

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Steve West  
Elders ~ Chere Peters & Jenny Tripses  
Lay Reader ~ Sandy Surface  
Greeters ~ John & Margaret Goulden  
Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods

Deacons  
    Chancel – Geraldine Runkle  
    \*Alice Jury, Barb Turner & Debbie Presnell  
\* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**  
Counters ~ Owen & Alice Jury

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/fccpeorail](https://www.facebook.com/fccpeorail)

Calendar

- TODAY**  
9:00 a.m. - Studies/Adult SS  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service (S)  
12:00 p.m. - EOM Potluck  
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)
- MONDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)
- TUESDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)
- WEDNESDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)
- THURSDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)
- FRIDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)
- 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 p.m. - Elders Meeting  
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)



July 30, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today's Meditation

*The church is, above all, a place to receive grace: it brings forgiven people together with the aim of equipping us to dispense grace to others.* – Philip Yancey

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.*

Blessing of the Backpacks

Music for Meditation – *Nearer, My God, to Thee* – Mason/Lau

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

A Moment of Silence

*\*Gathering Praise – Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* #4

*\*Call to Worship*

*Leader: Be still!*

**People: We come to quiet ourselves in this place of worship.**

*Leader: Be still and know*

**People: We come to discern the Word which empowers us.**

*Leader: Be still and know that God is*

**People: Our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Redeemer.**

Opening Prayer

*Leader: Let us pray together...*

**ALL: O God, enable us to be still and know that You are God. May the Holy Spirit strengthen, comfort, and guide us. Speak to us during this time of worship that we might become the people and the church you desire. We lift to you now the prayer that Jesus taught us, singing...Our Father...**

*(The Lord's prayer may be found in the hymnal #307)*

Scripture Readings – Ephesians 4:11-13

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Moment for the Children

Hannah Fitch

Special Music –

Euphonium Trio: Ange Bertucci, Larry Weber & Adam Woods

*Sing to the King* -- Michael Lawrence

Message - *Equip*

Hank Anderson

*\*Hymn of Invitation – Blessed Assurance*

#543

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Sweet Hour of Prayer* vss. 1,3 #570

The Lord's Supper – *God Leads Us Along* – arr. Leatherman

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

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *Consolation* - Penfield

*(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 – Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

#433

*\*Postlude – A Song of Service* - Boyd

**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 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 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.
- Sunday Morning Study ~ Frank Wheeler will be teaching a class during August on Abraham and Sarah, Faithful Seekers of a Promise. We will look at the struggles of Abraham and Sarah and their family as they searched for the promise the Lord gave them. We will also see how the New Testament writers spoke of Abraham and Sarah as examples to follow. Sign up at the information desk.
- Get Acquainted with Hank ~ Another session is scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup> following the Worship Service here at the church. If you would like to attend please sign up at the information desk.
- Fun in the Sun ~ Illinois Valley Cluster Picnic is August 19<sup>th</sup> from 12-5p.m. at Lake Wildwood, Varna IL. Deadline to RSVP is August 17<sup>th</sup>. Sign up at the information desk.
- Tasting Peoria ~ August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Oliver's in Peoria Heights. Sign up at the information desk if you would like to attend.
- Movie Night ~ August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. the movie is Secretariat. Sign up at the information desk.
- Potluck ~ Today after the service. Please join us for great food and conversation.