

APRIL 2011 Vol. 76 No. 4

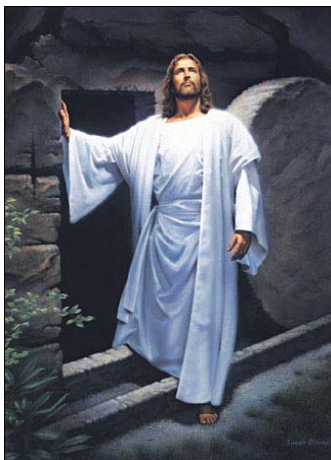


Holy Week at FFC...



St. John's Passion on Good Friday

On Good Friday, April 22 at 7pm, the Chancel Choir will present the St. John Passion by J. S. Bach. The St. John Passion is nearly 300 years old, first performed in Leipzig, Germany on Good Friday in either 1723 or 1724. The tradition of singing the passion during Holy Week extends back an additional 1300 years for simple reasons: singing carried better than voice in the large medieval cathedrals. Until the 15th Century, the dramatic projection of the Passion story was limited to a single singer simply presenting the text. By the time Bach composed his passion, the various characters in the events were sung by different voices.



The characters of Bach's Passion include the narrator, or Evangelist, who relates the story and connects and explains the dialogue. The characters in the drama (Jesus, Pilate, and Peter) are also represented in speech-like singing. Groups of people in the story, such as the high priests, soldiers, etc., are represented by the chorus. The Chancel Choir will also periodically sing chorales, which comment on the action on texts Bach wrote himself.

The Chancel Choir will be joined by Drake Dantzler from Oakland University in Michigan, singing the expansive role of the Evangelist. Singing the role of Jesus will be Gregory Lewis, instructor of voice at Bradley University. Individuals from the Choir will supply the roles of Pilate, Peter, servants, and will sing arias.

The entire performance, which will last about an hour, will be accompanied by a 16-piece orchestra, setting this story to sublime music the way only Bach can.

Easter Celebration

We will celebrate the very heart of the Christian faith on Easter Sunday with worship at 8 and 10 o'clock on Sunday, April 24.

Hallelujah Chorus "Sing-Along"

The Chancel Choir will again close the 10:00 Easter service with the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah*. Anyone in attendance at that service is welcome to join in!

Easter Lily Note: Order an Easter lily in honor of or in memory of an individual by April 12 through the church office (685 5258) or at the church information table. The lilies are \$12 each.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Since 1949 Christians have joined in *One Great Hours of Sharing*. This is FFC's annual denominational mission offering. Proceeds go to the UCC's support of emergency relief through the ecumenical *Church World Services* and the *Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Presbyterian Disaster Relief Assistance* program. Both denominations provide first response to disasters locally, nationally and internationally. FFC's Roger Dornaus is a PDA first responder. You are encouraged to give prayerful consideration to your support of these two worthy causes. You may make your contribution by using the enclosed special offering envelope.

EDUCATION CONNECTION

Islam, Christianity and Society—Dr. Jason Zaborowski, professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Bradley University will speak on *Islam, Christianity and Society* for three Sundays, starting March 27th. Dr. Zaborowski speaks Arabic and has spent considerable time in Egypt. This is an opportunity to gain important insight on culture, religion and Muslim-Christian relations with a focus on Egypt. Presentations are expected to last about 45 minutes with Q&A to follow. The presentations will follow the 10 o'clock worship service (approximate starting time 11:15 AM) & will be held in "The Commons". Invite a friend or neighbor. Light refreshments will be served.

The Confirmation Class and their Spiritual Mentors will be working at the Midwest Food Bank on Sunday, April 2nd. This is a special invitation to all members of the confirmation classes of 2006 through 2011 and their spiritual mentors to be a part of this special mission opportunity. A sign up sheet is on the information table.

Look. It's My Book!, a group of volunteers that now provides books to children in grades K through 4 in seven District 150 schools, will distribute books to students at Thomas Jefferson School on Thursday, March 31 from 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. They will also distribute books at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 1 at TJ. Please contact Dick Marsho if you are interested in helping with either of these book distributions.

Preschool News The First Federated Preschool will be taking Spring Break from Monday, April 4th through Friday, April 8th.

CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTION

BIRTH

Rev. Daren and his wife Sarah welcomed Amelia Jean into their family on Wednesday, March 9th.

BAPTISM

Chloe Clark Schoedel, Child of Alisha and Matthew Schoedel was baptized Sunday, March 20th.

NEW MEMBER

Grace Oyan, by letter of transfer from Westminster Presbyterian.

COMPLETED THIS PART OF LIFE

Our prayers go out to Brian Nemenoff and his family as they mourn the passing of his mother, Sylvia.

Recuperating At Home

Dr. Robert Gillogly is now home. You may send him cards at his home address.

FFC GROUP CONNECTIONS

Sunday Supper Club will meet for their monthly potluck dinner on Sunday, April 3 at 5:30 p.m. Our Ralph Converse, the General Manager of the Peoria Chiefs, will "talk all things baseball."

F.O.B. (Frosty's Old Buddies) meets the 3rd Tuesday each month at Bob Evans on Allen Road.

Book Club @ Apples' Bakery 9 am April 23rd: This month's selection The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore.

Mothers' Club: will meet on April 27 @ 12:30 pm in The Commons. Our Shellie Coleman, a medical team leader of Friends of Haiti, will present the program "Haiti Medical Mission".

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group meets each Tuesday at 8:30 am.

MOSAIC (Mothers of School Age and Infant Children) Movie Night: Save the date for Wednesday, March 30th. We'll do a girls' night out with a 7pm-ish movie and dessert afterward. Sign up at church if you are interested and we'll contact you with specific details.

CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTION

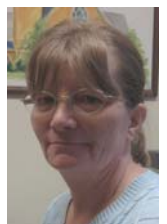
Here is the latest word on our **Director of Youth Ministries Amy O'Brien and her family**. She is on a leave of absence to go with her family to Japan as a part of her husband Matt's Fulbright sabbatical. "We are going to make our adventure in St. Louis until we are reassigned. There is a good chance this will take 4-6 weeks."

"Spring Gathering" First Federated Church is the host site for the P.W. (Presbyterian Women) "Spring Gathering." It will be on April 9 from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Celebration Giving." Lunch will be served. Registration is \$8 per person. You may register by calling Barb Hein.

Friendship House Spring Luncheon Friendship House will be having their Spring Luncheon on Friday, April 29th at noon. A Boutique and Bake Sale will precede the luncheon at 10:30 am. The Central Illinois Banjo Club will entertain. Luncheon tickets are \$7.00. Quilt Tickets are \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. Contact Barb Hein for luncheon tickets. Donations of baked goods, costume jewelry or boutique items would be greatly appreciated.

WELCOME

Welcome the Newest Addition to Our Staff Cecelia Walter joined our staff recently, as secretary. Prior to joining us at FFC she was the secretary at the Parkview United Church of Christ in Peoria. Cecelia is married and is the mother of two children. Be sure to stop in and introduce yourself. Welcome, Cecelia.



Children
&
Youth Newsletter

3601 N Sheridan Rd
Peoria Illinois 61604
Phone: 309.685.5258
Website:
www.ffcpeoria.com



April 2011



Help Children's Faith Grow

On Easter, we remember the pinnacle of our Christian faith: Jesus' resurrection from the dead. His victory assures us of forgiveness and eternal life—two things worth celebrating! You can use the Easter message as a springboard to share God's good news with your kids all year long. Let kids know that Jesus is their friend and lets them live forever in heaven with him. Follow these tips:

- Realize that kids understand God—and Easter—in vivid, literal images. Don't dismiss tough questions. Instead, read the Bible together.
- Tweak your traditions. Turn your usual Easter celebrations into opportunities to learn more about God and his Word. For your egg hunt, for example, fill plastic eggs with Scripture verses as well as candy.
- Know that it's never too early to share the good news. Don't wait until your kids can communicate to tell them about Jesus. Remember that children can discover God from infancy (see 2 Timothy 3:14-15).

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To nurture your children spiritually as they grow up physically.
2. To help your children know that Jesus is their personal Savior and best friend.
3. To help you make Easter all about Jesus—and about sharing Jesus with others.

FAITH INSIGHTS

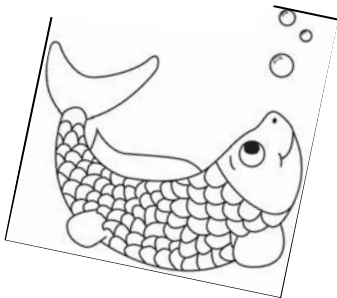
- In a 2010 survey, two-thirds of Americans said they knew that Easter is a religious holiday. But only 42% connected its meaning to Jesus' resurrection. And only 2% said they'd describe Easter as the most important holiday of their faith. (*Barna Group*)
- Another Barna Group study found that children are most likely to become Christians for a lifetime from ages 5 to 13. In addition, children's moral development is largely complete by age 9.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (Birth—6th grade)

PALM SUNDAY

All children are invited to meet in the chapel at **9:20 am on Palm Sunday, April 17th**. We'll pass out palms and prepare for the *Palm Sunday Processional*.

Don't forget to **bring your filled fish bank**. We'll walk in during the opening hymn with the choirs, place our fish banks and palms at the communion table, then sit together up front until the children's message. Sunday school will follow.



NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Easter Sunday, April 24!

Celebrate the Resurrection by remaining in worship with your family!

This Month in SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each week we talk about important core virtues, or Christian values, by examining stories in the Bible and how to apply these virtues to our own lives.

Our structure: Children join their family in worship at 10am. After a children's message, children are led to the chapel for offering and announcements. Shepherds then guide the children through the rest of Sunday school time where the virtue and Bible story are presented in fun, dramatic, musical, and activity-based ways.

Virtue

Humility—putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

Memory Verse

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”

Philippians 2:3, NIV

Chapel Offering

Friends of the Children of Haiti

Our children's chapel offering this month will go towards our ongoing support for Darly Jean...the 10-year old boy our Sunday school supports in Haiti. FFC's Shellie Coleman visits Haiti twice a year and will speak to the Sunday school kids on May 1st about the current conditions in Haiti.



Vacation Bible School Sunday, July 17-22 evenings

Mark your calendar and think about how you'd like to get involved in this fun event!

Contact Kim Snarr (email: ksnarr@ffcpeoria.com or phone #685-5258) or fill out a volunteer sheet if you're interested in helping.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC DETAILS

All Sunday school children spend a bit of time each week in music learning songs. Then ALL children have an opportunity to sing during worship.

Mark your calendar for these singing dates....

April 17 Palm Sunday
ALL children sing

May 15 Music Sunday
ALL children sing



YOUTH MINISTRIES (6th—12th grade)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH HAPPENINGS

9th—12th grades; Contact: Rev. Krummel

Sunday Mornings

- April 3** "How Does God Guide Us?" (w/Randy & Joe)
April 10 "Who Is the Holy Spirit?" (w/Randy & Joe)
April 17 "Why and How Should I Tell Others?" (w/Randy & Joe)
April 24 Easter Sunday in Worship

Senior High Youth Fellowship

April 3, 10, & 17: 5:00—7:00pm

(No Youth Group on Easter Sunday.)

Meet in the senior high room for food, fellowship, and friends.



Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 17-22

Evenings

Planning is underway.
See Kim Snarr NOW or
fill out a volunteer sheet
if you're interested in helping.

MISSION TRIP 2011

Contact: Rev. Hofmann

Destination: Racine, WI

Dates: June 19—25

Cost: \$250

Final payments are due.
Contact Pastor Daren if you're
interested in going.
There may still be space available.

CONFIRMATION INFO

7th—8th grades

Contact: Rev. Krummel

Sunday Mornings

- April 3** "Taste and See"
April 10 "Personal, not Private"
April 17 Palm Sunday: Ushering at 9:20 a.m.
April 24 Easter Sunday: Remain in worship with family

Service Day at Midwest Food Bank On Saturday, April 2nd from 9:30—11:30 am

All current and previous confirmation students & mentors are invited to serve at MFB. Make plans to join us. There are 20 spots available. Contact Carrie Wahlfeld or Rev. Krummel with questions.

Reminder to Mentors and 8th graders:
Use the 9 o'clock hour for meeting times.

YOUTH DIRECTOR UPDATE

Amy O'Brien is on a leave of absence until August 17. Her family is on hold in St. Louis with extended family as they wait for a decision on whether their family will still be sent to Japan or another location. Please keep Amy and her family in your prayers.

FFC FAMILY MINISTRIES

UPCOMING At First Federated Church

Saturday, April 2

Go & Serve at Midwest Food Bank
for Confirmation Students & Mentors

Sunday, April 17 at 9:20am

Children prepare for Palm Sunday processional & singing

Sunday, May 8

Last "regular" Sunday school for Shepherds

Sunday, May 15

Music Sunday

Sunday, May 22

Youth Sunday

Sunday—Saturday, June 19—25

Mission Trip to Wisconsin

Sunday, June 26

Family FUNday

Sunday—Thursday, July 17-21

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!!



"We have been born again because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance."
(1 Peter 1:3)

Begin a conversation with your children about Easter, using these discussion questions as a launching point:

1. Why do we have such big celebrations at Easter? How can we celebrate Easter's good news every day?
2. What gifts did Jesus give us on the first Easter? How can we share those gifts with other people?
3. How are you "growing up" in God and his Word? What has changed about your faith since you were younger?
4. How can you keep growing closer to God, day by day and year by year?





FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Celebrate the good news of Easter with these activities:

- **Sheep Muffins**—You'll need precooked chocolate muffins, vanilla icing, shredded coconut, Fruit Roll-Ups, scissors, plastic knives, and paper plates. Peel the papers off the muffins. Have family members each place their muffin upside down on a paper plate and ice the muffin, leaving the sheep's "face" on the side and the bottom plain. Sprinkle a layer of shredded coconut over the icing for wool. Remove the Fruit Roll-Ups from the cellophane and cut two quarter-inch-tall ears. Stick the ears into the icing on the sides of the sheep's head. Tightly roll the Roll-Ups and cut into four equal sections for legs. Read aloud John 10:11. Say: "Jesus, the good shepherd, gave up his life for us, his sheep. But the good news is that he rose from the dead on Easter morning!" Enjoy your snack together.
- **Rock-Solid Reminders**—Set out some rocks and markers. Have each family member choose a rock and write the word "alive" on it. (Help younger children.) Read aloud Mark 16:1-6. Say: "After Jesus died on the cross and was buried, a large rock sealed his tomb. But on Easter, the rock was rolled away, and the tomb was empty!" Decide on a place to keep your rocks to remind you about what happened on Easter. Close in prayer, thanking God for being our reliable, solid rock—and for raising Jesus from the dead.



April 2011 at First Federated Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Holy Week Worship Schedule Palm Sunday - 8:00 Worship, 10:00 Worship & Sunday School Good Friday - 7:00 St. John Passion Easter Sunday - Communion - 8:00 Worship, 10:00 Worship & Sunday School						
3 8:00 Worship & Communion 8:40 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 11:15 Adult Christian Education 5:00-7:00 Senior High Youth 5:30 Sunday Supper Club	4 Preschool Spring Break 12:15 PEO 7:00 Orpheus 7:00 Building & Grounds Committee	5 Preschool Spring Break 8:30 Prayer Shawl Group 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Mission Committee	6 Preschool Spring Break 8:30 Clergy Lectionary Group 6:30 Lenten Organ Recital 7:00 Lenten Vesper Service 7:00 MOSAIC Group	7 Preschool Spring Break 1:00 Mothers of Teens Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	8 Preschool Spring Break 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal	9 9:30-2:30 Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering
10 8:00 Worship 8:40 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 11:15 Adult Christian Education 5:00-7:00 Senior High Youth	11 9:00 am Preschool Meeting 7:00 Orpheus	12 8:30 Prayer Shawl Group 9:30 Women's Bible Study	13 8:30 Clergy Lectionary Group 11:30 UCC HOI Cluster 6:30 Lenten Organ Recital 7:00 Lenten Vesper Service	14 1:00 Mothers of Teens Bible Study 6:30 Lifelink Info. Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	15 Deadline for Life Together Articles 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal	16 3:30 Wedding
17 8:00 Worship 8:40 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship, Sunday School 11:15 Adult Christian Education 5:00-7:00 Senior High Youth 	18 7:00 Orpheus	19 8:00 Old Buddies at Bob Evans Allen Rd. 8:30 Prayer Shawl Group 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Finance Committee	20 8:30 Clergy Lectionary Group 2:00 North Peoria Women 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	21  1:00 Mothers of Teens Bible Study 7:00 Executive Board 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	22 Church Office Closed 7:00 p.m. St. John Passion 	23 9:00 a.m. Women's Book Club at Apple's Bakery
24 Communion 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship 	25 7:00 Orpheus	26 8:30 Prayer Shawl Group 9:30 Women's Bible Study	27 8:30 Clergy Lectionary Group 12:30 Mothers' Club 6:00 Adult Christian Education	28 1:00 Mothers of Teens Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	29 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal	30 3:30 Wedding

GLIMPSES OF GRACE

I began writing Glimpses of Grace several years ago to help people see the presence of God's grace in the small everyday things of life.

"The North Campus"--Without a doubt the biggest event of 2010 was the purchase of the eight acres of property adjacent to our north.

"The Organ"--with a refurbished and enhanced organ we have been enjoying a series of recitals during Lent.

"The Garth"--With the coming of Spring the Building and Grounds Committee will begin to "re-plant" the Garth.

Take care, say your prayers and never tire of doing good. Frosty



First Federated Church of Peoria

3601 N Sheridan Road
Peoria, IL 61604
#309-685-5258
www.ffcpeoria.com

PROGRAM & SUPPORT STAFF

- Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel
Associate Pastor
Rev. Daren Hofmann
Director of Youth Ministries
Amy O'Brien
Director of Children's Ministries
Kim Snarr
Director of Music
Dr. Brian Russell
Organist
Stephen Sieger
Director of Children's Music
Michael Schneider
Preschool Director
Debbie Allen
Administrative Assistant
Lisa Hoepker
Building Manager
Tony Beal
Operations Manager
Robert Disharoon
Secretary
Cecelia Walter

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Worship

Nursery Available

Children & Youth Sunday School

(after Children's Message)