

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

- Presiding Elder ~ Dave Sinn
- Elders ~ Roger & Vickie Baker
- Lay Reader ~ Larry Weber
- Greeters ~ Aldine Allen & Kathy Fenton
- Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods
- Deacons
 - Chancel – Lisa Cheatham
 - *Lisa Cheatham
 - Beth Reynolds, Cody Cheatham
- * = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**
- Counters ~ Mike & Laura Buckley
- Friends of Jesus ~ Jenny Tripses
- Sunday School/Grades 1-8 ~ Katie Fitch



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
www.facebook.com/fccpeoria

Calendar

- TODAY – CHRISTMAS EVE**
 - 9:00 a.m. - Studies/Adult SS
 - 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
 - 6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service (S)
 - 7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)
- MONDAY – CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED**
- TUESDAY**
- WEDNESDAY**
 - 6:30 p.m. - Transition Team Meeting
- THURSDAY**
- FRIDAY – NEW YEARS EVE OBSERVED OFFICE CLOSED**
- SATURDAY**
 - 7:00 a.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)
- NEXT SUNDAY**
 - 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
 - 7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)



December 24, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today's Meditation

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.
Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine; love
to God and others, love for plea and gift and sign. (from the
hymn *Love Came Down at Christmas*; lyrics by Christiana
Georgina Rossetti)

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 -

Maddison Barnard, Harp

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

A Moment of Silence

[†]Gathering Praise – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

#150

[†]Call to Worship

Leader: We will sing of your steadfast love forever, O Lord;

**People: With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness
to all generations.**

Leader: We declare that your steadfast love is established
forever;

People: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: O God, on this fourth Sunday of Advent, we come
before you to worship.

[†]Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

**All: Good and gracious Lord, as we meet together, we pray
that you will grant us a glimpse of your glory so that we
may rejoice in your presence and abide in your peace. Lord
Jesus, we remember that you came to bring your love, and
to turn the lives of humankind to God. Bless this time of
worship and all who are part of it, we pray. And now, we
offer to you the prayer that Jesus taught us... Our Father...**
(The Lord's prayer may be found in the hymnal - #307)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Words on screen

Scripture Reading – Micah 5:2-5a

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Moment for the Children

Hannah Fitch

Anthem

Sanctuary Choir

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming – Michael Praetorius

The Lovefeast

Reflection

Lovefeast

(Please visit with those around you as you enjoy the Lovefeast buns,
Moravian coffee or hot chocolate.)

Hank Anderson

Maddison Barnard, Harp

[†]Hymn of Invitation – *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

vss 1,3,4 #153

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *What Child Is This*

#162

The Lord's Supper – *The Peace Within Me* - Ritter

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

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings -

Maddison Barnard, Harp

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

[†]Doxology

Words on screen

[†]Dedication of Offering

[†]Benediction

[†]Congregational Response – *There's A Song in the Air*

vs.1 #159

[†]Postlude – *Raise Now Your Song on High* – arr. Kendall

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.
- Bible Study ~ Wednesday morning Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. with Hank will resume January 17th.
- Sunday Morning Study December ~ No class December 31st.
- Sunday Morning Study January ~ Be Gibson will lead the class in January on Baffling, Bewildering and Puzzling Bible stories. Please sign up at the information desk to attend.
- Game Night ~ January 13th at 2 p.m. Bring your favorite game and snack. Sign up at the information desk.