

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Liz White
Elders ~ Linda Rex/Beth Smittkamp
Layreader ~ Laura Cohen
Greeters ~ Pete Clausen/Jan Cusac
Acolyte ~ Elliot Truelove
Deacons
 Chancel – Monica Hinrichs
 *Steve Hinrichs, Cheryl Davis, Tom Davis
* = 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. – 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)
- 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

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Tamil School

SATURDAY

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

NEXT SUNDAY

- 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)



February 20, 2022

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today's Meditation
Forgiveness is born of increased awareness. The more you can see, the easier it is to forgive.
—Deepak Chopra in *The Path to Love*

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 ~ Week of Compassion (video)

Music for Meditation – *Woodland Peace*—Grieg/Paxton
(Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

A Moment of Silence

†Gathering Praise – *God of Grace and God of Glory* #464
(Sing with masks on)

†Call to Worship:
Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.
People: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.
Leader: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.
People: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!
Leader: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

†Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray together...
**God of all, we see you awaiting us, and in our worship, we pick up our tired pace;
we long to please you;
we reach for your embracing arms;
we offer our voices and presence;
and we rejoice in being called together in worship and thanksgiving.**
We give you our thanks and praise as we say together the prayer Jesus taught us...Our Father...
(Words to The Lord's Prayer may be found in the hymnal – #307)

Scripture in Song – Luke 15:11-32
The Prodigal Son—Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Tune: *Ash Grove*

Moment for the Children Hannah Fitch

Anthem – *At the Cross*—arr. Cliff Duren Sanctuary Choir

Message Karen Merrick
The Word Becoming Flesh: Wiping the Slate Clean

†Hymn of Commitment – *Softly and Tenderly* #340

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Holy Ground* #112

The Lord's Supper – *Prayer at Dawn*—Broughton
All: "Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God's grace."

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *The Shores of Galilee*—Anderson
(If you are able, please come forward at this time to place your gift in the plate on the communion table.)

†Doxology Thomas Ken, 1674
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

†Dedication of Offering

†Benediction

†Congregational Response – *Go in Peace* #445

†Postlude – *Andante Maestoso*—Corelli/Price

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.
- New Church Telephone Directory ~ Our February 2022 Church Telephone Directory is now available. Please pick one up at the information desk.
- Vacation Bible School ~ Please be a part of the Conversation! How does FCC want to approach Vacation Bible School this year??? Please sign up at the information desk if you are willing to participate in just the first step...a brainstorming, idea-generating conversation. Joining in this one-time conversation does not commit you to anything more.
- Snack Pack Volunteers Needed ~ Each year First Christian Church works with Glen Oak Christian Church to provide weekly snack packs for children in District 150. First Christian has had a number of folks who volunteer each week to help with this. Here is the commitment: Arrive by 9:30 a.m. to help pack sacks; Done in about an hour. Please sign up at the information desk if you are able to volunteer or if you want more information.