

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Jenny Tripses
Elders ~ Roger & Vickie Baker
Layreader ~ Frank Wheeler
Greeters ~ Debbie Presnell/Geraldine Runkle
Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods
Deacons
 Chancel – Katie Fitch
 *Laura Buckley, Jan Cusac, Nick Wronkiewicz,
 Terrie Wronkiewicz
* = 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. – End-of-the-Month Potluck (FH). Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Please join us for good food and fellowship.
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 3:15 p.m. – Peoria Rivermen Game
- 4:00 p.m. – Cluster Lenten Service at First Christian Church, Creve Coeur. Guest Speaker – Rev. Beth Rupe.
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)

MONDAY

- 5:00 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do Class
- 6:30-9:00 p.m. – Peoria Players (Hunt) (FH)
- Montessori Book Fair Setup (Evening) (FH)

TUESDAY

- Montessori Book Fair (During Day) (FH)
- 10:00 a.m. – Adam Hamilton DVD Lenten Study (110)
- 6:00-9:30 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (S/110)
- 6:30 p.m. – Cluster Meeting (Sunnyland)
- 7:00 p.m. – Book Club (Margaret Goulden’s home)

WEDNESDAY

- Montessori Book Fair (During Day) (FH)
- 6:30-9:00 p.m. – Peoria Players (Hunt) (FH)

THURSDAY

- 6:30-9:00 p.m. – Peoria Players (Hunt) (FH)

SATURDAY

- 7:00-9:00 a.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)
- 10:00 a.m. – Cantata Dress Rehearsal (S)
- 11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY *Palm Sunday*

- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
- 10:30 a.m. – Choir Cantata ~ *No Greater Love (Remembering the Death and Resurrection of Jesus)*
- 11:45 a.m. – Elders Meeting (110)
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)



March 26, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today’s Meditation

God is Unity, but always works in variety.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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.

A Minute for Mission ~ Easter Offering

Becky Sisk

Music for Meditation – *Hear Now My Humble Prayer*—Smith
(Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

A Moment of Silence

*Gathering Praise – *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart*

#15

*Call to Worship
Leader: Though we come from different circumstances
People: The Lord will make us one in worship.
Leader: Though we have traveled different paths of struggles and successes

People: The Lord will make us one in healing.
Leader: Though each one of us has known pain and joy
People: The Lord will make us one in hope.

*Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray together...
Lord, You have drawn us together this day from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, hopes, and dreams. Be with us as together we experience your presence and your healing love. Open our hearts and our spirits to receive strength, encouragement, and peace. This we ask as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us, singing... Our Father...

The Lord’s Prayer - #307

Scripture Reading – John 17:20-26
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Moment for the Children

Hannah Fitch

(Following the children’s message, children ages 5 and up are welcome to meet their teacher, Laura Cohen, at the front of the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.)

Special Music

Jubilate Ringers

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded—arr. Bill Ingram

Message – *What Jesus Prayed*

Karen Merrick

*Hymn of Invitation

words on screen

O God, In Christ You Call Us

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

#587

The Lord’s Supper – *Oracion*—Hamilton
All: “Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God’s grace.”

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *The Cross of Christ*—arr. Edwards
(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 – *Lead Me, Guide Me*

#583

*Postlude – *Rise Up and Serve the Lord*—Walter/Harris

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 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.
- Choir Cantata – April 2 ~ Please join us in worship next Sunday, April 2, for the Choir Cantata, *No Greater Love (Remembering the Death and Resurrection of Jesus)*—Lloyd Larson.
- Maundy Thursday Service, April 6, at 6:30 p.m. ~ Please put this on your calendar and protect this event as a priority. In so many ways, this service defines who we are and who we follow. Readers, Elders, and Deacons are needed. Please sign up at the information desk if you can help that evening.
- Easter Lilies ~ If you would like to order a Lily to decorate the chancel on Easter, please use the order form in today’s worship bulletin.
- April Sunday Morning Study ~ We will study some of Jesus’ most puzzling passages using the book, *The Difficult Words of Jesus*. We will meet in the Community Room at 9:00 a.m. Books are available in the church office and can be purchased for \$15. Jenny Tripses will facilitate the class. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Monthly Book Club ~ We will meet at Margaret Goulden’s home on Tuesday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m. The book we will be discussing is “Tending Roses” by Lisa Wingate. Please sign up at the information desk.