

# The Peoria Christian

April 2026  
Vol 115 ~ Issue 8



Christ has risen, risen indeed!!

The warmer days have arrived, green shoots sprouting up all around, leaves on the trees returning, crocus and daffodils dotting the landscape - as reminders of the new life that is promised in God.

Spring is a time of renewal and new life. Both in the natural world all around us, and in our spiritual lives as well. We have spent the last five months immersed in the seasons of Advent and Christmastide and then Lent and Eastertide. We move now to what the church deems, quite creatively, ordinary time.

With the exception of Pentecost in May, ordinary time spans most of the calendar year, from April to November. And it is in ordinary time, where the work of becoming is done.

In the high holy seasons of the church, those around Christmas and Easter, we return again to time-honored rituals and services and fellowship gatherings which tie the past to the present, readying our minds and hearts for the sacred stories of Jesus' birth and death. Recalling how these seasons, over the course of our lives, have shaped the way we see and encounter the world.

Ordinary time then is left for remembering all that came between Jesus' birth and death -his life, his ministry, his teachings, his example, and adopting his mission as our own. Ordinary time is where the inspiration we have found at Christmas and Easter is put to fruition. Ordinary time is when we make good on the holy day promises we've made to ourselves to live more faithfully this year than the year past.

April's Worship theme is "Who Is Our Neighbor?" It is the natural question to ask for those who aim to take Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves seriously. If we are to love our neighbors - then we need to consider who qualifies. This month we will consider the questions together - who is my neighbor?

I hope you will think of ordinary time as an extraordinary time - a time of extraordinary opportunity to grow in faith, fellowship, and devotion to Christ and Christ's people. We are a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. This movement isn't only for high holy days, but instead, meant to make ordinary days highly holy.

So grateful to be on this journey with you!  
Pastor Adam



## Food Pantry

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

Thank you!



## March Giving

DMF	\$1258.33
Week of Compassion	\$736
Jolt Foundation	\$250



## Stewardship

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost.

- Ignatius of Loyola



## Creation Care

Our care for creation is rooted in our calling to love God and others.

- Ken Shigematsu

# 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

You Are Here



# LENT- REBUILDING FROM THE DUST

**April 5, 2026**

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Sanctuary Choir: *Because He Lives (Amen)* - arr. Russell Mauldin  
Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching

The miracle of Easter is that death does not get the final word on human life. God comes to earth, lives our life, reveals what is holy and true, and is still put on a cross for disrupting the powers that be. But, God would not stand for such an end. From the grief of the cross comes God's commitment to resurrection, new life. Yet, there is a secondary miracle for us 2000 years later. And that is, that new life is available while we still are living this one. A life of faith seeks out the moments which allow for our healing, pursuing the road that Christ has blazed before us. Faith prepares us for hope in tribulation and peace in the midst of chaos. Because whatever comes, the faithful stay in the good company of God and are never alone and are never forsaken.



**April 12, 2026**

Scripture: Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:29-31

Jubilate Ringers: *The Stone Rolled Away* - arr. Brian Childers  
Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching

Loving our Neighbors is a central commandment of Jesus, and central to God's own heart. But it isn't a commandment which originated with Jesus. He is quoting the levitical law. Love of neighbor has been a moral and ethical pillar for the people of God since Abraham first came to have faith. The question has always been, who qualifies as a neighbor? Spoiler Alert: Humanity is kin, through our shared reflection of the image of God. We are a human family, and at our best, we shine the light of God's love in the world. If not us, who? If not now, when?



**April 19, 2026**

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Sanctuary Choir: *I Will Sing* - by Joel Raney  
Rev. Mason Fitch, preaching

We've all heard the old question: "Will it play in Peoria?" - as if our city is the test case for what ordinary people will accept. But Jesus doesn't ask what plays; he asks who our neighbor is. In this month, we'll look at the people, stories, and communities right here in Peoria that stretch our understanding of neighbor-love beyond convenience or comfort. When we stop treating our city like a stage and start seeing it as sacred ground, we discover neighbors we hadn't noticed and callings we hadn't expected. Loving our neighbor begins not in abstraction, but in the very place we live and the people who share it with us.

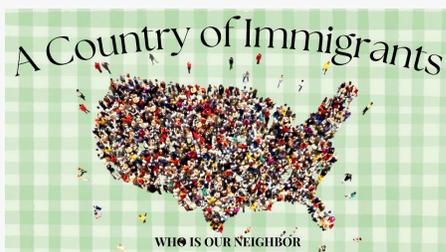


**April 26, 2026**

Scripture: Ezekiel 47:21-23; Romans 12:4-5

Jubilate Ringers: *Thine Is the Glory* - arr. Brian Childers  
Rev. Adam Bradley, preaching

Immigration is so often presented as a cultural issue about categories of people. A movement which aims to shift or replace one culture with another's. But truly it is an issue which comes down to individual lives, about an individual's sacrifices for a taste of freedom. When we learn to ignore the individuals so we can condemn the movement - we lose a bit more of our humanity, and most of our faith. We are descended from spiritual ancestors who were again and again a people put on the move by God. No political or geographical boundaries can separate anyone from the love of God. That is the most relevant truth.



## Invite Your Family & Friends



Our annual Easter Celebration will be held on Saturday April 4th at 10am. Pass the word around to your friends and neighbors! The kiddos will hear the Easter story, get to hunt for eggs, and enjoy a lite breakfast.

## Peoria Area Civic Chorale Concert



Because First Christian hosts the Peoria Area Civic Chorale for all of their rehearsals, we have 10 free tickets for their spring concert. Chere Peters and Mason Fitch sing in this group. If you are interested in going to the concert, please contact the church office for the tickets. First come, first serve!!

## Sunday Morning Study *The Book of Hebrews* led by Frank Wheeler



We invite you to join us as we study of the Book of Hebrews. Remaining faithful to our commitment to follow Jesus and his way of life is not always easy. As we read through Hebrews, we will see that the early followers of Jesus struggled with their commitment to Jesus as well. Let's see how the Letter of Hebrews encourages and motivates its readers to maintain their faithfulness and perhaps we will find a renewal of our own commitment as well.

## 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



Pastor Adam is leading a study and deep dive into the book of Revelation. All are welcome to join!

## Glen Oak CC Community Meal



April Community meal will be on the SECOND Thursday in April, April 9, 5:00-6:30. The first Thursday is Maundy Thursday and there is a service at First Christian at 6:00 PM that we encourage all to attend. We hope to welcome our many community volunteers that visited us in March from First Christian Peoria, University United Methodist and Salem Lutheran Church.

Our team from Glen Oak enjoyed meeting new faces and working together in all aspects. Peoria Public Schools will be on spring vacation so we may be able to welcome some friends who have been "playing outside all day" and would enjoy a meal together with all of us! We are submitting a City of Peoria Grant for the Mini Neighborhood Association funding in early April which helps with our monthly expenses, Thanks to the Neighborhood Association for collaborating with us again this year.

## Snack Pack



This is the LAST week of Snack Packs packing before Spring Break. We will be celebrating a two week vacation! We return on Thursday April 16 to packing! We will have a food delivery truck from Midwest Food Bank on Wednesday, April 8 at 11:00 which means helping hands to unload and fill the shelves are always helpful. All are invited to join us at 11:00 on Wednesday, April 8!

## CPR Training



On Saturday April 11th, we have the opportunity to learn CPR and be certified. This is life-saving care that everyone should know how to do! For this day, there are 12 spots available and the cost is \$20 per person. If we have more people who want to take this class, then we will schedule another opportunity. The class will be held from 9am to 1pm. Please sign up at the information desk.

# FELLOWSHIP

## April Birthdays

Tyson Cheatham	4/1
Brandy Ganschow	4/8
Beth Reynolds	4/10
Elliot Truelove	4/10
Beth Cox	4/12
Monica Hinrichs	4/17
John Goulden	4/20
Pat Grate	4/24
Sharon Gulley	4/29
Roger Baker	4/30



## April Anniversaries

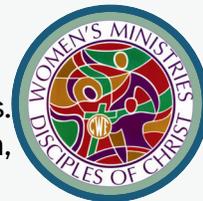
Beth & Kevin Reynolds	4/9
Sam & Becky Sisk	4/13



### Disciple Women

**April 14th @ 12pm**

In April, we will be making porch pots. Dessert is provided, bring a sack lunch, and all are welcome!



### Tasting Peoria

**Brickhouse**

**April 9th @ 6pm**

At Brickhouse BBQ, Burgers and Brews, they offer a menu of BBQ, burgers, pizza and other entrees made from fresh ingredients. Check out their full bar including craft beers and cocktails.

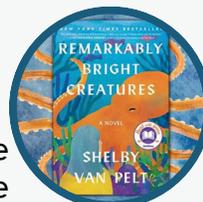


### Book Club

**Remarkably Bright Creatures**

**April 16th @ 5:30pm**

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Ever the detective, Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium, deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.



### Movie Night

**Secretariat**

**April 23rd @ 6pm**

Despite her lack of experience, housewife and mother Penny Chenery agrees to take over management of the family Thoroughbred farm after her father becomes ill. She navigates her way through the male-dominated world of horse racing, and fosters a gifted colt.



### April Potluck - 4/26

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
<b>4/5/26</b>	Chere Peters Jenny Tripses	Laura Cohen Jake COhen Peter Hinshaw Lindsey Hinshaw Levi Holloway	Larry Weber	Natalie Woods	Laura & Jake Cohen	Mike & Laura Buckley
<b>4/12/26</b>	Mike Buckley Becky Sisk	Laura Cohen Jake COhen Peter Hinshaw Lindsey Hinshaw Levi Holloway	Connie Sinn	Natalie Woods	Laura & Jake Cohen	Mike & Laura Buckley
<b>4/19/26</b>	Carmen Nicoll Sandy Surface	Laura Cohen Jake COhen Peter Hinshaw Lindsey Hinshaw Levi Holloway	Liz White	Natalie Woods	Laura & Jake Cohen	Monica & Steve Hinrichs
<b>4/26/26</b>	Kathleen Wheeler Frank Wheeler	Laura Cohen Jake COhen Peter Hinshaw Lindsey Hinshaw Levi Holloway	Kevin Wolfe	Natalie Woods	Laura & Jake Cohen	John & Lisa Best

Date	Friends with Jesus	Growing Disciples	The Open Table
<b>4/5/26</b>	Jenny Tripses	none	Frank Wheeler
<b>4/12/26</b>	Chere Peters	Connie Sinn	Frank Wheeler
<b>4/19/26</b>	Jenny Tripses	Connie Sinn	Frank Wheeler
<b>4/26/26</b>	Linda Rex	Connie Sinn	Frank Wheeler

**JOIN US FOR**  
**SPRING INTO SPRING**  
**TRIVIA**

**SATURDAY,**  
**APRIL 18, 2:00 P.M.**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**PEORIA**

**Invite others and come as a team**  
**or just come and join others**  
**around a table.**

**SNACKS TO SHARE**  
**ARE WELCOME!**

An Illinois Valley Cluster Event