

**MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .**  
Presiding Elder ~ Kevin Wolfe  
Elders ~ Sandy Surface & Carmen Nicoll  
Lay Reader ~ Becky Sisk  
Greeters ~ Sandy Surface & Tim Dougherty  
Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods  
Deacons  
    Chancel – Beth Reynolds  
            \*Tim Dougherty  
    Dana Powers, Jan Cusac & Debbie Presnell  
\* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**  
Counters ~ Steve & Monica Hinrichs  
Friends of Jesus ~ Linda Rex  
Sunday School/Grades 1-8 ~ Becky Sisk



**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:  
Hank Anderson, Interim Minister  
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/fccpeoriaill](https://www.facebook.com/fccpeoriaill)

**Calendar**

- TODAY**  
9:00 a.m. - Studies/Adult SS  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service (S)  
1:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)  
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)
- MONDAY**  
5:30 p.m. - Worship Meeting  
6:30 p.m. - Personnel Meeting
- TUESDAY**  
10:30 a.m. - Faith and Justice Task Force  
12:00 a.m. – Disciple Women (110)  
6:00 p.m. - PACC Rehearsal (S/L/N)
- WEDNESDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)
- THURSDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)
- FRIDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Tamil School (Classrooms/FH)
- SATURDAY**  
7:00 a.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)  
10:30 a.m. - MLT Meeting  
2:00 p.m. - Game Day (FH)
- NEXT SUNDAY**  
9:00 a.m. - Studies/Adult SS  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service (S)  
12:30 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers (S)  
1:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir (S)  
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)



**January 07, 2024**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*Founded in 1845*



Today’s Meditation

*I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirt of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach!*

Charles Dickens

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 – *Meditation*  
*(Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)*  
A Moment of Silence

\*Gathering Praise – *As With Gladness* #173

\*Call to Worship  
*Leader: When Jesus was born, when the angels sang, and the Magi came,*  
**People: God was there!**  
*Leader: This very morning, with the new year upon us,*  
**People: God is here!**  
*Leader: As we choose a new path with unfamiliar faces and challenges,*  
**People: God will be there!**

Opening Prayer  
*Leader: Let us pray together...*  
**ALL: God of wonder and mystery, God of the stars and the universe, God of winding ways and straight paths, we gather today with gratitude for the gift of your constant presence and your trustworthy guidance. On our own journeys toward the stars and guiding points you put before us, you continue to lead us forward, guiding us by the teachings of the Christ Child. As we struggle with the political wranglings of this world, the wars waged for both justice and greed, the violence committed daily against the innocent, let alone the pain of broken relationships and loss, you remain steadfast in your care and devotion for your entire creation throughout the universe.**

**Continue to guide us as we begin anew in our faith this year. We ask this in our son’s name who taught us to pray saying... Our Father...**  
(The Lord’s prayer may be found in the hymnal - #307)

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

Scripture Readings – Matthew 2:1-12  
*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Moment for the Children Hannah Fitch

Anthem Sanctuary Choir  
*Let There Be Peace on Earth* – Jay Althouse

Message – Undigested Beef Mason Fitch

\*Hymn of Invitation – *Ours the Journey* #458

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *We Three Kings* #172

The Lord’s Supper – *Cantabile*  
**All: “Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God’s grace.”**

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *Vignette*  
*(If you are able, please come forward at this time to place your offering in the plate on the communion table.)*

\*Doxology #46

\*Dedication of Offering

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Response – *Sing of God Made Manifest* vs.1 #176

\*Postlude – *Jubilate Deo*

- 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 the pews. They can be put in the offering plate, hung on the prayer wall in 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.
  - Bible Study ~ Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. with Hank will resume January 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Sunday Morning Study ~ Be Gibson will lead the class in January on Baffling, Bewildering and Puzzling Bible Stories. Sign up at the information desk if you would like to attend.
  - Game Day ~ January 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Bring your favorite game and snack. Some games will be provided. Sign up at the information desk.
  - Tasting Peoria ~ January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Olympia Sports Bar & Grill. Sign up at the information desk.
  - Book Club ~ January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m. The Book is *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon. We will meet at Margaret Goulden’s home: 133 Eastwood Dr. East Peoria. Snacks and refreshments provided. Sign up to at the information desk if you would like to attend.
  - Movie Nights ~ January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The movie is Cinderella. Sign up at the information desk.
  - Potluck Sunday ~ January 28<sup>th</sup>. Please join us and bring a dish to share. Think green and bring your own table service. Sign up at the information desk to help with before and after.