

Elder's Meeting - TODAY after worship Faith In Justice - Monday @ 2pm Christian Ed - Tuesday @ 1:15pm



Tasting Peoria

Thursday @ 6pm 8517 Knoxville Ave



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 Curiosity Is **Enough**

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13

Some faith starts loud. But some begins in a whisper, in the dark, with more questions than answers. Nicodemus didn't show up with confidence or clarity. He came to Jesus at night, quietly, cautiously, with a mind full of questions and a heart still unsure. And Jesus met him there.

That's the beauty of a faith that begins in the shadows. It doesn't have to be perfect or polished; just honest. Sometimes the most courageous thing you can do is ask.

Campfires are good places for that kind of faith. They're not bright like spotlights. But they are warm. And in their flickering light, stories get told, questions get asked, and hearts start to soften.

Faith doesn't always start with certainty. Sometimes, it starts with showing up and listening in the dark.

This Week's Practice: Follow Your Curiosity

- What questions are stirring in you these days? Write one down. Sit with it.
- Read a story from Scripture you've never spent time with. Don't try to "solve" it. Just notice.
 Make time for a quiet moment this week; outside, near a window, or even by candlelight. Ask God what you're being invited to learn.

Before You Go...

You don't need to have all the answers to begin. You just need to be curious enough to show up. That's where faith starts; not in certainty, but in conversation.



August 10, 2025 10:30am

First Christian Church



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

+ indicates standing, if able

Today's Meditation

No special effect can ever come close to the power and impact of human imagination. A story, told or read around a campfire, will keep alive our time-honored traditions of oral history.

-Rick Steber

#15

†Fellowship of the Church

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

Back to School Blessing

Music for Meditation

Come Down, O Love Divine - Williams/Helman
Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare
your hearts and minds for worship.

A Moment of Silence

†Opening Hymn

Reioice. You Pure in Heart

†Call to Worship

Leader: We gather like friends around a fire, drawn by light and warmth.

People: We come with open hearts, ready to be present.

Leader: Here, we make space for wonder, for silence, for story.

People: We bring our questions, our hopes, our whole selves.

Leader: God meets us here, in the stillness and in the spark.

All: Let us worship with joy, with curiosity, and with trust.

†Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

All: God of quiet evenings and glowing embers, as we gather in this space, stir something new in us. Let this time be more than routine; let it be a spark that draws us closer to your heart and to one another. Kindle in us a deeper sense of your presence, not just in the big moments but in the steady warmth of being together. Help us listen well, speak truth, and stay open to whatever you might reveal today. This we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

†Vision Response

We Call Ourselves Disciples vs 4

Scripture Reading John 3:1–17

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

Children's Message

Hannah Fitch

Special Music A

I Will Be Christ to You

Adam Woods & Natalie Woods arr. Tom Fettke

Sermon Rev. Mason Fitch

Faith by the Campfire

†Hymn of Commitment

#477

Pass It On

A Time of Prayer

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Communion Hymn

#427

Loving God, as Now We Gather

The Lord's Supper

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

Nearer, My God, to Thee - Mason/Krug

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.

Jacob's Ladder, Kum Ba Yah - arr. McConnell

†Doxology

#46

†Dedication of Offering

+Benediction

+Congregational Response

#432

O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life

Postlude

#357

Festive Voluntary on "Nettleton" - Lasky

Ministering Today

Presiding Elder
Elders

Becky Sisk
Mike Buckley

Deacons
Chancel
Head
Joe Rex
John Best
Dan Cox
Debbie Presnell

Greeters
Counters
Adult SS
Youth SS
Preschool

Lay Reader

Connie Sinn
Kathy Fenton
Ralph Tegg
Steve West
Roger Baker
Connie Julien
Chere Peters

Sandy Surface

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