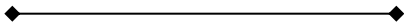


**MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .**  
Presiding Elder ~ Kevin Cheatham  
Elders ~ Chere Peters/Jenny Tripses  
Layreader ~ Kate Spielman  
Greeters ~ Geraldine Runkle/Deborah Springhart-West  
Acolyte ~ Elliot Truelove  
Deacons  
    Chancel – Laura Cohen  
    \*Alice Jury, Joe Rex  
\* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**  
Counters ~ Steve & Monica Hinrichs



**OUR WELCOMING STATEMENT**  
*First Christian Church Peoria, as an open and affirming church, believes that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion, and acceptance to all. In that spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family structure, physical and mental ability, race, socio-economic status, age, and gender identity. We welcome all people to participate fully in the life and ministry of First Christian Church.*

Ministry Programming Staff:  
The Rev. Karen Merrick, Pastor  
Heather Woods, Coordinator of Music Ministries  
Brian Woods, Organist  
Mason Fitch, Social Media Coordinator  
Brandy Cox, Child-Care

[www.fccpeoria.org](http://www.fccpeoria.org)  
[www.facebook.com/fccpeoria](https://www.facebook.com/fccpeoria)

**Calendar**

- TODAY**
- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
  - 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick preaching
  - 3:00-5:30 p.m. – Cluster Sunday Old Fashion Potluck (Lake Wildwood in Varna, IL)
  - 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes)
- MONDAY**
- 5:00 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do Class (classroom)
- TUESDAY**
- 6:00-7:45 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (110)
  - 6:00-9:30 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (S)
  - 6:30 p.m. – Cluster Meeting (Sunnyland)
- FRIDAY**
- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Tamil School (Classrooms)
  - 7:00 p.m. – Movie Night ~ “The Art of Racing in the Rain” (S)
- SATURDAY**
- 7:00-9:00 a.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)
- NEXT SUNDAY**
- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
  - 10:30 a.m. – Dave Sinn will be our guest preacher
  - 12:00 p.m. – End-of-the-Month Potluck (FH). Please bring a dish to share and join us for good food and fellowship!
  - 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes)



**August 21, 2022**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*Founded in 1845*



Today's Meditation  
*In choosing your god, you choose your way of looking at the universe. There are plenty of gods. Choose yours.*  
—Joseph Campbell

Fellowship of the Church  
*(Please register on pads at end of each pew.)*  
*We want to extend a special welcome to our first-time visitors. You are invited to stop at the Visitor's Table before you leave to receive more information about our church and a little something extra.*

Music for Meditation – *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound*  
—arr. Wood  
*(Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)*

A Moment of Silence

\*Gathering Praise #272  
*The Church's One Foundation* (vss. 1, 2, 4, 5)

\*Call to Worship and The Lord's Prayer  
*Leader: Give to the Lord your whole trust.*  
**People: We place our lives in God's care.**  
*Leader: Know that God has always and will always be with you.*

**People: We place our spirits in God's embrace.**  
*Leader: Worship God in confidence and peace.*  
**People: We open our hearts to God's incredible love.**  
*Leader: Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying...*

**All: Our Father...**  
*(Words to The Lord's Prayer may be found in the hymnal – #307)*

\*Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri) #36

Scripture – Readers' Theater\*  
1 Kings 18:20-21, (22-29), 30-39  
*This is the Word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

Moment for the Children Hannah Fitch  
*(Following the children's message, children ages 5 and up are welcome to meet their teacher, Laura Cohen, at the front of the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.)*

Special Music Linda Williams & Brian Woods  
Piano/Organ Duet

Message – *Because It's There: Sequoia National Park*  
Karen Merrick

\*Hymn of Commitment #6  
*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Become to Us the Living Bread* #423

The Lord's Supper – *A Remembrance*—Dixon  
**All: "Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God's grace."**

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *A Song of Hope*—Ryan  
*(If you are able, please come forward at this time to place your gift in the plate on the communion table.)*

\*Doxology #46

\*Dedication of Offering

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Response #432  
*O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life*

\*Postlude – *Rigaudon*—Purcell/Peterson

\*Readers' Theater written by Christine Longhurst

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Weekly Calendar on back)

- Communion Elements ~ For those who feel they need an extra level of protection, there are sealed bread and juice containers with the bread sealed in clear plastic on top of the foil lid for the juice. We ask that everyone else use the double-cupped wafer and juice that will be passed through the pews.
- We are a church of prayer. There are prayer request forms in your bulletin. They can be put in the offering plate, hung on the prayer wall in the east end of the lounge, or if you want to maintain confidentiality, hand directly to the pastor. If you want your prayer concern shared via the prayer chain, please indicate that on your form.
- Our sound system is equipped with a hearing assistance technology system. Pick up a receiver at the sound booth prior to worship. After the service, please return the receiver to the sound booth.
- September Sunday Study ~ The Book of James – the Old Testament Book of Proverbs Dressed Up in New Testament Clothes! Join us in September when we will cover the book of James. We will discuss the balance between faith and works as well as a number of instructions from James on how to live a Christian life. Becky Sisk will be leading the study Sunday mornings at 9:00. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Movie Night ~ Join us on Friday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m. for the movie, "The Art of Racing in the Rain." Please sign up at the information desk.
- Outreach Collection ~ The Center for Prevention of Abuse has a need for some particular items. Please check the list of items on the information desk. Outreach will be collecting these items until September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- End-of-the-Month Potluck – Help Needed ~ Our End-of-the-Month Potluck is Sunday, August 28. Please sign up at the information desk if you can help.