



Life Together

First Federated Church of Peoria

Vol.82 • No. 5 • May 2017



**2017 VBS
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

**JULY 16TH - 20TH
5:30 TO 8:00 PM**



Register by June 1st - Save \$10!

Use this QR code with your smart phone or tablet to register.



VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are once again looking for VBS volunteers!
We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- ✓ Registration
- ✓ Station Leaders
- ✓ Crew Leaders
- ✓ Kitchen Crew
- ✓ Decorations

Please contact Kristen D'Alfonso at kdalfonso@ffcpeoria.com if you are interested.



Faith and Family Night at the Ballpark

- Saturday, June 17th, 6:30 pm, Dozer Park
- \$8.00 Tickets
- Sign-up sheet at reception desk
- Jason Gray Post-Game Concert
- St. Louis Cardinals Fredbird Appearance
- Post-Game Fireworks

Deadline Is May 14th, Your Check Is Your Reservation!

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Life Together

is published monthly by:

FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH

3601 N Sheridan Road
Peoria, Illinois 61604

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Email your article to the church by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

CONTACT US

Main Church: 309-685-5258
Email: info@ffcpeoria.com
Fax: 309-685-5451

OFFICE HOURS

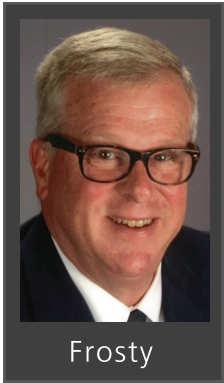
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 am Chapel Service
10:00 am Sanctuary Service

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

ffcpeoria.com



What's in a hug?

Every year, except one, since I have been the Senior Minister of FFC I have volunteered to be a Reading or Study Buddy at a District 150 school. The past few years it has been at our neighborhood school, Thomas Jefferson. I work with second graders. I am not a

trained educator. The teacher I work with knows this. What I am, though, is someone who genuinely cares for children. The teacher does not have me work with the child who needs the most academic help. She assigns me two students; students who just need caring attention.

This year one of my students has several siblings by different fathers. She is a kind child who just needs encouragement and someone to pay attention to her--really pay attention to her. We will review her spelling words and she will read something to me--usually a book that is a grade or two below her grade level. Recently, she has asked me to read a book to her as our time draws to an end. I suspect that no one has read to her on a consistent basis.

The other student is a bright little boy who reads waaay above his grade level. He laughs and is quick witted. Recently, as I walked him back to his classroom, he stopped outside the door and gave me a hug before going in to class. I was surprised. It was unexpected and out of character.

So, what's in a hug. Validation. Warmth. Care. Both of "my" students this year have given me far more than I ever gave to them. I don't believe for a minute that any of the students that I worked with will remember me after a new school year begins, let alone in a lifetime. But it's not about me. I don't volunteer because of what I get out of it. I volunteer because I am a follower of Jesus. I volunteer because each child, each person is important to Jesus. Every individual--you and me and the stranger who is totally foreign to us--is a child of God, precious in the sight of God.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frosty', with a horizontal line above it.

Mission Note: Wana Wa Mola

Daniel Okiror, Director of Wana Wa Mola Boy's Home, recently sent a picture of the boys in the home along with this message:

"This is my tribe. They are my brothers, a big source of my energy. I treasure our moments together, seeing how our lives are transforming each other. We are creating a lifestyle of practically loving and caring for the least, last and lost community... We can achieve this goal when we choose."



April 15, 2017 marked my one year anniversary as the Associate Pastor of Youth and Families at First Federated Church. During the past year I have enjoyed getting to know you and hearing your stories. I have been blessed by you in so many ways. You are a testament to the love of Christ in a world that so desperately needs it. Thank you for sharing your lives and faith in Jesus Christ with me.

This year has also been a fruitful year for me. Through your hospitality and patience I have learned more about myself, my passion for worship, teaching, fellowship, and mission. Your graciousness and interest in who I am as a person and pastor has allowed me to share one of my greatest difficulties (dyslexia), as well as, providing me a

place to share my hopes and joy. In the words of Frank Sinatra "It was a very good year."

As the days and years continue to pass I look forward to living into my call and carrying out the mission of First Federated Church with you. Thank you once again!

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Rev. Zachary Lysdahl

Rev. Zachary Lysdahl



Worship & Music Director, Russel Boulton ☎ 309-685-5258, x.14 ✉ rboulton@ffcpeoria.com

Music Ministry

"BELLS IN MOTION"

- Saturday, May 6th
- 7:00 pm
- FFC Sanctuary
- Tickets are \$15.00



"Bells in Motion" will take over our sanctuary in a fast moving, cascade of musical ringing. This professional bell ensemble is known across the region and can play anything from hymns to the Beatles. Visit their website for more information: bellsinmotion.org



Men of FFC, *Let's Honor Mom*

Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14th, is just around the corner.

We invite any interested men - Father's, Husbands or Sons - to sing a special anthem *Faith of Our Mother's* on Mother's Day to thank all of our mothers and grandmothers.

We will rehearse Sunday, May 14th, at 9:30 am. If you are interested, please email: rboulton@ffcpeoria.com.

REMEMBER THE RUMMAGE SALE

- We will be having our annual Rummage Sale **August 18th & 19th** to benefit the Missions of FFC.
- Beginning in July, we welcome your contributions of furniture, household goods, (*no encyclopedias or magazines, computers, printers, televisions or like items please*) and children's clothing and toys. This year we will be accepting adult "boutique clothing;" so, we welcome your designer clothing or those barely worn outfits.
- Plenty of help will be needed as well, so mark your calendars, volunteer sign-up sheets will be available soon.
- Questions? Please contact Susi Butler at 309-696-5558 or jbutler895@aol.com.



OUR ONGOING FFC MISSIONS

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

- The collection box is across from the reception desk.
- The Box Tops are delivered to Thomas Jefferson School.
- In the last year we have donated \$643 in Box Tops!

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE FOOD PANTRY

- Canned goods and personal care items are always needed; see the list by the North door.
- Collection bins are by the North door of the church & in the Narthex.

THE CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF ABUSE

- Personal care items, snack items, etc. Please see the list by the North door.
- Collection bins are by the North door of the church & in the Narthex.

Our Church Family

MATTER OF RECORD

BIRTH

- ❖ April 4th, Oliver Matthew Nelson son of Amber and Matt Nelson. Brother of Owen and Olivia. Grandson of Carol and Gary Nelson.

COMPLETED THIS PART OF LIFE

- ❖ April 13th, Herbert S. Ragsdale.
- ❖ April 14th, Dr. Alice C. Ferdinand

Do you have a birth, wedding or bereavement you would like to share with your church family?

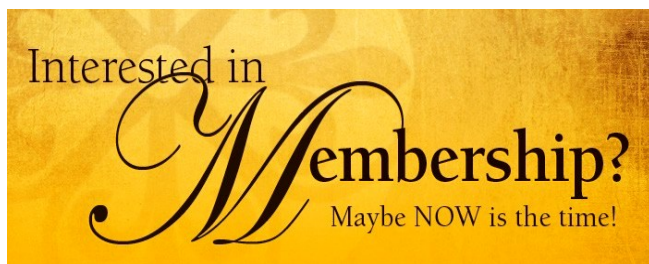
Please contact the church office at 309-685-5258 or info@ffcpeoria.com.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBER

Hans J. Busch joined First Federated Church on Easter Sunday, April 16th.

Welcome Hans!



LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Our Next New Member Brunch is Sunday, June 11th

- Join us for food and fellowship. FFC Staff, Board Members, Deacons and Congregants will be present to answer your questions.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Next New Member Sunday is June 18th

- We will formally welcome new members into the life of our church on this Sunday during both worship services.
- If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of First Federated Church, please contact Rev. Zach Lysdahl at zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com or 309-685-5258, X12.

"BELIEVE" - A BIBLE STUDY

- Mondays, 12:45 to 2:00 pm
- Lifetree Room at FFC's Life Together Center

MEDITATION GROUP

- Last meeting before Summer hiatus will be May 18th
- Thursdays at 10:00 am, Memorial Lounge
- Questions? Contact Ann Voll, through the church at 309-685-5258

"OFF CAMPUS" BIBLE STUDIES

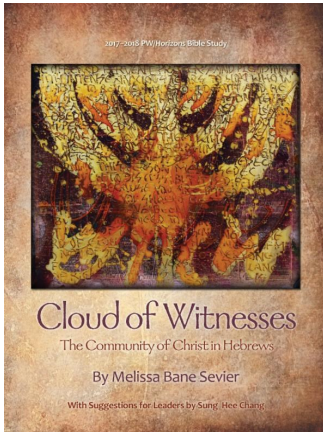
- Last meeting of both Bible Studies before Summer hiatus will be May 25th. Will resume Thursday, September 7th.

Independence Village Bible Study

- Meets each Thursday at 9:15 am at Independence Village.

Lutheran Hillside Village Bible Study

- Meets each Thursday at 10:15 am at Lutheran Hillside Village in the private dining room.

**"CLOUD OF WITNESSES" WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

- Tuesday, June 6th
- Faith United Presbyterian Church, 200 S 8th Street, Monmouth, IL
- Sign-in 9:30 - 10:00 am, Light refreshments will be served during sign-in. Pre-registration is required in order to provide printed resource materials for each participant.
- To Register contact: Sharon Graham at sjgraham6227@yahoo.com or 309-627-2484
- A catered lunch will be served so advance registration and payment are needed. Those who have special dietary needs are welcome to bring their own lunch.
- Registration and lunch costs are \$12.00 and are due by Tuesday, May 30th.

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Weber will lead the annual Horizons Bible Study Workshop for Great Rivers Presbyterian Women.

This year's Horizons Bible study, *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*, approaches Hebrews through nine major themes:

In Community with Jesus Christ
In Community with the Living God
In Community with the Living Word
In Community with God's Messengers
In Community with the Tradition of the Past

In Community with the Reality of the Present
In Community with the Hope of the Future
In Community with the Household of Faith
In Community with All the Saints

The study was written by pastor and educator Melissa Bane Sevier. Melissa Bane Sevier, author of Cloud of Witnesses: the Community of Christ in Hebrews, is a teaching elder in the PCUSA who, after more than 23 years as a pastor, chose in 2015 to leave the pastorate and focus on her longtime ministry of writing and photography. Melissa is a frequent preacher and speaker in a variety of settings. She lives in Versailles, Kentucky, with her husband Jerry.

Volunteering Time and Talent**SIGN-UP FOR SUNDAY VOLUNTEER POSITIONS**

Would you consider serving?

Greeters, Ushers, Fellowship Hour Host
 Or Fellowship Hour Sponsor
 Questions? Call the church office at
 309-685-5258.



Use this QR code with your smart phone! All are welcome.
 At the website simply scroll down the list of dates, sign up for 1 or many, we love having your involvement!

Pastoral Care ~ Prayer Ministry**PRAYERS,
PASTORAL CALLS,
HOSPITAL VISITS OR
HOME COMMUNION**

Give the office a call at 685-5258

If you or others you know are in need of pastoral care or support, please contact the church office.

If you are admitted to an area hospital don't forget to mention to admitting that you are with First Federated Church.

Communion served at your home? Please call the church and we will arrange for either Rev. Krummel, Rev. Lysdahl or Rev. Barch to come to your home.

FFC SOFTBALL - THE FEDS!

Games will be played at Peoria Stadium, 315 E War Memorial Drive. Come out and cheer us on!

May Softball Schedule:



Sunday May 7th - 6:00 pm: Diamond 5 - 4
 Sunday, May 14th - 5:00 pm: Diamond 5 - 4
 Sunday, May 21st - 6:00 pm: Diamond 5 - 3
 Sunday, May 28th - No Games, Memorial Day Weekend



SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

Saturday Night Live is primarily a social group that meets roughly once a month for dinner (at restaurants or members' homes) and is made up of those over 50. If you're interested and would like more information, contact Judy Thompson at skjt@mtco.com.



Event: Dinner at Granite City (203 Conference Center Drive, East Peoria.) Saturday, May 20th, 6:00 pm. Outdoor seating, weather permitting. Contact Judy Thompson through the church at 309-685-5258 for further details or to make your reservation.



Event: Faith & Family Night at the Ballpark. Saturday, June 17th, 6:30 pm. Sign-up on the church sign-up sheet at the reception desk and turn in your check (your check is your reservation) made out to FFC: \$8 x number of tickets. Put SNL - FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT on the memo line. Contact the church office at 309-685-5258, X-10 for further details or to make your reservation.

YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP

Adults between the ages of 25 and 45, single, married, or with a family. This group gathers monthly to enjoy great community events and engage in mission opportunities. All are welcome and have a place in helping us create this community. Contact the church.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE GROUP

This group is open to ALL ages who have enthusiasm for the outdoors. Our goal is to have fun, make new friends, strengthen bonds with old ones, and enjoy God's creation through recreation. Join us anytime and bring a friend!

KNITTING / CROCHETING MINISTRY

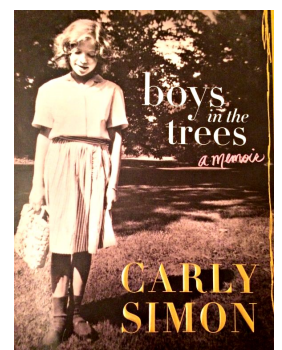
The group will meet on **Tuesday, May 2nd, at 9:00 am in the Memorial Lounge**. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Alice Racine through the church at 309-685-5258.

OLD BUDDIES BREAKFAST

The next gathering of the "Old Buddies," a men's fellowship group that meets for breakfast and fellowship, will be **Tuesday, May 16th, 8:30 am Lutheran Hillside Village, private dining room**.

THE FFC BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet one week earlier this month because of the holiday weekend. They will meet **Saturday, May 20th, at 10:00 am at the North Branch of Peoria Public Library (3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria, Illinois 61615)**. The book for May is Boys In The Trees: A Memoir By Carley Simon.



Monday, May 1st - Teacher Appreciation Week

10:00 am Rummage Sale Organizational Meeting, *Lifetree Room*
 12:45 pm "Believe" Bible Study, *Lifetree Room*

Tuesday, May 2nd - Teacher Appreciation Week

9:00 am Knitting Group, *Memorial Lounge*

Wednesday, May 3rd - Teacher Appreciation Week

11:30 am Retiree Spring Lunch, *Garden Room*

Thursday, May 4th - Teacher Appreciation Week

8:45 am Snack Pack Assembly, *Warehouse*
 9:15 am Independence Village Bible Study, *IV Community Room*
 10:00 am Meditation Group, *Memorial Lounge*
 10:15 am Lutheran Hillside Village Bible Study, *LHV Private Dining room*
 6:15 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Friday, May 5th - Teacher Appreciation Week**Saturday, May 6th**

7:00 pm Bells In Motion Concert, *FFC Sanctuary*

Sunday, May 7th - Youth Sunday

8:00 am Worship, *Chapel*
 10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
 11:00 am Fellowship, *Commons*
 5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group, *Senior High Room*
 6:00 pm FFC Softball, *Peoria Stadium, Diamond S - 4*

Monday, May 8th

12:45 pm "Believe" Bible Study, *Lifetree Room*
 6:00 pm Building & Grounds Committee Meeting, *Boardroom*

Tuesday, May 9th

4:30 pm Missions Committee Meeting, *TBD*

Wednesday, May 10th**Thu May 11, 2017**

8:45 am Snack Pack Assembly, *Warehouse*
 9:15 am Independence Village Bible Study, *IV Community Room*
 10:00 am Meditation Group, *Memorial Lounge*
 10:15 am Lutheran Hillside Village Bible Study, *LHV Private Dining room*
 6:15 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Friday, May 12th**Saturday, May 13th****Sunday, May 14th - Mother's Day**

8:00 am Worship, *Chapel*
 10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
 11:00 am Fellowship, *Commons*
 5:00 pm FFC Softball, *Peoria Stadium, Diamond S - 4*
 No Senior High Youth Group this evening

Monday, May 15th

12:45 pm "Believe" Bible Study, *Lifetree Room*

Tuesday, May 16th

8:30 am Old Buddies Breakfast, *LHV, Private Dining room*

Wednesday, May 17th

6:30 pm FFC Executive Board Meeting, *Boardroom*
 Confirmands to present stoles
 7:00 pm FFC Board of Deacon's Meeting, *Trinity Room*

Thursday, May 18th

8:45 am Snack Pack Assembly, *Warehouse*
 9:15 am Independence Village Bible Study, *IV Community Room*
 10:00 am Final Meditation Group of year, *Memorial Lounge*
 10:15 am Lutheran Hillside Village Bible Study, *LHV Private Dining room*
 6:15 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Friday, May 19th

6:30 pm Preschool Spring Concert & Graduation, *Sanctuary*

Saturday, May 20th

10:00 am The FFC Book Club, *Peoria Public Library North Branch*
 6:00 pm Saturday Night Live Event - Dinner at Granite City, *Granite City Food & Brewery, 230 Conference Center Dr, East Peoria*

Sunday, May 21st - End of church program year

8:00 am Worship, *Chapel*
 9:15 am Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, *Commons*
 10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
 11:00 am Fellowship, *Commons*
 5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group, *Senior High Room*
 6:00 pm FFC Softball, *Peoria Stadium, Diamond S - 3*

Monday, May 22nd

12:45 pm "Believe" Bible Study, *Lifetree Room*

Tuesday, May 23rd**Wednesday, May 24th**

8:45 am Final Snack Pack Assembly, *Warehouse*

Thursday, May 25th

9:15 am Independence Village Bible Study, *IV Community Room*
 10:15 am Lutheran Hillside Village Bible Study, *LHV Private Dining room*
 No Chancel Bells Rehearsal This Evening
 No Chancel Choir Rehearsal This Evening

Friday, May 26th - Last Day of Regular Preschool

5:30 pm Junior High Rock Climbing, *Upper Limits, Bloomington*

Saturday, May 27th**Sunday, May 28th**

8:00 am Worship, *Chapel*
 10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
 11:00 am Fellowship, *Commons*
 5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group, *Senior High Room*
 FFC Softball - No Game, *Memorial Day Weekend*

Monday, May 29th - Memorial Day

No "Believe" Bible Study
 Preschool and Office Closed

Tuesday, May 30th**Wednesday, May 31st**

COMING UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Memory Verse: "Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up." Galatians 6:9, NIV

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter

Life App: Determination - deciding it's worth it to finish what you started.

Sunday, May 7th: The Start

Bible Story: The Start (Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin) • Acts 3-4

Bottom Line: Keep going even when it gets hard.

Sunday, May 14th: Mother's Day

Today we celebrate the mothers who teach Sunday school by giving them a day off!

Children will enjoy a Veggie Tales movie.

Sunday, May 21st: Heifer Celebration

**Sunday, May 28th: Veggie Tales
Memorial Day Weekend**



Annual Service Project

4th-5th GRADE SERVICE PROJECT FOR CRISIS NURSERY

- **THANK YOU!**
- The 4th-5th grade Sunday school class wishes to thank the congregation of FFC for their generous contributions for Crittenton Crisis Nursery.
- The donations were delivered on April 30th and the Crisis Nursery was very appreciative!

Rev. Zach Lysdahl
309-685-5258 X-12 zlysdahl@ffceoria.com

(6th - 8th Grades) **Junior Highs**

JUNIOR HIGH - THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Escape Room

You've probably heard of "escape rooms"—you know, those places where you get locked in a room with your friends and then try to escape by solving puzzles and secret codes? Some people love them and can't wait to solve the puzzles, while others count down the minutes until they're over.

Just like an escape room, we all handle difficult and painful situations differently . . . but often we look for some type of relief. Maybe it's a Netflix binge, or gaming, or spacing out while listening to Spotify. Maybe it's staring at a phone and scrolling for hours. Whatever it is, we all have a favorite distraction—something we get lost in. Something that helps us escape reality.

But the trouble is, these good and fun distractions sometimes lead to hurting others, hurting ourselves, or damaging our relationship with God. In this series, we'll look at how to deal with difficult situations in our lives.

As we do, we just might find that God's inviting us to stop avoiding and escaping hard times, and instead, face our troubles head-on. And maybe we'll see that through our struggles, God builds our character, provides us with comfort, and calls us to share that comfort with others.



2017 CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, May 17th
Confirmands present stoles to Executive Board

- 6:30 pm
- Boardroom, Life Together Center

Sunday, June 4th
Confirmation Sunday

- 8:30 am Confirmation Breakfast
Bride's Lounge
- 10:00 am Confirmation Service
Sanctuary

THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL**"Road Trip" Continues**

Summary: Road trips are awesome. Whether you're heading to the mountains with your family or driving to the beach with your friends, the idea of packing up, grabbing your favorite snacks, planning the perfect playlist, and hitting the road just sounds like an adventure. And it is! Life works a lot like that, too. We start with a plan in mind, but things happen along the way that change our plans, change our minds, or even change our relationships. That's when we have to decide to stick to the plan or change course. This was especially true for the apostle Paul. Long before GPS or interstates, Paul set out on a series of road trips, and just like us, he experienced some surprising, even life-changing moments on the road. As we take a look at some key turning points on Paul's road trips, we discover that maybe the best thing that can happen on our journey is a change of direction.

SUNDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

- Each Sunday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 pm our Senior Highs will gather to participate in Fun, Food and Fellowship.
- Gather in the Senior High room on the 3rd floor of FFC and we will see where the evening takes us!

3RD SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

- Each 3rd Sunday of the month our Senior Highs will worship with the congregation and participate in the worship service as Liturgist, Greeters and Ushers.
- On other Sundays, Sunday school is held from 10:20 - 11:00 am in the 3rd floor Senior High room.

FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP

All Senior High Students, including those who are currently completing their 8th grade year are invited to attend.

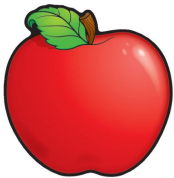
With that said, here are some preliminary details:

- Mission Trip Dates: June 24, 2017 through July 1, 2017.
- Mission Trip Location: Loveland Colorado.
- Mission Trip Student Spots available: **15**.
- Mission Trip Cost per Student: \$270.00 (including deposit).
- Mission Trip Organization: Group Works
- **Mission Trip Deposit Date: Now!**
- **Mission Trip Deposit per Student: \$75.00.**

This year's Mission Trip is a little more expensive than last year. If the cost of the trip is prohibitive to anyone there are scholarships available or if the deposit and deposit date are problematic please email me directly and we will sort it out.

Please use the QR code to see all relevant details of the trip: packing list, participant form, menu, schedule, etc.

Or email me with questions at zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com.

*Of Special Note***SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER APPRECIATION**

All Sunday school teachers are invited to a teacher appreciation breakfast.

- **Sunday, May 21st**
- **9:15 am in the Commons**



**YOUTH
SUNDAY
IS
MAY 7TH!**



Director, Kathie Harms 309-685-5258, x.18 kharms@ffcpeoria.com

The Preschools at FFC



Kathie Harms

**MAY EVENTS**

- **May 1st -5th:** Teacher Appreciation Week
- **May 19th:** 6:30 pm, Spring Concert and Graduation, FFC Sanctuary, All families welcome
- **May 26th:** Last Day of School

Have A Great Summer!

**REGISTER
NOW
FOR THE
2017 - 2018
SCHOOL YEAR**

★
*Current Programming:
Part Day & Full Day options
for ages 2 to 5. FFC Members
receive a discount on
Preschool tuition.*

OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Executive Board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in FFC's Life Together Center Boardroom)

MODERATOR Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel, Jr.

VICE-MODERATOR Michael VerKuilen

Class of 2017

Fiona O'Laughlin, (PCUSA); Allan Hedeman, (UCC); Ralph Schoen, (PCUSA); Mike VerKuilen, (UCC)

Class of 2018

Elizabeth Allen, (UCC); David Bailey, (PCUSA); Kent Kowalske, (UCC); Theresa Pfeiffer, (PCUSA)

Class of 2019

Nancy Amos, (PCUSA); Rebecca Frankel Clifton, (UCC); Dana Hobson, (PCUSA); Cheryl Resnick, (UCC)

OUR BOARD OF DEACONS

(Board of Deacons meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in FFC's Life Together Center Trinity Room)

MODERATOR Roberta Schroff

STAFF LIAISON Rev. Stephen Barch

Class of 2017

Jim Christopher, Marianne Klisares, Helen Nixon, John Nixon, Kim Predmore, Jessica Sheley,
Joyce Smith, Lauren Sokn

Class of 2018

Rick Snarr, Sally Stone, Vicki Bailey, Carol Nelson, and Barb Hein

Class of 2019

Donna Bantis, Ted Bantis, Kay Hulin, Bob Montgomery, Roberta Schroff, Carol Sleeth, Sheila Snarr
and Trish Fordyce

Keep In Touch

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Whether you are heading off to your college campus, your first apartment, your vacation home or are downsizing and moving to a smaller place, please let us know.

You may need to update your:

- **Phone number:** Have you gotten rid of that land line? Do you have a cell; may we text you?
- **Address:** street number, city, state and zip
- **Email:** double check that we have your current email?

Do you want to be included on the 1stNews and Prayer Bulletin list?

Contact the church office - you may give us a call, drop us a note or send us an email to update your information.

☎ 309-685-5258, x.10 ✉ cwalter@ffcpeoria.com





Glimpses of Grace . . . Pentecost in a Tornado

Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel, Jr.

Many years ago, when I was a boy on the cusp of my teenage years, I was in an F-3 tornado. It was on a warm, humid late summer-early fall afternoon shortly after school let out for the day. With a few other students I hung around after school because my mother was attending a meeting. About a half an hour later the sky began to darken as thunderheads rolled in from the northwest and the temperature dropped. A welcomed breeze carried the salty refreshing smell of a summer rain. Large drops soon fell lazily from the sky, then, just as suddenly, they turned into pellets of hail as the winds picked up. Suddenly, without warning, what was a summer thunderstorm turned into a violent swirling wind. I did not hear the deafening train-like roar that is often used to describe tornados. I didn't hear anything at all but instinct took over as I ran down a hallway dragging a smaller boy by the hand. I later learned that the silence I experienced was due to the tornado's vacuum effect as it touched down near me.

Within a matter of seconds, the tornado passed but not before destroying my elementary school and a few nearby homes. It's destruction was precise and life-changing. The school was rebuilt, bigger and better than

before. So were the homes. But for close to two decades afterward my heart would skip a beat or two whenever a late summer thunderstorm would roll in.

I think of that afternoon whenever I read the story of the Holy Spirit's descent upon the disciples at Pentecost. "And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind" the writer said. Touched by the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were forever changed. Previously fearful, they were emboldened. They left the safety of the place where they huddled and charged into the world proclaiming the life changing message of God's forgiving love in Jesus Christ.

The life changing power of the Holy Spirit continues to descend upon us "like a violent wind" bringing new life and new possibilities as old structures and ways of doing things are changed, transformed, and remodeled into the likeness of the Kingdom of God. Individuals are also changed; "reborn" from the likeness of the "old Adam" into the image of Christ living into our "adoption" of children of God and heirs of the Kingdom. This transformation is a glimpse of grace.

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You can find this and other Glimpses at <https://flkrummel.wordpress.com/>





First Federated Church of Peoria
www.ffcpeoria.com

A Federated Church of
Presbyterian Church (USA) and
United Church of Christ.



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FFC 2017 SUMMER CAMPS

WE ARE PREPARING FOR A SUMMER OF FUN AT OUR SUMMER CAMPS!

- Our Summer Camps offer activities for ages 2 years old to 10 years to keep your child active, learning, and entertained through the summer months.
- We will plan each week around a different theme, like Camping, Princesses and Superheroes, Science, and Sports.
- We will also take several field trips as well. Snacks and lunch are included. Our weekly themes will be available soon!
- Our Summer Camps begin the week of June 5th, and end on Friday, July 28th, closed for the 4th of July.

If you are interested in FFC Summer Camps please use this QR code to visit our website. Pricing information and a registration form are available as downloads. Spots are reserved on a first come first serve basis. We will enroll until we are full.



If you have any questions please contact Kathie at 309-685-5258, X-18 or kharms@ffcpeoria.com.



Plan NOW to become a part of our *LIFE TOGETHER!*



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Welcome

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