

## Glimpse of Grace

Rev. Dr. Forrest Kummel, Jr.

As a child one of my favorite months was February. Not only was it the shortest month of the school year but it was a month full of holidays. We were out of school for Lincoln's Birthday (which I still remember as being February 6th!) and Washington's Birthday (February 22nd). Then, there was Valentine's Day thrown into the mix!

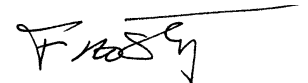
Valentine's Day was always special as my mother would find an old shoebox for us to decorate with tissue paper and cut out red hearts. We would buy a box of the punch out Valentine cards with little sayings like "Will you be mine?" and "You are someone special." There was usually a little girl in class who you'd have a crush on. If you were lucky she would send the "special" Valentine that every package contained, "I like you!" You would do the same, not always to the same little girl!

On Valentine's Day I would take my box and Valentines to school in the morning. After the last

recess of the day we would have our Valentine party. My classmates and I would form a line and carefully drop our Valentine's into each decorated box. Then, we'd open our valentines and enjoy an afternoon treat of Kool-aide and iced cupcakes.

As Valentine's Day approaches this year I find that I still look for that special Valentine, the girl I've had a crush on for 35 years. My heart still skips a beat with that special Valentine. But I am also aware of a greater love. The writer of the gospel of John writes, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but so that the world might find life in Him. (3:16-17)* A little later we read in the first epistle that bears John's name that *God is love and all who abide in God abide in love.*

May you abide in love today and always.



## LENT AT FFC

◆ **ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 22ND:** First Federated Church will begin the Lenten season with a potluck at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship hall. Meat, drinks and table service will be provided, we ask that you bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Following the potluck, also in the Fellowship Hall we will have our first Vespers Service of the season at 7:00 pm. **Vespers Services** will continue each Wednesday of Lent at 7:00 pm in the Commons.

## FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH BLOG

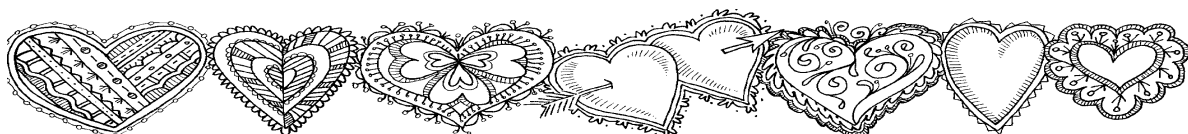
### Faith on the Go

In 2012, members of FFC can participate in a new Weekly Online Devotion ministry. Each week a new devotion, based on a Bible verse will be posted on the FFC Faith on the Go blog site.

<http://faithonthego.wordpress.com>

The purpose of the program is to:

- ◆ Enable members to express their faith to others
- ◆ Provide members of our church another opportunity grow in their faith
- ◆ Reach out to others through online resources



## MISSION OUTREACH



**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY:** Please join us **Sunday, February 5th following worship** in the Fellowship Hall for our church-wide Souper Bowl Lunch. The soup luncheon is a continuation of our “Empty Bowls” program and is a fundraiser for **Midwest Food Bank**. Cost of the meal is \$6/adults, \$3/children with a maximum of \$20/family. Also, we're encouraging members to enter a soup of their own making in the **Soup Cook-Off**. There are two contests: a Judges' Choice and a People's Choice Award. Please see the sign up sheets on the table across from the reception desk; call the office at 309-685-5258; e-mail [info@ffcpeoria.com](mailto:info@ffcpeoria.com).



◆ **WELCOME BACK:** Daren Hofmann, Randy and Carol Sleeth, Mike Verkuilen and Tom Howard. They return to us after serving a mission week with Habitat for Humanity in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

◆ **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Fred and Liz Hoy, Norm Meyn and Frosty Krummel as they travel to Mombasa, Kenya in East Africa to visit Wana wa Mola, the home for street boys that we helped plant three years ago.

## LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

In January our Executive Board met for a retreat and strategic planning.

Officers and committee moderators for the coming year are: John Morris, Vice Moderator; Sally Fenner, Communications Chair & Secretary; Kent Kowalske, Building and Grounds Chair; Jennifer VandeWiele, Christian Education Chair; Todd Snarr, Finance Chair; Carol Sleeth, Membership Chair; Karl Kuppler, Mission Chair; John Morris, Personnel Chair; Theresa Pfeiffer, Worship Chair.

Other Board members are Hank Stone (Finance), Tom Simpson, Carol Williams, Karen Henderson and Mike Verkuilen.

In January our Board of Deacons also met. The new Moderator of Deacons is Fiona O’Laughlin; Alice Racine is secretary and will work with Pat Kennell on cards. Memorials- Carol Nelson, Ginny Woodhouse, Carol Hedeman, Lynne Watkins, and Dick Steveson. Christmas - Tom Woodhouse and Wendy Garnant. Flowers - Sue Parks, Jo Tucker and Mary Steveson. Ministry of Care - Barb Benedetto, Bill Williams, John Nixon, and Pat Fenoglia. Teams - Bruce Fordyce and Rick Snarr. Amy Blair will take care of Regional Parish Lists.

We ask that you remember our Board members and Deacons in your prayers.

## HOSPITAL CHECK-IN

◆ **CHECK-IN INFORMATION** Whether it is a planned or unplanned hospital stay, when checking in, don’t forget to mention you are with First Federated Church.

## FFC QUICK NOTES

◆ **BECOME A GREETER, USHER OR FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOST** If you would like to serve FFC in a meaningful way, become worship service support person on Sunday mornings! Greet old friends, meet new people, welcome visitors, help worshippers settle in with what they need or host the after worship gathering. Please see the sign up sheets on the table across from the reception desk; call the office at 309-685-5258; e-mail [info@ffcpeoria.com](mailto:info@ffcpeoria.com).

◆ **FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALES ARE BACK!** The 2nd Sunday of each month, Fair Trade coffee from Café Campesino will be available for purchase during Fellowship Hour for \$12/lb. Both regular and decaf in whole beans and ground are available. These purchases directly help the families who grow and harvest the coffee beans we enjoy here in the U.S. For more information, you can go to their website: [www.cafecampesino.com](http://www.cafecampesino.com).

◆ **RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS** Please call the secretary at 309-685-5258, ext. 10, if you are interested in helping out during the week at the reception desk.

**WATCH THE FFC WEBSITE, HOME EDITION, 1STNEWS AND FACEBOOK FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CHURCH INFORMATION**



# the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition

February 2012



First Federated Church of Peoria

### Ask God:

To help you nurture your children's developing faith.

To show your children how he's with them as they grow.

To help you make faith milestones important.

### Parenting Insights

In *Shift* (Group), Brian Haynes discusses the value of at-home "Faith Talks" for leading kids spiritually:

1. **Faith Talks should occur regularly and be age-appropriate.** Each week, set aside time to focus on Biblical truth in a relational way.
2. **Faith Talks should focus on God's Word.** Read the Bible together, celebrate it, and adjust your lives accordingly.
3. **Faith Talks don't have to be difficult or formal.** Make them fun; for example, go outside on a hot day and compare standing in the sun and shade. Then read and discuss Psalm 121:5.
4. **Faith Talks are a priority.** They shouldn't depend on children's choices or attitudes. God instructs parents to be intentional about leading their children spiritually.

## FIRST FEDERATED PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST &

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND FROM 9:00 TO 10:00 AM

Here is a great opportunity for families to learn more about the four fantastic programs offered at FFC. Jack and Jill Preschool for 4 & 5 year olds, Bo-Peep Preschool for 3 year olds, Mother's Day Out for 15 months to 3 years, and Lunch Bunch, our extended care for Jack and Jill and Bo-Peep students. Parents and children will hear all about our programs and have an opportunity to tour the classrooms.

Early Registration for next year will begin Monday, February 6th at 8:30 am for FFC members and families who have had a child attend the preschool previously. Open Registration for all new families begins Monday, February 13th. We encourage all families of preschoolers to come, and please tell your friends and neighbors. Your recommendation is our best advertisement!!

## CELEBRATE SPIRITUAL MILESTONES

Marking children's physical "firsts," such as first steps and first words, is an exciting and memorable part of parenting. Just as important, and just as worthy of celebration, are spiritual firsts, or faith milestones. These milestones, or rites, help children know they're growing up as Christians and continually reconnecting to their faith family. Milestones also allow churches and parents to partner together to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus. Spiritual occasions that warrant family celebrations include:

**Celebrate Baptisms** - After seeing a baptism, talk to your children about their own baptisms—or their desire to be baptized. Tell them God washes away our sins. As a family, make handmade cards for newly baptized people.

**Make the Bible Relevant** - Show children how God's Word applies to their lives. Talk about Biblical heroes and how they both stumbled and grew in faith. Tie Bible verses into kids' interests, from music or poetry to travel or adventure.

**Transitioning to the Preteen Years** Leaving behind elementary school symbolizes that preteens are beginning to "own" their faith. Somewhere along their spiritual journey, they'll decide whether to draw closer to God or reject him. The great thing is that God is always there, waiting for young people to find him. And he's always there for parents, too, guiding us as we lead our children through faith milestones.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Kim Snarr



## THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL MILESTONE LEARNING for Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades



Children in Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grades will be doing some very special, important learning this month. Check your mail for a special mailing with more details.

**Preschool:**  
Regular class

**Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:**  
Exploring the Sacrament of Baptism

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:**  
Exploring the Sacrament of Communion

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**  
Connecting our Faith through Mission & Service

**Kids' Chapel Offering:** to benefit  
Midwest Food Bank

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## Winter Renewal Craft Projects



**SPECIAL  
Children's Ministry  
THANK YOUS  
TO . . .**

Jill Koch & Sheila Snarr

for the organization and creativity of our kids' art project for the Winter Renewal event.

**Amanda Donald, Bridget Mattson, Cindy Morris,  
Fiona O'Laughlin, and Clare Seshul**

for assisting the kids during the creation of their beautiful scarves, sun catchers, and quilt squares.

**Cindy & Ralph Schoen**

for their culinary and craft skills as they helped the Sunday school kids make treats and Valentines for Buehler Home.



# YOUTH MINISTRY

by Amy O'Brien



## BUEHLER HOME VALENTINES February 12

Sr. Highs will lead the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders for a Valentine visit to Buehler Home. We'll gather in the lounge after the "Time With The Growing Church"

## SR. HIGH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

**Sunday, February 5th**  
Souper Bowl Lunch, Sale, & Cook-off to benefit *Midwest Food Bank*

**Sunday, February 12th**  
Red Rock, Lunch, & Stronghold Planning  
11:30 am - 3:30 pm. \$10 for the event.

**Sunday, February 19th**  
Stronghold Planning & Dinner  
5:00 - 7:00 pm

**Sunday, February 26th**  
Stronghold Planning & Dinner  
5:00 - 7:00 pm



# Confirmation MLK

## Jr. Highs & Sr. Highs

Sunday Mornings following "Time With the Growing Church"

**Sundays, February 5th, 19th, & 26th**

Joe Terry w/ Sr. Highs  
Amy O'Brien & Randy Sleeth w/ Jr. Highs

Engaging Material That Helps Put Our Biblical Stories In Their Context



## JR. HIGH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

**Sunday, February 5th**  
Souper Bowl Lunch, Sale, & Cook-off to benefit *Midwest Food Bank*

**Sunday, February 12th**  
Join Garrick Predmore, Christina Schlicksup, & Anni Krummel from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

**Sunday, February 26th**  
11:30 am

## MISSION TRIP TO BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 16th - 23rd

8TH-12TH GRADERS

Please make reservations & payments.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**STRONGHOLD - MARCH 2nd - 4th**  
**8th-12th GRADERS - PLEASE R.S.V.P BY FEBRUARY 5TH!!**  
**FINAL CONFIRMATION RETREAT - SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH**  
**"Mission"**



## ♥ SPECIAL THANKS TO . . . ♥

Thanks to Teresa Brown & Robin Simpson for providing a wonderful meal for January's Confirmation retreat.  
Thanks to Carrie Bottrell, Becky Fanta, Tyler Ropp, Christina Schlicksup, & Garrick Predmore for chaperoning our MLK overnight.

# February 2012 At FFC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Lenten Vespers begin Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, 7:00 pm</i></p>			<p>1 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group  9:15 am Preschool Open House  10:00 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>2 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  9:15 am Preschool Open House  9:30 am Meditation Spirituality Group  9:30 am MOTS Bible Study  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality</p>	<p>4 8:30 am Dad's Day Bo-Peep &amp; Jack &amp; Jill Classes</p>
<p>5 8 am Worship 10 am Worship  11:00 am Souper Bowl Sunday Sale &amp; Soup Cook-Off</p>	<p>6 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  8:30 am Preschool Registration  10:00 am Design &amp; Décor  12:15 pm P.E.O. FB  7:00 pm Orpheus Club</p>	<p>7 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  8:30 am Preschool Registration  8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group  9:30 am Women's Bible Study  4:30 pm Missions Committee</p>	<p>8 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group  10:00 am Staff Meeting  11:30 am P.E.O. KX  6:00 pm C. E. Meeting</p>	<p>9 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  9:30 am Meditation Spirituality Group  9:30 am MOTS Bible Study  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  *** Deadline to Sign-up for Stronghold</p>	<p>11 8:30 am Elder Training Presbytery Of Great Rivers</p>
<p>12 8:00 am Worship 10:00 am Worship  11:15 am Fellowship Children &amp; Youth To Buehler Home  11:30 am Sr. Highs Red Rock  11:30 am Jr. Highs</p>	<p>13 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  9:00 am Peoria Symphony Guild  10:30 am Preschool Valentine Parties  7:00 pm Orpheus Club</p>	<p>14 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group  9:30 am Women's Bible Study  10:30 am Preschool Valentine Parties</p>	<p>15 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group  10:00 am Staff Meeting  1:40 am North Peoria Women's Club</p>	<p>16 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  9:30 am Meditation Spirituality Group  9:30 am MOTS Bible Study  7:00 pm Executive Board  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 8:00 am Worship 10:00 am Worship  11:15 am Fellowship  11:15 am John Calvin w/Rev. Krummel  3:00 pm FFC Concert Series Carren Moham, soprano  5:00 pm Senior Highs</p>	<p>20 President's Day Preschool Closed  7:00 pm Orpheus Club</p>	<p>21 8:00 am Old Buddies Breakfast  8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group  9:30 am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>22 ASH WEDNESDAY  8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group  10:00 am Staff Meeting  12:00 pm Women's Club  6:00 pm Potluck  7:00 pm Lenten Vespers</p>	<p>23 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  9:30 am Meditation Spirituality Group  9:30 am MOTS Bible Study  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality</p>	<p>25 9:00 am Book Club @ Apple's Bakery  2:00 pm Ladies In Red</p>
<p>26 8:00 am Worship 10:00 am Worship  11:00 am Family Meal, 2nd &amp; 3rd Graders  11:15 am Fellowship  11:15 am John Calvin w/Rev. Krummel  5:00 pm Senior Highs</p>	<p>27 7:00 pm Orpheus Club</p>	<p>28 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group  9:30 am Women's Bible Study  10:00 am Presbytery - COM</p>	<p>29 8:30 am Preschool Hospitality  8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group  10:00 am Staff Meeting  7:00 pm Lenten Vespers</p>	<p><b>STRONGHOLD</b>  (8th - 12th Graders) FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND, SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD &amp; SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH  Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, February 10th</p>		

## CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTION

### COMPLETED THIS PART OF LIFE

Our prayers are with the families and friends of:

- ✂ Anne Burhans - December 29th
- ✂ Robert Ferguson - January 1st
- ✂ Betty Miller - January 25th

as they mourn the passing of their loved ones.

### BIRTHS

- Emma Caroline Rubash was born in Evanston, IL on January 9, 2012, daughter of Kathy and Kevin Rubash and granddaughter of Arlyn and Marge Rubash
- Julia Katherine Kinne was born December 22nd, to Ashley & Kevin Kinne, granddaughter of Bonnie & Dave Hinrichson.

### BAPTISMS

- Sunday, January 1st at Karen McDonald was baptized.

### WEDDINGS

- Mary Sahn, daughter of Linda & John Sahn, was married to Dr. Joseph Evans on January 14th by Rev Krummel in Galena, Illinois.

### THANK YOU

- Clare Seshul for her work on the new laminated prayer cards. You will find them in front of you in the pews.
- Dinah & Bill Mannlein for the donation of the two chairs in the Lounge and other beautiful items.

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

◆ **JOHN CALVIN, THE SACRAMENTS AND THE REFORMED FAITH** will be presented by Pastor Krummel at 11:15am on Sunday, February 19th and Sunday, February 26th. In this two week class we will look at one of the theological "fathers" of the UCC and Presbyterian faith and explore how this "theology" informs our understanding of the sacraments. We will also explore ways that we can "live out" our faith in our day to day world. To register, please call the church office (685 5258) or send an email to [info@ffcpeoria.com](mailto:info@ffcpeoria.com) with the word "Calvin" in the subject line.

## FFC CLUBS AND GROUPS

◆ **SUNDAY SUPPER CLUB:** There will be no meeting in February.

◆ **PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP:** The Knitting Group meets each Tuesday morning at 8:30 am in the Memorial Lounge. All skill levels are welcome, instructions available for beginners. Contact Alice Racine at [maracine@comcast.net](mailto:maracine@comcast.net) for more information.

◆ **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** This Bible study group meets Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Fireplace Room (2nd floor) and all women of the church are welcome, as are guests. We enjoy fellowship and grow in our faith as we study and discuss scripture and God's work in our lives. For more information, contact Susan Kirschbaum.

◆ **SPIRITUALITY MEDITATION CLASS:** The Spirituality Class meets on **Thursdays at 9:30 am** in the North building of FFC. The meetings will last for one hour and each participant will conduct a session as we progress over the spring. Suggested material lists will be available and are furnished by Dr. Jackie White, who conducted our fall 2011 spiritual "Moments of Grace" series. Questions? Contact Susan Kirschbaum.

◆ **OLD BUDDIES BREAKFAST:** The next gathering of the "Old Buddies" will be **Tuesday, February 21st at 8 am** at Bob Evans on Allen Road. No reservations needed.

◆ **FFC WOMEN'S CLUB:** We'll meet in the Commons on Wednesday, February 22nd at 12:00 Noon for a light lunch, followed by the program entitled "Gideon's International" presented by Floyd Huebner. Join us for food, faith, and fellowship . . . all women and their guests are welcome! Questions? Contact Susan Kirschbaum.

◆ **The BOOK CLUB @ APPLE'S BAKERY** They will meet Saturday, January 28th at 9:00 am. The book for the month will be [A Singular Woman: The Untold Story of Barrack Obama's Mother](#) by Janny Scott.

**Do you have a group or committee meeting or birth announcement - the LIFE TOGETHER deadline is the 15th of each month.**

First Federated Church - 2011-2012 Concert Series



Please Join Us In Welcoming

Carren Moham, soprano

Acclaimed soprano Carren Moham will perform a recital of Negro Spirituals, bringing a wealth of knowledge as a scholar on music of African-American composers. Dr. Moham is on the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington and has been a winner of such prestigious competitions as the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the Leontyne Price Vocal Competition.

Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 3:00 pm

The Concert Series continues into 2012 with two additional concerts on Sunday, March 25th and Sunday, May 6th. Watch the LIFE TOGETHER for further details.



First Federated Church of Peoria

3601 N Sheridan Road
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#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
Preschool Director: Debbie Allen
Sunday Nursery Attendant: Kirsten Hanson
Administrative Assistant: Lisa Hoepker
Building Manager: Tony Beal
Operations Manager: Robert Disharoon
Secretary: Cecelia Walter

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Worship
Nursery Available - 10 am Worship
Children & Youth Sunday School - 10 am Worship
(after Children's Message)