



Our Life Together

As We Make Disciples Through . . .



Worship,
as we praise and glorify God.



Missions,
*as we embody God's love
in the world around us.*

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

We will celebrate Communion at both the 8:00 and 10:00 am services on Sunday, January 7th.

JANUARY WE CELEBRATE

Epiphany (January 6th)

This date commemorates the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi.

The Baptism of Christ (January 7th)

Jesus seeks out John the Baptist and is baptized in order to fulfill all righteousness.

INSTALLATION SUNDAY

Sunday, January 7th at the 10:00 am service we will celebrate the installation of our new church servants.

FFC'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CATALOG

This year's Christmas catalog featured 12 local FFC Mission concerns. Several of our catalog recipients were able to share information during worship services in December. Next month we hope to share our totals.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Our annual fundraiser for Midwest Food Bank will be held Sunday, February 4th in our Fellowship Hall.

Hearty soups and bread will be served.

Enter a soup in our judging! There will be two prizes given: the Peoples Choice Award and the Judges Choice Award. You can't win if you don't enter!

See page 3 for further details.

Teaching,
*as we explore what it means
to be a follower of Jesus.*



Fellowship,
*as we love and care
for one another.*



LOGOS IN JANUARY

- Our Children's Mid-Week Ministry Program, LOGOS, will be held Wednesday evenings in January.
- Each night features a meal, recreation, Bible activity and music.
- Our Children's Ministry Director, Jessica Sheley, is preparing a mailing, the event is open to all. For registration or contact information, see page 6.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

- Following our 10:00 am worship service each Sunday in the Commons;
- Friends and families gather to catch up and plan to get together in the coming week.
- All are welcome to serve as hosts. Please see page 7 for information on signing up for this ministry and see other ways to serve.



First Federated Church of Peoria

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



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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

Glimpse of Grace



Frosty

"Relevance"

January is the month of our anniversary. When we were married in First Presbyterian Church in 1977, the air temperature was 20 plus below zero. Needless to say, no one decorated our "get-away" car! The reception was held in the church's fellowship hall. It was alcohol free. Sue's grandmother, Maree Davis, who was the matriarch of the church's catering kitchen, had to give up the reins of control because Sue wanted her to be "Grandmother." I imagine that it was hard for ol'

Maree, but Sue was her only granddaughter. (When Sue was a little girl the FPC church kitchen was almost a second home, as she frequently helped her grandmother make finger sandwiches in that kitchen for various church and outside group functions.)

In 1977 brides always registered for wedding gifts. Many a future husband were "dragged along" to pick out china, crystal and silver which was often seldom if ever used. Couples may have gotten a silver table setting from one person and a second from another. The goal and hope was always that you received at least eight complete settings of china, crystal, and silver.

No more. Today's wedding registries are more practical everyday and speciality items. Things like dish-washer safe and heat-resistant silicone for the kitchens, heavy-duty, long-lasting pots and pans, and non-stick bakeware. Flatware has replaced silver. At the high-end of the registry, there are gourmet knife sets.

This is not better or worse than when we got married. It is just different. One of the challenges that churches face today is how to be indigenous to the culture around them in language, technology, and style. Church sociologists say that in many ways the 21st century Western Church finds itself in a situation not unlike that of the First Century Church. Our challenge is to wrestle with how to "baptize" the culture in which we find ourselves and tell the message of God's Love seen in Jesus Christ. There are no easy answers. If there were, every congregation would have a thousand active members.

"Relevance" means that the church has to know who they are and who they are not. For over a quarter of a century the church has found that it cannot compete with school and sports, especially travel and club teams. The church's mission or purpose is unique to it. We are in the "business" of spiritual formation. And, we must wrestle with the question of "Why"; why should someone commit to this church instead of that church.

See Simon Sinek's Ted Talk at:
http://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action

It is only by answering this most difficult of all questions that any congregation can become a true glimpse of grace.

May you recognize God's Grace in your life throughout 2018.

A Message From an FFC Christmas Catalog Recipient

I never know how to let First Federated know what they have done for us. We always talk about First Federated and I can't pass the corner of War and Sheridan without thinking about you and being grateful for your support.

I see how many charities you help in our area and feel that is so important to all of us. First Federated has made a difference for us and for the Peoria community. I have learned about other-non profits doing great work here because of this catalog and know we are all very grateful to you.

(When we visit) I also feel like when we visit we are meeting friends, not just donors. People come up to us, ask specific questions, ask about our recipients and really seem to really care about what we do.

Thank you again, so much. We are very honored to be a part of this program.

Donna Kosner

PAWS Giving Independence



FFC's Souper Bowl Sunday

All Proceeds go to Midwest Food Bank



Sunday, February 4th, following the 10:00 am worship service in our Fellowship Hall

\$6 per adult, \$4 per child, or \$20 for a family

Soup Judging!

Enter a favorite soup in our soup judging

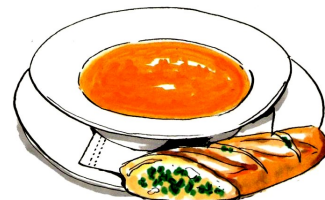
Two winners will be chosen: People's Choice and Judge's Choice.

Win bragging rights for the year!

Make Your Reservation!

Use the sign up sheet at the reception desk.

Visit our website: <http://www.ffcpeoria.com/ffcs-souper-bowl-sunday/>



Ongoing FFC Missions

Snack Packs for Whittier Primary School

- Packing weekend snacks for children
- Volunteers gather each Thursday morning at 8:45 am
- Warehouse of the Life Together Center.

Box Tops for Education

- The collection box is across from the reception desk.
- The Box Tops are delivered to Thomas Jefferson School.

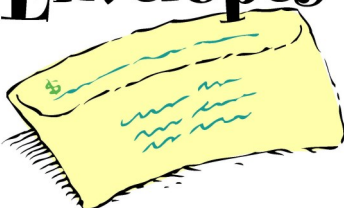
Friendship House Food Pantry

- 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.

Offering Envelopes



DID YOU REQUEST OFFERING ENVELOPES?

- Your requested 2018 offering envelopes are now available on a table just behind the reception desk.
- If you wish to request 2018 offering envelopes there is a sign-up sheet on the table with the envelopes.

Fellowship, as we love and care for one another.

Our Church Family ~ A Matter of Record

Baptism

- December 10th, Louis Easton Malerich, parents are Emily and Thomas Malerich, big brother is Thomas.

Completed This Part of Life

- December 7th, Ruth Chatham

*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.*

Church Membership

Welcome To Our Church Family

- 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, X102.



Church Fellowship Groups

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 through the church office.

EVENT: Saturday, January 20th, 6:00 pm at The Fish House at 4919 N. University, Peoria
To make your reservation contact Judy Thompson at 309-635-7280.

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. For more information about the group or events, please contact Rev. Zach Lysdahl at 309-685-5258, X-12 or zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com.

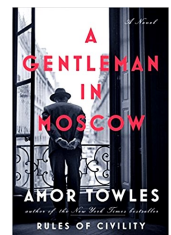
EVENT: Look for a February event to be announced soon!

KNITTING / CROCHETING MINISTRY ▪ The next meeting is Tuesday, January 2nd, at 9:00 am in the Memorial Lounge. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Alice Racine through the church office.

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

FIRST FEDERATED WOMEN'S CLUB ▪ The Women's Club will meet Wednesday, January 24th at noon. This month our program will be presented by Patti Bash and is entitled "Loaves and Fishes." Lunch will be served. Membership is open to all women of First Federated Church. For more information you may contact Women's Club President, Barb Hein through the church office.

THE FFC BOOK CLUB ▪ The club will meet Saturday, January 27th, at 10:00 am at the North Branch of Peoria Public Library (3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria, Illinois 61615). The book for the combined November/December gathering will be A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.



With the dawn of a new year we offer prayers of thanksgiving for members whose terms on our Executive Board and Board of Deacons draw to a close.

The Executive Board, Class of 2017 included Fiona O'Laughlin, Al Hedeman, Ralph Schoen and Mike VerKuilen.

Fiona O'Laughlin served the Board most ably as its secretary / clerk and as the co-moderator of our Finance Committee. She managed to balance a career at Caterpillar with the responsibilities of being a wife and attentive mother to the demands of a family along with the responsibilities of having a major role on the Executive Board. Quiet by nature she often asked penetrating questions that got to the heart of a matter.

Al Hedeman was a steady hand who brought insight and wisdom to all of the Board's discussions. He served on the Congregational Life committee as well as the Worship committee. A faithful member of the United Church of Christ, Al frequently reported on the concerns and actions of the UCC.

Ralph Schoen, a former Vice Moderator, he has been the voice of experience. A student in leadership he has proved invaluable insight into the work of the Pulpit and Staff Committee.

Mike VerKuilen served in a variety of roles during his time on the Board; moderator of the Mission Committee, Building and Grounds and finally as Vice Moderator. A well self-defined leader he tackled difficult subjects with ease and grace. As with all of the retiring members of the Board, his commitment to being a disciple of Jesus serving wherever he was most needed was an example to us all.

Our Board of Deacons is the heart and hands of our ministry within the congregation. Deacons, whose term of office draws to a close are Jim Christopher, Marianne Klisares, Helen Nixon, John Nixon, Kim Predmore, Jessica Sheley, Joyce Smith, and Lauren Sokn.

Jim has faithfully and carefully shepherded our residents at Lutheran Hillside Village. Despite battling his own illness he has been a conscience steward of our members who reside on that campus.

Marianne has been a caring soul not only of the members under her watchful but as a Deacon ministering to families at the time of the death of their loved ones. Her quiet strength has been a blessing to many.

Helen has served in whatever capacity she has been needed. It was once said of another that were a person to be found when needed, and a blessing when found. She, too, is a steady hand of ministry.

John has the natural heart of a Deacon and was well equipped by his profession to fulfill his vocation. He was the first to go to the hospital when called and on call with cautious expert medical advice. He told the ministerial staff that they can call on him at any time to help in any medical emergency.

Kim has a sense of humor that can break the tension in any and all situations. A no-nonsense kind of woman she has a genuine servant's heart and reaches out to any and all in need.

Jessica has touched the lives of many of our young families. Her easy winning smile and quiet demeanor brings a calming affect to everyone she ministered.

Joyce has the wisdom that comes with experience and the tenderness that comes from a career in nursing. Always calm and determined in her ministry she has also been a friendly voice and face at the reception desk and a ready volunteer whenever the ministry of a Deacon was needed.

Lauren brought a single-minded dedication and cared for "her" flock. Like several of our younger Deacons she balanced the responsibilities of wife, mother, professional and the ministerial duties that go with being a Deacon. A woman of deep faith she touched the lives of many.

First Federated Church has been truly blessed by each one of these individuals whose current term of service draws to a close.

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant.

Executive Board

(The 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** Kent Kowalske

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)

Class of 2020

Debbie Dornaus, (PCUSA); El Higus, (PCUSA); Bridget Mattson, (UCC); Hank Stone, (UCC)

Board of Deacons

(The Board of Deacons meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in FFC's Life Together Center Trinity Room)

Class of 2018

Barb Hein, Carol Nelson, Roberta Schroff, Rick Snarr, Sally Stone, Pat Fenoglia, Al Hedeman

Class of 2019

Vicki Bailey, Trish Fordyce, Kay Hulin, Carol Sleeth, Sheila Snarr, Ronalee DeNoble, Jerri Varnold

Nominating Committee

Class of 2018

Jill Koch, John Morris, Ron Silver, Kim Snarr

Class of 2019

Laura Kowalske, John Mooney, Robin Simpson, Linda Sahn

Clerk of the Congregation

Suzanne Mooney

Teaching, as we explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Children's Ministry

COMING UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Memory Verse: "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)

Life App: Commitment – Making a plan and putting it into practice

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what

Sunday, January 7th:

Bible Story: Rock on – Matthew 7:24-27

Bottom Line: Practice hearing and doing what God says

Sunday, January 14th:

Bible Story: Living on a prayer – Luke 11:1-14

Bottom Line: Practice praying in God

Sunday, January 21st:

Bible Story: Who are you? – Matthew 16:13-20

Bottom Line: Practice talking about God

Sunday, January 28th:

Bible Story: Pennies from Heaven – Mark 12:41-44

Bottom Line: Practice living for God



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS - 2ND SEMESTER PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, January 7th, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, Creation Station on the 2nd floor

- Lunch will be served, Please plan on attending this special meeting.
- Questions? Contact Jessica Sheley.

Jessica Sheley ♦ 309-685-5258 X-105 ✉ jsheley@ffcpeoria.com

Junior Highs (6th - 8th Graders)

Junior High Sunday School

- **January series: "Know God"**
- This month in Sunday school, the junior high students will complete a four week series about the unique and sometimes unexpected things we can do to truly know God better.

Junior High Event ~ Movie Night!

- **Friday, January 19th, 6 pm**
- Dinner and a movie, 3rd floor, Junior High room
- RSVP to Rev. Zach at zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com

Confirmation Worship Retreat

Sunday, February 11th,
11:15 am ~ 4:00 pm
Garden Room, LTC

- Please wear your t-shirt!



Senior Highs (9th - 12th Graders)

Senior High Sunday School /Fellowship Sunday Evenings

- **Next gathering - Sunday, January 7th, 5:30 to 7:00 pm**
- 3rd floor Youth Rooms
- Dinner will be provided.

Senior High Parent Volunteers Needed

Sunday Dinners For The Students

- All parents are invited to provide an evening meal.
- Please visit the Sign-Up genius to volunteer.
- Your choice, home-made or carry-out.
- This QR Code will take you to the website or <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e4caea728abfa7-sunday1>



Meditation Group

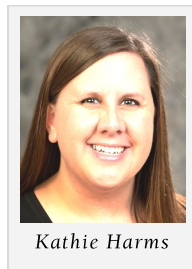
- Thursdays at 10:00 am
- Memorial Lounge
- Contact Ann Voll for information at 309-691-1781 or avoll@comcast.net.

Off Campus Bible Studies

Each Thursday at:

- Independence Village at 9:15 am
Led by Rev. Zach Lysdahl.
- Lutheran Hillside Village at 10:30 am
Led by Rev. Frosty Krummel.

The Preschools at FFC



Kathie Harms

January Events

Preschool Classes Resume

Tuesday, January 2nd

Enroll Now for the Spring Semester

Director, Kathie Harms ☎309-685-5258, x.108 📧kharms@ffcpeoria.com

Prayer Ministry ~ Pastoral Care

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.



Volunteering Time & 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 to the list of dates,
sign up for 1 or many,
we love having your
involvement!



First Federated Church of Peoria

www.ffcpeoria.com

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P 309-685-5258 • F 309-685-5451 • info@ffcpeoria.com



January Logos

WHAT IS LOGOS:

A mid-week program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade! Each night is a fun theme and dinner is included.

Wednesday evenings 5:30 – 7:00 pm
January 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st

Contact:

Jessica Sheley at jsheley@ffcpeoria.com for information.

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



First Federated Church of Peoria

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

Welcome

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Organist

Al Murphy

Preschool Director

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