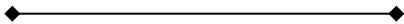


MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Becky Sisk
Elders ~ Mike Buckley/Becky Sisk
Layreader ~ Frank Wheeler
Greeters ~ Carney Lewis/Geraldine Runkle
Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods
Deacons
 Chancel – Lisa Cheatham
 *Lisa Cheatham, Adam Woods, Oliver Truelove,
 Victoria Truelove
* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**
Counters ~ Mike & Laura Buckley



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
www.facebook.com/fccpeoria

Calendar

TODAY

- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
- 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick preaching
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)

MONDAY

- 5:00 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do Class

TUESDAY

- 6:00-9:30 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (S/110)
- 6:30 p.m. –Cluster Meeting (Sunnyland)
- 7:00 p.m. –Book Club (Goulden’s Home)

FRIDAY

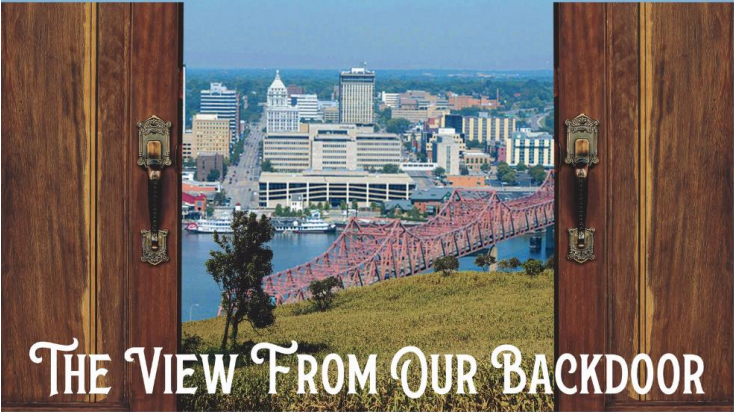
- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Tamil School (Classrooms)
- 7:00 p.m. –Movie Night ~ *The Hundred Foot Journey* (S)

SATURDAY

- 7:00-9:00 a.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)

NEXT SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
- 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick preaching
- 12:00 p.m. – Potluck ~ Celebrating Karen Merrick’s retirement (FH) Please bring a dish to share.
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)



April 23, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today's Meditation
Service is what prayer looks like when it gets up off its knees and walks around the world. -Michael J. Graham, S.J.

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 – *In His Presence* — Martin
(Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

A Moment of Silence

*Gathering Praise – *For Beauty of Meadows* #696

*Call to Worship

Leader: Let us come in worship before God to meet the Spirit of God.

People: Not to give religion an hour, But to live in the eternal.

Leader: Not to maintain a habit, but to humbly seek the presence of the Holy One.

People: Not to Judge the words of another, but to draw life from the Truth Everlasting.

Leader: Not that our thoughts may escape from the cares of the world.

People: But they may become focused on the one, true God.

Leader: Because our spirits have welcomed God, we are in the presence of God.

People: Thanks be to You, O God, for the gift of Your Presence.

*Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray together...
Holy God, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves and teach us that faith without works is dead. Open us to the opportunities for ministry that lie before us, where faith and words and the need of our neighbor come together in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior who taught us to pray saying...Our Father...
(Words to The Lord's Prayer may be found in the hymnal – #307)

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

Scripture Reading – Nehemiah 3, selected verses
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, Lexy Buckley, at the front of the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.)

Special Music Jubilate Ringers
I Love to Tell the Story — Bill Ingram

Message – *The View from our Back Door* Karen Merrick

*Hymn of Invitation words on screen
There Are Many Ways of Sharing

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Amazing Grace!* #546

The Lord's Supper – *Take My Life and Let It Be* — arr. Stewart
All: "Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God's grace."

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *What a Wonderful World* (Video)
(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 #487
Help Us Accept Each Other (vs. 1)

*Postlude – *March of the Priests* – Mendelssohn/Thomas

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Weekly Calendar on back)

- Today we are celebrating Earth Sunday...a day to intentionally bring to worship our love and care for the earth and our commitment to being the stewards of the earth as we were charged to do in the Genesis.
- 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.
- April Sunday Morning Study ~ We will study some of Jesus' most puzzling passages using the book, *The Difficult Words of Jesus*. We will meet in the Community Room at 9:00 a.m. All are still welcomed!
- End-of-the-Month Potluck ~ We will be celebrating Rev. Karen Merrick's retirement at our potluck on Sunday, April 30, at 12:00 noon. Please sign up at the information desk if you plan to attend the potluck (we need a head count). Please sign up by April 23rd. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service.
- Monthly Book Club ~ We will meet at Margaret Goulden's home on Tuesday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. The book we will be discussing is, "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Movie Night ~ April 28th at 7pm. Please join us for the movie *The Hundred-Foot Journey*. Please sign up at the information desk.