

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~

Elders ~ Mike Buckley/Becky Sisk

Layreader ~ Terrie Wronkiewicz

Greeters ~ Tim Dougherty/Sarah Lamlech

Acolyte ~ Natalie Woods

Deacons

Chancel – Beth Reynolds

\*Tim Dougherty, Debbie Presnell, Terrie Wronkiewicz,  
Steve Hinrichs

\* = 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  
Brandy Cox, Child-Care

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

Calendar

TODAY

- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
- 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick will be preaching
- 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)

MONDAY

- 5:00 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do Class (Private)

TUESDAY

- 6:00-9:30 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (S/110)

FRIDAY

- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Tamil School (Classrooms)

SATURDAY

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

NEXT SUNDAY Scout Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
- 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick will be preaching
- 11:45 a.m. – Elders Meeting (110)
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)



January 29, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today’s Meditation

You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. —Steve Jobs

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.

Music for Meditation – We Sing to Thee, Thou Son of God

—Southbridge

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

A Moment of Silence

<sup>†</sup>Gathering Praise – Come, Christians, Join to Sing #90

<sup>†</sup>Call to Worship

Leader: Let the whole earth praise the Lord! Let the mountains and hills proclaim God’s handiwork! Let the seas roar and the waves crash in symphonies of praise! Let all creation sing God’s new song of love!

People: Praise be to God who has created and is creating anew! Praise be to God who re-creates God’s love in us each day!

<sup>†</sup>Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

God who watches over us, offering us light and hope, be with us this day as we hear the stories of Jesus. Help us to remember your healing, cleansing, and claiming love for us. Remind us again of the many ways in which you reach out to us. Embrace us again with your love. We open our hearts to you this day as we sing the prayer your son taught us...Our Father...

The Lord’s Prayer – #307

Service of Installation

Scripture Readings – Genesis 50:15-20  
Matthew 5 (selected verses)  
Colossians 1:15-17

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Moment for the Children Hannah Fitch

(Following the children’s message, children ages 5 and up are welcome to meet their teacher, Kathleen Wheeler, at the front of the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.)

Anthem Sanctuary Choir

Jesus, Take All of Me—arr. Heather Sorenson

Message – Centered...Connecting the Dots Karen Merrick

<sup>†</sup>Hymn of Invitation words on screen

We Sing the Mighty Power of God (tune: Kingsfold)

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – Take Our Bread #413

The Lord’s Supper – In Quiet Faith—arr. Broughton

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

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – Trusting Jesus—Sankey/McDonald

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

<sup>†</sup>Doxology #46

<sup>†</sup>Dedication of Offering

<sup>†</sup>Benediction

<sup>†</sup>Congregational Response #439

God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (vs. 1)

<sup>†</sup>Postlude – Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart—Messiter/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 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.
- February and March Sunday Study ~ Frank Wheeler will be offering our Sunday School class in February and March at 9:00 a.m. His topic for February is “Getting to Know People from the Book of John”. For March, his topic is “Archaeology and the Bible”. A sign-up for the February study is on the information desk.
- Adam Hamilton DVD Study for Lent – Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws ~ This study will be offered on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. on February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4. Facilitated by Karen Merrick. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Disciples Women ~ Please join us on Tuesday, February 14, at 12:00 noon. Susie Ryan will help us make Christmas plates for our shut-ins (and one for yourself if you wish). Bring your own lunch. Dessert and drinks provided. Please sign up at the information desk and indicate how many plates you will make.
- Cluster Lenten Services – Save the Date! ~ We will soon be publishing the schedule for the 2023 Cluster Lenten services. But in the meantime, please save the date of February 26 at 4:00 p.m. when we will host the service. Vy Nguyen, the director of our denomination’s Week of Compassion office, will be present to preach. The service is followed by a cookie reception. Please plan to come and to be another welcoming face to our guests.