

MINISTERING IN WORSHIP . . .

Presiding Elder ~ Steve West
Elders ~ Beth Smittkamp/Linda Rex
Layreader ~ Becky Sisk
Greeters ~ Jerry & Val Hornbacker
Acolyte ~ Clara Truelove
Deacons
 Chancel – Jim Smittkamp
 *Jake Cohen, Tom Davis, Cheryl Davis
* = Head Deacon (**Please count attendance**)
Counters ~ Steve West/Ralph Tegg



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. Dr. Alex Ruth will be preaching
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)

MONDAY *Labor Day*

- The church office will be closed
- **Alarm System Reminder:** Please be reminded that on holidays when church staff is not present, the alarm will be armed. Please have your code with you if you need to enter the building; you must enter through the front doors. The office is closed **Monday, September 5.**
- 5:00 p.m. – Tae Kwon Do Class (classroom)
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. – CCT (Ulrich) (FH)

TUESDAY

- Montessori School Year Begins
- 6:00-7:45 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (110)
- 6:00-9:30 p.m. – PACC Rehearsal (S)

FRIDAY

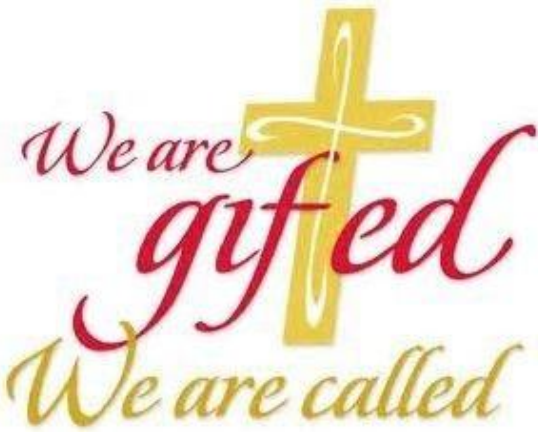
- 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Tamil School (Classrooms)

SATURDAY

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

NEXT SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. – Studies/Adult SS
- 10:30 a.m. – Rev. Karen Merrick will be preaching
- 11:45 a.m. – Elders Meeting
- 12:30 p.m. – Jubilate Ringers (S)
- 1:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir (S)
- 4:00-5:30 p.m. – CCT Meeting (Ulrich) (FH)
- 5:00-7:00 p.m. – Green Team Summit Watch Party (S/L)
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Private Group (Landes) (110)



September 4, 2022

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1845



Today’s Meditation
When you read God’s Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, “It is talking to me, and about me.”
—Soren Kierkegaard

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 – *In Heavenly Love Abiding*
—arr. Parker/Kendall
(Please use the music and the moment of silence to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

A Moment of Silence

+Gathering Praise – *When Morning Gilds the Skies* #100

+Call to Worship
Leader: What happens when we love God with all our hearts?

People: Our hearts beat with God’s compassion.

Leader: What happens when we love God with all our minds?

People: Our minds are open to God’s point of view.

Leader: What happens when we love God with all our strength?

People: Our strength is renewed by God’s power.

Leader: What happens when we love God today in all we do?

People: Our praise will be genuine, our worship sincere.

+Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray together ...
Loving God, let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, our Lord and our Redeemer. This we ask as we pray

(continued)

**together the prayer your son taught us, saying...
Our Father...**
(Words to The Lord’s Prayer may be found in the hymnal – #307)

+Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri) #36

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16
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, Laura Buckley, at the front of the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.)

Special Music – *In the Secret (I Want to Know You)*—Andy Park
Praise Team

Message – *We Are Called* Alex Ruth

+Hymn of Commitment #461
Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (vss. 1, 2, 4)

A Time of Prayer

Communion Hymn – *Take Our Bread* #413

The Lord’s Supper – *Little Chaconne*—Hamilton
All: “Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God’s grace.”

Offering Statement

Tithes and Offerings – *Meditation on “Christie Sanctorum”*
—Giamanco
(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 #434
God Be with You Till We Meet Again (vs. 1)

+Postlude – *Postlude in D*—Simper/Ryan

TODAY’S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Weekly Calendar on back)

- This morning we welcome to the pulpit Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth. Alex is Associate Regional Minister of Transformation, CCIW.
- 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.
- Green Team Summit, September 11-14 (see the insert in today’s worship bulletin) ~ First Christian will sponsor the Peoria Watch Party for the first session on Sunday, September 11, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.
- Illinois Valley Cluster – Creation Care Workshop ~ Saturday, September 17, 10:00 a.m. to noon at First Christian Church, Peoria. Rev. Hannah Fitch from Great Lakes Green Chalice will lead us in exploring ways our churches and we as individuals can care for God’s creation. An eco-friendly luncheon of soup and salad will be served (donations accepted). Please RSVP by September 10th. Sign up at the information desk.
- Disciples Women ~ We will gather at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, September 13. Our speaker comes to us from CEFCU. Bring your own lunch; dessert and drinks provided. Please sign up at the information desk.
- Illinois Valley Cluster – Wiener Roast and Hayrides at the Colburn Farm, Eureka ~ Sunday, September 25, 3:00-5:30 p.m. Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 21. Sign up at the information desk.