

**MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .**  
Presiding Elder ~ Steve West  
Elders ~ Frank & Kathleen Wheeler  
Lay Reader ~ Kate Spielman  
Greeters ~ Jan Cusac & Peter Clausen  
Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods  
Deacons  
    Chancel – Monica Hinrichs  
            \*Steve Hinrichs  
            Laura Buckley & Katie Fitch  
\* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**  
Counters ~ Jim & Beth Smittkamp  
Friends of Jesus ~ Deann Anderson  
Sunday School/Grades 1-8 ~ Geraldine Runkle



**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)  
12:30 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers (S)  
1:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir (S)  
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)
- MONDAY – PRESIDENTS DAY**  
7:00 p.m. - Administrative Board (110)
- TUESDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - PACC (S/L/N)
- WEDNESDAY**  
10:30 a.m. - Bible Study (110)
- THURSDAY**
- FRIDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Tamil School (Classrooms/FH)  
7:00 p.m. – Movie Night (S)
- 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)  
12:00 p.m. - Vision Sunday Lunch & Conversation (FH)  
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)



**February 18, 2024**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*Founded in 1845*



Today's Meditation

*Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones.*

*Let me find you again. Amen.*

- Henri Nouwen

Fellowship of the Church  
*(Please check in online: Church app. or sign the red pad in your pew)*  
*We want to extend a special welcome to our first-time visitors. You are invited to stop at the Greeter's Table before you leave to receive more information about our church.*

Minute for Mission

Video

Music for Meditation – *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*  
- Mason/Young  
*(Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)*

A Moment of Silence

*\*Gathering Praise – Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above #6*

*\*Call to Worship*  
*Leader: As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,*  
**People: We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.**  
*Leader: Like the green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil,*  
**People: We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.**  
*Leader: In this time of reflection and repentance,*  
**All: We affirm our identity, and claim our security, as children of God.**

*\*Opening Prayer*  
*Leader: Let us pray together...*  
**ALL: Loving Lord, at the beginning of this Lenten season, we are met with the challenge of handing over to you every bit of our lives that do not come from You. To rid ourselves of what clutters our lives, and all that distracts us from the simple truth of Your love for us. So, lead and guide us on this Lenten way. We also ask your blessing upon this time of worship. May our hearts and minds be focused upon you.**

**We pray this in the name of the one who taught us to pray... Our Father...**  
(The Lord's prayer may be found in the hymnal #307)

Scripture Reading – Matthew 4:1-11  
*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Moment for the Children

Hannah Fitch

Anthem

Sanctuary Choir

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee* – arr. Mark Hayes

For the Good of the Church

Mike Buckley

Message – *Giving Up Control*

Hank Anderson

*\*Hymn of Invitation – Purer in Heart, O God vss. 1,2 #573*

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Loving Lord, as Now We Gather #427*

The Lord's Supper – *Blessed Quietness* – Marshall/Smith  
**All: "Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God's grace."**

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *Psalm Sketch* - Young  
*(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 –*  
*Go, My Children, with My Blessing vs. 1 #431*

*\*Postlude – O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing – Glaser/Scott*

**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. 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. The study is on the Book of Mark. Come join the class.
- Sunday Morning Study ~ Deann Anderson is leading the class during February and March on "*Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*" by Rachel Held Evans.
- Movie Night ~ February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. The movie is *The Proposal*. Sign up at the information desk or online.
- Book Club ~ February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The book is: *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. We meet at the home of Margaret Goulden: 133 Eastwood Dr. East Peoria. Snacks and refreshments provided. Sign up at the information desk or online.
- Vision Sunday Lunch ~ February 25<sup>th</sup> after the Worship Service. This will replace the EOM Potluck. Lunch will be provided.
- Illinois Valley Cluster Lenten Service ~ March 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. Dinner to follow. Please check the information desk to sign up for food and help needed.