



Loving God & Our Neighbors Reverently & Radically



This Sunday we are celebrating Hank; not just his ministry here at First Christian, but his over 40 years of ministry! After this interim period, Hank is retiring from full-time ministry. Rev Rick Hamilton, our Regional Minister, will be joining us for worship to honor him. Following worship, there will be a celebration lunch that includes a program. Please come to help celebrate Hank!



Faith isn't always polished. It's not a straight line or a spotless record. It's campfires and ferris wheels, naps under trees and wobbly steps forward. It's questions in the dark, grace after failure, and joy that shows up anyway.

Beginning August 10th, we are starting a new sermon series call **Beautiful Mess**. In this series, we follow people who didn't have it all together - Nicodemus, Elijah, Moses, the disciples - and discover that God met them right where they were: confused, tired, afraid, unfinished. These stories remind us that faith doesn't require perfection. Just participation. Just one more step, one more try, one more "yes."

So come as you are. Scraped knees, tangled thoughts, snack in hand. This is faith in motion.



Food Pantry

In August, items donated will be going to Friendship House. Any non-perishable items are much needed.

Thank you!



July Giving

DMF	\$1258.33
Foster Village Peoria	\$250
Friendship House	\$250



Stewardship

The question is not, how much of what is mine do I give to others. The question is, how much of what is God's do I reserve for myself. The answer we give is a faith issue, a stewardship issue.

- William Avery



Creation Care Tip

Challenge yourself to cook a one pot meal and buy from local farmers. Get creative and try something new-- who knows, it could be a new favorite recipe!

WORSHIP INFO

MOSES to JOSHUA



August 3, 2025

Moses to Joshua

Scripture: Numbers 27:15-23

Rev Hank Anderson, preaching

Moses released his leadership of the nation of Israel and intentionally blessed Joshua as their new leader. So I, as interim, release my leadership and bless the new settled minister as the leader of this congregation.

Special Music: "Let the Peace of God Reign" -Darlene Zschech Praise Team

Faith by the Campfire



August 10, 2025

Faith by the Campfire

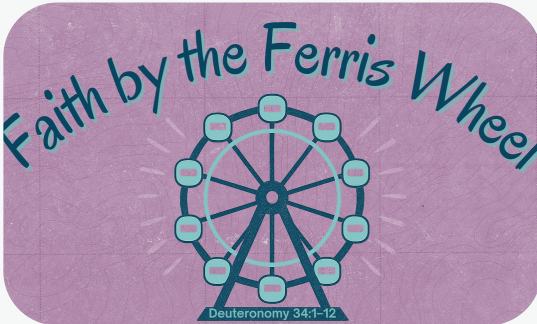
Scripture: John 3:1-17

Rev Mason Fitch, preaching

This week explores the story of Nicodemus, focusing on how faith often begins, not with certainty, but with curiosity, quiet questions, and the courage to show up in the dark.

Special Music: "I Will Be Christ to You" - arr. Tom Fettke
Adam Woods & Natalie Woods

Faith by the Ferris Wheel



August 17, 2025

Faith by the Ferris Wheel

Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Rev Mason Fitch, preaching

This week, we ride to the heights with Moses. After a lifetime of leading, wrestling, wandering, he finally sees the Promised Land. But he doesn't enter it. This mountaintop moment isn't about arrival. It's about perspective.

Special Music: Saxophone Quartet

Faith by the Hammock



August 24, 2025

Faith by the Hammock

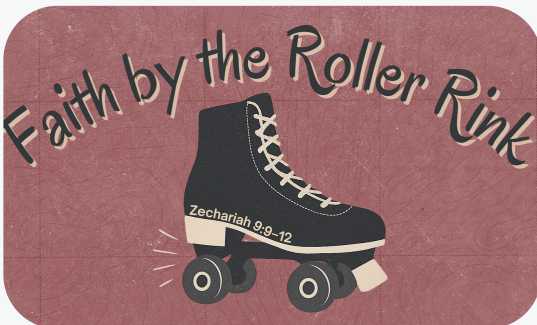
Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-8

Rev Mason Fitch, preaching

Elijah is done. He's overwhelmed, afraid, and ready to give up. But instead of demanding more, God meets him with rest: a nap and a snack under the shade of a tree.

Special Music: "Be Still and Know" - Casting Crowns Vocal Quartet

Faith by the Roller Rink



August 31, 2025

Faith by the Roller Rink

Scripture: Zechariah 9:9-12

Rev Mason Fitch, preaching

The disciples were never flawless—they sank, slept, denied, and doubted. And still, Jesus didn't replace them. He sent them.

Again and again.

Special Music: TBD

Sunday Morning Study - August Revelation.....for Beginners?? led by Roger Baker



In August we're going to do a study on the Book of Revelations. This is going to be a "hi level" overview looking at God's timeline through the end of the age. We'll be using a book titled "What Happens Next" by Max Lucado. This study is not an attempt to "explain" in detail all the prophecies and what they mean or how they will actually unfold. We could spend a month of Sundays trying to do that and still probably be confused. Rather this study will just attempt to identify the key events identified in the scriptures and the sequence in which they will occur. Lucado's book is a down to earth discussion of maybe the most complicated book in the Bible, easy to read. And leaves the ultimate interpretation of these events up to the reader. To give you a sense of Lucado's approach and maybe style, here is the last paragraph in the introduction:

"One final word. I have reserved a seat at the PWPOET Cafe in heaven - Pastors Who Preached On End Times. We will celebrate what we understood correctly, chuckle at what we missed entirely. Mostly we will HONOR the one TEACHER who stands above us all, Jesus Christ.

Come join us on Sunday mornings in August for what should be a lively discussion!

Responders Class led by Becky Sisk



In the Responders adult Sunday School class, we use Wired Word lessons each Sunday, 9-10 am. We examine current events from the point of view of the Bible and our faith. Our topics are current and often challenge us in new ways. Come join us!

Wedding Bells



A Wedding Shower for Brandy Cox and Jordan Ganschow will be held Sunday, August 24th 2025, following our Sunday morning worship. Lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome! This is a family event. Please plan to attend to show our support and affection for this special couple. More details to follow. - Fellowship Ministry Team

Sofia's Kitchen



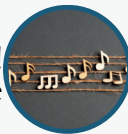
Sophia's Kitchen has been receiving requests from parents for non-food items as the school year is about to begin. They have significant need for tissues (probably the hankipack size), small hand sanitizer bottles, sanitizer wipes, and all sizes of ziplock bags. Through the end of August FCC will have a collection bin by the Information Desk. Please consider helping these students and parents to have the supplies.....and all the prayers.....they need for a smooth and steady start to the school year.

Backpack & Teacher Blessing



Sunday August 10th we will be blessing our students (and their backpacks!), teachers, and school staff for the upcoming school year. If you fall under one of those categories, we would love to include you in the blessing! The blessing will take place in worship, so we hope to see you there.

Summer Music 2025



It's time to show off your musical talent! Whether you sing or play an instrument, we want to hear your gift. Every Sunday during the summer months we are looking for someone (or a group of people) to play the special music during worship. The sign up is available on Heather's door, or you can call the office. If you have any questions, please reach out to Heather.

Name Tags



We are asking everyone to begin - again - to wear their name tags. This helps visitors and new members get to know us just a little better. If you do not have a name tag, please sign up at the information desk and one will be made for you.

FELLOWSHIP

August Birthdays

Cody Cheatham	8/7
Jan Cusac	8/12
Becky Sisk	8/16
Kathy Fenton	8/17
Adam Truelove	8/19
Be Gibson	8/20
Bob Parrett	8/20
Kate Spielman	8/21
Quentin Rodriguez	8/24
Laura Buckley	8/30
Lorie Mansfield	8/31



August Anniversaries

Mike & Laura Buckley	8/5
Dave & Connie Sinn	8/15
Mike & Sharon Gulley	8/16
Frank & Kathleen Wheeler	8/19
Jake & Laura Cohen	8/23



Tasting Peoria - Avanti's

August 14th @ 6pm

A Peoria staple for many years now, Avanti's started as a pizza manufacturer in 1964. In 1966, the owner bought an Italian restaurant on the corner of University and Main street and the rest is history!
8517 Knoxville Ave, Peoria



Book Club The Beach House August 21st @ 6pm

In "The Beach House" by Mary Alice Monroe, Caretta Rutledge, a fiercely independent woman, receives a call from her mother, Olivia, urging her to return to their home on Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Cara's life is spiraling out of control, and she reluctantly agrees, hoping to escape her own problems and reconnect with her mother. The story follows Cara's journey as she navigates her family's past, reconnects with old acquaintances, and finds a newfound appreciation for the rhythms of the island. Through her experiences, Cara learns about sacrifice, family, and the possibility of forgiveness, ultimately helping her understand the enduring bond between mothers and daughters. We will meet at the home of Margaret Goulden. For the address, please speak with Margaret or reach out the church office.



Movie Night Secondhand Lions August 28th @ 6pm

A shy adolescent boy, Walter, is taken by his greedy mother to spend the summer with his two hard-boiled great-uncles, Hub and Garth, who are rumored to possess a great fortune. At first, the two old men, both set in their ways, find Walter's presence a nuisance, but they eventually warm up to the boy and regale him with tall tales from their past. In return, Walter helps reawaken their youthful spirit.



Potluck August 31st

Please sign up if you can help with prep and/or cleanup. Bring your own tableware to help reduce waste.



SERVING SCHEDULES

Date	Presiding Elder	Table Elders	Deacons	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Greeters	Counters
8/3/25	Mason Fitch	Dave Sinn Connie Sinn	Joe Rex John Best Dan Cox Debbie Presnell	Larry Weber	Natalie Woods	Kathy Fenton Connie Sinn	Jim & Beth Smittkamp
8/10/25	Frank Wheeler	Mike Buckley Becky Sisk	Joe Rex John Best Dan Cox Debbie Presnell	Sandy Surface	Natalie Woods	Kathy Fenton Connie Sinn	Steve West Ralph Tegg
8/17/25	Kevin Wolfe	Roger Baker Vickie Baker	Joe Rex John Best Dan Cox Debbie Presnell	Laura Cohen	Natalie Woods	Kathy Fenton Connie Sinn	Roger & Vickie Baker
8/24/25	Becky Sisk	Sandy Surface Carmen Nicoll	Joe Rex John Best Dan Cox Debbie Presnell	Connie Sinn	Natalie Woods	Kathy Fenton Connie Sinn	Owen & Alice Jury
8/31/25	Mike Buckley	Linda Rex Beth Smittkamp	Joe Rex John Best Dan Cox Debbie Presnell	Becky Sisk	Natalie Woods	Kathy Fenton Connie Sinn	Mike & Laura Buckley

Date	Friends with Jesus	Growing Disciples	The Open Table
8/3/25	Jenny Tripses	Connie Julien	Roger Baker
8/10/25	Chere Peters	Connie Julien	Roger Baker
8/17/25	TBD	Kathleen Wheeler	Roger Baker
8/24/25	Linda Rex	Kathleen Wheeler	Roger Baker
8/31/25	Katie Fitch	Kathleen Wheeler	Roger Baker

CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am - Studies/Adult SS 10:30am - Worship Serv 11:45am - Lunch (FH) 7pm - Private Group	6:30pm - PACC (S)	10:30am - Bible Study 5pm - Dungeons & 6:30pm - PACC (S)	6:30pm - PACC (S)	6pm - Tasting Peoria (Off Site) 6:30pm - Peoria	6pm - Peoria Player	7am - Private Group 9am - PlayPen Sports 1:30pm - Cadmus Funeral
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9am - Studies/Adult SS 10:30am - Worship Serv 11:45am - Worship 12pm - Elders Meeting 7pm - Private Group	2pm - Faith in Justice 6pm - Personnel Meeting	1:15pm - Christian Ed 6:30pm - PACC (S)	10:30am - Bible Study 5pm - Dungeons & 6:30pm - PACC (S)	6pm - Book Club (Off Site)	7am - Private Group 9am - PlayPen Sports 10am - Peoria Players 10:30am - MLT Meeting	7am - Private Group 9am - PlayPen Sports
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9am - Studies/Adult SS 10:30am - Worship Serv 11:45am - Mission & 7pm - Private Group	6:15pm - Stewardship 7pm - Administrative	6pm - PACC (S)	10:30am - Bible Study 5pm - Dungeons & 6:30pm - Peoria	6pm - Book Club (Off Site)		7am - Private Group 9am - PlayPen Sports
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9am - Studies/Adult SS 10:30am - Worship Serv 12pm - Wedding Shower 7pm - Private Group	6pm - Peoria Players	4pm - Youth Chorus 6pm - PACC (S/L/N) 6pm - Peoria Players 6:30pm - Cluster	10:30am - Bible Study 5pm - Dungeons & 6pm - Peoria Players	6pm - Movie Night(S) 6pm - Peoria Players	5:30pm - TAVIL	7am - Private Group 9am - PlayPen Sports
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9am - Studies/Adult SS 10:30am - Worship Serv 12pm - EOM Potluck(FH) 7pm - Private Group						

FCC Meetings/Events

External Meetings/Events

Out of Office

Holidays

Office Closed