



Pekin First Nazarene

November 1, 2026

Pastor Lauren Smith, PFN Lead Pastor

- “We are created _____ out _____ of _____ relationship _____ for _____ relationship.”
- Jennie Allen (*Find Your People*)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

⁹“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ¹⁰If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. ¹¹Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? ¹²A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.”

- “One Another” (Greek: ἀλλήλων) is used around 50 times in the New Testament.

1 Corinthians 12 (Spiritual Gifts & One Body with Many Parts)

Acts 2:42 (NLT)

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.”

- The Greek word “koinonia” is translated to _____ fellowship _____.
Means shared community that involves deep, close-knit participation among its people.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

²⁴“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵And 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”.



5 COMMUNITY GOALS

(based on the book *"Find Your People"* by Jennie Allen)

1. Proximity
 - a. Barrier – Busyness
2. Transparency
 - a. Barrier – Pain/Shame
3. Accountability
 - a. Barrier – Pride
4. Shared Purpose
 - a. Barrier – Shallow/Small Talk
5. Consistency
 - a. Barrier – Conflict

A PRAYER FOR TRUE COMMUNITY (by Jennie Allen)

“God,

We need You. There is no other hope but You. We are trusting You afresh or maybe for the first time.

Jesus, You were enough for our sins. Thank You that You made a way for us to first be right with God and second to be right with each other.

Thank You that You dwell with us.

Thank You for giving us a purpose beyond ourselves. Thank You that You have not forgotten us.

Thank You that You are preparing a place in heaven for us to be with You forever. But in the meantime, we want heaven to come to earth. We want Your kingdom to come to earth! And, God, You say that we are the ones to bring it! The Church carries the hope of Your kingdom to the world.

So, God, would You heal our broken relationships? Would You help us to live this?

God, will You help me personally find deep community?

Help me make friends and keep them as I live out my commitment to You: I will build my village and Your Church.

I will play my part. I will be honest.

I will restore.

I will pull people close. I will stay.

Your Word promises we can heal; we can forgive, we can overcome the divisions that threaten to destroy us. So may we be faithful to believe that and to fight for it.

God, give us a vision and a hope that is bigger than our human limitations. May Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.”