

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ David Sinn
Elders ~ Mason Fitch/Kevin Wolfe
Layreader ~ Larry Weber
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 ~ John & Lisa Best



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
- 12:00 p.m. – Potluck Immediately following the service for Pastor Karen’s Retirement (FH)
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 7:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)

MONDAY

- 5:00 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do Class
- 6:00 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (S)
- 6:00 p.m. – PACC Ticket Incentive Program (1/2FH)

THURSDAY

- 1:00 p.m. – Church Women United-Setup (FH)
- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – PIC Dress Rehearsal (S)

FRIDAY

- 9:00-11:00 a.m. – Church Women United (FH)
- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Tamil School (Classrooms)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – PIC Concert (Has bldg. at 5p) (S/L)

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)
- 11:45 a.m. – Elders Meeting
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)



April 30, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today's Meditation

We are the fiery life of the essence of God; We are the flame above the beauty in the fields; We shine in the water; We burn in the sun, the moon, and the stars. And with the airy wind, we quicken all things vitally by an unseen, all-sustaining life.

--adapted from Hildegard of Bingen

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 – To Celebrate the Day - Ritter

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

A Moment of Silence

*Gathering Praise – God of Grace and God of Glory #464

*Call to Worship

Leader: What's that in the air?

People: It is a bouquet of emotion: laughter, grief, joy and even wonder.

Leader: What's that in the air?

People: It is the fragrance of our worship filling this sacred space.

Leader: What's that in the air?

People: It is discernment of the Good Word.

Leader: What's that in the air?

People: It is the prayer of the saints rising like incense before God.

Leader: What's in the air?

People: It is the aura and essence of the Body of Christ receiving the Holy Spirit.

*Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

We who have been gathered up in Jesus now pour ourselves out for him. We make of ourselves an offering that is pleasing to both God and to those around us. Lord, may our worship rise like incense in your sight, may this place be filled with the fragrance of Christ. This we ask as we sing together the prayer Jesus taught us...Our Father...

(Words to The Lord's Prayer may be found in the hymnal – #307)

Scripture Readings – Revelation 8:4; 2 Corinthians 2:15

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Moment for the Children Hannah Fitch

Anthem Sanctuary Choir

Come, Be Glad—Daniel B Merrick/arr. Mark Hayes

Message –Remember Who You Are Karen Merrick

*Hymn of Invitation #75

I was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – Holy Ground #112

The Lord's Supper – Reflections - Hughes

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

Anthem – God of Creation—Joel Raney Sanctuary Choir

(Dedicated to Reverend Karen Merrick upon her retirement at First Christian Church, Peoria IL, after 29 years of service. Well done, good and faithful servant.)

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – A Song of Service -Boyd

(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 Words on Screen

*Congregational Response #356

We, Your People, God, Confessing (vs.4)

*Postlude – A Song of Rejoicing - Rasley

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Weekly Calendar on back)

- Today we are celebrating Rev. Karen Merrick's retirement. Please join us for the Potluck in the fellowship hall after the service.
- 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.
- May Sunday Morning Study ~ The adult Sunday School class for May will be a facilitated discussion of the book of Psalms, led by Kathy Fenton. It will begin May 14th and run for three weeks. The only book needed is the Bible.
- Disciples Women ~ Please join us for lunch on Tuesday, May 9, at 12 noon at Avanti's Restaurant 8517 N Knoxville. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Church Women United ~ Will meet at First Christian Church on Friday May 5 at 9:00 a.m. The program is May Friendship Day Celebration. Please join us.