

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .
Presiding Elder ~ Liz White
Elders ~ Dave Sinn/Jenny Tripses
Layreader ~ Terrie Wronkiewicz
Greeters ~ Geraldine Runkle/Deborah Springhart-West
Acolyte ~ Clara Truelove
Deacons
 Chancel – Geraldine Runkle
 *Alice Jury, Joe Rex
* = Head Deacon **(Please count attendance)**
Counters ~ John & Lisa Best

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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:
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
www.facebook.com/fccpeoria

Calendar

- TODAY**
- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
 - 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick preaching
 - 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes)
- MONDAY**
- 5:00 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do Class (classroom)
 - 7:00 p.m. – Administrative Board (110)
- TUESDAY**
- 1:00 p.m. – Faith in Justice Task Force
 - 6:30 p.m. – Growth Committee
- WEDNESDAY**
- 7:00 p.m. – GLGC Book Club (Zoom)
- THURSDAY**
- 6:00 p.m. – Tasting Peoria (The Blue Duck BBQ)
- FRIDAY**
- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Tamil School (Classrooms)
- SATURDAY**
- 7:00-9:00 a.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)
 - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – CST Rehearsal (Ulrich) (FH)
- NEXT SUNDAY**
- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
 - 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick preaching
 - 3:00-5:30 p.m. – Cluster Sunday Old Fashion Potluck (Lake Wildwood in Varna, IL)
 - 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes)



August 14, 2022

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today's Meditation

I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night.

—Vincent Van Gogh

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.

Backpack Blessing

Moment for the Children

Hannah Fitch

Music for Meditation – *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*—Mason/Kirkland

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

A Moment of Silence

^{*}Gathering Praise – *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

#25

^{*}Call to Worship

Leader: We gaze at the night sky and discover...

People: The darkness is our friend.

Leader: It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe –

People: blankets of stars, the solitary glowings of the planets.

Leader: You never slumber, you never sleep;

People: In the night we are soothed and restored, healed and renewed.

Leader: In the solitude of the darkness we come face to face with ourselves and with the road that lies ahead of us.

People: And in that same darkness we find companionship for the journey.

Unison: For you are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

^{*}Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

Holy God, we come to you conflicted. There are times when the darkness that you have created causes us fear and worry. And there are times when the night sky reveals your glory and your presence. Help us to discover your majesty in the order of the stars and the planets and then remember that you know us by name and the numbers of hairs on our heads and love us uniquely. This we ask in Jesus' name as we pray the prayer he taught us, saying, Our Father...

(Words to The Lord's Prayer may be found in the hymnal – #307)

^{*}Gloria Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)

#36

Scripture Reading – Luke 6:12-20

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Following the Scripture reading, children ages 5 and up are welcome to meet their teacher, Laura Cohen, at the front of the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.)

Special Music – *In the Garden* Woods Family Brass Quartet

Message – *Because It's There: Big Bend National Park*

Karen Merrick

^{*}Hymn of Commitment

words on screen

Stars and Planets Sing Your Glory—Trevor Thorn

(tune: *Ode to Joy*)

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn

#254

Breathe on Me, Breath of God (vss. 1-2)

The Lord's Supper – *Jesus Paid It All*—Hayes/Gaspard

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

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *Children's Song Medley*—Hayes/Wagner

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

^{*}Doxology

#46

^{*}Dedication of Offering

^{*}Benediction

^{*}Congregational Response

#585

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (vs. 1)

^{*}Postlude – *To Celebrate the Day*—Ritter

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.
- September Sunday Study ~ The Book of James – the Old Testament Book of Proverbs Dressed Up in New Testament Clothes! Join us in September when we will cover the book of James. We will discuss the balance between faith and works as well as a number of instructions from James on how to live a Christian life. Becky Sisk will be leading the study Sunday mornings at 9:00. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Illinois Valley Cluster "Fun in the Sun" Sunday Old Fashion Potluck ~ August 21, 3:00-5:30 p.m. at Lake Wildwood (Beach 1) in Varna, IL. Fried chicken, drinks and dinnerware are provided. Please bring a side dish to share. Swim at the pool or beach, fishing also available. **This is an RSVP ONLY event.** Please sign up at the information desk by **August 18.**
- Tasting Peoria ~ Join us on Thursday, August 18, at 6:00 p.m. at The Blue Duck BBQ. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Movie Night ~ Join us on Friday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m. for the movie, "The Art of Racing in the Rain." Please sign up at the information desk.