

**Don't Forget...**

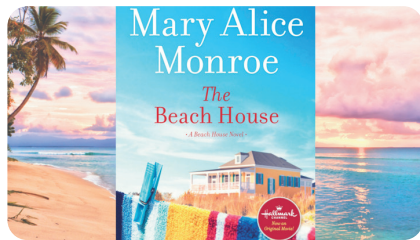
**Missions & Service and MLT Meeting  
TODAY after worship**

**Faith In Justice - Monday @ 2pm**

**Administrative Board - Monday @ 7pm**

**Bible Study - Wednesday @ 10:30am**

**Wedding Shower - Next Sunday @ 12pm**



**Book Club**

Thursday @ 6pm  
Margaret's House



**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!

# A Beautiful Mess

## When You See from Higher Up

*For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror;  
then we shall see face to face.  
1 Corinthians 13:12*

It's amazing what changes when you see things from a new perspective. From the ground, your view is limited, maybe even a little crowded. But from above, the same landscape opens up into something wider, more connected, more alive.

Faith is like that. We live much of our lives at "ground level," caught up in the details, emotions, and obstacles of the moment. But every now and then, God invites us to rise, step back, breathe, and see the bigger picture. It doesn't erase the hard things, but it reminds us there's more to the story than we can see from here.

A Ferris wheel doesn't take you anywhere new, but it changes how you see everything you already know. Sometimes that's all we need - a small shift, a new angle, a glimpse of the bigger picture.

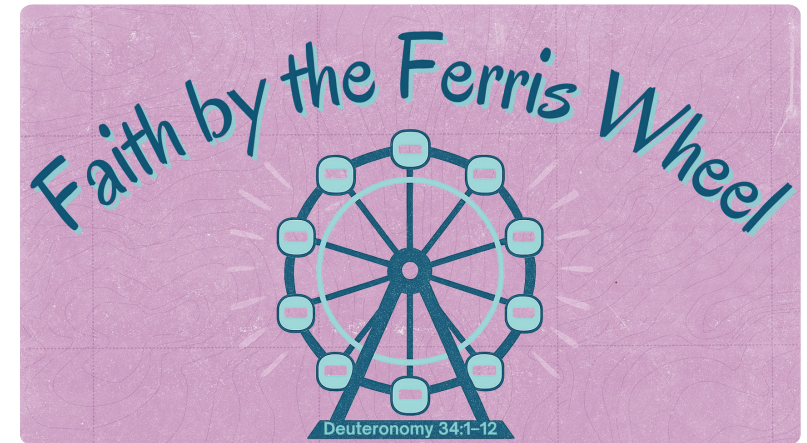
God's view is always wider than ours. Sometimes faith is simply trusting that.

### This Week's Practice: Try a New Angle

- Spend a few minutes each day this week looking at the same object from a different angle. Notice how it changes.
- When faced with a challenge, ask: "What might this look like to God?"
- Listen to a song, read a passage, or pray in a way that's new to you and see what you notice.

### Before You Go...

The view from here may not be the full story. But it's enough to keep moving forward, trusting that God sees what's ahead.



**August 17, 2025  
10:30am**

## First Christian Church



**fccpeoria.org  
socials: @FCCPeoriaIL**

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

† indicates standing, if able

Today’s Meditation

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

-Martin Luther King Jr

†Fellowship of the Church

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

Music for Meditation

Meditation on “Schmucke dich” - Cruger/Gay

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

A Moment of Silence

†Opening Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

#4

†Call to Worship

Leader: We come with questions, with hopes, with unfinished stories.

People: God meets us here, in the middle of the ride.

Leader: Some of us are at the top, seeing everything clearly.

People: Some of us are down low, waiting for the next lift.

Leader: Faith doesn’t promise perfect timing or smooth landings.

People: But it does promise this: we are not alone.

Leader: So come! Lift your eyes, steady your heart.

People: Let’s worship the God who stays with us through every rise and fall.

†Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

All: God of the long road and the sudden turn, we come to you with lives in motion; spinning between clarity and confusion, momentum and hesitation. Give us grace not just for the destination, but for the view along the way. Teach us to trust what we can’t yet reach, to value the journey even when it feels incomplete, and to remember that your presence rides with us even in the questions, the waiting, and the wonder. And now, with disciples past and present, we pray as Jesus taught us, saying...

†Vision Response

We Call Ourselves Disciples vs 4

#357

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 34:1–12

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

Children’s Message

Rev. Emily Williams

Special Music

Cindy Bridges & Heather Woods

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing arr. John Jay Hilfiger

Sermon

Rev. Mason Fitch

Faith by the Ferris Wheel

†Hymn of Commitment

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

#489

A Time of Prayer

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Communion Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee vss 1-2

#576

The Lord’s Supper

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

Meditation on “Materna” - Ward/McConnell

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.

Holy King - arr. Schram

†Doxology

#46

†Dedication of Offering

†Benediction

†Congregational Response

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

#433

Postlude

Recessional on “St. Denio” - Young/Wagner

Ministering Today

Presiding Elder

Kevin Wolfe

Elders

Roger Baker

Vickie Baker

Deacons

Chancel Head

Joe Rex

John Best

Dan Cox

Debbie Presnell

Lay Reader

Acolyte

Greeters

Laura Cohen

Natalie Woods

Connie Sinn

Kathy Fenton

Counters

Roger & Vickie Baker

Adult SS

Youth SS

Preschool

Roger Baker

Kathleen Wheeler

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

Rev. Mason Fitch

Heather Woods

Brian Woods

Brandy Cox

Diane Pfoff

Lynn Hutton

Sung Kim

Pastor

Music Ministry Coordinator

Organist

Child Care

Office Manager

Bookkeeper

Custodian