

# eHighlights

January 30, 2026  
WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS  
for  
PEORIA FIRST UMC

PEORIA1.COM

## This Week's Dates to Remember

February 4. GriefShare. 1PM. Conference Room A.  
February 4. Wednesday Night Bible Study. 6:30PM.  
February 6. *In Your Eyes* Art Exhibition Reception. 5-8PM. Foster Gallery.  
February 10. United Women in Faith. 10AM. Gathering Space.

## 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 4

#### Prayer of Abiding

Once this week take 5 minutes to sit in silence and reflection on John 15:1-4

- Take a moment to breathe and center your heart and thoughts on God.
- Read this passage slowly.
- Then ask: “Lord, what fruit am I producing - anxiety, blame, impatience, and control... or ... humility, love, joy, and peace?
- “Where do I need to be pruned so that I might produce better fruit?”
- Pause, breathe, and wait a moment or two.
- Pray slowly: “Teach me your way, O Lord, and let me walk therein. Help me surrender my life to your pruning hands... to let go of what I should not hold onto. Shape me, Lord, so that what remains bears your fruit.”
- Pause, breathe, and wait a moment or two.
- Let God speak and begin to see where you need to lean into God’s presence and faithfully trust in God’s plan.
- Pray slowly: “Teach me your way, O Lord, and let me walk therein. Let me remain deeply connected to you in all things. Amen.”

Formation begins with honest attention to where we are faithfully producing the fruit of the Spirit and where we're in need of being pruned by God's work in our life.

## Announcements

### 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 through February 8. Please consider writing cards, notes and bringing in treats to fill up the bags.

Help will also be needed to deliver the bags February 8 - 14, 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](#)



#### **Welcome Andrew**

Welcome, Andrew Rininger! Andrew is our new Director of Missions and Community Ministries. He is familiar with Peoria First as he was an intern the summer of 2023, serving alongside Christina with the Youth and with Dan and the Morton Square Soccer Ministry.

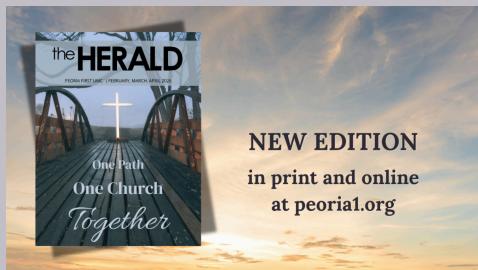
Andrew grew up in Michigan and attended Grace College, Winona Lake, IN, graduating in 2023 with a degree in Youth Ministry and Communications. He now lives in Pekin with his wife, Alice.

When you see Andrew, please give him a warm welcome!

#### **NEW Edition of the Herald**

A new edition of the Herald is now available. Pick up a print copy or read it at [peoria1.org](http://peoria1.org).

[VIEW the Herald Here](#)



**NEW EDITION**  
in print and online  
[at peoria1.org](http://peoria1.org)



#### **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



## *In Your Eyes*

Foster Gallery NEW February exhibition. Through our eyes, life unfolds in many forms. *In Your Eyes* brings together women artists, each sharing a personal vision of the world they live in.

First Friday Reception  
Friday, February 6 • 5 - 8PM  
Foster Gallery



United  
Women  
in Faith

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 / 10AM / GATHERING SPACE

THE SPEAKER WILL BE DOUG BURGESS  
FROM BURGESS DRIVING SCHOOL.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME

## *United Women in Faith*

The United Women in Faith will meet on Tuesday, February 10th at 10 am. We will meet in the Gathering Space. The speaker will be Doug Burgess from Burgess Driving School.

All women are welcome!

Tuesday, February 10 • 10AM  
Gathering Space

## 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

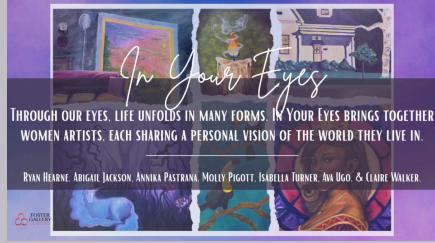
### February Foster Gallery Exhibition

#### *In Your Eyes*

by Ryan Hearne, Abigail Jackson, Annika Pastrana, Molly Pigott,  
Isabella Turner, Ava Ugo, & Claire Walker

Friday Reception: February 6 • 5 - 8PM  
Live Music

The Foster Gallery is open for viewing:  
Monday - Friday: 9AM - 1PM  
Sunday: 8:30AM - Noon  
Other Showings by Appointment



**FINE ARTS  
MINISTRY**  
PEORIA FIRST

 **FOSTER  
GALLERY**  
FOR CHRISTIANITY  
AND THE FINE ARTS

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

[EMAIL Eugene Maison](#)

## Children



### ***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



# Abiding, not Achieving

## 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.

[Email Julie Bell](#)

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### Join Us for Sunday Worship

Traditional | 8:45 AM | Sanctuary

RENEW | 9:00 AM | Worship Center

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

**Sunday School for All Ages**

10:00AM



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**116 NE Perry Ave | Peoria, IL 61603 | 309.673.3641**

Visit us online at: [peoria1.com](http://peoria1.com)  
Contact us at: [info@fumcpeoria.org](mailto:info@fumcpeoria.org)



First United Methodist Church | 116 NE Perry Ave | Peoria, IL 61603 US

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