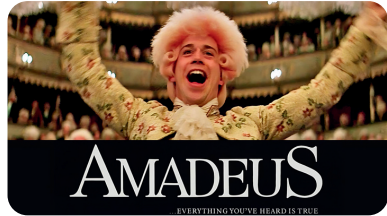


Don't Forget...

Cluster Meeting - Tuesday @ 6:30pm



Movie Night

Thursday @ 6pm



Check out our full
calendar of events here



Please always check with the church office if you are
wanting to use the church building. Thank you!

Making Room...

...for Grief & Gratitude

*There is a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a
time to mourn, and a time to dance.
Ecclesiastes 3:4*

Change is rarely just one thing. It can be beautiful and hard. Exciting and sad. A letting go and a new beginning, all at once. And in moments like this, when something is ending, and something else is beginning, it's tempting to rush past the grief and focus only on what's next.

But real spiritual maturity makes space for both grief and gratitude. It's okay to miss what's ending, even as you look forward to what's ahead. It's okay to name what hurts, even in a season of celebration. It's okay to feel full of hope one minute and completely uncertain the next.

The life of faith has always made room for the tension between joy and sorrow. Between holding on and letting go. Between remembering what was and preparing for what will be.

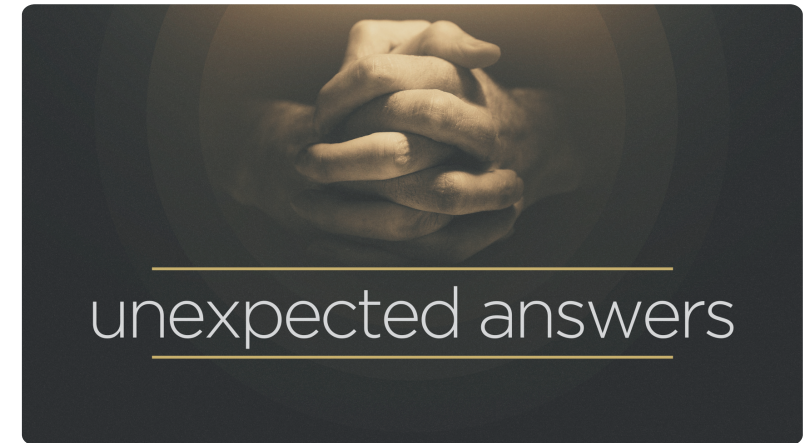
When we honor both grief and gratitude, we live more honestly. We grow more tender. And we begin to see that these emotions aren't at odds, they're part of the same sacred story.

This Week's Practice: Make Space on Purpose

- Name one thing you're grieving, and one thing you're grateful for, even if they're connected.
- Let someone else share without rushing them to feel "better."
- Practice being a safe place, for your own emotions, and for others'.

Before You Go...

Big transitions stir up big feelings. Let them come. Let them teach you. Let them pass through. Faith isn't pretending everything's fine. It's trusting God to hold all of it, even the parts that contradict each other.



July 20, 2025
10:30am

First Christian Church



fccpeoria.org
socials: @FCCPeoriaIL

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

† indicates standing, if able

Today’s Meditation

Prayer is the burden of a sigh, the falling of a tear, the upward glancing of an eye, when none but God is near.
-James Montgomery, *Prayer is the Soul’s Sincere Desire*

†Fellowship of the Church

(Please sign in online or on the red pad in your pew)

Music for Meditation

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling - Thompson/Wood

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

A Moment of Silence

†Opening Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

#464

†Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome, friends, to this holy day.
People: We come to offer thanks; we come to sing and pray.
Leader: Welcome, friends, to this time set apart,
People: A time to remember those we love, and time to remember the holy promises of God.
Leader: Welcome, friends, to this table of remembrance and joy,
People: The table where we are fed, the feast we share with many.
Leader: Welcome, friends, and let us worship God.

†Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...
All: Generous and amazing God, many things can be said of you, but “predictable “is not really one of them. You frequently do more and are more than what we ask or think. Help us to open our hearts and minds to see and trust your work in our lives and in this world. May our lives reflect and allow for you to manifest your glory. In Christ’s name we pray the prayer he taught us saying...Our Father...

†Vision Response

We Call Ourselves Disciples vs 4

#357

Scripture Reading

Acts 12:5-17

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Emily Williams

Special Music

Nobody Knows the Trouble I Seen

Saxophone Quartet
arr. Kenneth Abeling

Sermon

Rev Deann Anderson

Unexpected Answers

†Hymn of Commitment

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

#638

A Time of Prayer

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Communion Hymn

Seek Ye First

#354

The Lord’s Supper

All: Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God’s grace.
One Shepherd, One Fold - Southbridge

Offering Statement

Tithes & Offerings

If you are able, please come forward at this time to place your offering in the plate in front of the communion table.
A Song of Service - Boyd

†Doxology

#46

†Dedication of Offering

†Benediction

†Congregational Response

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us vs 1

#558

Postlude

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing - Kendall

Ministering Today

Presiding Elder

Jenny Tripses

Elders

Kevin Cheatham
Steve West

Deacons

Lisa Cheatham
Alice Jury
Kyle Cheatham
Adam Woods

Chancel Head

Lay Reader

Sandy Surface

Greeters

Owen & Alice
Jury

Counters

John & Lisa
Best

Adult SS

Frank Wheeler

Youth SS

Kathleen Wheeler

Preschool

Jenny Tripses

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

Staff

Hank Anderson

Interim Minister

Mason Fitch

Pastor

Heather Woods

Music Ministry Coordinator

Brian Woods

Organist

Brandy Cox

Child Care

Diane Pfoff

Office Manager

Lynn Hutton

Bookkeeper

Sung Kim

Custodian