



# January 16, 2026

## WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS for PEORIA FIRST UMC

PEORIA1.COM

### This Week's Dates to Remember

January 18. Missionary Visit. 10AM. Chapel.  
January 18. One Art Exhibition Reception. 9:45AM. Foster Gallery  
January 21. Wednesday Night Bible Study. 6:30PM.

### Spiritual Formation Practice



#### Sermon Series *The Ancient Path*

"The ancient path is not where we used to be—it's how we walk with God now." The ancient path isn't behind us, but beneath us.

#### Spiritual Formation Practice ~ Week 2

##### Prayer of Trust

Lamentations 3: 21-26 "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."

- Once this week take 5 minutes to sit in silence and reflection on Lamentations 3:21-26
- Take a moment to breathe and center your heart and thoughts on God.
- Read this passage slowly.
- Then ask: "Lord, where do I need to trust you more?"
- Pause, breathe, and wait a moment or two.
- Now, imagine a moment in your life where you may be failing to trust in God's plan and need the renewed compassion and grace of God.
- Pray slowly: "Teach me your way, O Lord, and let me walk therein."
- Pause, breathe, and wait a moment or two.
- Let God speak and begin to see where you need to learn trust.

- Pray slowly: “Teach me your way, O Lord, and let me walk therein. Amen.”

Formation begins with honest attention to where we are trusting or not trusting God in this moment.

## Announcements

### ***Office Closed***

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, January 19.



### ***Director of Missions and Community Ministries***

Many of you remember Andrew Reninger who was an intern here at First Church the summer of 2023, serving alongside Christina with the Youth and Dan with Morton Square Soccer Ministry. Andrew has accepted the Director of Missions and Community Ministries position and will start the last week of January.

Andrew grew up in Michigan and attended Grace College, Winona Lake, IN, graduating in 2023 with a degree in Ministry and Communications. He now lives in Pekin with his wife, Alice, a Pekin native, and has been working at Caterpillar Mapleton for Eurest as a Catering Manager. His experience in meal planning will certainly benefit our Loaves & Fish Ministry.

Dan Philips has graciously agreed to help with Loaves & Fish for a few Saturdays and get Andrew oriented to the ministry.

Let's give thanks to God for bringing us Dan, Chanel, and now Andrew, and to each of them for their service to our church!



### ***Higher. Wider. Closer. Deeper. Teams***

As we plan ministry in 2026, we would like to invite you to be a part of the process and join one of the 4 teams: Higher Team focus is on worship and praise of God, Wider Team focus is on outreach and mission, Closer Team focus is on care and fellowship of one another, and the Deeper Team focus is on going deeper in faith in Sunday School class, small group and spiritual practices.

Email Julie Bell to sign up for a team!

[Email Julie Bell](#)



## Wednesday Night Bible Study

6PM Fellowship / 6:30PM Study

### Wednesday Bible Study

6PM Time of Fellowship • Worship Center

6:30PM Bible Study with Pastor Tim  
Conference Room C

6:30PM Bible Study with Pastor Miguel  
Worship Center

## Events



### Missionary Visit

Les and Debbie Dornan  
Sunday, January 18  
10AM | Chapel

**Missionary Visit**  
Long time medical missionaries Dr. Les Dornan and Nursing Manager Debbie Dornan who served in Nepal for 25 years will be sharing their ministry experience in the Chapel on January 18. The church and the Missions Team have a long history with the Dornan's. Before the time in the Chapel, there will be a cake reception in the Gathering Space.

January 18 • 10AM • Chapel



### Worldwide Time of Prayer

Join us for a Zoom time of prayer as we pray with and for missionaries around the world. Please RSVP to Mike Illuzzi if you will attend online.

January 21 • 7:30AM

[RSVP to Mike Illuzzi](#)

Meeting ID: 839 4923 1895  
Passcode: 539078Y

[CLICK HERE for Meeting Link](#)



January 28 - April 22  
Wednesdays, 1 - 3PM

**GriefShare**

**GriefShare** is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. A new 13 week session of GriefShare will begin on Wednesday, January 28 from 1 - 3PM.



### Hearts for the Homebound

Collecting cards and treats for the homebound

9AM - Noon | Gathering Space  
January 25 - February 8

### Hearts for the Homebound

Do you remember sharing Valentine's with your class in school? Peoria First has several members who are unable to be an active part of the congregation and now is a great time to show them some love and care. Hearts for the Homebound bags with individual names (like school Valentine bags or boxes) will be set out in the Gathering Space for you to fill

Sign up online or at the Welcome Desk or by calling the church office. Contact Kirsten Tharp with questions.

[Email Kirsten Tharp](#)

[Register Here](#)

Sunday, January 25th - Sunday, February 8th. Please consider writing cards, notes and bringing in treats to fill up the bags.

Help will also be needed to deliver the bags February 8th - 14th- just in time for Valentine's Day. There are 29 bags total. Suggested items to fill the bags and a list of those receiving them will be available. Questions contact Kirsten Tharp.

[Email Kirsten Tharp](#)

## Mission First

# MISSION FIRST

### ***Mission First***

It is in our vision statement that we are to make (and grow) disciples of Jesus Christ. A piece of becoming a disciple is service.

There are always serving opportunities at Peoria First. Want to serve and just do not know where or how? Send us a message and we will get you connected.

[CLICK HERE to get Connected](#)

## Fine Arts

### **January Foster Gallery Exhibition**

#### ***ONE ART***

by Peoria First UMC Creatives

Exhibition Reception: Sunday, January 18 • 9:45 - 11:15AM

The Foster Gallery is open for viewing:

Monday - Friday: 9AM - 1PM

Sunday: 8:30AM - Noon

Other Showings by Appointment





## FINE ARTS MINISTRY

PEORIA FIRST



Questions about our Fine Arts Ministry or the Foster Gallery?  
Contact Eugene Maison

[EMAIL Eugene Maison](#)

## Children



### CHILDCARE HOURS

Infant - 4 years old  
8:45AM - 12:30PM



#### *Childcare Hours*

Childcare is available every Sunday morning from 8:45AM - 12:30PM. Childcare available for children infant through 4 years old.



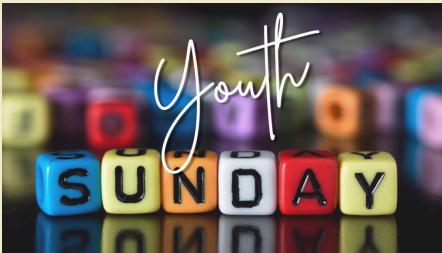
The **Comfort Room** may be accessed by checking in at the Children's Ministry desk and is available Sundays from 8:45AM-12:15PM. One adult parent / guardian must accompany your child.



**Questions about Children's Ministry?**  
**Contact Rosy Rios**

[Email Rosy Rios](#)

## Youth



### ***YOUTH Sunday School***

Youth Sunday School is for youth in 6th - 12th Grades.

Sundays • 10:00AM  
Youth Room



### ***YOUTH Small Group***

Join us every Wednesday as we open our evening with praise music and then enjoy time in the Word and fellowship with one another.

Youth Small Group is for youth in 6th - 12th Grades.

Wednesdays • 6:45PM  
Worship Center



**Questions about Youth Ministry?**  
**Contact Christina Koeppel**

[Email Christina Koeppel](#)

## This Week's Sermon

# Waiting That Leads to Life

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-26



## Giving

[CLICK to Give Online](#)



[SCAN to Give](#)



[GIVING QUESTION? Email Here](#)

### eHIGHLIGHTS Submissions

If you would like to submit an article for publication, please submit it no later than noon Wednesday **and include the word "eHighlights" in the subject line**. Please limit your content to the most basic information.

**eHIGHLIGHTS**

[Email Julie Bell](#)

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### Join Us for Sunday Worship

Traditional | 8:45 AM | Sanctuary

RENEW | 9:00 AM | Worship Center

Renuovo (Bilingual Service) | 11:15 AM | Worship Center

**Sunday School for All Ages**

10:00AM



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Visit us online at: [peoria1.com](http://peoria1.com)

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