

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Becky Sisk
Elders ~ Chere Peters & Jenny Tripses
Lay Reader ~ Carmen Nicoll
Greeters ~ Debra Kreps & Tim Dougherty
Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods
Deacons
 Chancel – Beth Reynolds
 *Tim Dougherty
 Dana Powers, Jan Cusac & Debbie Presnell
* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**
Counters ~ Jim & Beth Smittkamp
Friends of Jesus ~ Chere Peters
Sunday School/Grades 1-8 ~ Becky Sisk



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/fccpeoriaill

Calendar

- TODAY**
9:00 a.m. - Studies/Adult SS
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
12:30 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers (S)
1:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir (S)
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)
- MONDAY – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**
7:00 p.m. - Administrative Board
- TUESDAY**
6:00 p.m. - PACC Rehearsal (S/L/N)
- WEDNESDAY**
10:30 a.m. - Bible Study (110)
6:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)
- THURSDAY**
6:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)
6:00 p.m. - Tasting Peoria (Off Site)
- FRIDAY**
6:00 p.m. - Tamil School (Classrooms/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)
12:30 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers (S)
1:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir (S)
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)



January 14, 2024

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today’s Meditation
But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.
Luke 15:20 NRSV

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 Greeter’s Table before you leave to receive more information about our church and a little something extra.

Music for Meditation – *Only Trust Him* – Stockton/Martin
(Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)
A Moment of Silence

*Gathering Praise – *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* #25

*Call to Worship
Leader: No matter how far we wander from you, O God,
People: your steadfast love finds us.
Leader: No matter how unjust the world seems to us, O God,
People: your steadfast righteousness sustains us.
Leader: No matter how vulnerable our lives seem to us, O God,
People: your steadfast presence gives us hope.
Leader: No matter how unloved and uncared for we feel, O God,
People: you hear our cries and answer our prayers.
Thanks be to God!

*Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray together...
ALL: O God, our companion and guide, we would be lost without your direction - wanderers in wildernesses of our own making. We praise you for dealing so graciously with your people in the past, when you guided them to freedom and a promised new life. Holy God, may this time of worship be a joyful response of praise and thanksgiving for all that you have done. We offer this prayer in the name of the one who taught us to pray... Our Father...
(The Lord’s prayer may be found in the hymnal #307)

*Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri) #36

Scripture Reading – Luke 15:11-12
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Moment for the Children Hannah Fitch

Anthem Jubilate Ringers
Alleluia -arr. James Boersma

Message – A Story in Three Parts: The Younger Son Hank Anderson

*Hymn of Invitation – *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*
vss. 1-2 #540

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*
vss. 1-2 #254

The Lord’s Supper – *Woodland Peace* – Grieg/Paxton
All: “Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God’s grace.”

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *Children of the Heavenly Father*
– arr. Lau
(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 –
I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord #87

*Postlude – *Faith the Cornerstone* - Broughton

- 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. 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.
 - Bible Study ~ Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. with Hank will resume January 17th.
 - Sunday Morning Study ~ Be Gibson will lead the class in January on Baffling, Bewildering and Puzzling Bible Stories. Sign up at the information desk if you would
 - Tasting Peoria ~ January 18th at 6 p.m. at Olympia Sports Bar & Grill. Sign up at the information desk.
 - Book Club ~ January 23rd at 6 p.m. The Book is *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon. We will meet at Margaret Goulden’s home: 133 Eastwood Dr. East Peoria. Snacks and refreshments provided. Sign up to at the information desk if you would like to attend.
 - Movie Night ~ January 26th at 7 p.m. The movie is *Cinderella*. Sign up at the information desk.
 - Potluck Sunday ~ January 28th right after the Worship Service. Please join us and bring a dish to share. Think green and bring your own table service. Sign up at the information desk to help with before and after.