

Don't Forget...

Elder's Meeting - TODAY after worship

Faith In Justice - Monday @ 2pm

Personnel Meeting - Monday @ 6pm

Disciple Women - Tuesday @ 12pm

Christian Ed Meeting - Tuesday @ 1:30pm

Bible Study - Wednesday @ 10:30am

MLT Meeting - Saturday @ 10:30am

Next Sunday - Adam's first day with us!!



Tasting Peoria
Thursday @ 6pm



Check out our full
calendar of events here



Please always check with the church office if you are wanting to use the church building. Thank you!

Counting Stars

Beyond Number, Beyond Measure

*Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are
able to count them...*
Genesis 15:5

Have you ever tried to count the stars? You lose your place. You start over. And before long you realize the point was never to finish, it was to notice.

That's what God gave Abram: not a plan with fine print, but a night sky so overflowing with light that it couldn't be numbered. The gift wasn't in the math, it was in the magnitude.

Sometimes the most important thing we can do is stop trying to calculate or control, and simply look up. Wonder slows us down. It makes us small in the best way. It reminds us that life is bigger, holier, and more beautiful than we can keep track of.

When we let awe have the last word, we discover that God's promises don't fit in our hands. They stretch past our ability to measure, and invite us to keep looking up; not to finish the count, but to be changed by the view.

This Week's Practice: Make Space for Wonder

- One evening, step outside and look at the night sky. Don't rush, let yourself notice.
- Think of one place in your life that feels too big to manage. Instead of trying to solve it, sit with it and hand it to God.
- Let yourself delight in something small this week: laughter, beauty, or joy that sneaks up on you.

Before You Go...

You'll never finish counting the stars. That's the gift. Look up. Be amazed. Let wonder do its work.



September 7, 2025
10:30am

First Christian Church



fccpeoria.org
socials: @FCCPeoriaIL

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

† indicates standing, if able

Today’s Meditation

The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of starstuff.
- Carl Sagan

†Fellowship of the Church

(Please sign in online or on the red pad in your pew)

Music for Meditation

Lacquiparle - Callahan

Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

A Moment of Silence

†Opening Hymn

When Morning Guilds the Skies

#100

†Call to Worship

Leader: Look up, people of God! The heavens declare the glory of God.

People: The stars shine with promises too many to count.

Leader: In the vastness of creation, God calls us each by name.

People: In the mystery of night, God’s love is made known.

All: Let us worship the One whose blessings outnumber the stars in the sky!

†Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

All: God of endless skies, we come with hearts full of questions, laughter, and hope. You set the stars in their places, yet you notice each of us. Teach us today to look up in wonder, to see your promises scattered across our lives like starlight. When we try to measure or control, remind us of your abundance. When we feel small, remind us of your love that fills the universe. Shine on us here in worship, O God, and let your light guide our way, as together we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying...

†Vision Response

We Call Ourselves Disciples

vs 4

#357

Scripture Reading

Genesis 15:1–6

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Rev. Hannah Fitch

Special Music

Be Still and Know

Vocal Quartet

Chapman/Fettke

Sermon

Counting Stars

Rev. Mason Fitch

†Hymn of Commitment

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

#651

A Time of Prayer

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Communion Hymn

In This Very Room

#295

The Lord’s Supper

All: Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God’s grace.

Let Us Break Bread - arr. Callahan

Offering Statement

Tithes & Offerings

If you are able, please come forward at this time to place your offering in the plate in front of the communion table.

Amazing Grace - arr. Broughton

†Doxology

#46

†Dedication of Offering

†Benediction

†Congregational Response

Help Us Accept Each Other

vs 1

#487

Postlude

March in C - Purcell/Paxton

Ministering Today

Presiding Elder

Elders

Deacons

Chancel Head

Lay Reader

Acolyte

Greeters

Counters

Adult SS

Youth SS

Preschool

Roger Baker

Frank Wheeler

Kathleen Wheeler

Geraldine Runkle

Alice Jury

Cheryl Davis

Tom Davis

Chris Carrico

Kevin Wolfe

Natalie Woods

Jerry & Val Hornbacker

John & Lisa Best

Kevin Wolfe

Be Gibson

Jenny Tripses

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

Staff

Rev. Mason Fitch

Heather Woods

Brian Woods

Brandy Cox

Diane Pfoff

Lynn Hutton

Sung Kim

Pastor

Music Ministry Coordinator

Organist

Child Care

Office Manager

Bookkeeper

Custodian