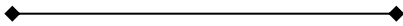


MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Kevin Cheatham
Elders ~ Dave & Connie Sinn
Lay Reader ~ Sandy Surface
Greeters ~ Aldine Allen & Kathy Fenton
Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods
Deacons
 Chancel – Kelsey Reynolds
 *Lisa Cheatham
 Beth Reynolds, Cody Cheatham
* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**
Counters ~ Steve West & Ralph Tegg
Friends of Jesus ~ Jenny Tripses
Sunday School/Grades 1-8 ~ Katie Fitch



OUR WELCOMING STATEMENT

First Christian Church of Peoria is an open and affirming church. We believe 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 background. We welcome all 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

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www.facebook.com/fccpeoria

Calendar

- TODAY**
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)
- MONDAY**
- TUESDAY**
6:00 p.m. - Book Club (Off Site)
- WEDNESDAY**
- THURSDAY**
7:00 p.m. - Movie Night (S)
- FRIDAY – CHRISTMAS EVE OBSERVED OFFICE CLOSED**
- SATURDAY**
7:00 a.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)
- NEXT SUNDAY**
9:00 a.m. - Studies/Adult SS
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service (S)
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)



December 17, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today’s Meditation
Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming...God is coming to save you.”
- Isaiah 35:4 NLT

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 – *Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine* - Smith
(Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

A Moment of Silence

+Gathering Praise – *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #148

+Call to Worship – based on Isaiah 35:1-2
Leader: On that day, the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. With that same joy, let us worship God.

+Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray together...
All: Loving God, we pray that you bless this service of worship. May the grace experienced in this place be multiplied to overflowing so that your whole world sees the light of your love. We pray this in the name of Emmanuel, God with Us, the one who taught us to pray ...Our Father...

(The Lord’s prayer may be found in the hymnal - #307)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Words on screen

Moment for the Children Hannah Fitch

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* #134

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

Offering Statement

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

+Doxology Words on screen

+Dedication of Offering

Choir Cantata
“Joy”
Composed & Arranged by: Joel Raney
Orchestrated by: Ed Hogan
Director: Heather Woods
Technology: Mason Fitch, Debra Kreps & Brian Woods
Narrator: Owen Jury

Musical Numbers

1. *Sing Joy!*
2. *Waiting*
3. *A Song in the Air*
4. *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*
5. *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
6. *Tell it on the Mountain*
7. *Sing Joy!* (Reprise)

<u>Soprano</u> Deann Anderson Cindy Bridges Cheryl Davis Alice Jury Connie Sinn Deborah Springhart-West	<u>Alto</u> Ange Bertucci Laura Buckley Connie Julien Natalie Woods
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<u>Tenor</u> Dave Sinn Steve West Darren Woods	<u>Bass</u> Jerry Hornbacker Larry Weber Adam Woods
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+Benediction

+Congregational Response - *How Great Our Joy!* vs.4 #170

+Postlude – *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!* - Thygerson

TODAY’S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Weekly Calendar on back)

- Bible Study ~ Wednesday morning Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. with Hank will resume January 17th.
- Sunday Morning Study ~ Hank will lead the class in December on Christmas: The Biblical Story. No class December 31st.
- Book Club ~ December 19th at 6 p.m. at the home of Margaret Goulden. We will be reading Christmas themed books. Check the information desk for the books and sign up if you would like to attend. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.
- Movie Night ~ December 21st at 7 p.m. The movie is Home Alone. Sign up at the information desk if you would like to attend.
- Nativity set on the Welcome Table ~ Be sure to check out the exquisitely detailed, hand carved nativity set and read the story behind it.
- Please join us on Sunday December 24th for our Christmas Eve Worship at 6:00 p.m. A Christmas cookie reception will follow in the lounge.
- Game Night ~ January 13th at 2 p.m. Bring your favorite game and snack. Sign up at the information desk.