

Vol. 76 No. 9 September, 2011

Glimpse Of Grace . . . by Frosty

This month marks the tenth anniversary of what is simply called "9-11." It falls on a Sunday and we will mark the day with a special bulletin cover (created by us) and a litany of commemoration.

September 11, 2001, marked the end of innocence in the United States. Each generation seems to have a definitive moment: Pearl Harbor, the assassination of President Kennedy, 9-11. Most of us remember where we were and what we were thinking on that horrific day. I

walked into a coffee shop called Digger's Rest when "Digger" told me that an airplane had crashed into a New York City office building. I didn't think much of it. Like many I thought that it was a errant small plane. Later I learned that it was much more.

A couple of years later I took a group of high school kids on a mission trip to Brooklyn, New York. At one worksite a social worker recalled that day. The sky turned dark as a cloud of paper drifted from Manhattan to Brooklyn and beyond. The notes that littered their yard were from the desks of those office buildings. He couldn't tell the story without choking up. It seemed that everyone knew someone who had been directly affected. As we were preparing to leave the New York City area we took the subway to "Ground Zero". Some of the twisted girders still rose from the ruins. I was surprised by the size of the area and had a sense that I was near holy ground.

I wrote an article in the church newsletter

about how we are called to respond. The local newspaper reprinted the article. Much of what I wrote is still valid today.

Pray. As Christians, we must begin with prayer. A few years ago a visiting Chinese minister was asked how the Church could support his efforts. Rather than asking for money or supplies, the minister replied, "You can pray for us." "Pray?" came the startled reply. "Is that all?" "There is nothing greater," the minister assured. One of the giants of

Christian theology, Karl Barth, once said that clasping the hands in prayer is the first step in the battle against the chaos of the evil in the world. Pray for the families touched by the horror of 9-11. Ask

God what it is that the Almighty would have you do at this moment. Pray for a forgiving heart. Satan feeds upon angry and vengeful hearts. Jesus commanded his followers to forgive, to even pray for our enemies and for those who persecute us. There are times in life when forgiveness is beyond our own efforts. In those times, we need to ask God to turn hardened, scarred hearts into forgiving hearts.

Carry on. Resume life. Terrorism, whether we like it or not is the new reality. Get on with the living, with the doing.

Worship. At the heart of life there is a sense of awe. Horrible things happen but Jesus promised that the Bad will *never* have the last word. Beyond the grave there is the Resurrection. Give thanks. The act of worship—true worship—allows us to Pray and to Carry On.

"Horrible things happen but Jesus promised that the Bad will *never* have the last word."

FFC GROUP CONNECTIONS

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

"Spiritual Exercises Offering Moments of Grace," will begin on **Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, at 9:30 am in the Commons**, continuing for 5 Thursdays, concluding on Oct. 6. The sessions will last 90 minutes and all materials will be furnished by our facilitator, **Dr. Jackie White**. Dr. White has a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, and a Doctor of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary with a focus on spirituality. She studied under the Rev. Dr. Howard Rice and his work in Reformed Spirituality; Fr. Edward J. Farrell, spiritual director and author, Detroit, MI; and completed the Group Leadership Program at Shalem Institute, Washington, D.C. She is a former PCUSA minister who served Presbyterian and UCC congregations in Peoria, Galesburg, Brimfield, Bloomington, Stanford and Woodhull. She is married to H. Curtis White. They have two children, Linda Hott and the Rev. John White, five grandchildren, and Peter, the dog. These classes are open to all members of the congregation, and attendance at all sessions is not required. For information, please call Barb Hein, Susan Kirschbaum, or Ann Voll, or email avoll@comcast.net.

◆ **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** for the 2011-12 year will begin Tuesday, October 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room. The book to be used is "Wisdom for Today's Women," which many class members have already purchased. If you don't have a book or will be new this year, call Susan Kirschbaum.

◆ **PRAYER SHAWLS KNITTING GROUP:** Prayer shawl knitters will begin again in the Memorial Lounge on Tuesday, September 13th at 8:30 am. Any knitter or crocheter interested in making a prayer shawl is welcome to join the group. If you don't know how to knit and want to learn, we can help you. Contact Alice Racine at maracine@comcast.net for more information.

◆ **BOOK CLUB @ APPLES' BAKERY:** Saturday, September 24th at 9 am will be the next meeting of the book club. The book for September will be *So Big* by Edna Ferber. October's book is *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes On An Imperfect Science* by Atul Gawran

◆ **COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT** When we celebrate the Sacrament of Communion on September 4th, we will do so by coming forward. All those who are able will be invited to come to the chancel stairs and be served by our ministers. Anyone unable to come forward will be served at their pew.
Donna Bantis, Chair Worship Committee



◆ **OLD BUDDIES BREAKFAST:** The "Old Buddies" meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8 am at Bob Evans on Allen Road. No reservations needed.

◆ **FFC WOMEN'S CLUB:** (Formerly *Mother's Club*) We resume meeting on Sept. 28th, 2011, as Joy Rennich shares her recent travel to Turkey with us. We invite all ages of women to join us for light lunch and a wonderful program in our beautiful Commons monthly for a mere \$20 annual dues. Think faith, fellowship, and fun! Call Susan Kirschbaum for information.

◆ **DEACON POTLUCK MEETING** The deacon's regular meeting will include a potluck meal at Pastor Hofmann's house. We will meet at 6 pm on Wednesday the 21st and enjoy our meal and fellowship before having our meeting at 7. Drinks, plates, cups, napkins, and plastic ware will be provided. Come and celebrate the beginning of a new school year and continue our vision of caring for one another.

◆ **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** In this new school year we look forward to offering quality classes for all ages of the church. You will be receiving an Adult Christian Education pamphlet soon and we ask that you examine the opportunities and then mark any and all classes you have an interest in. We hope all members will find some way to strengthen and deepen their faith through Christian Education.



The first potluck gathering of the Sunday Supper Club will be Sunday, October 2nd at 5:30 pm in the Commons. The program will be on the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and will be delivered by Jon Neidy of Bradley University.

IS YOUR CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETING OR GROUP EVENT ON OUR CHURCH CALENDAR?

Contact the church - cwalter@ffcpeoria.com or 309-685-5258, ext. 10. The deadline for LIFE TOGETHER articles is the 15th of the month.



the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition

September 2011



First Federated Church of Peoria



POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To guard your family members and their faith during difficult times.
2. To walk with you and make his love real to you when you're confronted by crisis.
3. To help you overcome worry and place your trust in God

INSIGHTS

- About 25% of young people experience a serious traumatic event by age 16. Children are more vulnerable to trauma because of their age, size, and dependence. *(nctsn.org)*
- About one in 50 U.S. children is homeless.
- Each year, about 3.3 million children are exposed to domestic violence. *(various Internet sources)*

Turn to God for Comfort

Because this month marks the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we'll be bombarded with recaps of the tragedy. Even if your children weren't born yet in 2001, they'll learn about this event and ask tough questions about it. This somber date can be an opportunity to talk to kids about life's challenges and stresses—and how God shepherds us through them.

Whether children are confronted by the illness or death of a loved one, school bullies, parental job loss, or divorce, these stressors all bring uncertainty and anxiety. Take time to reassure children of your constant love for them and of God's promise to never leave us. Be attentive, accepting, affirming, and reliable. As much as possible, maintain the same schedules and rules during crises because structure and boundaries help children feel safe. When changes occur, let children know what to expect. Also encourage your kids to talk openly about their feelings and fears. Most importantly, pray that God will help you all grow closer to him, no matter what obstacles you face.

CULTURE & TRENDS

- Through a federal grant, schools in San Antonio, Texas, are using high-tech cameras to track what students eat—and don't eat—at lunch. Parents then receive customized data about children's eating habits. *(msnbc.com)*
- Kids who want to please their parents tend to do better in school, research shows. Experts advise parents to set and convey high expectations, as well as to be available to teach, guide, and set limits. *(Child Development)*

QUICK STATS

- 36% of parents say volunteering at their children's school should be required. *(Parenting)*
- In the U.S., an estimated 13% of school-age kids experience some form of rejection by their peers. *(LiveScience.com)*

THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Value: COURAGE—Esther

Scripture: Book of Esther

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER: "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their forefathers to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:7-8)

SEPTEMBER KID'S CHAPEL OFFERING: Our children's offering will support Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation during the month of September. On September 25th, we'll have our 4th annual JDRF Mini-walk in honor of our own Mark VandeWiele and Eileen Resnick who was recently diagnosed. Please support JDRF!



BIBLE DEDICATION will be Sunday, October 9th All 3rd graders will receive Bibles during worship

A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS Sunday, September 11th!

◆PRESCHOOL PALACE

Parents are invited to join their children for the first day of Sunday school in order to learn the Sunday school routine and space.

◆KINDERGARTEN - 5th GRADE

Students begin in worship, then chapel time, followed by small group time.

SHEPHERDS NEEDED!

We are looking for parents (and high school students) who are willing to serve individual any Sundays as an additional set of hands in each age group during Sunday school time. Call or email Kim Snarr if you're interested at 685-5258, ext. 20 or ksnarr@ffcpeoria.com.



POCKET CHANGE SUNDAY

Bring your spare change to worship on Sunday, September 25th when the Sunday school children will collect change to put towards the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

BACK - TO - SCHOOL BAGELS

Monday, September 19th - Friday, September 23rd

8:30 a.m. in the Commons at FFC

All are welcome to show our hospitality by greeting midweek preschool parents.

Meet in the Commons for a little social time.

Call Kim Snarr at #685-5258

with questions on how you can help.



◆ BOX TOP COLLECTION Look on the top of your cereal boxes or other dry goods for the "Box Top for Education" coupons. By clipping these coupons and bringing them to church, Thomas Jefferson School can use the proceeds to purchase much needed supplies for the school. Your help in clipping these coupons is greatly



GOODBYE TO GRADUATING SENIORS

Sunday, August 7th we had a Senior Night swim party. Eighteen of our youth enjoyed burgers, brownies and pool fun as we said goodbye to our graduated high school seniors. Commemorative pillow cases were signed by all of the attendees and presented to our post-Senior High friends as they enter a new chapter in their lives. We wish them well.

◆ Be sure to become a FFC Facebook Friend & check your mailbox for post cards and be on the look out for fall plans.

JUNIOR & SENIOR FALL ROUND UP

Labor Day Weekend, Sunday, September 4th and Monday, September 5th - Camp Waconda in Chillicothe. Beginning with worship at 10 am and concluding at 3 pm on Monday. Spots available for 20 women/girls & 20 boys/men. For this event we will allow youth to attend a segment of the retreat even if they can't stay for the whole event.

Canoeing, hiking, outdoor games, fall planning, fellowship, & fun!!!!!!



Sr. Highs will utilize the retreat at Camp Waconda to plan events. Stay tuned.....

JR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

(6th-8th Graders)

"I Know My Bible!" Class starts September 11th
2 year challenge for our youth
Join us on Sunday mornings
after the Time With the Growing Church.

SR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

(9th-12th Graders)

"Come out! Come out! Wherever You Are!"
We'll resume class on September 11th



JUNIOR HIGH "THE HIGHER POWER POTLUCK"

We'll eat what you bring!! Sunday, September 11th from 5-7pm. Join us at the home of Jack, Jill, Megan, & Erin Koch. If you have a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader in your family.....PLEASE JOIN US!!!! We want to have a relaxed and casual time for our families to get together and enjoy each other. Jack & Jill would love to get to know you better and talk about the year ahead for our middle schoolers.

POTLUCK DINNER

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION & LUNCH

Join us Sunday, September 25th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the North Campus for a confirmation orientation meeting and lunch. 8th Graders and their parents will learn about our new Confirmation format. The program will consist of 4 experimental Sunday afternoon retreats. **Please pen in the dates: Sunday, October 2nd, Sunday, December 4th, Sunday, January 15th, and Sunday, March 25th.** Upon completion of the 4 retreats the students will be ready for Confirmation on Sunday, June 3rd.



SEPTEMBER 2011 AT FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Jack & Jill Open House 9:00 am Tuesday/Thursday Bo-Peep Open House	2 9:00 am Monday/ Wednesday/Friday Bo-Peep Open House	3 5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal
4 8 am Worship, <i>Patio</i> 10 am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11 am Fellowship Hour 5:00 pm Wedding Jr. & Sr. High Fall Round Up 10:00 am Sunday to 3:00 pm Monday	5 Office Closed Labor Day	6 <u>First Day</u> Tuesday/Thursday Bo-Peep (10:30 dismissal) Jack & Jill Preschool Lunch Bunch J&J Only 4:30 pm Mission Meeting	7 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 9:00 am Monday/ Wednesday/Friday Bo-Peep (10:30 dismissal) 10:00 am Staff Meeting	8 9:00 am Tuesday/Thursday Bo-Peep 9:10 am Spiritual Exercises 6:30 pm LifeLink Information Session 7:00 pm Choir Practice	9 9:00 am Monday/ Wednesday/Friday Bo-Peep 5:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal	10 2:00 pm Wedding
11 YES WE CAN SUNDAY! 1000 CAN GOAL! Bring canned goods today! 8 am Worship, <i>Patio</i> 10 am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11 am Fellowship Hour 5:00 pm Junior High Youth Fellowship at Koch's	12 9:00 am Mother's day Out Open House 10:00 am Design & Decorating 11:30 AM Preschool Committee Meeting 7 pm Building & Grounds	13 8:30 am Prayer Shawls 9:00 am Mother's day Out Open House 11:30 am Lunch Bunch Bo-Peep 12 Noon Back to School Cookies	14 Mother's Day Out Open House 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 10:00 am Staff Meeting	15 Mother's Day Out Open House 9:10 am "Spiritual Exercises" 6:00 pm Membership Committee Finance Committee 7 pm Executive Board Choir Practice LIFE TOGETHER DEADLINE	16 Mother's Day Out Open House 5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	17 2:30 pm Wedding
18 8 am Worship, <i>Patio</i> 10 am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11 am Fellowship Hour 5:00 pm Senior Youth Fellowship	19 9:00 am Back to School Bagels	20 8:00 am Old Buddies Breakfast 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 9:00 am Back to School Bagels	21 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 9:00 am Back to School Bagels 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Deacons to Rev. Hofmann's for Potluck	22 9:00 am Back to School Bagels 9:10 am "Spiritual Exercises" 9:30 am P.E.O. AH 7:00 pm Choir Practice	23 9:00 am Back to School Bagels	24 9:00 am Health & Wellness Fair Book Club @ Apple's Bakery
25 8 am Worship, <i>Patio</i> 10 am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Spare Change Sunday JDRF Mini Walk 11 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Confirmation Orientation & Lunch	26	27 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	28 8:30 am Clergy Lectionary Group 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12 Noon Woman's Club Meeting	29 9:10 am "Spiritual Exercises" 9:30 am P.E.O. AH 7:00 pm Choir Practice	30	Please watch the HOME EDITION each Sunday, The 1stNews Updates, and follow us on Facebook for the most up-to- date news from FFC.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION



Please Meet
Mike Predmore

Mike is Chair of the Membership Committee and has been a member here at First Federated for 2 years.

CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTION

BLESSED ADDITIONS

- Ted & Jennifer Tuerk had a daughter June 17th. Margo is the granddaughter of Ed & Jan Tuerk and Bill & Bonnie Williams
- Hank & Sally Stone are the proud grandparents of new baby Cecily, born August 8th.
- Donna & Ted Bantis have a new grand baby boy born Sunday, August 14th to Ashley & Steve. His name is Jonah Jay Wooden.
- Carol & Gary Nelson have their first grand baby, born August 14th to Matthew & Amber, baby boy - Owen Matthew.
- Richard & Mary Steveson have a new great-grandbaby, Alexander, born August 20th to Shawn & Nancy Sitler. John & Nanette Steveson are the grandparents.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Dean & Betty Miller
- Ben Miller
- Betty Christopher
- Marion & Tom Thompson
- Chris Dallmeyer
- Judy Cain
- Joan Pollitz

COMPLETED THIS PART OF LIFE

- OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH

✂ **Ginny Thomas** and family as they mourn the death of **Leah Whittaker**, her niece.

✂ **Tom Howard**, Debbie, family & friends at the passing of Tom's father.

✂ **Thomas & Cynthia Thompson** at the passing of his mother, **Peggy Thompson**.

MISSION CONNECTION

◆ **Just One Hour** If you could spare just one hour a week, come and join other First Federated members in the Reading Buddies Program at Thomas Jefferson school. By working one on one with another child or in small groups, you can truly make a difference in a child's life. Sign up sheets are located at the front desk, or call Karen Calder to answer any of your questions.

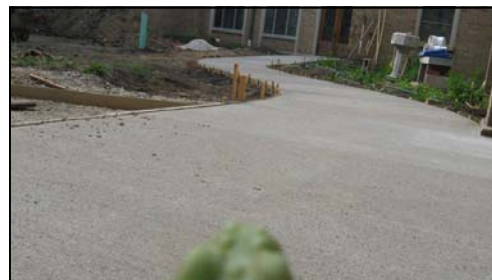


◆ **SENIOR HIGH SUMMER MISSION** In August fourteen of our Senior Highs joined other members of FFC in making Tender Mercies meal packets at the Midwest Food Bank. Each meal is nutritiously balanced for four individuals. Nearly a thousand packets were assembled and sealed.

◆ **FRIENDSHIP HOUSE** Last week we collected hundreds of cans of soup for Friendship House, which were delivered the following Monday and were greatly appreciated. Thank you for your quick response. The Friendship House has a steady need for many items - diapers (sizes 3,4, & 5), baby formula, personal care items - both men's and woman's - deodorant, tampons, sanitary napkins, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste & toothbrushes, lotion, shaving razors and hair combs. Their Food Pantry can always use jelly and jam, great northern beans, cornbread mix, green peas, canned chili, diced tomatoes, canned fruits, Tuna Helper, pasta sauce and spaghetti. **Sunday, September 11th** is our next **YES WE CAN SUNDAY** - we want to reach a **THOUSAND CAN GOAL**, but until then please check your closets and pantries - let's keep those baskets by the back door full! Thank you.

◆ **COMMUNITY GARDEN** If you are interested in developing a community garden at First Federated Church, there will be a meeting after the 8:00 am worship service in the North Campus Boardroom and after the 10:00 am worship service in the Bride's Lounge on Sunday, September 11th. Questions? E-mail the church at info@ffcpeoria.com and please put "Community Garden" in the subject line.

GARTH UPDATE by Garth Gator



Things are moving along in the Garth (the enclosed area between the sanctuary and offices). Each week brings us closer to completion. The dedication and hard work of all of our volunteers is amazing. The concrete work should be complete by the time this newsletter hits mailboxes and electrical work is moving along. To get a sneak peek of Garth goings-on follow us on Facebook and keep an eye on Garth Gator's wanderings in the 1stNews Weekend update. You can also see the landscaping plan for the completed Garth on the First Federated Church website at ffcpeoria.com (go to the Resources tab). There are links to both Facebook and 1stNews on the website as well so you can stay connected to FFC.

Garth Gator

Please remember to add your name to the volunteer list for our next Church Work Day, Saturday, September 10th at 8:30 am. We will be painting the playground equipment.



First Federated Church of Peoria

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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