

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Roger Baker

Elders ~ Dave & Connie Sinn

Layreader ~ Terrie Wronkiewicz

Greeters ~ Tim Dougherty/Sarah Lamlech

Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods

Deacons

Chancel – Beth Reynolds

*Tim Dougherty, Debbie Presnell, Terrie Wronkiewicz,
John Best

* = 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 will be preaching
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)

MONDAY

- 5:00 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do Class (Private)
- 7:00 p.m. – Administrative Board (110)

TUESDAY

- 1:00 p.m. – Faith in Justice Task Force
- 6:00-9:30 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (S/110)

FRIDAY

- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Tamil School (Classrooms)
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie Night ~ “The Butler” (S)

SATURDAY

- 7:00-9:00 a.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)

NEXT SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
- 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick will be preaching
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
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January 15, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today’s Meditation
Define yourself radically, as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion. —Brennon Manning

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 – *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound*
—arr. McConnell
(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 (from Matthew 3:13-17)*
Leader: At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him.

People: Prepare the Way of the Lord.
Leader: John tried to stop him and said, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?” Jesus answered, “Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness.” So John agreed to baptize Jesus.

People: Prepare the Way of the Lord.
Leader: When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said,
All: “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

**Opening Prayer*
Leader: Let us pray together...
Loving God, as we hear this story we are so thankful for the experience of baptism. We are grateful that you provide a pathway through the cleansing, renewing waters that leads to a clarity of purpose in our lives.

(continued)

We live to worship you and to follow the ways of your son and our savior, Jesus Christ. Fill us to overflowing with your love and Spirit as we worship you with thankful hearts. This we pray in the name of your son who taught us to pray, saying, Our Father...

(Words to The Lord’s Prayer may be found in the hymnal – #307)

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

Scripture Reading – Galatians 3:26-29
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, Kathleen Wheeler, at the front of the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.)

Anthem Sanctuary Choir
Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)—arr. Joel Raney

Message – *Centered...Knowing Our Identity* Karen Merrick

**Hymn of Invitation – I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry #75*

A Time of Prayer
Communion Hymn #254
Breathe on Me, Breath of God (vss. 1-2)

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

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *Cantabile*—Conely
(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 #431*
Go, My Children, with My Blessing (vs. 3)

**Postlude – Praise Him with the Sound of the Trumpet—Lau*

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.
- January Sunday Study ~ Connie Sinn will be leading a study on the topic, “The Most Significant Teachings of the Bible.” This study will be offered on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on January 8, 15, 22, and 29. All are still welcome! Bring your Bible.
- Administrative Board Meeting ~ The next Administrative Board meeting is Monday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. All voting members are encouraged to attend.
- Movie Night ~ Please join us on Friday, January 20, at 7:00 p.m. for the movie, “The Butler.” Come and enjoy the movie and popcorn! Please sign up at the information desk.
- Tasting Peoria ~ Thursday, January 26, at 6:00 p.m. Join us at Rizzi’s for some excellent Italian food and even better company. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Our next End-of-the-Month Potluck is January 29. Please sign up at the information desk if you can help.