

Life Together First Federated Church of Peoria

Vol.82 • No. 1 • February 2017

Lent Begins March 1st

- In March we begin the Church season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm on March 1 in the church sanctuary.
- There will be an imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them and we will celebrate the sacrament of communion.
- There will also be a series of Wednesday evening worship services at 6:30 pm with the sacrament of communion every week until Holy week.
- Worship with us at least once a week as we prepare to celebrate the very heart of the Christian faith Easter.

March Logos

- Wednesday evenings 5:30 7:00 pm
- March 8th, 15th 29th and April 5th
- LOGOS is a mid-week program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade!
- Each night is a fun theme and dinner is included.
- Contact: Kristen D'Alfonso at kdalfonso@ffcpeoria.com to register and watch your mail for registration information. Deadline to register: February 26th.

Welcome Gail Weghorst

Please help us in welcoming Gail Weghorst to the First Federated Church family.

Gail will fill the new position of Administrative Manager.

In her new role Gail will coordinate and supervise day to day operations and act as our events coordinator.

The leaving of Kim Snarr offered the opportunity to revisit FFC's staffing and administrative needs. The decision was made to create the new position referenced above. Approval was received from the Pulpit and Staff Committee and appropriate budgeting was put in place.

After screening a large number of resumes and completing personal interviews of the finalists, Gail accepted our offer to fill the new position.

Gail's most recent employment was about 20 years at CAT where her last responsibility was management of team of 12. Prior to her career at CAT Gail worked at the Convention and Tourist Bureau where she interacted with the Civic Center, City of Peoria, local businesses and meeting planners to promote Peoria.

Gail and her husband, Fred, along with Smokey, the cat who adopted them, live in Metamora. Much of their free time is devoted to house remodeling projects.

Next time you are at Church please say "hello" and introduce yourself to Gail.

Frosty Krummel, Senior Minister

Mike VerKuilen, Executive Board Vice Moderator and Moderator of Pulpit and Staff Committee



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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



One Sunday morning not too long ago, Helen Peterson, a member of the church, popped into my office to show me a beautiful shiny silver communion chalice. At first I didn't recognize it. Then she reminded me that she had taken it home and worked on it. She spent hours and a lot of elbow grease on the chalice. Before she took it home it appeared as if it was a silver plated

chalice and that most of the plating had worn off. But now...Wow. She restored it to its original beauty and glory.

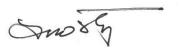
As I write this, the chalice is sitting on my desk. I am daily amazed at its beauty and richness. As I examine it, inside of the stem I find the stamp of the company that made it. It is unquestionably the "real deal."

At our baptism we are stamped by our Maker. As the Psalmist reminded us. "You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother's womb." (139:13 TEV) God

made us in the Divine image and stamped us with the impression of his Son. In life we lose our luster; we get beat up, dented and, at times, even cracked. But through an act of indescribable love, God finds us, cleans us up with a bit of polishing that comes with life experiences and restores us into that Divine image—the very image of Christ. This process is called by theologians, "Sanctification."

In February, the month of Valentines, flowers, candy, and love, may you be mindful of God's stamp on your life and may you celebrate God's workmanship as he restores you to your original beauty.

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





A Report From Our Treasurer

Blessings for 2017!

As we enter a new calendar year and fiscal year let me share with you what was accomplished in 2016 and plans for 2017.

From a purely financial perspective much positive progress has been made over the past three years. From a negative cash balance in our General Reserve Fund of \$32,829 at the end of 2014 to ending 2016 with a positive General Reserve Fund balance of \$334,096. During that time period we were also able to repay the entire balance of the outstanding loan from the Endowment Fund in the amount of \$129,000.

Our Ministry budget, approved by the Congregational meeting in November is not to exceed \$1, 282,446. On the income side we budgeted Pledges of \$675,000 and currently have pledges of \$647,394, not quite where we need to be, but I am confident that our goal will be reached.

The stated goal of the Treasurer and Executive Board remains growing the General Reserve Fund to an amount equivalent to one year's Ministry Budget.

The Endowment Fund of First Federated Church of Peoria ended 2016 with a cash value of \$1,794,223. Over the course of the next five years we need to grow that amount to \$10,000,000. At that valuation the interest and dividends of the Endowment Fund should finance the operational portion of the Ministry Budget. Annual pledges and gifts would cover the Mission, Christian Education and Outreach portion of our annual Ministry Budget. Granted, such a goal represents a stretch, but one I believe is attainable. During the next few months we will share more information regarding this endeavor.

All of these accomplishments resulted from the commitment and generosity of the First Federated Congregation. You

have been generous; I pray that we have been good stewards of that generosity.

As always, I welcome your comments, observations and questions.

Blessings for a Joyous 2017, Jeff Shelton Treasurer, First Federated Church



3 FFC Missions

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CATALOG

Because of your generous donations, First Federated Church was able to send out \$22,075 to the 12 local agencies which were listed in our Christmas Catalog.

These agencies were all so appreciative of your support, and the Mission Committee thanks you for reaching out to help these agencies meet the needs of our community.

Thank You!

\$	1,851.22	Center for the Prevention of Abuse
\$	1,000.00	Common Place Family Learning Center
\$	2056.22	Crittenton Centers
\$	4,347.90	ELITE Youth Program
\$	2,086.28	Goodwill of Central IL Veterans' Home
\$	1,131.28	Heartland Community Health Services
\$	1,000.00	Heddington Oaks Nursing Home
\$	1,504.58	Midwest Food Bank
\$	3,489.59	Paws Giving Independence
\$	988.75	Peoria Friendship House
\$	1,151.25	Peoria Public Schools Foundation
\$	<u>1,467.93</u>	South Side Mission
\$22,075.00		Total

Our Ongoing FFC Missions

SNACK PACK MINISTRY FOR WHITTIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Snack Pack Assembly, Thursday mornings at 9:00 am
- FFC's Life Together Center, Warehouse (Double doors at far West end facing parking lot)

SUPPLIES NEEDED

• Single serving packs of oatmeal, cheese & crackers, ramen, fruit cups, etc.

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.
- Collections 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.
- Collections bins are by the North door of the church & in the Narthex.

REMEMBER THE RUMMAGE SALE

Set Aside Those Donations - Collection Begins July 21st!

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, 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.

Watch the Sunday Home Edition and your 1stNews emails for further collection details.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Our build at 4100 N Prospect (across from Kaydee Kats Restaurant) is for a young woman named Kenya Beck.

Kenya is a single mother of one who has already put many service hours in at the ReStore.

Interested in volunteering? There is a signup sheet across from the reception desk or you may call (309-685-5258) or email (info@ffcpeoria.com) and you will be put in touch with Mike. All of Mike's updates are also posted on the 1stNews.



Kenva & son

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.

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!



Our Next New Member Sunday is Sunday, March 19th

- 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.

Our Church Family

MATTER OF RECORD COMPLETED THIS PART OF LIFE

- ❖ January 20th, Frank Hutt
- ❖ January 27th, Joan Kirkwood

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 Fellowship Groups

FFC SOFTBALL

Are you interested in playing softball on our FFC team? If so, then please contact Paul Resnick through the church at info@ffcpeoria.com. We are a co-ed, slow pitch softball team in our fifth season, playing in a church league at Northminster Presbyterian Church on North Knoxville. We plan on playing on Sunday nights with the league starting in May and running through early August. Our softball team is a great way for some good fellowship. We hope you can join us!

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 the church at info@ffcpeoria.com.

Event: Save the date - March 18th! More details to come!

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.

Event: Tapas, Conversation and a Scavenger Hunt, Friday, February 3rd, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, Gather in the Great Hall. Please bring a Tapas styled dish or two to pass for dinner. Please bring your beverage of choice. Please RSVP to Zach Lysdahl zlysdahl@ffcpoeria.com

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 next meet on **Tuesday, April 4th, at 9:00 am in the Memorial Lounge.** If you are interested or have questions, please contact Alice Racine through the church at info@ffcpeoria.com.

OLD BUDDIES BREAKFAST

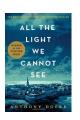
The next gathering of the "Old Buddies," a men's fellowship group that meets for breakfast and fellowship, will be **Tuesday, February 21st, 8:30 am Lutheran Hillside Village, private dining room**.

FFC WOMEN'S CLUB

The Women's Club will meet **Wednesday, February 22nd, at 12 noon in the Commons**. Hooray for Hollywood - Then and Now, An Oscar Party with all the trimmings! Lunch will be served. All ladies of the congregation are welcome. Please call club president Becky Clifton through the church at info@ffcpeoria.com.with any questions.

THE FFC BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets **Saturday, February 25th, at 10:00 am at the North Branch of Peoria Public Library** (3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria, Illinois 61615). The book for February is <u>All The Light We Cannot See</u> By Anthony Doerr.



Wednesday, February 1st

1:30 pm Staff Meeting, Memorial Lounge

Thursday, February 2nd

8:45 am Snack Pack Assembly, Warehouse

9:15 am Independence Village Bible Study, IV Community Room

10:00 am Meditation Group, Lifetree Room

10:15am Lutheran Hillside Village Bible Study, LHV Private Dining room

6:15 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Friday, February 3rd

6:00 pm Young Families Group Event, Great Hall

Saturday, February 4th

6:00 pm FFC Youth Group Lock in, Senior High Rooms

Sunday, February 5th

8:00 am Worship, Chapel
10:00 am Worship, Sanctuary

11:00 am Souper Bowl Meal, Fellowship Hall

5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group, Senior High Room

Monday, February 6th

12:45 pm The Story Bible Study, Lifetree Room

Tuesday, February 7th

4:30 pm Missions Committee Meeting, Boardroom

Wednesday, February 8th

1:30 pm Staff Meeting, Memorial Lounge

6:15 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting, Boardroom

Thursday, February 9th

8:45 am Snack Pack Assembly, Warehouse

9:15 am Independence Village Bible Study, /V Community Room

10:00 am Meditation Group, Lifetree Room

10:15am Lutheran Hillside Village Bible Study, LHV Private Dining room

6:15 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Friday, February 10th

5:30 pm Junior High Bowling, Peoria Christian Center

Saturday, February 11th

Sunday, February 12th

8:00 am Worship, Chapel

9:00 am Finance Committee Meeting, Triebel Study

10:00 am Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 am Fellowship, Commons

11:00 am Confirmation: Worship Retreat, Garden Room
5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group, Senior High Room

Monday, February 13th

12:45 pm The Story Bible Study, Lifetree Room

6:00 pm Building & Grounds Committee Meeting, Boardroom

Tuesday, February 14th - Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 15th

1:30 pm Staff Meeting, Memorial Lounge

6:30 pm FFC Board of Deacon's Meeting, *Trinity Room*6:30 pm FFC Executive Board Meeting, *Boardroom*

Thursday, February 16th

8:45 am Snack Pack Assembly, Warehouse

9:15 am Independence Village Bible Study, /V Community Room

10:00 am Meditation Group, Lifetree Room

10:15am Lutheran Hillside Village Bible Study, LHV Private Dining room

6:15 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Friday, February 17th

Saturday, February 18th

Sunday, February 19th

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

Monday, February 20th

12:45 pm The Story Bible Study, Lifetree Room

Tuesday, February 21st

8:30 am Old Buddies Breakfast, Lutheran Hillside Village, Private Dining room

Wednesday, February 22nd

12:00 pm FFC Women's Club, Commons
1:30 pm Staff Meeting, Memorial Lounge

Thursday, February 23rd

8:45 am Snack Pack Assembly, Warehouse

9:15 am Independence Village Bible Study, IV Community Room

10:00 am Meditation Group, Lifetree Room

10:15am Lutheran Hillside Village Bible Study, LHV Private Dining room

6:15 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Friday, February 24th

Saturday, February 25th

10:00 am The FFC Book Club, Peoria Public Library North Branch

Sunday, February 26th - Pretzel Prayer 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

Monday, February 27th

12:45 pm The Story Bible Study, Lifetree Room

Tuesday, February 28th

COMING UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL *Kindergarten – 5th Grade*

Memory Verse: "Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give

his life to pay for our sins." 1 John 4:10 (NIrV)

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Life App: Love - choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated.

Sunday, February 5th: Children will make valentines in their Sunday school classes.

Sunday, February 12th: Children will deliver valentines to the residents of Buehler Home.

Sunday, February 19th: "Power of Love"

Bible Story: Power of Love (No greater love) ● *John 15:12-13*

Bottom Line: Love others because Jesus loves you.

Sunday, February 26th: "Storm Tamer"

Bible Story: Storm Tamer (Jesus calms the storm) • Mark 4:35-41 (Supporting: Matthew 8:23-27)

Bottom Line: Comfort others who are hurting.



VALENTINES TO BUEHLER

On Sunday, February 12th, our Sunday school children will deliver valentines to our neighbors at Buehler Home during Sunday school.

PRETZEL PRAYER SUNDAY

Sunday, February 26th Children will make pretzels and focus on the meaning of prayer and Lent during Sunday School.



Junior High (6th - 8th Grades)

Rev. Zach Lysdahl ☎309-685-5258 X-12 🏕 zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com

JUNIOR HIGH - THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month in Sunday school:

"JUDGMENT CALL"

We all have opinions.

Most of the time, we feel very strongly about those opinions.

There are some things we just love. We love to talk about them and how much we love them.

But more than that, there are things we love to hate. When it comes to talking about things we don't like, we could go on and on and on!

The truth is, we love to judge things.

We make judgment calls all the time, and not just about things like movies, or restaurants, or sports, or music. We judge other people, and we judge ourselves

The problem with making those kinds of judgments is that they typically end up being more hurtful than helpful. When it comes to looking at ourselves and others, our lens for judgment is flawed.

God can change all that! In this series we'll take a look at the way God calls us to look at the things and people around us. And when we apply His lens for judgment, we'll find that the way we see both ourselves and other people will be changed.



2017 CONFIRMATION

Worship Retreat February 12th

- 11:00 am to 3:30 pm
- Life Together Center, Garden Room
- Don't forget to wear your t-shirt!

THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

"I'M IN"

"Are you in?" It's a question we all answer over and over again.

When there's a party, when our coach says it's time for tryouts, when we're offered a summer job, when our friends go to the movies, or when someone invites us to church, we all have the chance to decide if we're "in" or "out" for that particular activity.

Sometimes the answer is an easy, "Count me in!" Other times it's tougher. There are good reasons on both sides.

Some of Jesus' friends were faced with the same decision of whether they were "in" or "out." They had good reasons to join the Jesus movement, but they also had some pretty compelling reasons to step out - things like doubt, guilt, pride, and the fear of what they might miss.

As we get to know these sometimes famous and devoted followers, we'll talk about the decision they faced, why they could have walked away, and what led them to say, "I'm in.

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.

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!

STRONGHOLD SENIOR HIGH RETREAT

Friday, March 3rd; Saturday, March 4th; Sunday, March 5th

- The Senior Highs are working with their advisers to make this year's Stronghold retreat truly memorable.
- If you are in 8th grade, our confirmation class or in high school, it is not too late to set the date aside.
- For more information contact the church office.

Adult Christian Education

"THE STORY", A BIBLE STUDY

- Mondays, 12:45 to 2:00 pm
- Lifetree Room at FFC's Life Together Center
- There will no Bible study January 2nd.
- Led by Rev. Steve Barch

MEDITATION GROUP

- Thursdays at 10:00 am
- FFC's Life Together Center, Lifetree Room
- Questions? Contact Ann Voll, through the church at info@ffcpeoria.com or 309-685-5258.

"OFF CAMPUS" BIBLE STUDIES

- Bring a Bible and an open and inquisitive mind. A sense of humor doesn't hurt.
- These are open to everyone not only the residents; please give us a call if you plan to attend, 309-685-5258.

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.

Director, Kathie Harms 2309-685-5258, x.18 tharms@ffcpeoria.com

The Preschools at FFC





FEBRUARY EVENTS

Preschool Valentine Parties! See the sign-up sheet outside your child's classroom

2016 - 2017 SCHOOL YEAR

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

PRESCHOOL
REGISTRATION
BEGINS FOR THE
2017 - 2018
SCHOOL YEAR

FEBRUARY 13TH CURRENT FAMILIES

FEBRUARY 27TH
NEW FAMILIES





3601 North Sheridan Road, Peoria, Illinois 61604 ◆ P 309-685-5258 ◆ F 309-685-5451 ◆ info@ffcpeoria.com

Young Families Event Tapas, Conversation and a Scavenger Hunt

- Friday, February 3rd
- 6:00 to 7:30 pm
- Gather in the Great Hall
- Bring a Tapas styled dish or two to pass for dinner.
- Bring the beverage of your choice.
- RSVP by February 1st to Zach Lysdahl at zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com
- The Scavenger Hunt will be held in the church from 7:00 to 7:30pm.
- A tasty prize will be award to the first family to complete the hunt.

FFC'S Souper Bowl Sunday

All Proceeds go to Midwest Food Bank



- Sunday, February 5th
- · Following the 10:00 am worship service
- Fellowship Hall
- \$6 per adult, \$4 per child, or \$20 for a family
- 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!
- Use this QR code to sign-up on-line.



Plan NOW to become a part of our LIFE TOGETHER!



Welcome

LIFE TOGETHER (USPS 110-900) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH, 3601 N SHERIDAN ROAD, PEORIA, IL 61604 PERIODICALS—POSTAGE PAID - PEORIA, ILLINOIS POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH, 3601 N SHERIDAN ROAD, PEORIA IL 61604

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