

Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith with Peter

Creative Resources for Lent-Easter

Resources included in the bundle

- 1. Devotional Booklet** *A printable devotional booklet with: scripture, commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, and journaling prompts.*
- 2. Sermon Planning Guide** *A guide for preachers and worship planners, offering: commentary, theme connections, and reading/listening recommendations for each week in the series.*
- 3. Words for Worship** *Written liturgy inspired by the sub-themes and focal scriptures for every Sunday in the series.*
- 4. Curriculum for Children & Youth** *Story-based curriculum with reflection prompts and extension activities. A version for elementary-aged children plus one for middle and high school youth are included.*
- 5. Children's Worship Bulletins** *Worship bulletins with coloring and reflection prompts for each Sunday in the series, designed for ages 5-11.*
- 6. Visual Art Collection w/ Artist Statements** *13 new visuals created by 5 artists in different mediums, inspired by the focal scriptures in the series.*
- 7. Branding Bundle** *Logo files and graphics to help you share the Wandering Heart theme in your print and online communications.*
- 8. Poetry Prayers** *A collection of poems inspired by our theme and weekly sub-themes.*
- 9. "Stations of Peter" Good Friday Liturgy** *A creative liturgy that focuses on Peter's actions in Jesus' final hours, from the footwashing to his 3 denials. This liturgy is crafted by our guest contributor, Rev. Denise T. Anderson, and will feature her original art.*
- 10. Daily Devotional Cards** *Printable cards with daily prompts for building a daily rhythm of prayer.*
- 11. Bonus Resource: Theme Song & Music Video** *A recorded theme song with sheet music, co-created by Can Olgun, Rev. Sarah Speed, and the Chapel Church Band of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, NYC. This will be released after our initial launch of the Lent resources, so stay tuned.*

Free supplemental resources

- 1. Hymn & Music Ideas**—*traditional and contemporary music ideas that fit with our Wandering Heart theme, for worship and listening.*
- 2. A Content Calendar for Social Media**—*a curated social media calendar to help you share excerpts from the materials with your community online. This is a free supplement for patrons of the full bundle.*

About this Series

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

As we were studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" came to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we have selected a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows, seeks and wanders. We want to affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going; he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

About the Theme

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapè love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.



Focal Scriptures

For this series, we have selected focal texts that highlight the significant moments in Peter's journey—from becoming a disciple to meeting the risen Christ. We have paired these narratives with psalms for Lent from the RCL (Year B).

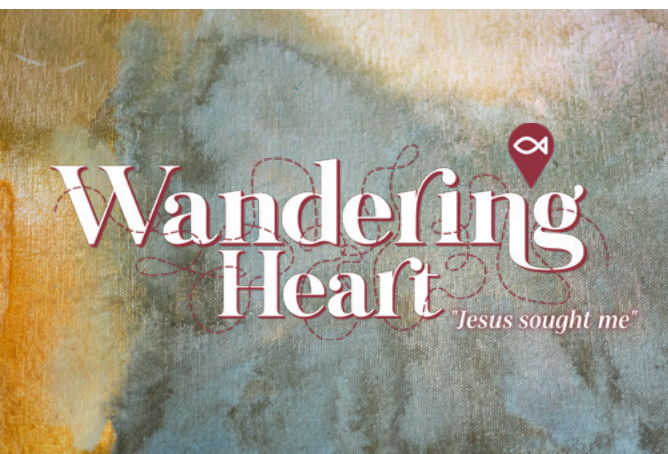


ASH WEDNESDAY

Wandering Heart: *"Tune my heart"*

PSALM 51:1-17

As we begin the season, let us turn inward and tune our hearts. Before an orchestra plays together, they must all tune their instruments—the cacophony of this process may be very loud and create lots of dissonance, but it's a necessary step in the process of creating harmonies and melodies. And so, this Lent, how can you tune the instrument of your heart so that it aligns with God?



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: *"Jesus sought me"*

LUKE 5:1-11 | PSALM 25:1-10

Jesus doesn't seek out trained rabbis to be his disciples; instead, he calls a few Galilean fishermen to follow him and join his ministry. In this story, Jesus tells Simon Peter to drop his nets one more time, even though they've been fishing all night long and have caught nothing. To their surprise, they haul in nets bursting with fish. In response to this abundant miracle, Peter says, "Go away from me, Lord!" And yet, Peter and his partners drop their nets and follow Jesus. What is the beginning of your faith story? When has God sought you out? Have you ever felt like your calling was pursuing—or chasing—you? Did you resist? Did you follow?



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: *"Rescue me from danger"*

MATTHEW 14:22-33 | PSALM 22:23-31

As a new disciple, perhaps Peter wants to prove himself. Boldly, in the middle of a storm, Peter steps out of the boat to join Jesus who is walking on top of the waves. He, too, walks on water until the wind shakes his trust and he begins to sink. Many of us know what it feels like to be thrown off balance, to feel as if we're sinking. Maybe this looks like doubt, unexpected change, too-busy seasons of life, devastating grief, or distance from God. In this story, we empathize with the desperation Peter feels as he cries out, and we pray for God to save us when we sink.



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: *"Praise the mount"*

MATTHEW 16:13-20 | PSALM 19

"Praise the mount of God's unchanging love. . ." This lyric represents Peter's mountaintop faith moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria and feeling the closeness of God. In this story, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, "This, I believe..." then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountain top moments and our deepest convictions to see us through.



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: *"I'm fixed upon it"*

MATTHEW 16:21-23 | PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

When your world unravels and your beliefs are tested, you may cling to what you know. As Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Peter protests. Peter is fixed upon the way he thinks things should go; he resists the pain of what will come. But Jesus is fixed upon his calling and calls Peter out. For everyone, there comes a time when your faith is tested and you will have to face difficult and inconvenient truths. We may want to take the easier path, the path with less pain. We may want to cling to easy or simplistic answers. Instead, what does it look like to welcome complexity? Can you stay fixed upon your convictions while also expanding your perspective?



THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: *"Teach me"*

MATTHEW 18:15-22 | PSALM 119:9-16

Peter is often all or nothing, either resisting Jesus or drawing closer to him in earnest. In this scripture, we see a version of Peter who is hungry to learn. His posture is humble and open—he wants to absorb Jesus' teachings like a wet sponge. He asks a question and might expect a straightforward answer: "How many times should I forgive?" Instead, Jesus' math is not predictable—it's infinite. Forgiveness is abundant; grace is not earned. In your own faith, do you find comfort in theological formulas? Do you wish for straightforward answers? Can you let go of black-and-white thinking and instead embrace the infinite colors of grace?



PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

Wandering Heart: *"Songs of loudest praise"*

JOHN 12:12-16

As Holy week begins, Peter is no longer front and center, and so we imagine he is with the rest of the disciples when Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt. The disciples are confused as they witness crowds shouting hosannas. When they look back on this experience, they will remember the songs. The singing is surely etched in their memories. As we imagine ourselves in the crowd on this day, may we remember that they are supposed to be praising Caesar, but instead they are shouting for the one entering the city on a donkey. Their singing is subversive, courageous, and contagious. Their praise shows the ripple effect of public displays of praise.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Wandering Heart: *"Streams of mercy"*

JOHN 13:1-20

During the Last Supper, Jesus kneels to wash his disciples' feet. When he comes to Peter, we see a similar pattern unfold yet again: reluctance then exuberance. Peter initially resists, but then he wholeheartedly submits. We see this duality in Peter often, but do we also see these patterns in ourselves? Peter is named "Cephas," which means "the rock." In this story, we imagine that God's grace reshapes him in the way that water softens the rough edges of stone. When we, like Peter, are reluctant and resistant to receiving love, can we remember that streams of mercy are never ceasing? Will we be reshaped by grace?



GOOD FRIDAY

Wandering Heart: *"Prone to leave the God I love"*

JOHN 13:31-38 | JOHN 18:1-11 |

JOHN 18:12-18 | JOHN 18:19-27 | JOHN 19:1-30

On this Holy day, we are paying close attention to how Peter acts in Jesus' final hours. So much happens in a short amount of time: Jesus predicts Peter's denial, soldiers come and Peter draws his sword, Jesus is arrested and Peter denies him, Peter denies Jesus again and again and the cock crows, then Jesus is crucified and dies. Peter is prone to mess up, to fight, to deny, to leave, to seek safety for himself. But aren't we all? May we lament all the ways we are prone to leave the God we love.



EASTER SUNDAY

Wandering Heart: *"And I hope"*

LUKE 24:1-12

We might expect that, after denying Christ, Peter would cower in shame—or perhaps even run away in an attempt to leave his past behind him. Instead, when he hears the news from the women, he doesn't dismiss them like the other disciples. He gets up and runs to the tomb. When he peers into the empty tomb and sees the linen cloth, he is filled with awe. Even after the biggest failures, even after the worst case scenario has happened, can we run toward hope? Like Peter, will we keep going? Will we keep looking for God in our midst?



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Wandering Heart: *"Here's my heart"*

JOHN 21:1-19

Though Peter's story does not end with the conclusion of the Gospels, we finish our series with Peter's encounter with the risen Christ. In this final week, we come full circle with Peter: He has dropped his nets, walked on water, professed his faith, been rebuked, received footwashing, denied Jesus, and run to the tomb. And now, Jesus once again meets him at the shoreline where Peter is casting his nets. Jesus offers abundant nourishment and also a new command: "Feed my sheep." Then he turns to Peter and asks three times, "Do you love me?" It's as if Jesus says, "Here's my heart," which washes over Peter's three denials like a healing balm. No matter how far we wander, may we entrust our hearts to God. No matter if our faith is strong or weak, what we can give is our love.

About the logo & branding

When designing the logo, we wanted to emphasize that the journey of faith for Peter—and for us—is not necessarily linear. Instead, our journeys often feel like wandering. The logo features a whimsical dashed line that weaves and meanders through the typography. Even though the journey is not predictable, we are always tethered to the heart of God—no matter how far we wander. Along the dotted path are sub icons, like geotags, that symbolize moments in Peter's journey. The backgrounds feature paintings by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity inspired by warm earth tones. The washes of ochre, red clay, and blue-gray tones recall the sand and earthy pigment that were surely underfoot Peter throughout his travels, throughout his pursuit to follow Jesus with his heart on his sleeve.



"Tune my heart" | ASH WEDNESDAY

Tuning fork: A tuning fork is used to tune various instruments to a proper pitch so that all the instruments can play together in harmony. This image represents the Lenten posture of inward reflection and reminds us to make adjustments to get in tune with God's will for our lives and the world.



"Jesus sought me" | THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Fish: Jesus instructs Peter to cast his nets after an unsuccessful day of fishing, and he catches an absurd abundance of fish. Peter doesn't feel worthy of this gift, but Jesus calls him to be a fisher of people all the same. The fish represents God's abundant provision of sustenance and grace, as well as Peter's shift in vocation and calling—from fisher of fish to fisher of people.



"Rescue me from danger" | THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Choppy water: Peter walks out in faith on the choppy waters, and Jesus saves him from sinking. The choppy water lines represent the turbulent waters we all walk through on our journey of faith.



"Praise the mount" | THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Mountain peak: Peter has a moment of clarity and professes Jesus to be the Messiah. Jesus affirms Peter's proclamation by saying Peter is the rock upon which he will build his church and that Peter will be given "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 16:19). A mountain peak represents this moment of clarity and affirmation along Peter's wandering journey.



"I'm fixed upon it" | THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Fermata: In music, the fermata symbol represents a prolonged note or a pause. After learning Jesus would suffer and die, Peter rebukes Christ saying, "this must never happen to you" (Matt. 16:22). Jesus rebukes Peter right back, knowing he cannot yield on his journey of nonviolence and love. The fermata represents how Peter is fixed on how he wants things to go, but Jesus calls him to stop and get behind him. The symbol also looks like an empty tomb, which is foreshadowed in this story.



"Teach me" | THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Open book: Peter's posture toward Jesus is that of an open book. He is eager to learn from Jesus all he can glean. In this week's text, he wants to know all about the nature of forgiveness and grace.



"Songs of loudest praise" | PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

Music note with crescendo: This sub icon is a note overlaid with a crescendo symbol, which in music means to get louder gradually. As we find our footing in faith, we share and express our journey with more assuredness and confidence. We can sing loudly, like those shouting "hosanna" as Jesus enters the city.



"Streams of mercy" | MAUNDY THURSDAY

Water jar and basin: In a humble, subversive act, Jesus washes the disciples' feet. This act of grace is meant to be emulated and is therefore an unending, overflowing, fountain of mercy for all.



"Prone to leave the God I love" | GOOD FRIDAY

Rooster crowing: In moments of weakness and sheer terror, Peter denies knowing Christ three times. He chooses the path of self-preservation in the face of violence and death, as many of us would. With his three denials, the cock crows, just as Jesus predicted.



"And I hope" | EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise: As the sun rises on the third day, Peter holds onto hope as he runs to the empty tomb to see with his own eyes the abandoned linen cloth. With each new day, we hold onto hope for new life and resurrection.



"Here's my heart" | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Heart: Peter is a heart-on-his-sleeve kind of a guy. When Peter sees Jesus, he puts on his outer garment in reverence, and then dives into the sea, not wasting a second to embrace his teacher, friend, and Messiah who then asks him three times, "Do you love me?"

About Our Guest Contributors

Guest Writers



Dr. Terence Lester

is writing commentary that will be featured in our devotional booklet and sermon planning guide.

Dr. Terence Lester (*he/him*) is a storyteller, public scholar, speaker, community activist, and author who is the Founder and Executive Director of Love Beyond Walls, a nonprofit organization focused on raising poverty and homelessness awareness and community mobilization. At the age of sixteen, Terence was a high-school dropout and a member of a gang. A rebellious teen, he lived on the streets and even attempted to take his own life. At twenty, he was arrested. In jail, he met a man who talked to him about life decisions. It was the first time he had ever heard the good news. By the start of the following year, he was submitting to a call to share his testimony to change the lives of others.

He's known for nationwide campaigns that bring awareness to homelessness, poverty, and economic inequality. His awareness campaigns have been featured on MLK50, CNN, Good Morning America, Essence Magazine, TEDx, TVONE, Creative Mornings, USA Today, NBC, Southern Christian Leadership

Conference (SCLC) National Magazine, NBC News, AJC, Black Enterprise, Rolling Out, and Upworthy. These campaigns have been viewed by millions of people worldwide. He is also the author of several published books through InterVarsity Press. Terence is happily married to his best friend, Cecilia Lester, and they have two amazing children, Zion Joy and Terence II.

terencelester.org | [@imterencelester](https://www.instagram.com/imterencelester) [@lovebeyondwalls](https://www.instagram.com/lovebeyondwalls)



Dr. Karoline M. Lewis

is writing commentary that will be featured in our devotional booklet and sermon planning guide.

Dr. Karoline Lewis (*she/her*) is the Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, where she has taught since 2007. Lewis is the author of *A Lay Preacher's Guide: How to Craft a Faithful Sermon* (2020), *SHE: Five Keys to Unlock the Power of Women in Ministry* (including an accompanying facilitator guide, participant guide, and DVD) and *John: Fortress Biblical Preaching Commentaries*, as well as numerous articles and book chapters. Her next book, to be released in August, is *Embody: Five Steps to Leading With Integrity*.

Ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Lewis holds degrees from Northwestern University (B.A.), Luther Seminary (M.Div.), and Emory University (Ph.D., New Testament Studies and Homiletics). Lewis leads conferences, workshops, and retreats internationally on the Gospel of John, the New Testament, interpreting the Bible, preaching, leadership, and women

in ministry. She is a contributing writer for [Working Preacher](http://WorkingPreacher.com), co-host of the site's weekly podcast, [Sermon Brainwave](http://SermonBrainwave.com), and regularly authors the [Dear Working Preacher](http://DearWorkingPreacher.com) column. Visit karolinelewis.com for resources on preaching, leadership, and being a woman in ministry. karolinelewis.com

About Our Guest Contributors

Guest Artists



Rev. Nicolette (Faison) Peñaranda

is creating visual art that will be featured in our devotional and visual art collection.

Rev. Nicolette “Nic” (*she/her*) is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving as the Program Director for African Descent Ministries. Nic is the creator of MONadvocacy, a racial justice resource grounded in play, as well as the “Talks at the Desk” series which celebrates the voices of leaders in the ELCA African descent community: livinglutheran.org/2022/02/a-love-letter-to-african-descent-communities.

She is passionate about queer Black liberation, cultivating diverse leadership in faith spaces, and the art of creation. She is also the illustrator of *God’s Holy Darkness*, written by Sharei Green and Beckah Selnick (Beaming Books, 2022). The book deconstructs anti-Blackness in Christian theology by celebrating instances in

the story of God’s people when darkness, blackness, and night are beautiful, good, and holy. She resides in the Chicagoland area with her spouse, two daughters, and two cats, Penne Pablo and Rigatoni Braxton.



Rev. T. Denise Anderson

is crafting a “Stations of Peter” Good Friday liturgy that will feature her original artwork inspired by Peter’s denials of Christ.

Denise (*she/her*) is a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the acting Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries. A graduate of Howard University School of Divinity, she is the former Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). A nationally-recognized writer and blogger, Denise’s work has appeared in *The Christian Century*, *The Huffington Post*, *These Days*, and on her own blog, *SOULa Scriptura: To Be Young, Gifted, and Reformed*: soulascriptura.com. Denise writes, preaches, and engages on issues of social justice, diversity, and reconciliation. As a gifted visual artist, she creates art that explores themes of spirituality, history, religion, and race. [@tdandersonart](https://www.instagram.com/tdandersonart)



About Our Guest Contributors

Guest Musicians

**Can Olgun,
Rev. Sarah A. Speed, &
the Chapel Church Band at
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church**



Our Lent theme song is crafted by a collective of talented creatives at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, NYC. The lyrics are written by Rev. Sarah Speed (one of our Founding Creative Partners and our lead liturgy writer). Sarah collaborates with Can Olgun and the Chapel Church Band at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (New York), where she serves as Associate Pastor for Young Adults and Membership. Music director, Can Olgun, composes the original music and is the leader of the band, which features a rotating slate of professional vocalists singing to the rhythms of guitar, piano, and drums. Their repertoire covers a broad range of traditional and contemporary music, with a growing list of original compositions. fapc.org/chapel-church



Can Olgun (*he/him*) is an internationally-performing pianist, composer, educator, and researcher. Originally from Berlin, Germany, Olgun moved to New York in 2008 to pursue a Master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music after being awarded a scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Olgun serves as the Director of Chapel Church Music at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York and was the musical director for the late actress/singer Suzzanne Douglas. In 2019, Olgun joined the faculty at CUNY BMCC, where he teaches classes in performance, piano, and theory, as well as focusing on the development of a new degree specialization in jazz and popular music. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the Victoria University of Wellington/New Zealand School of Music, where he conducts research at the intersections of contemporary gospel keyboard playing, artistic research, and jazz piano improvisation. His research findings will entail a portfolio of creative work expected to be released in 2023 and 2024. canolgun.com



Reflections on the theme

"If you picked up a novel and read the chapters out of order, most would shriek in shock and confusion! However, that is exactly how I was taught the story of Peter over the years: scattered like sprinkles on a cake. I learned Peter's stories out of order and over time, Peter became nothing more than a background character in a vacation bible school skit. Last year, however, something about Peter's story began to tug on me. I began studying this hopeful human in earnest; for the first time, I found myself deeply connected to this complicated and eager disciple of Christ. In Peter's passion, I saw my own conviction. In Peter's walking, sinking, and question-asking, I saw my own learning. And in Peter's wandering, I saw my own growing pains in faith. So this Lent, I am thrilled to slip into Peter's shoes and walk the road that he walked. This story was never meant to be sprinkles on top of the cake. This story is our story. Come wander, come learn, come discover with us."

—**Rev. Sarah Speed,**
Founding Creative Partner

"When we read the stories of the New Testament, many of us might imagine we are audience members watching an ancient play—except we are watching it all play out 2,000 years later in a different culture and time. In this series, it's as if we're stepping onto the stage, placing ourselves in the action. We might imagine ourselves as the understudy for Peter. This Lent, we're learning his lines, imagining his motives, and discerning his every move. We're placing ourselves in his shoes. In this way, we're experiencing the story of Jesus, not as a distant audience member, but as one who is intimately connected to the plot. We're joining the cast. But why focus on Peter? Because, after Jesus, he is the most frequently mentioned individual in the Gospels and New Testament. He is a consistent presence throughout Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Through him, we imagine ourselves dropping our nets to follow a new call. We imagine ourselves walking on water, being rebuked, learning about forgiveness, receiving foot washing, betraying our friend, and despite it all, experiencing redeeming love. This Lent, let's step onto the stage and see what unfolds."

—**Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity,**
Founder, Creative Director

"I'm a heart-on-my sleeve kind of person. My emotions often take the lead as I find my way through this life, and sometimes it works out and other times it doesn't. As we engaged with Peter's narrative, I realized that Peter is a heart-on-his-sleeve kind of person too. He follows his heart and does so passionately and with gusto. This doesn't always work out for Peter, but he keeps moving forward, doing his best in following his friend and teacher, Jesus. The result of his wandering gives us a picture of an authentic, imperfect, heart-forward faith journey. I want to be present like Peter—to orient my life toward God's will, to ask for help when I'm sinking, to celebrate the moments of clarity, to pause when I'm not quite getting it, to be open to learning and redirection, to receive gifts with humility, to acknowledge devastating missteps and repent, to run toward hope, and to feel the freedom that is found in abundant, astounding grace. At the end of the journey, I don't want it to be perfect. I just want to be able to say that I loved, and I loved well."

—**Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, Director of Branding,**
Founding Creative Partner

"I am drawn to this theme because life seems to be an evolution of faith. I see myself in Peter's reality in numerous ways. Lines from "Come Thou Fount" take me back to my childhood. My grandfather would always be ready first on Sunday mornings. In his suit and tie he would call us to our Sunday best in his own subtle way. Sitting at the upright piano in the corner of the great room, he would begin to play. Hymns with historic nostalgia in my family's faith tradition would resonate throughout the house. Every time I hear them played, referenced, or quoted, I'm there at the farm, watching the sun climb through the picture window, and waiting... waiting for everyone to be ready on those Sunday mornings. From there, my faith journey has been long and arduous. I have taken every detour that Peter has. I have received every judgment that Jesus delivers, among many others. So why do I lean into organized religion? Perhaps it's some combination of the nostalgia of those piano Sunday mornings. It's probably the justice work that my church is incredibly dedicated to. Or is it that, at church, I can give my gifts as an artist? Maybe it's the expansive faith and grace I see in the very human life and faith of Peter; in him, I also see myself. I'm not sure why, but I'm there... every Sunday morning."

—**Hannah Garrity, Founding Creative Partner**

"My biggest fear has always been making an irreparable mistake. (*The phrase, "You only live once!" has always made me anxious, not impulsive.*) Afraid of veering from the straight and narrow path I believed God had set before me, I mourned every person, every major, every career I left behind as wasted time—time I could have spent more efficiently toward some imagined destination. But then I think of my father, a jack-of-all-trades (*and master of plenty*) who has been, among other things: a carpenter, a software developer, a cattle rancher, an English professor, and a church finance administrator. I don't look at his life and see any of my own fears—I see a fascinating person, shaped by all the places he's been and all the varied lives he's led. What if I could view my own wandering path with such compassion? What if I could let go of my anxiety about reaching an imagined destination and enjoy the journey instead? What if I could lay down my perfectionism so I could embrace the beauty of imperfection? Maybe Peter can teach me something this Lent about wandering toward God."

—**Rev. Anna Strickland, Operations Support & Content Creator**