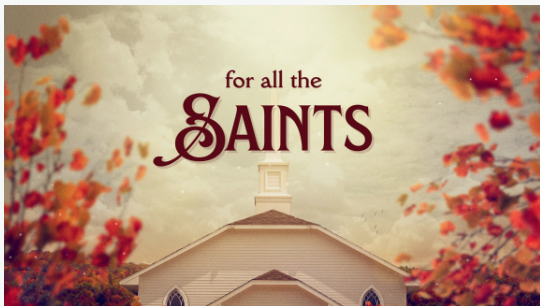
Giving is more than a responsibility - it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience - it is evidence of our faith.

- William Arthur Ward



Creation Care Tip

Instead of throwing out old towels or sheets, donate them to animal shelters. Creation care includes creatures too.



November 2, 2025

"For All The Saints"

Scripture: Hebrews 11:39-12:2

Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching

All Saints Sunday gives us a chance to remember those we have lost and to remind ourselves what is next is God, and God is love. Together we will seek joy in the memories and comfort in the grief.

Special Music: "For the Beauty of the Earth" -arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon
Jubilate Ringers



November 9, 2025

"Seek Out and Save"

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching

Luke's story of Zacchaeus reminds us that Jesus was looking for those who desired a more holy life. It mattered not how much sinful they were before - only the depth of their desire for a new life. It is a radically reverent welcome Jesus models, and often a hard standard to live by.

Special Music: "A Tribute to the Armed Services" -arr. Lloyd Larson
Sanctuary Choir



November 16, 2025

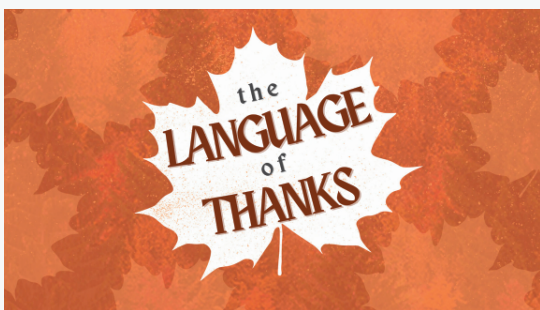
"When the 'Gotcha' Backfires"

Scripture: Luke 20:27-38

Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching

Even Jesus faced those who would twist the spirit of the Word into a legalistic quagmire of rules and boundaries. As if human ways are necessarily God's ways. God is bigger than all our rules, and God's love is stronger still.

Special Music: "We Gather Together" - arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon
Jubilate Ringers



November 23, 2025

"The Language of Thanks"

Scripture: Luke 14:12-24 & Colossians 3:12-17

Rev. Mason Fitch, preaching

This Thanksgiving, we're learning to speak gratitude fluently. In Colossians and the story of the Great Banquet, we discover that true thanksgiving isn't just words before a meal—it's a way of living that makes room for everyone at the table.

Special Music: "Thanks Be To God" - arr. Heather Sorenson
Sanctuary Choir



November 30, 2025

In the Company of Angels

Scripture: Luke 1:8-20

Revs. Adam Bradley & Mason Fitch, presiding

Watch as our sanctuary comes alive with Christmas decorations as we prepare for the coming of our Lord.

Special Music: provided by the Tuba Ensemble



Sunday Morning Study - November led by Frank Wheeler

Frank Wheeler will be leading a study on the history and significance of the city of Jerusalem from before the time of King Saul to the destruction of the city by the Romans in 70 CE. We will see what it was like during Old Testament times as well as during the ministry of Jesus. We will look at its struggles and its resilience throughout its early history.



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. Our topics are current and often challenge us in new ways. Come join us!



Weekly Bible Study

In the month of November, Pastor Adam will be leading a study and deep dive into the book of Romans. All are welcome to join!



Calling All Writers!

It's to write and put together our annual Advent Devotional! This year's theme is "In the Company of Angels". The writing prompt is available at the information along with the sign up. We need 25 people, and there's no particular order; so you're not picking a day. Please sign up, and if you have any questions please reach out to Linda Williams, Pastor Mason, or Pastor Adam. The deadline to return completed devotions is November 16th.

Gently Used Coats Needed

Through the end of the year, we will be collecting gently used coats FOR ALL AGES for the Salvation Army. There is a barrel next to the information desk to receive your coats.



Offering Envelopes

If you would like a box of offering envelopes to use, or if you do not want one anymore, please contact Diane in the office by

November 3rd. These boxes contain envelopes for your regular weekly tithe, the specific special offerings taken for the region and general church ministries, as well as extra blank envelopes.



New to Your Library

"What Happens Next" by Max Lucado

This book shines welcome light on the perfect home that awaits those who trust in Jesus. In a world filled with political tension and personal trials, we need to find hope in God's eternal plan. A golden era - the millenium awaits God's children. Filed under 236



November Birthdays

Christina Truelove	11/1
Diana McConnell	11/1
Ruth Spriggs	11/3
Dana Powers	11/5
Sandy Blackwell	11/8
Aldine Allen	11/11
Kathleen Wheeler	11/11
Lindsey Hinshaw	11/11
Larry Weber	11/12
Chris Carrico	11/14
Debra Kreps	11/18
Val Hornbacker	11/18
Anthony Carrico	11/19
Debbie Springhart-West	11/20
Ron Anschuetz	11/20
Ralph Tegg	11/22
John Best	11/24
Jerry Hornbacker	11/25
Tom Davis	11/25
Debbie Presnell	11/27

November Anniversaries

Joe & Linda Rex	11/4
Bob & Ann Parrett	11/14
Cody & Daniell Cheatham	11/27



Disciple Women

November 11th @ 12pm

This month we will be putting together hygiene packs for those in need. Aldine will be our Hostess, and Carney will give our devotion. All are welcome!



Tasting Peoria

Thyme Kitchen & Craft Beer

November 13th @ 6pm

Thyme provides signature items, traditional offerings and exotic samplings, as well as vegetarian options.

In addition to its quality food selection, Thyme boasts a selection of 40 craft beers, over 250 bourbons, hand crafted cocktails and an extensive wine list. Their distinctive decor and knowledgeable staff aim to give the central Illinois area a high quality, one of a kind culinary experience.



Book Club

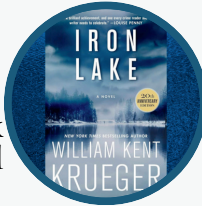
Iron Lake

November 20th @ 5:30pm

In "Iron Lake," former Sheriff Cork O'Connor, a man burdened by personal demons and a recent loss of job, is

drawn into a case when a powerful local judge is found dead and a young Indian boy vanishes. Cork, navigating the complexities of his own life, including his troubled relationship with his wife Jo and his affair with Molly, must investigate a web of corruption, conspiracy, and a possible link to a chilling local legend: the Windigo.

We will be meeting at Monical's in Peoria on Knoxville.



Movie Night

Holiday Inn

December 18th @ 6pm

In this Irving Berlin musical, Jim and Lila are members of a performing trio who plan to quit and run a country

hotel. When Lila says she has fallen in love with the dancer in the act, Ted, Jim leaves town with a broken heart. After turning the inn into a holidays-only live entertainment venue, Jim winds up booking -- and falling for -- Linda. But when Ted shows up at the place after being dumped by Lila, he too sets his sights on beautiful Linda.



Holiday Potluck - December 7th

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
11/2/25	Kathleen Wheeler Frank Wheeler	Kelsey Reynolds John Best Jan Cusac Ange Bertucci Cody Cheatham	Larry Weber	Natalie Woods	Ralph & Ilene Tegg	Steve & Monica Hinrichs
11/9/25	Kevin Cheatham Steve West	Kelsey Reynolds John Best Jan Cusac Ange Bertucci Cody Cheatham	Kate Spielman	Natalie Woods	Ralph & Ilene Tegg	Jim & Beth Smittkamp
11/16/25	Connie Sinn Dave Sinn	Kelsey Reynolds John Best Jan Cusac Ange Bertucci Cody Cheatham	Larry Weber	Natalie Woods	Ralph & Ilene Tegg	Steve West Ralph Tegg
11/23/25	Beth Cox Kevin Wolfe	Kelsey Reynolds John Best Jan Cusac Ange Bertucci Cody Cheatham	Sandy Surface	Natalie Woods	Ralph & Ilene Tegg	Roger & Vickie Baker
11/30/25	Chere Peters Jenny Tripses	Kelsey Reynolds John Best Jan Cusac Ange Bertucci Cody Cheatham	Cheryl Davis	Natalie Woods	Ralph & Ilene Tegg	Owen & Alice Jury

Date	Friends with Jesus	Growing Disciples	The Open Table
11/2/25	Jenny Tripses	Laura Buckley	Frank Wheeler
11/9/25	Chere Peters	Laura Buckley	Frank Wheeler
11/16/25	TBD	Laura Buckley	Frank Wheeler
11/23/25	Linda Rex	Laura Buckley	Frank Wheeler
11/30/25	N/A	N/A	Frank Wheeler