

## MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Liz White

Elders ~ Beth Cox/Kevin Wolfe

Layreader ~ Terrie Wronkiewicz

Greeters ~ Jerry & Val Hornbacker

Acolyte ~ Clara Truelove

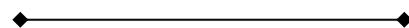
Deacons

Chancel – Jim Smittkamp

\*Jake Cohen, Tom Davis, Cheryl Davis

\* = 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](http://www.fccpeoria.org)

[www.facebook.com/fccpeoria](https://www.facebook.com/fccpeoria)

## Calendar

### TODAY

- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
- 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick will be preaching
- 12:00 p.m. – End-of-the-Month Potluck (FH). Please bring a dish to share and join us for good food and fellowship.
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 3:00-5:30 p.m. – Cluster Wiener Roast and Hayrides (Colburn Farm in Eureka)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)

### MONDAY

- 5:00 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do Class (classroom)

### TUESDAY

- 6:00-7:45 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (110)
- 6:00-9:30 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (S)
- 6:30 p.m. – Cluster Meeting (Sunnyland)

### FRIDAY

- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Tamil School (Classrooms)

### SATURDAY

- 7:00-9:00 a.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)
- 10:30 a.m. – Blessing of the Animals (Parking Lot)

### NEXT SUNDAY *World Communion / Reconciliation Sunday*

- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
- 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick will be preaching
- 11:45 a.m. – Elders Meeting (110)
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)



**September 25, 2022**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*Founded in 1845*



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
10:30 a.m. September 25, 2022  
† indicates standing, if able

Today's Meditation

*Peace comes not from the absence of trouble, but from the presence of God.*  
—Alexander MacLaren

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.*

A Minute for Mission ~ Reconciliation Offering Video

Music for Meditation – *Prelude on "Morecambe"*

—Atkinson/Portman

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

A Moment of Silence

†Gathering Praise – *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations* #484

†Call to Worship

*Leader: Come, all you people! Come from east and west, north and south!*

**People: Come across bridges, come along streets, come by car, bike, or foot!**

*Leader: Come! We are delighted that you are here!*

**People: We are here to sing, to pray, to greet, to wonder, to give thanks.**

*Leader: So, let us worship God.*

†Opening Prayer

*Leader: Let us pray together ...*

**Lord of light and life, you have called us this day to open our hearts, our minds, our spirits to hear your words of encouragement, healing, and hope. May this hour be one that gives us strength and guidance for the week ahead. This we ask in the name of the one who taught us to pray, singing, Our Father... The Lord's Prayer – #307**

Scripture Reading – Romans 8:26-28

*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, Laura Buckley, at the front of the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.)*

Special Music

Jubilate Ringers

*How Firm a Foundation*—arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Message

Karen Merrick

*"Jesus Never Said That: Everything Happens for a Reason"*

†Hymn of Commitment – *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* #86

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *The Old Rugged Cross* #548

The Lord's Supper – *Song of Hope*—Gritchekine

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

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *Jesus Loves Me! This I Know*

—arr. McConnell

*(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 – *Here I Am, Lord* (vs. 1) #452

†Postlude – *One Lord, One Faith, One Birth*—Wesley/Wagner

**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.
- October Sunday Study ~ On Sunday mornings October 2<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Roger Baker will lead us in a study of 1 John. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Blessing of the Animals ~ All are welcome to join us on Saturday, October 1, at 10:30 a.m. for a special Blessing of the Animals service in our parking lot. It is a way we can acknowledge the special bond we have with the animals in our lives and celebrate all creatures, great and small.
- Disciples Women ~ Join us on Tuesday, October 11, at 12:00 noon. We will be filling bags with Halloween candy to distribute to children in the Peoria area. Bring your own lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. All are welcome! Please sign up at the information desk.  
**\*Please help with candy donations. You may place your donation in the basket by the church office.**
- Midwest Food Bank – Volunteer Project ~ First Christian Church is putting together a group to do a volunteer project at Midwest Food Bank of Peoria on Thursday, October 27, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will be packaging bulk food items so they can be readied for distribution to local food pantries. Please sign up at the information desk.