

Reformation Sunday

Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds our faith on Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

Presbyterianism is the name given to one of the groups of ecclesiastical bodies that represent the features of Protestantism emphasized by French lawyer John Calvin, whose writings crystallized much of the reformed thinking that came before him.

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude Fugue in E-flat "St Anne" J.S. Bach

As the prelude begins, you are invited to begin your personal preparation for worship.

Silent Meditation

Christianity is not a set of beliefs or doctrines one believes in order to be a Christian, but rather Christianity is to have one's body shaped, one's habits determined, in such a way that the worship of God is unavoidable. Stanley Hauerwas, American Protestant theologian

Call to Worship (9:00)

We gather here to worship God.
We are here, with heart, soul and mind.
We gather here as Christ's body.
We are neighbors, learning how to love each other.
The Holy Spirit gathers us in to be sent out again.
We are here to worship and to be transformed. Let us worship the Triune God!

Choral Call to Worship (11:10) With a Voice of Singing Kenneth Jennings

Praise and Adoration

***Hymn #275** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God EIN FESTE BURG
(*Please stand, if you are able) (11:10 ONLY: Choir sings vs. 3)

Confession and Pardon

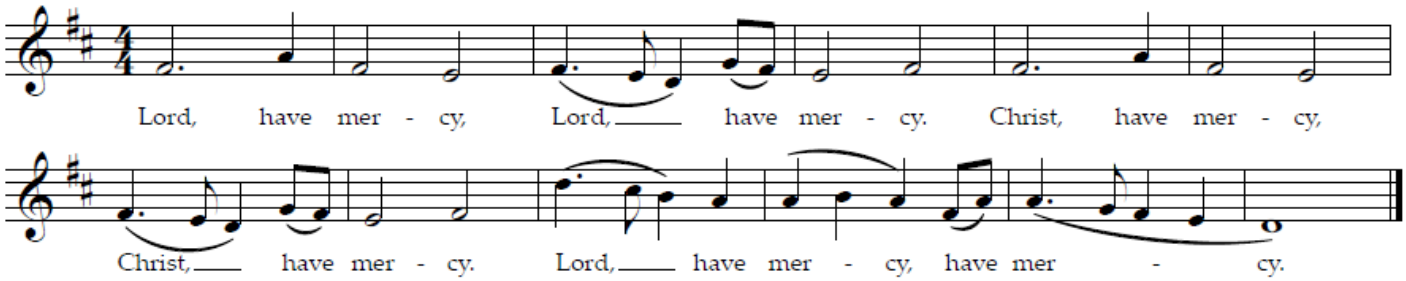
Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *Martin Luther (1483-1546)*

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.

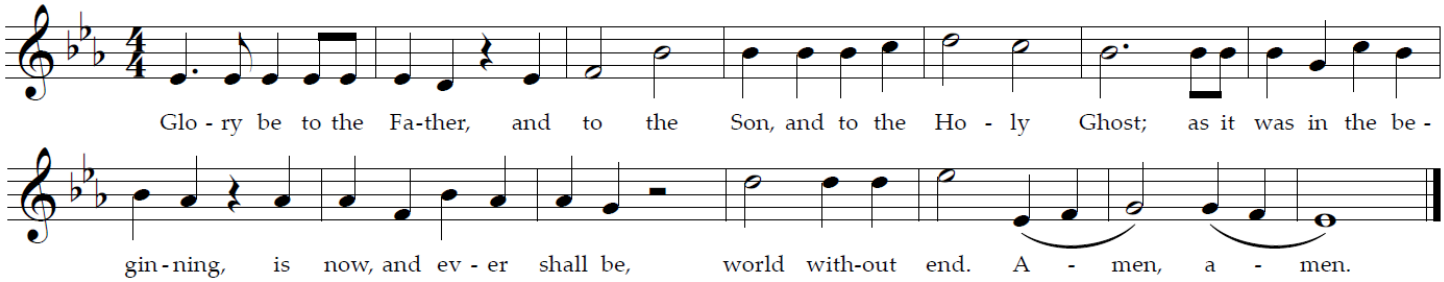
Silent Prayers of Confession and Petition

Kyrie Eleison Lord, Have Mercy SCHUBERT



Assurance of Pardon

***Congregational Response (#581)** Glory Be to the Father GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)



***Welcome**

Announcements

Moment for Stewardship Scott Stalnaker, elder on the Finance Committee

Fellowship of Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

> Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem (9:00) Hashivenu (Cause Us to Return) arr. John Leavitt

Cause us to return, O Lord, to you. And we shall return. Renew our days as of old.

Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Lesson Matthew 22: 34-46 page 804 of the pew Bible

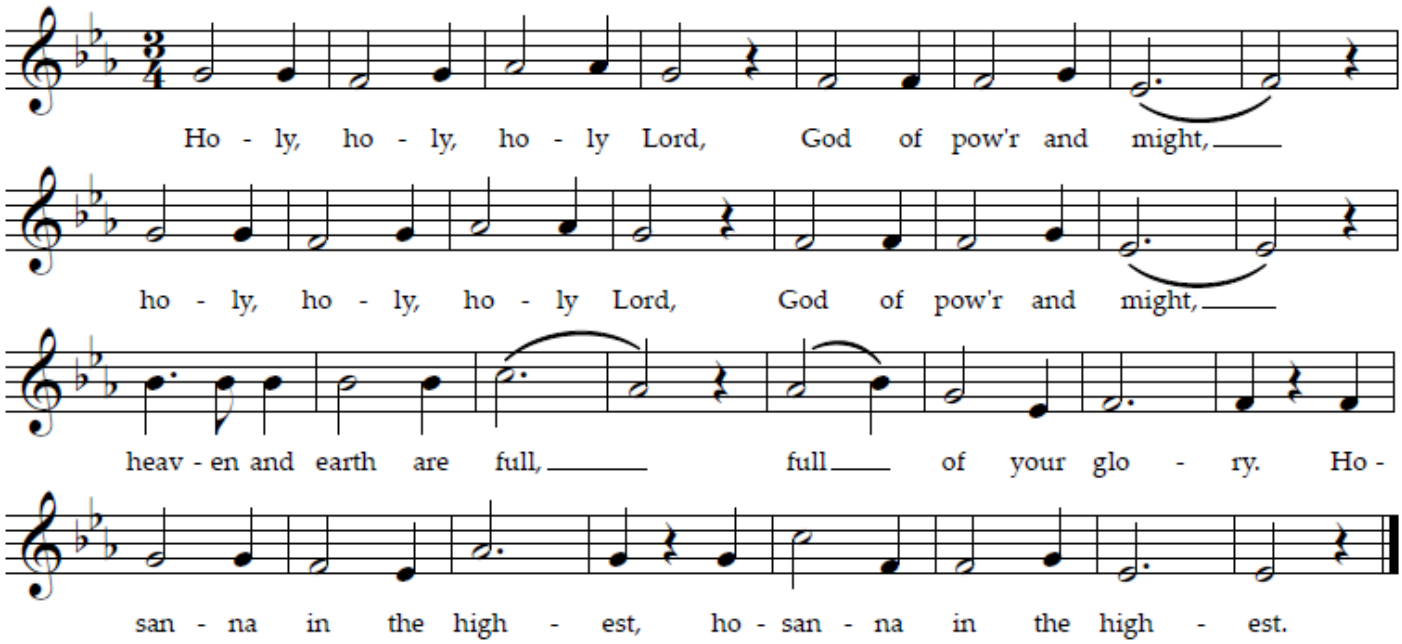
Sermon "The Great Commandments" Dr. Zieman

Our Response to God's Word

***Affirmation of Faith** from the Confession of Belhar (1986)

We believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and nourishes the Church from the beginning of the world to the end. The Church is holy; the Church is universal; it is the fellowship of God's children, called together from the whole of humanity to proclaim God's wonderful deeds. We believe that the reconciling work of Christ gives birth to a uniting Church, because Church unity is a gift from God and a goal we need to strive for. The unity of the Church must become visible so that the people around us can see how separation and hatred are overcome in Christ. We believe that genuine faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership in this Christian church. We praise God that race, class, gender, or culture does not determine who belongs to this Church.

***Sanctus (#562)** Holy, Holy, Holy SANCTUS (Schubert)



Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Bring Peace to All the World (9:00) M. Franck; arr. Spevacek
In All Things Love (11:10) Dan Forrest

***Doxology (#609)** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***Hymn of Dedication #361**	O Christ, the Great Foundation	AURELIA
***Charge and Benediction**		
Postlude	A Mighty Fortress	Helmit Walcha

Serving in Ministry Today

Music	9:00	Credo Choir; Kristi Treu, director; Evan Mott, assistant; Mark Kanitz, organ		
	11:10	Chamber Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ		
Childcare Ministry	Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster			
Ushers	9:00	Darold Bauer, Captain; Mimi Bauer, Mike and Sherryl Shannon, Doug Rathman		
	11:10	Dave Berry, Captain; Millicent Myres, Zach Metzger, Penny Dehner		
Greeters	9:00	North Door:	Welcome Center Door: Doug Larson	
	11:10	North Door: Diane and Kevin Wetuski	Welcome Center Door: Nancy Koehler	
Information Center	9:00	Linda Miller	11:10	Pam Swenson
Coffee Host	Laurie Kerr			

Staff

Rev. Marshall Zieman, D. Min.	Pastor, Head of Staff	marshall@pcoc.us
Rev. Joshua Garry, M.Div.	Associate Pastor	josh@pcoc.us
Kristi Treu, M.A. Music	Director of Music, Executive Director Vesper Concerts	kristi@pcoc.us
Heather Berry	Christian Education Director	heather@pcoc.us
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Gary Marron	Facilities Manager	gmarron.51@outlook.com
Christian Fritz	Communications Coordinator	communications@pcoc.us
Mark Kanitz	Organist	mark@pcoc.us
Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus	

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Announcements

For the week of October 25, 2026

PRESBYTERIAN
Church of the Cross

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, October 25
9:00 Worship
10:00 Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School
10:00 Falling Upward Class
11:10 Worship
2:00 SHF & JHF Trunk or Treat set up
3:00 Trunk or Treat
5:30 Pageant Rehearsal

Monday, October 26
10:00 Tai Chi
6:30 Session Meeting

Tuesday, October 27
7:00 Men's Bible Study
9:30 Staff Meeting
12:00 Vesper Concert Rehearsal
1:00 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
1:30 Active Minds

Wednesday, October 28
5:15 Children's Choir
5:15 Credo Choir
5:50 Chamber Singers
6:00 Cornerstone Dinner
6:30 Confirmation Class
6:50 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, October 29
10:00 Tai Chi
6:00 Bell Rehearsal

Sunday, November 1
9:00 Worship
10:00 Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School
10:00 Falling Upward Class
11:10 Worship
12:00 Pageant Rehearsal
4:00 Remembrance Service
4:45 SHF/JHF Fun and Games
5:00 Anxious Generation Class

Worship Services at 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.
Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship at 10 a.m.
Office Hours: 9:00 to 4:30 Monday-Friday

Joys and Concerns. The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Sharon Igel – Happy 98th birthday with love to Dr. Don Igel and also in memory of Bert Crum, Mary Bahl, and all those battling breast cancer.

The church has learned of the death of Sharon Rich, who passed away on October 19. Services are pending.



Trunk or Treat is today, at 3 p.m.
Join us in Fellowship Hall and on the east lawn for food, games, and trunk or treating. Be sure to wear your costume and bring a bucket for your treats.

Remember to Fall Back! Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 1. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, October 31, so you're on time for church next Sunday.



Jr High Sunday School Moves Back In!
The Jr. High Sunday School class will return to meeting in Room 11 – downstairs – now that the room renovations are complete!

One Usher Spot Remaining! Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to be on an usher team! There is one usher captain spot left to fill for the 4th Sunday of each month at the 11:10 service. If you have questions or would like to fill this position please contact Mary Lynn Bennett.

Remembrance Service next Sunday, November 1, at 4:00 p.m.



Our church's Cross Care Connections program invites members and families to come and remember your loved one during our annual afternoon service in our Sanctuary. You are invited to stay after the service at a reception in the Welcome Center.

GO SOLO First Friday Coffee November 6

The GO SOLO fellowship group is for anyone wanting to know more people at PCOC. Some want to explore Omaha and prefer company when they do! Some want to sit and visit. Feel free to join our email lists if you live alone, have a partner, or just want to meet other like-minded folks. Our November First-Friday coffee will be held on November 6, at 9:30 am in the Hearth Room of the Welcome Center.

2027 Stewardship Campaign.



As Presbyterian Church of the Cross begins its 2027 Stewardship Campaign, we celebrate the faithful generations who built the congregation we know today. Through their worship, service, teaching, music, generosity, and care, they created a legacy that continues to strengthen our church. Our theme, Legacy Forward, calls us to honor that heritage while supporting today's ministry and preparing for tomorrow. Annual gifts make worship, Christian education, music, mission, outreach, and congregational care possible. Every contribution helps PCOC share God's love and serve our neighbors. As Psalm 145:4 reminds us, "One generation shall laud your works to another." This fall, consider what you have received through PCOC, how your generosity makes a difference today, and what you hope to make possible for future generations. Together, we can carry PCOC's legacy forward with gratitude, generosity, and faith. – The 2027 Stewardship Committee

In worship on Sunday, November 1, we will include a time to dedicate all our 2027 commitment cards, so please get yours in asap. <u>To date, we have already received 130 cards, so we are EXACTLY half way to surpassing last year's total of 260 cards!</u>

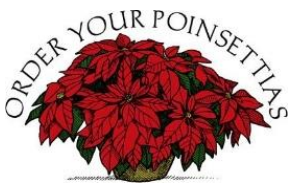


Active Minds in November

November is Mahjongg month at Active Minds! We will also have Kings on the Corner for a card game. Please, let Earlene know if you plan to join us so we have enough game sets available! Be sure to bring your 2026 card if you have one. Every Tuesday, lower level Great Room, 1:30-4:00pm.

Fabric Donations Needed

We welcome your donations of red, green, white, and cream-colored fabric, solid colors or prints. We need pieces that are at least 3"x3." These will be used for one of the crafts at the 'Tis the Season' Workshop. Please put them in the bin in the Lobby. If you have any questions, please see Heather. Thanks!



Poinsettia Orders for Christmas! The sanctuary is so beautiful during the Advent and Christmas season, especially with the addition of the many poinsettias purchased by church members. This year's orders are due by Friday, Nov. 20 and will arrive by December 12. Order forms can be found at the information desk or online and will be mailed with the November issue of Cross Currents. The cost of each poinsettia is $18.00. Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Church of the Cross.

Now Hiring: Childcare Worker

We are seeking a caring, dependable, and enthusiastic childcare worker to join our childcare ministry team. This position provides a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment for infants and children during our Wednesday evening programming. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older, pass a background check, and comply with PCOC Child Protection Policies. Contact Heather for more details.

New Staff Hirings

Beginning November 1, we are pleased to have Kathryn Vint joining our staff as our Digital Communications Specialist. Kathryn will be involved with our website, social media, and branding accounts, with the goal of improving all aspects of how we communicate to our members and community.

Also, you will see Penny Dehner joining Julie in the office handling our administrative needs, greeting guests, and taking your phone calls. We are thankful for both these PCOC members who have stepped up to serve our church.

49ers on Tuesday, November 3

Our next program will be Rev. Kirk Ryckman, PCOC's Pastor Emeritus, enlightening us regarding the history of Presbyterian Church of the Cross and the many stages that have been taken to bring us to the present day with our building and programs. The lunch location is Wheatfields, One Pacific Place, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are 49, younger or older, come join us! We will order from a special menu. For reservations or questions, sign up at the Information Center or contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg.

Presbyterian Women on November 5

As the season changes, the Presbyterian Women are *falling* for the Horizon's Bible study. Thursday, November 5th Karen Saunders will guide us in Lesson 3 based on 1 Corinthians Chapters 5 & 6. We'll discover that through the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we are free to make choices benefiting each other. Ladies join us at 9:30 am on the first Thursday in the Courtyard classroom. If you have questions, please contact Cindy Nisley.



Fall Clean-Up is Saturday, November 7, from 9 am to Noon.

All members are invited and welcome to participate! Bring your garden gloves, pruners, rakes, shovels, and trash barrels! If you have a chain saw that would be helpful this year as well. We will rake leaves and debris to spruce up our landscaped areas to prepare our grounds for the winter season ahead. TREATS, juice and coffee will be available for fellowship. Your help will be very much appreciated! Thank you!



Presbyterian Men's Classic Shrimp Boil Dinner & Fundraiser is Sunday, November 8.

Presbyterian Men are once again hosting an old-fashioned shrimp boil on Sunday, November 8 in Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm. Come and enjoy scrumptious 'JUMBO' fresh shrimp (or chicken cordon bleu) served with all the fixins! Entertainment provided by the "Michael Frederickson Trio." Suggested donation is only $20 per person or more if you wish. All proceeds go to Heartland Hope Mission. Sign up and pay (checks to Presbyterian Men) at the Information Desk by Sunday, November 1. Questions? Contact Jim Miller or Frank McMullen.

Friday Night Gourmet on November 13

Friday Night Gourmets will meet next on November 13, at *Charleston's Restaurant* located at 76th and Dodge (7540 Dodge St, 402-991-0055). Social Time will begin at 6:30 pm with Dinner at 7:00 pm. We will be ordering off the full menu (GF menu available). Sign-up sheet is located at the Information Desk. Please sign up by Sunday, November 8. Our Hosts are Curt Field and Dan Scanlan. Please join us for an evening of lively conversation and good food! Everyone is Welcome! (Call Curt or Launie Lambert with any questions.)

Sunday Morning Adult Ed – Falling Upward, led by Keith Allen

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. from September 27 – December 27

In ***Falling Upward***, Richard Rohr (A Franciscan priest and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation) takes us on a journey to give us an understanding of how the "Falling" in life – the heartbreaks, disappointments, and first loves – are actually stepping-stones to the "Upwards" in life – the spiritual growth that the second half of our life has in store for us. Join us this September for a 13-week study of **Falling Upward** with Richard Rohr as our guide. Led by Keith Allen, the class will follow Rohr's book, chapter by chapter, and will also incorporate reflections, questions and experiential exercises that have been pulled from Rohr's companion journal that accompanies the book. Suggested Book Donation $15.

Sunday afternoon Adult Ed – The Anxious Generation, led by Quinn McGuire

Sundays at 5:00 p.m. in Room 15, through November 1

Together we will explore Jonathan Haidt's research on the rise of anxiety, depression, and loneliness among children and adolescents while discussing how Christian families can intentionally cultivate resilient, connected, faith-filled children in a digital world. This study is designed to encourage conversation—not debate—and to leave each session with practical ideas families can begin using immediately.

'Tis the Season SHF Fundraiser Lunch is November 15.



All ages – the young *and* the young at heart – are invited to join us for this SHF fundraiser on Sunday, November 15 at Noon. This continues to be one of SHF's biggest fundraising events of the year, supporting their summer mission trip. Next year they're going to Rimrock Camp in Rapid, South Dakota. We're introducing activities that encourage full family participation. There will be one shut in craft, one family craft, and three other crafts. Each one has been thoughtfully chosen so everyone can enjoy creating together. We hope to see all generations join us for this special fundraiser. Come for lunch and stay for crafts! **Please be sure to register online by November 1 to reserve your crafts.** If you have any questions, please contact Heather.

Adam Hu and Friends on Sunday evening, November 15. Three Omaha musicians take the stage the evening of November 15 at 7:00 p.m. (originally scheduled for November 13). Pianist Adam Hu will join violinist Henry Jenkins and cellist Boris Chalakov for the Brahms Piano Trio No. 1 and the U.S. premiere of Canadian composer Kevin Lau's "A Simple Secret." As always, the concert is FREE. No reservations required.



Advent in Plain Sight

November 22 – December 13

Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

In this daily devotional for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Jill Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation – objects we encounter in our own lives. Readers will find new meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' coming.