

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Mason Fitch
Elders ~ Beth Smittkamp/Linda Rex
Layreader ~ Becky Sisk
Greeters ~ Aldine Allen/Shirley Fuchs
Acolyte ~ Clara Truelove
Deacons
 Chancel – Joe Rex
 *John Best, Oliver Truelove, Victoria Truelove, Adam Woods
* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**
Counters ~ Jim & Beth Smittkamp



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. – Studies/Adult SS
- 10:30 a.m. – The Rev. Hannah Fitch preaching
- 11:45 a.m. – Elders Meeting
- 1:00-6:00 p.m. – Recital (Pittenger) (S/L)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)

MONDAY

- 5:00 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do Class (classroom)
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. – PACC Tickets Incentive Program (FH)
- 6:30-9:30 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (S)

TUESDAY

- 6:30-9:00 p.m. – CST Rehearsal (Ulrich) (FH)

WEDNESDAY

- 3:00-6:00 p.m. – Montessori Event Set-Up (FH)

THURSDAY

- Montessori Event Set-Up in FH
- 10:00-11:30 a.m. – Study ~ *The Lord’s Prayer* (110)

FRIDAY

- 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Montessori Mother’s Day Brunch (FH)
- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Tamil School
- 6:15-8:15 p.m. – PIC Rehearsal (S)
- 6:30-9:00 p.m. – CST Rehearsal (Ulrich) (FH)

SATURDAY

- 7:00-9:00 a.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)
- 7:00 p.m. – Peoria International Choir Concert (S)
(Has building from 5:00-8:00 p.m.)

NEXT SUNDAY *Mother’s Day*

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



May 1, 2022

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today's Meditation
I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.
—George Washington Carver

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 – *Andante Espressivo*—Kjerulf
(Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

A Moment of Silence

*Gathering Praise – *All Creatures of Our God and King* #22

*Call to Worship:
Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

People: O Lord my God, I stand in awe at your greatness.
Leader: Your being is clothed with honor and majesty and robed in light.

People: You stretch out the heavens like a tent, making the winds your messengers,
Leader: And fire and flame your servants.

People: How great are your works, O God!
Leader: In your wisdom you created the earth and all that is within it.

People: In thanksgiving, let us worship and praise the Lord our God.

*Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray together...
Almighty God, who has created and is creating, we look around at the beauty of this earth and are amazed by Your works. Spectacular sunsets, cheerful birds singing, humorous and beloved pets are all reminders of the wonders of creation. For all of this, we give You thanks.
(continued)

Bind us together as a community that we might care for one another, building each other up in faith. On this Earth Day, O God, enliven in us a new energy to care for Your creation. Teach us new ways to reduce our waste and creative ways to reuse items. Empower us to be good stewards of this Earth that we love, and which You have entrusted to us. We pray all of this in Jesus' holy name as we pray the prayer he 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 Reading – Matthew 13:3-35
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Moment for the Children Hannah Fitch
Anthem – *Crown Him (Majesty)*—Heather Sorenson
Sanctuary Choir

Message – *The Mightiest of Shrubs* Hannah Fitch
*Hymn of Commitment words on screen
At the Dawn of Your Creation
Tune: *Hymn to Joy (Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)*

A Time of Prayer
Communion Hymn – *How Great Thou Art* (vss. 1-2) #33
The Lord's Supper – *Melody Lyrique*—Lester
All: "Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God's grace."

Offering Statement
Tithes and Offerings – *Melody in F*—Rubinstein
(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 #56
For the Beauty of the Earth (vss. 1-2)

*Postlude – *Marche*—Grieg

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.
- 2022 Clarice May Scholarship Applications are now available. Please pick one up at the information desk. Application deadline is May 15, 2022.
- Elders Meeting ~ There is an Elders meeting today at 11:45 a.m. All Elders are encouraged to attend.
- Disciples Women ~ Please join us for lunch at the Longhorn Steakhouse, 7401 Grand Prairie Drive, Peoria on Tuesday, May 10, at 12:00 noon. This is our last meeting until September 13. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Tasting Peoria ~ On Thursday, May 12, we're headed back to Kelleher's Irish Pub. This is a Peoria favorite, and one of ours too! Meet us at 6:00 p.m. for good food and even better company. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Save the Date ~ Illinois Valley Cluster Youth Bowling (for JYF, Chi-Rho and CYF) on Saturday, May 14, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at The Christian Center. Followed by pizza and dessert at First Christian Church, Peoria. No charge to our youth for this event.
- Movie Night ~ Friday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m. Come see this original Broadway production of the award-winning musical, *Hamilton*. Join us for the movie and popcorn! Please sign up at the information desk.