

**MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .**  
Presiding Elder ~ Kevin Cheatham  
Elders ~ Carmen Nicoll & Sandy Surface  
Lay Reader ~ Sandy Surface  
Greeters ~ John & Margaret Goulden  
Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods

Deacons  
Chancel – Laura Cohen  
              \*Jake Cohen  
              Debbie Presnell & Laura Cohen  
\* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**  
Counters ~ John & Lisa Best  
Sunday School/Grades 1-8 ~ Geraldine Runkle

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**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, Digital Ministry Coordinator  
Brandy Cox, Child-Care

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

**Calendar**

**TODAY**  
9:00 a.m. - Studies/Adult SS  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service (S)  
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Peoria Players (FH)

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**  
6:00 p.m. - Movie Night (S)

**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)  
12:00 p.m. - EOM Potluck (FH)  
7:00 p.m. - Private Group (Landes) (110)

We have been told that Carle Hospital will begin releasing church parishioners' information again in about a month. You will have to let them know your church when admitted or they will not have the information on file when we call.



**July 21, 2024**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*Founded in 1845*



Today's Meditation

With our all-inclusive doctrine, we can be an oasis of unity and celebrate diversity. Unity and diversity are not opposites. We can achieve greater unity as we foster an atmosphere of inclusion and respect for diversity.

– Quentin L. Cook

Fellowship of the Church

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

We want to extend a special welcome to our first-time visitors. You are invited to stop at the Greeter's Table before you leave to receive more information about our church.

Music for Meditation – Make a Joyful Noise - Ritter

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

A Moment of Silence

\*Opening Hymn – Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above #6

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Sing aloud with gladness.

**People: God is gathering the people!**

Leader: From the farthest parts of the earth,

**People: We come with the lived experiences of diverse backgrounds.**

Leader: From the neighborhoods close by,

**People: We come with an understanding of common struggles.**

Leader: We are all God's people.

**People: Together we raise our voices in joyful praise!**

\*Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

**All: Ever- calling God,**

**We give thanks that you have gathered us into your church and graced us with your faithful presence. We ponder our history, ancient and still developing, and marvel at the many expressions of your church. Grant us the wisdom to be a part of a new reformation for the Church that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world. Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us, into Jesus' vision and dream that your faithful people may be one in you. We lift these wants to you, God, as we pray how Jesus taught us...Our Father...**

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

\*Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri) #36

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 4:1-16

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

Children's Message Hannah Fitch

Special Music Chris Frauenhoffer

*Go Rest High on that Mountain* – Vince Gill

Speaker – *The Glue of Grace* Mason Fitch

\*Hymn of Commitment – *We, Your People, God, Confessing* #356

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Loving God, as Now We Gather* #427

The Lord's Supper – *Tallis' Ordinal* - Callahan

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

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *Give Me Jesus* – Hayes/Wager

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

\*Doxology #46

\*Dedication of Offering

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Response – *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* vs.1 #628

\*Postlude – *Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above* – Forrest/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.
  - 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 ~ Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Hank is cancelled this week. It will resume Wednesday July 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m.
  - Sunday Morning Study ~ June & July. We are studying Paul's Ministry in Macedonia and Ephesus. The class is led by Frank Wheeler.
  - Book Club ~ July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m. The book is *The First Lady* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray. We will meet at the home of Tim Dougherty, 201 W Ridgemont Rd. Peoria. Sign up at the information desk or online.
  - Movie Night ~ July 26th at 6 p.m. The movie is *The Greatest Showman*. Sign up at the information desk or online.
  - Potluck ~ July 28<sup>th</sup> after the Worship Service. Sign up at the information desk or online if you can help with prep and/or cleanup. Bring your own tableware to reduce waste.
  - Sunday Morning Study August ~ *How We Got the New Testament* is the title of a study that Hank Anderson will lead on Sunday mornings during the first three weeks of August. During this class, we will take a quick look at some of the history behind the formation of the New Testament. The class is open to anyone who would like to participate.