

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Jenny Tripses
Elders ~ Roger & Vickie Baker
Layreader ~ Laura Cohen
Greeters ~ Debbie Presnell/Tim Dougherty
Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods
Deacons
 Chancel – Jim Smittkamp
 *Laura Buckley, Darren Woods, Adam Woods
* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**
Counters ~ Steve & Monica Hinrichs



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
Madison Dillerud, Child-Care

www.fccpeoria.org
www.facebook.com/fccpeoria

Calendar

TODAY

- 9:00 a.m. – Responders Class
- 10:30 a.m. – The Rev. Karen Merrick preaching
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 2:00-4:30 p.m. – CST Callbacks (Ulrich) (FH)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

- 6:00-7:00 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (110)
- 6:00-9:30 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (S)
- 6:30 p.m. – Cluster Meeting (Sunnyland)

THURSDAY

- 10:00 a.m. – Bible Study ~ *A Visual Walk Through Genesis* (110)

SATURDAY

- 7:00-9:00 a.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)
- 12:00-4:00 p.m. – Private Event (Mansfield) (FH)

NEXT SUNDAY *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

- 9:00 a.m. – Responders Class
- 10:30 a.m. – Worship in Sanctuary and on Facebook
- 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)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)



Greener Pastures

March 20, 2022

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today's Meditation

The pattern of the prodigal is: rebellion, ruin, repentance, reconciliation, restoration.
—Edwin Louis Cole

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 – *Ballade*—Brahms/Broughton

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

A Moment of Silence

*Gathering Praise – *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* #6

*Call to Worship:

Leader: With grace flowing, the poet sings the opening lines of the famous prayer, "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want."

People: We hear the psalmist's contentment and wonder about our own.

Leader: Settled on the ground, watching his flock graze, the psalmist rests, "God makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."

People: We hear his deep need for rest and wonder about our own.

Leader: With a deep sigh, the psalmist declares, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me. You prepare a table before me. You anoint me. My cup overflows."

People: We recognize his bold courage and wonder about our own.

Leader: Remembering God's faithfulness, the psalmist finds words to carry with him, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long."

(continued)

People: We hear his faithful trust and wonder about our own.

Leader: Holy Spirit of Rest and Renewal, in this time of worship inspire us with words both ancient and new so that we may find the words that connect us to You.

*Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

We hear the comforting poetry of the psalmist but wonder, is it true? We confess that rather than being only filled with holy wonder, we are also filled with skepticism at the ancient words. Holy One, shepherd our busy minds back to the here and now, help our spirits forgive the grudges we hold, and invite us to experience You as truly present. In these moments of worship, offer us rest for a moment. Hear us as we say together the prayer Jesus taught us, 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 Readings – Isaiah 49:8-12

Psalm 23:2-3a

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Moment for the Children Hannah Fitch

Anthem – *At the Cross (Hallelujah)*—arr. Harold Ross
Sanctuary Choir

Message – *Greener Pastures* Karen Merrick

*Hymn of Commitment words on screen
Restore My Soul—Andi Rozier (Tune: *Gift of Love*)

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* #197

The Lord's Supper – *The Paths of Loving Kindness*—Shea

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

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings*
—arr. Peterson

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

*Doxology #46

*Dedication of Offering

*Benediction

*Congregational Response – *This Is the Day* #286

*Postlude – *I Will Extol Thee*—Scott

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.
- If you would like to adopt an Easter Lily to decorate the chancel for Easter, please use the insert in today's worship bulletin.
- Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt at First Christian Church ~ Saturday morning, April 16, 10:00 a.m. Hear the Easter Story – Hunt for eggs – and back inside for snacks. Please sign up at the information desk if you can help. We will need to have all our volunteer positions filled by April 3 so that we can announce this event to the community.
- Can you help with Easter Brunch? ~ Easter morning, April 17, from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up at the information desk if you are able to help. We will need to have our volunteers lined up by April 3 so that we can get the promotion out for Holy Week that includes the breakfast.