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CEDARCREEKCHURCH

Looking Ahead - At the Movies 2025

November 23, 2025

John 10:10

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

We all hear competing voices every day. The enemy speaks through lies, distractions, and fear. These lies have a way of pulling us toward guilt and shame. When we listen to the noise of the world - the whispers of the thief - it can lead us to a place where we are either stuck by the weight of our past or running from it.

But here's the truth about these whispers: ***They are not the voice of God.***

Jesus speaks life. His words bring clarity, peace, and purpose. If the words you're hearing aren't full of these things, then the voice you're listening to is not his.

How do we know? Because Jesus invites us into a full and abundant life. And before we get ahead of ourselves, let's remember: this invitation isn't dependent on perfection or on striving to become "good enough." That's not what grace and mercy are about.

Instead, Jesus invites each of us to live from a place of redemption, restoration, and hope.

As we look ahead into this week, let's tune our ears to the voice of the One who came to give us a real, rich, and soul-satisfying life. His truth always leads us forward, never backward.

Discussion Questions:

Ice Breaker: What's one thing that recently made you feel encouraged or energized?

What would it look like if our community became a place where people experience the freedom Jesus offers, free from condemnation and full of grace?

Read Romans 8:1-2. Knowing there is no condemnation for those who belong to Jesus, where do you still carry guilt or shame that he has already set you free from?

What voices - internal or external - tend to pull you away from the freedom Jesus promises?

Reflect and Respond: What practical steps can you take this week to tune your heart to Jesus' voice instead of the enemy's lies? Who in your life needs to be reminded of the freedom we have in Christ, and how can you intentionally encourage them?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for being the One who speaks life, freedom, and truth over us. Help me silence every voice that brings guilt, shame, or fear, and teach me to recognize your voice above all others. Give me courage to walk in freedom, strength to let go of what holds me back, and compassion to share your hope with others. I love you, I trust you, and I worship you. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Romans 1:20

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

This post was written by Lori Tuckerman, Director of Content for the Daily LivingItOut.

Purpose Grows in Community - At the Movies 2025

November 24, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Luke 1

There are moments when we are reminded that purpose isn't something we step into on our own. It's something we grow into with the people God places around us. The burdens of shame, regret, and fear feel heavy because they were never meant to be lifted alone.

Romans 8:1-2

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

Freedom isn't something you earn. It's something you receive. And when you receive it, you begin to walk, breathe, and believe differently. But here's the beautiful and sometimes uncomfortable part: God rarely grows us in isolation. He grows us in community.

Your calling needs people. People who remind you of your identity when you forget, who speak life when the enemy whispers lies, who walk close when your steps feel unsteady. And often, that kind of growth unfolds when you take the first small, courageous step toward someone else.

I remember sitting at Panera one morning when I noticed a woman at a nearby table. I didn't know her, but I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me: Lean in. Ask her how she's doing.

Everything in me resisted. What if I'm wrong? What if she thinks I'm odd? What if this gets messy? But the prompting didn't go away. So I took a breath, walked over as I refilled my coffee, and gently asked, "Is there something on your heart today?"

She exhaled in a way that told me she had been holding her breath for far too long. Tears filled her eyes. She whispered, "I've been asking God to help, I just didn't know where to start."

A simple question opened a door. A small step forward became a moment of freedom for both of us.

Sometimes the people God places in our path are carrying the same fears, shame, or questions that we are. And when we lean in with holy curiosity, the chains loosen. Healing comes, and purpose becomes clear.

Purpose is impossible without the right people. God knows who you need and who needs you.

There is no condemnation in Christ. None. True freedom begins with belonging to Christ, to his people, and to a story stronger than your shame and more powerful than your fear.

Questions:

Where are you trying to carry shame, fear, or regret alone instead of bringing it into the light of a trusted community?

Who has God placed around you that you may need to approach with curiosity, courage, or vulnerability?

How have you seen freedom grow when you've stepped toward others, or allowed others to step toward you?

Next Steps:

Reach out to one person God brings to mind, someone you trust or someone you've been nudged to check on. Send a text, make a call, or ask one simple question: *"How's your heart today?"* Lean in and listen.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for reminding me that I was never meant to walk alone. Thank you for freeing me from condemnation and inviting me into a life of grace, belonging, and purpose. Help me recognize the people you've placed in my path and give me the courage to take the first small step toward deeper connection. Make me someone who speaks life, offers presence, and reflects your love. Lead me into the kind of community where healing grows and freedom deepens. I trust you with my journey. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:**Romans 1:20**

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

This post was written by Monique Myers, a Perrysburg attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Found Family - At the Movies 2025

November 25, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Luke 2

When I'm trying to choose which book to read next, one of the first red flags for me is a loner main character. I'm personally not interested in a story about someone capable of figuring things out on their own - I need a character who has a close relationship with someone in their life. This could be a romantic bond, a platonic friendship, ride-or-die siblings, or (my personal favorite) a found family group formed from all the above. If the character deeply cares about this person or group of people, I'm willing to tag along for the rest of their story.

This isn't just something I want in a fictional book. God created us to be in community with others. After making Adam, God quickly said that it isn't good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:19). Jesus himself formed a friend group while on earth, spending time with his disciples and equipping them to spread the Good News.

Unfortunately, friendship doesn't happen on its own. It takes work to develop and maintain a healthy relationship. Everyone involved must be willing to put in the effort and encourage each other.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

As members of God's family, we are able to support and be supported, love and be loved, serve and be served. We pick each other up so that when we have a bad day, someone else is ready to return the favor. Our church is where we can unite, remembering our shared purpose as God's children.

However, we shouldn't exclude people who haven't yet chosen to follow Jesus. Those relationships are just as important! They provide an opportunity for us to share the gospel and a space where we can humbly listen to new perspectives. We are able to demonstrate God's love and nearness to those

who otherwise might never consider entering a church.

God created us to crave love, both being loved *and* giving that love to others. Our relationships are the perfect place to experience both forms of love. We shouldn't settle for half-hearted acquaintances, not when together we can represent God's love to the world.

Questions:

Do you have any friendships that you want to be more intentional with? Who can you intentionally pour into this week?

Next Steps:

Mark your calendar to start or join a Group! This is the perfect place to find new friends and develop a strong community. Registration to start a Group opens December 14, and the directory to join a Group opens January 17, 2026.

If you don't have any unchurched friends, consider this as your invitation to expand your circle. Keep an eye out while at work, among other families in your school system, or when serving on the DreamTeam, to see who God is calling you into a relationship with.

If, like me, you struggle making friends, read this [article by behavioral researcher Vanessa Van Edwards](#). She has some very helpful and straightforward tips about how to find and connect with new people.

Prayer:

Father, you created me to rely on you and to rely on other people. Thank you for inviting me into your family! Please give me the love and the patience to develop strong relationships with those you have put in my life. Give me the eyes to see when someone is lonely, struggling, or in need of some encouragement. I love you. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Romans 1:20

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

This post was written by Lydia Snyder, a South attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Choose the Better Story - At the Movies

2025

November 26, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Luke 3

Life hits hard sometimes.

For me, it began when I was seven, and after days of crying, someone offered a book to help me cope. The words delivered a new perspective at such a young age. As the years went by, I found different ways to deal with or avoid problems when things didn't go the way I had hoped. To cope, I spent my time in sports, with friends, and in isolation, and it helped in the moment.

The problem was that those moments were too small to handle the realness of life. Eventually, I learned that true help always came when I used written words to put my mind at ease, and the best of those were the Bible or other books that connected Scripture to everyday life.

Diving into Scripture didn't magically erase everything old and negative, but because of my faith, I finally began to understand that I'm still living the story God has written for me. Faith allows me to see the bigger picture, while a lack of faith invites old habits and familiar demons.

In 2014, artist Jermaine Cole famously said, "I'm tired of living with demons because they're always inviting more." Sometimes, those "demons" keep you stuck when life doesn't work out by your design.

Ephesians 2:8-10

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Faith is an invitation to receive God's grace, which is given to the undeserving. Faith doesn't save you. It's the human instrument God uses to help you see you're worth saving.

Once your eyes are open to see your purpose in this world and beyond, you don't want to be stuck with old patterns of thinking, insecurities, and coping mechanisms. The old ways become a relentless cycle - a stagnant and repetitive story that you and others wrote over your life.

The story God has written for you is far better. Have faith in God's written word. It prepares you for undiscovered chapters of the good plans he has waiting for you.

Questions:

Do you feel stuck in life? What happens when you only find worth in the things you've achieved?

Next Steps:

Find better ways to cope by diving deeper into a Christian life. Join a Bible study that breaks down scripture. Pray about everything and ask others to pray with and for you.

Prayer:

God, I want to rest and find peace in your undeserving grace. Let it shape my heart as I follow the steps you have planned for my life. Thank you for offering your Son who paid the price for me. Let his sacrifice quiet every doubt and remind me that your grace is enough. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Romans 1:20

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

This post was written by Jaron Camp, a Findlay attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Been Running? - At the Movies 2025

November 27, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Luke 4

Sometimes running away from a difficult situation feels like the best option. But, unfortunately, we don't know what we don't know ... and a lack of context and experience is often huge!

For Zack, from the movie, *The Peanut Butter Falcon*, escaping from the nursing home *had* to happen. As a young man with Down's Syndrome, living with a group of aging adults was unacceptable – he had dreams to pursue! With help, Zack finally escapes.

Meanwhile, Tyler is also looking for freedom - from his own guilt, shame, and bad choices. When he finds himself in a difficult situation and needs a quick getaway, he takes off in his boat, soon discovering a stowaway - Zack!

The two of them form an unlikely bond, working together to reach their goals in a beautiful portrayal of God's plan for us. When circumstances are not going our way, we often run and hide from difficulties and challenges. Unfortunately, the direction we'd prefer often leads us farther from God. Thankfully, his love is so great, he arranges for our lives to intersect with the lifeline we need.

As followers of Christ, we are called to see people – including ourselves – through a new lens. Fully loved and fully accepted.

2 Corinthians 5:16

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!

When we look at others through God's lens, we stop measuring them by their mistakes and struggles. We are meant to see others through God's perspective: created on purpose, with a purpose, and capable of becoming more than their current situation.

It's God's desire that we look past others' mistakes, addictions, and struggles to see them exactly as he looks at us - with hope, compassion, and genuine love. God doesn't disown us based on our daily mistakes.

Maybe that matters even more for those of us who have been running. Whether we have been running from God, from healing, from community, or from our own sense of worth. Because God doesn't choose to condemn us, he chooses to restore us. So, when we choose to see people through his eyes, we become part of that pursuit, and a reminder that no matter how far someone has been running, they always have a place to come home to.

Questions:

Have you been running from life's difficulties and challenges?

Are you guilty of judging and criticizing those around you who may be suffering from their own obstacles and struggles?

Next Steps:

Read how to best [face difficulties in life](#).

Check out this article from [gotquestions.org](#) to better understand 2 Corinthians 5:16.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Thank you for loving and accepting me as I am. Thank you for loving me enough to want to change me. Make me pliable in your hands as you reshape me into the image of Jesus. Empower me to see others from your perspective. I am unable to see others as you do without your power. In Christ's precious name, amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Romans 1:20

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This post was written by Karen Peck, a Perrysburg attendee and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

God is Gold - At the Movies 2025

November 28, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Luke 5

Since I have a child with Down's Syndrome (who is now enjoying his best life in the presence of Jesus), I was captivated by last weekend's movie, *The Peanut Butter Falcon!*

My son, Marcus, was quite the actor himself, a smart, stubborn young man, and a crunchy peanut butter lover. I could see him in Zack, the young man stuck in place by a label.

Although I grew up in church, when Marcus was born, I was not a Christ follower. I couldn't understand how a loving God could condemn an innocent child to a life of difficulty. As he grew, he became a living lesson in hard work, determination, overcoming challenges, and laughter! He was such a character!

When I came to know Jesus, Marcus was old enough and smart enough to know that he wanted to as well. I began to understand that Marcus was perfect in God's eyes, and that his *supposed handicap* was actually a gift. This gift was that God sees differently than we do, not judging by performance, perfection, or pretending, and he wastes nothing.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

As we follow Zack and Tyler's journey in the movie, this verse comes to life - they accept what God has given them and view it through a different lens. As they reach their destination, where they thought their dreams would come true, they face the reality that we all do when we pursue something other than Jesus: There is no gold at the end of the rainbow.

So where does that leave us? We must stop running from what is holding us back and start running toward the purpose God created us for.

When Marcus died suddenly, he had fulfilled God's purpose. He filled our lives with love, laughter, frustration, and tears. We learned a different kind of love, one without condition or exception, one that we only find in Jesus.

Jesus calls us forgiven, restored and free - no matter who we are or where we've been. That is the true pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Romans 3:22

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Questions:

What dream have you been holding onto? Will its fulfillment bring you closer to Jesus?

Next Steps:

As you pray about your dreams, give them to Jesus. His plan for you is more amazing than you could ever imagine! Pray about what next step God might have for you in the fulfillment of that dream. Then be still and pray (Psalms 46:10).

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you tell me to be still and to know that you are God. It's hard to be still in our world, but I want to hear your voice. Help me reduce the noise and focus on you and your plan for my life. I trust that your plan is better than anything I could ever imagine. I want my life story to bring glory to you - to point people to your power, goodness, and holiness. I choose to believe you are writing a better story, and I trust you to fulfill it! Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Romans 1:20

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

This post was written by Lauri White, an Oregon attendee, and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Reflections - At the Movies 2025

November 29, 2025

John 15:12-13

"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Friendship is one of God's greatest gifts. Jesus reminds us that real love isn't just a feeling - it's action, presence, sacrifice, and choosing someone even when it costs us something.

This week's message from the movie, *The Peanut Butter Falcon*, gave us a picture of that kind of friendship. Two unlikely companions - both broken, both searching - found healing because they chose to walk together.

They showed up for each other. They protected each other. They believed in each other when no one else did.

That kind of love reflects the heart of Jesus. He doesn't love us from a distance.

He enters our mess.

He stays.

He laid down his life to call us his friends.

Today, take a moment to think about the people God has placed in your life. Who has walked with you through hard seasons? Who needs encouragement, compassion, or a reminder that they're not alone? Loving others the way Jesus loves us means choosing to show up, choosing grace, and choosing to put someone else before ourselves.

As we reflect on what we've read this week, let Jesus' words shape your steps. Be a friend who shows love the way he showed love to us.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for calling me your friend and showing me what real love looks like. Help me love others with that same kind of sacrificial, steady, and faithful love. Open my eyes to the people around me who need encouragement, support, or simple kindness today. Teach me to love the way you love. I love you, I trust you, and I worship you. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:**Romans 1:20**

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This post was written by Lori Tuckerman, Director of Content for the Daily LivingItOut.