

TIMOTHY TOPICS

December, 2025 newsletter

St Timothy's Presbyterian Church

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2400 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa

Sunday Worship Service @ 10:00 am

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Bible Trivia

Finish the verse: "Blessed are the peace makers

Last issue's answer: "For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'" Isaiah 41:13

Minister's Corner: We live in a world overflowing with advice. Bookstores brim with self-help manuals. Social media offers endless motivational reels, life hacks, and strategies promising a more efficient, peaceful, or successful life. All of this assumes one thing: that the human being is a project, something to fix and upgrade. In a culture shaped by this mindset, and in a time when biblical focus is often thin, Christianity is easily misunderstood. Faith becomes seen as one more option in the self-help marketplace. Churches risk functioning like wellness centers. Christ becomes a life coach offering inspirational principles for "living better." But if you came to church for advice, you will leave disappointed for Christianity offers something far greater. The biblical witness insists that the heart of our faith is *news*. The Christian message is Good **news**, not good advice. Advice tells you what to do; news tells you what has already been done. Advice aims at self-improvement; news declares a new reality. This is why Paul can say, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes*" (Romans 1:16). Notice: the Gospel is not a technique, a strategy, or a set of tips. It is **the power of God**; something God has already accomplished. From the beginning, Christianity centered not on moral instruction but on an event: the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Augustine described this as grace invading the human condition. Luther built his entire theological vision on this distinction: the Law is advice ("Do this and live better"), but the Gospel is news ("Christ has done this so you may live"). Modern psychology agrees: advice rarely transforms anyone. Deep change comes through events: crises, encounters, and stories that reshape our identity. The Gospel offers precisely this: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. This is not advice to improve your life. It is the news that *changes* it. Rev. Reine.

In the Rearview Mirror: - On November 22, 2025 St. Timothy's family was busy having their Church Bazaar.

Everyone worked so hard with a spirit of joy and excitement to exhibit their goodies. Many people from the church & community were on a treasure hunt, others were after the yummy baked goodies, and everyone broke bread together at lunch time. Big thank you goes out to all those who made our Bazaar a big success. We are delighted that we raised around 5000\$ this year!

- Our elders at St. Tim led the service on Nov. 23. Ken, our clerk, encouraged all to pray and seek God's discernment about whether they may be called to serve as an elder. Mike P. preached a great message titled "Cleaner Than Clean."

- On Tuesday, Nov. 25 Christmas carols and the joy of waiting for Christ to come filled the space during our Agape gathering, where Communion was served and a wonderful time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Looking Forward: - Join us at St. Timothy's as we journey through this sacred and joyful Advent season. We invite you, your family, and friends to worship, celebrate, and prepare our hearts together for the coming of Christ.

- November 30 – First Sunday in Advent: Alpha Praise Team & Holy Communion. Begin the season with uplifting worship and share in the Lord's Supper as we light the first Advent candle, the candle of Hope.

- Dec. 7 – 2nd Sunday in Advent. We welcome a group of talented students from De La Salle High School who will offer a beautiful selection of Christmas carols. Join us for this special musical gift as we continue our Advent journey and light the candle of Peace. After the service, all families are invited to join us for a fun activity decorating gingerbread houses and enjoying delicious pizza!

- December 14 – Third Sunday of Advent. Join us for joyful and vibrant Christmas carols led by St. Tim's amazing African Chorus as we celebrate and light the third candle, the candle of Joy!

- December 21 – Fourth Sunday in Advent. Christmas Pageant by our wonderful Sunday School children. Experience the Christmas story through the eyes of our children as they share the joy of this season, and as we light the candle of Love.

- You are invited to our Christmas Eve Family Service—a candlelight celebration of Christ's birth. Come and share in the wonder of this holy night as we sing beloved carols, gather around the glow of candlelight, and share in Communion together. All are welcome as we rejoice in the Light who has come into the world.

Sunday Worship Services 10:00 am.

Sunday school during the service.

A special program for young adults, including Bible study and fun activities. If interested, please contact Bertha.

Coming Events

1st. Sunday in Advent & communion

Nov. 30 @10 am

Gingerbread House Decorating and Pizza

Dec.7 @12 noon.

Café Connections December 12 @10:30

Christmas Pageant Dec. 21 @ 10 am

Christmas Eve Service Dec.24 @ 7 pm

Bible Study, Mondays @10:00 am

Craft group Mondays @1-3 pm

ST. TIM'S PICTORIAL

