

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

- Presiding Elder ~ Becky Sisk
- Elders ~ Mason Fitch & Kevin Wolfe
- Lay Reader ~ Kate Spielman
- Greeters ~ Aldine Allen & Kathy Fenton
- Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods
- Deacons
 - Chancel – Lisa Cheatham
 - *Lisa Cheatham
 - Cody Cheatham & Beth Reynolds
- * = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**
- Counters ~ Jim & Beth Smittkamp
- Friends of Jesus ~ Jenny Tripses
- Sunday School/Grades 1-8 ~ Katie Fitch



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:
Hank Anderson, Interim Minister
Heather Woods, Coordinator of Music Ministries
Brian Woods, Organist
Mason Fitch, Social Media Coordinator
Brandy Cox, Child-Care

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

Calendar

- TODAY**
9:00 a.m. - Studies/Adult SS
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
11:45 a.m. - Congregational Meeting
12:30 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers (S)
1:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir (S)
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)
- MONDAY**
6:00 p.m. - PACC (S/FH)
- TUESDAY**
10:30 a.m. - Faith and Justice Task Force
12:00 p.m. - Disciple Women (110)
- WEDNESDAY**
10:30 a.m. - Bible Study (110)
6:30 p.m. - Transition Team Meeting (105)
- THURSDAY**
6:00 p.m. - Tasting Peoria (Off Site)
- FRIDAY**
10:30 a.m. - Montessori Christmas (FH)
6:00 p.m. - Tamil School (Classrooms)
- SATURDAY**
7:00 a.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)
- NEXT SUNDAY**
9:00 a.m. - Studies/Adult SS
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service (S)
12:30 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers (S)
1:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir (S)
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)



December 10, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today's Meditation

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

- Mother Teresa

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.

Mission for Minute Angie Bertucci, Natalie Woods & Larry Weber

Music for Meditation – *Advent Noel* – Chauvet/Ryan

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

A Moment of Silence

[†]Gathering Praise – *Angels We Have Heard on High* #155

[†]Call to Worship

*Leader: Prepare the way, God promises a new day when
wolf and lamb--and all creation--will live together in
harmony.*

People: We dream of a world transformed by God's love.

*Leader: May the God of hope fill our hearts with joy and
peace.*

People: We rejoice, for God's Spirit is in our midst!

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

**ALL: God of peace, we come to you in the midst of a
world fraught with troubles. Although the darkness is
powerful, open our eyes to the light of your presence.
Through your Spirit, remake us into hope-filled
disciples. In the name of the One who comes to us, we
pray... Our Father...**

(The Lord's prayer may be found in the hymnal - #307)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Scripture Readings – Isaiah 11:6-9

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

Moment for the Children

Hannah Fitch

Anthem

Jubilate Ringers

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence – arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Message – Expecting Peace

Hank Anderson

[†]Hymn of Invitation – *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

Words on screen

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Away in a Manger*

#147

The Lord's Supper – *Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine* - Martin

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

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *Now the Green Blade Riseth* - Lau

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

[†]Doxology

Words on screen

[†]Dedication of Offering

[†]Benediction

[†]Congregational Response – *like a child*

vs. 1 #133

[†]Postlude – *People, Look East* - Lau

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 the pews. They can be put in the offering plate, hung on the prayer wall in 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.
- Bible Study ~ December 13th, Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. with Hank. This week will be the last class of this year. Bible Study will resume January 17th.
- Sunday Morning Study ~ Hank will lead the class in December on Christmas: The Biblical Story. Sign up at the information desk if you would like to attend.
- Disciple Women ~ December 12th at 12 p.m. Bring a lunch. Dessert and drinks provided. Sign up at the information desk.
- Tasting Peoria ~ December 14th at 6 p.m. We will be going to The Fox Pub & Café. Sign up at the information desk if you would like to attend.
- Book Club ~ December 19th at 6 p.m. at the home of Margaret Goulden. We will be reading Christmas themed books. Check the information desk for the books and sign up if you would like to attend. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.
- Movie Night ~ December 21st at 7 p.m. The movie is Home Alone. Sign up at the information desk if you would like to attend.
- Adopt A Tray ~ If you would like to adopt a tray of cookies for this year's Christmas Eve Service please take a tray from the information desk and fill it with your favorite Christmas cookies. Bring it back by 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve before the service starts.
- Game Night ~ January 13th at 2 p.m. Bring your favorite game and snack. Sign up at the information desk.