

Life Together

First Federated Church of Peoria

Vol. 81

No. 11

November 2016

All Saints' Day

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH
8 AND 10 AM SERVICES

*Blessed in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints.
(Psalm 116:15)*

Join us for All Saints' Day during worship on November 6th as we recall those saints of First Federated Church who passed to the Church Triumphant this past year.

Worshippers will also have the opportunity to light a memorial votive candle in memory of a loved one.



Giving
Thanks

All Church Dedication & Lunch

Sunday, November 13th, following 10 am worship in the Great Hall

Join us in worship as we dedicate our pledges for 2017 followed by a celebratory catered lunch.

Reservations for lunch due by Friday, November 4th

See sign-up sheet at reception desk, sign up online, use this QR with your smart phone or go to our website: ffcpeoria.com



Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual meeting of First Federated Church, Peoria, Illinois, will be on Sunday, November 20th, 2016, following the 10:00 am worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

1. Receive the report of the Nominating Committee;
2. The election of officers;
3. The approval of the 2017 annual budget, as presented by the Executive Board; and
4. Other business related to the above items.



Gingerbread House Party

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 5:00 PM, FFC'S LIFE TOGETHER CENTER

Get a great start to the Advent season with your children or grandchildren at our annual Gingerbread House Party. This event includes an awesome homemade dinner and gingerbread house decorating.

Your only cost is to bring a bag of decorating candy to share and a canned good for Friendship House's food pantry.

See sign-up sheet at reception desk, sign up online, use this QR with your smart phone or go to our website: ffcpeoria.com so we know how many houses to bake and how much food to prepare.



BAKERS NEEDED: Gather in 2nd floor kitchen

ALL ARE WELCOME:

Sunday, November 6th: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Sunday, November 13th: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Sunday, November 20th: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Monday, November 21st: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

SENIOR HIGH BAKING:

Sunday, November 6th: 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Sunday, November 13th: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

DOUGH BOY BAKING: See page 11 for more information!

Saturday, November 19th: 9:00 - 11:00 am

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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 months 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



By Robin Simpson

(FFC member for 22 years, Class of 2016 Executive Board member, Youth Group volunteer)

Why First Federated is where I choose to worship

When asked why I attend First Federated, it is simple, my children. Anyone that knows me at all, knows that I love my children! I am incredibly proud of the people they are and how they have chosen to live in their everyday life.

I believe in our mission statement that we are charged to go out and make new disciples.

I think we do this very well with our children. My children were baptized here. My children have grown up here. They both feel that these walls are their home and these people are their family. You have all had some part in their spiritual development. I thank you for that.

They have met mentors, teachers, and great friends here. When they talk about some of their best memories, it always includes times from First Federated. From Sunday school, VBS, mission trips, Stronghold, and youth group. They have all shaped parts of the strong faith foundation that are important parts of their personalities.

They have some of their very best friends from First Federated. It is who they text on a daily basis, who they choose to keep in contact with, and it is those who continually reach out to them.

I am told often that I have wonderful children. I always respond that I am blessed. Without their relationships with God, that has been nurtured at First Federated, I believe that they would not have the strong foundation that they take out into the world.

I have seen how they take that foundation out into the world. It is evident in how they encounter others, handle joys and disappointments. It gives them strength when they are challenged, grace when they falter, comfort when they feel despair, and thanksgiving when they have joy. It has created the basis for their decisions, on how they choose to do life.

I know next year as my youngest spreads his wings and goes off to college, I will continue to attend First Federated to grow in my own faith journey as we are all disciples in progress.

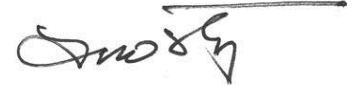
First Federated is not just a place for us to go on Sunday morning to attend church, it is where we connect, are spiritually fed, and grow in our faith journey with our family.

STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 13TH

In this season of Thanksgiving we are called to reflect upon the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us. As a part of our response to God's blessings we dedicate a percentage of our income to the ministry of First Federated Church. By telling us how much you intend to financially dedicate to our ministries our Executive Board is able to more accurately prepare a 2017 budget that they will ask the congregation to approve.

During both worship services on November 13th you will be asked to dedicate your 2017 pledge. In this issue of Life Together two members of our Executive Board tell us how First Federated Church touched their life and why they make their financial commitment to our continued ministry.



By Michael VerKuilen

(FFC member for 10 years, Class of 2017 Executive Board member, All Around Nice Guy)

Why First Federated is where I choose to worship

My first visit to First Federated was during the Christmas season. We have a beautiful sanctuary especially when it is decorated for Christmas. Frosty gave one of his fabulous sermons and threw in some of his quirky humor. The choir was great and we sang lots of Christmas songs. I enjoyed it very much. What made me stay, though, was Missions.

I was born into a UCC church in Wisconsin, and my mom signed me up for volunteer work all the time. I rebelled a bit at first, but after a while I found that is just what our congregation did. Now I find that if I am not active beyond coming to church services, I am not really fulfilling my responsibilities to my faith.

The next Spring, I heard that the congregation was organizing to help build a Habitat House on Seneca Place. I thought that sounded like fun, and my wife would be the first to tell you that I have too much free time anyway. From there, I was hooked. I got to know Frosty and Darren Hoffman and the Kowalskes and the Calders, and then I worked with Donna Hoerr on a missions funding idea for Mombasa setting up a booth selling art at a farmers market. It didn't make much money, but we had fun. From there, Donna talked me into joining the Missions committee where I got to meet Sally and Marylee and Linda and all my other Mission friends.

One of my favorite memories was going on a Mission trip with Daren and his dad, Jim. Jim's group from Missouri and ours from FFC joined forces to build a Habitat house in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. We had a great time and I got to know many people in the congregation that I now call friends. We eventually joined Jim and his team for three Habitat builds down south, and are looking for more opportunities in the future.

It has been my privilege to serve as Missions chair for six of the past seven years. Working side by side with families building their homes for Habitat has been very rewarding. Traveling to Mombasa to visit the Boys home we support may be the most unnerving thing I've ever done, but it very much confirmed my support for the mission. I also got to know my pastor very well!

We as a congregation have another opportunity to build a Habitat House. We will be building for a young woman named Kenya Beck. Kenya is a single mother of one with a good job, and has already put many service hours in at the Habitat ReStore on Main. We will hopefully be starting the build in November. Kenya is very excited to help. This is a great opportunity for you to get involved and give back to your community. We also have volunteer opportunities in our Snack Pack program benefiting children at Whittier School. Please help me in demonstrating our commitment to Missions in our community and the world.

The Word

Last month I wrote about the first component of the Lord's Day Service, The Gathering, in the church newsletter. If you recall The Gathering has six parts to it: Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Hymn, Confession and Pardon, The Peace, and another Hymn. The second component of the Lord's Day Service is The Word and it too has quite a few pieces. The first is the Prayer for Illumination. This prayer is offered before the reading of the Bible. The intention behind the prayer is to seek the illumination of the Holy Spirit and to call upon God to make us receptive to the life-giving Word (Jesus Christ) through the Holy Scriptures.

Following the Prayer for Illumination is the reading of the Bible. The First Reading is usually an Old Testament text. One of the first 39 books of the Bible. Up next is a Psalm. It can be read or sung and with the talented Mr. Russel Boulton leading us in worship we often hear it sung. After the Psalm is the Second Reading, which is often an Epistle (a letter written by Paul or another New Testament writer). Lastly, a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) text is read. So how are the readings selected for each service? First Federated Church follows what is called the Lectionary. The Lectionary is a guide for reading through the Bible in a three year period. Each year is given a letter: A, B, C. We are currently in year C and soon we will be in A. Thus, the texts read each Sunday are not randomly picked, but thoughtfully selected and in doing so the entire Bible is heard.

Next is The Sermon. The Sermon is designed to communicate to us that the God who speaks in the Bible speaks to us now. The God who has acted in biblical history acts now. Also, another intention of The Sermon is to share with us the presences of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit who offers to us all grace and calls us all into obedience. So The Sermon helps us see God's presence and activity in us and the world.

After The Sermon comes The Invitation. The Invitation is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to make or renew his or her personal commitment to Christ and his kingdom. This doesn't happen much so it rarely makes it into the order of worship on a regular basis, but it is still an important part of the worship service.

Then a Hymn is sung. This Hymn usually relates to The Scripture readings of the day or leads to the Prayers of the People, Baptism, or a Pastoral Rite that might follow.

After the Hymn one of two things may happen. There can be either an Affirmation of Faith or a Baptism. The Affirmation may be done individually or corporately. If it is done corporately it is often done via the Nicene Creed or Apostle's Creed. Whether individually or corporately the point of Affirmation is to give an assent to the faith in the words of the Creed. The other is Baptism. Baptism is an act of the whole church. It is to be celebrated within the context of corporate worship. Baptism itself is a sign and seal of God's self-giving, by which God's grace is made available to us. It is also the primary sign of the covenant of grace God so mercifully gives.

Coming after Affirmation or Baptism is the Pastoral Rite of The Church. In this piece of liturgy those who have previously been baptized may make public their profession of faith for the first time, reaffirm the covenant into which were baptized, or transfer their membership. It is also a time for those who are installed as church officers, those commissioned for service in and to the church may be included here. Another way to think about it is to think of it as a time for a church member to share their personal testimony and their commitment to follow Christ.

The Sermon is to share with us the presences of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit who offers to us all grace and calls us all into obedience.

The last part of The Word, the second component in a Lord's Day Service, is the Prayers of the People. This prayer is prayed in response to the Word. In it we acknowledge God's presences in the world and activity in our lives. In the Prayers of the People we address God in a special way as priestly intercessors for each other and for the world at large. We pray for our congregation, for the people we know, for those we don't know, for those in authority, for those suffering oppression, for those who are poor, hungry, or sick, and so on. It is this prayer that the body of Christ cries out to God on behalf of all God's creation.

I hope defining these parts of the Lord's Day Service helps to bring understanding or clarity to liturgy and why it is helpful in organizing a worship service. There remain only two more components to the Lord's Day Service and those will be covered in the months to come. Until next time...

Grace and Peace to you,

Rev. Zach

Zach



Thank You . . . To Our Missions Committee & The Passport To Hope Committee



Many thanks to our sponsors and those members and friends of FFC that attended. All efforts combined for the event raised \$21,035.19 for our Snack Pack and Wana Wa Mola mission concerns.



FFC GIVING TREE

Please bring a smile to the face of a child by providing them something special and new this Christmas.

Located in the Commons, the Giving tree will be in place by Sunday, November 13th, and benefit children from Commonplace and Crittenton Center.

Take a star (or more), purchase the gift(s), and put the wrapped tree with star attached under the tree no later than Sunday, December 11th.

Should you have any questions, you may contact the church office at 309-685-5258.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CATALOG

Each year our Missions Committee prepares a special "Gifting Catalog" packed with descriptions of local organizations chosen to reflect our concern and caring for the young, the elderly and the vulnerable in our community.

This catalog will reach your mail box any day and represents a unique giving opportunity.

Advent Sundays (except December 11th - Cantata Sunday) will feature one of our catalog mission concerns during a 'Mission Moment' at the 10 am worship service.



Our Ongoing FFC Missions

Please keep our ongoing Missions partners in your hearts and prayers as we approach the holiday season.

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.

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.

In His Service

FFC WORK DAY

- **Saturday November 5th, 9:00 am to Noon**
- Come at 8:30 for coffee, juice, donuts & fellowship
- Questions? Contact Eric Judd at 309-685-5258, X-32 or ejudd@ffcpeoria.com



GREETERS & USHERS

- **Would you consider serving a couple Sundays?**
- It is VERY simple and you'll be given whatever instruction you need.
- Contact the church office at 309-685-5258 or use the QR code to go to the Sign-Up Genius website.



SUNDAY MORNING HELP NEEDED!

There is a wide open schedule for Ushers, Greeters, and Fellowship Hour Hosts.

DO YOU LIKE OUR SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR?

If so, would you consider being a host? Or a sponsor? You can be a host and plan showcase your culinary talents on any available Sunday. Maybe you want to host an Advent, Christmas, another special Sunday or an ordinary Sunday, you can do so my calling the church office.

OR, you can "sponsor" a fellowship hour for \$35 donation, and the refreshments will be provided. If you wish to "sponsor" a fellowship hour, simply call the church office at 309-685-5258.



Sophia, Shane and Jamie Richardson



Thomas, Thomas and Emily Malerich

Sunday, October 23rd we welcomed these new members into our congregation. Please warmly welcome them into our faith family and make an extra effort to introduce yourself to them at Fellowship Hour and invite them to special events!



Our Next New Member Sunday is Sunday, December 11th

- 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 Kim Snarr, Director of Congregational Life at ksnarr@ffcpeoria.com.



Virginia McNear



Bella Simmons



John Sergison

Our Church Family

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.

MATTER OF RECORD

BIRTHS

- ❖ October 12th Annaliese Lynette Fanta was born. Family are: Joe & Amy, Nathaniel & Zachariah Fanta; grandparents, Steve and Julie Fanta; and Great Grandpa is George Fanta.

BAPTISMS

- ❖ October 23rd, Thomas Alexander Malerich, son of Emily and Thomas Malerich
- ❖ October 23rd, Jamie Richardson

WEDDING

- ❖ October 1st, Rebecca Fanta to Tyler Ropp

COMPLETED THIS PART OF LIFE

- ❖ September 18th, Louise Zeller

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 at skjt@mtco.com.

EVENT: Dinner at Osaka Hibachi and Sushi Bar, Saturday, November 12th, at 6:30 pm, Located at the Grand Prairie Mall.

Contact the church office at 309-685-5258 before November 9th to make your reservation.

YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY

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 office at 309-685-5258.

EVENT: Friday, November 11th in the Great Hall, 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Fellowship, food & fun! Featuring "a potluck of finger foods," movies for the children and we provide dessert.

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 resume meeting on **Tuesday, November 1st, at 9:00 am in the Memorial Lounge**. If you are interested or have questions, please contact the church office at 309-685-5258.

OLD BUDDIES BREAKFAST

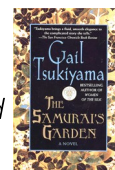
The next gathering of the "Old Buddies," a men's fellowship group that meets for breakfast and fellowship, will be **Tuesday, November 15th, 8:30 am Lutheran Hillside Village, private dining room.**

FFC WOMEN'S CLUB - NOVEMBER / DECEMBER GATHERING

The Women's Club will next meet on **Wednesday, December 7th, at 12 noon in the Commons**. Join us for an Old Fashioned Sing-A-Long with Russel Boulton, Director of Worship & Music and Al Murphy, organist. All ladies of the congregation are welcome. Please call the church office at 309-685-5258 with any questions.

THE FFC BOOK CLUB - NOVEMBER / DECEMBER GATHERING

The Book Club meets **Saturday, December 3rd, at 10:00 am at the North Branch of Peoria Public Library (3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria, Illinois 61615)**. The book for November/December is *The Samurai's Garden* By Gail Tsukiyama.



Tuesday, November 1st

- 9:00 am Knitting Group, *Memorial Lounge*
 4:30 pm Missions Committee Meeting, *Boardroom*

Wednesday, November 2nd

- 1:30 pm Staff Meeting, *Memorial Lounge*

Thursday, November 3rd

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

Friday, November 4th**Saturday, November 5th - Set Your Clocks Back Tonight!****Sunday, November 6th - All Saints Day**

- 8:00 am Worship - Communion, *FFC Chapel*
 10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
 10:00 am Shoebox Sunday, *Central Room*
 11:00 am Confirmation: Teaching Retreat, *Garden Room*
 11:00 am Fellowship, *Commons*
 11:30 am Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, *Lifetree*
 11:30 am Gingerbread Baking, *2nd floor kitchen*
 5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group - Gingerbread baking, *2nd floor kitchen*

Monday, November 7th

- 12:45 pm 'The Story' Bible Study, *Lifetree*

Tuesday, November 8th**Wednesday, November 9th**

- 6:15 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting, *Boardroom*

Thursday, November 10th

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

Friday, November 11th - Veterans Day

- 6:00 pm Young Family Event, *FFC Great Hall*

Saturday, November 12th

- 6:30 pm Saturday Night Live Event, *Osaka Hibachi & Sushi Bar*

Sunday, November 13th

- 8:00 am Worship, *Chapel*
 9:00 am Finance Committee Meeting, *Triebel Study*
 10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
 11:00 am Dedication Sunday Lunch, *Great Hall*
 11:30 am Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, *Lifetree*
 11:30 am Gingerbread Baking, *2nd floor kitchen*
 5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group - Gingerbread baking, *2nd floor kitchen*

Monday, November 14th

- 12:45 pm 'The Story' Bible Study, *Lifetree*
 6:00 pm Building & Grounds Committee Meeting, *Boardroom*

Tuesday, November 15th

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

Wednesday, November 16th

- 1:30 pm Staff Meeting, *TBD*
 6:30 pm FFC Board of Deacon's Meeting, *Trinity Room*
 6:30 pm FFC Executive Board Meeting, *Board Room*

Thursday, November 17th

- 8:45 am Snack Pack Assembly, *Warehouse*
 9:15 am Independence Village Bible Study, *IV Community Room*
 10:00 am No Meditation Group - Thanksgiving Break
 10:15 am LHV Bible Study, *LHV Private Dining room*
 6:15 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Friday, November 18th

- 5:30 pm Junior High event, *Dinner/Game Night*

Saturday, November 19th

- 9:00 am 'Dough Boy' Gingerbread Baking, *2nd floor kitchen*

Sunday, November 20th

- 8:00 am Worship, *Chapel*
 10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
 11:00 am Congregational Meeting, *Sanctuary*
 11:30 am Fellowship, *Commons*
 11:30 am Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, *Lifetree*
 11:30 am Gingerbread Baking, *2nd floor kitchen*
 5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group, *Senior High room, 3rd floor*

Monday, November 21st

- 9:30 am Gingerbread Icing, *2nd floor kitchen*
 12:45 pm 'The Story' Bible Study, *Lifetree*

Tuesday, November 22nd**Wednesday, November 23rd**

- 9:30 am Preschool Thanksgiving Feast, *Fellowship Hall and Kitchen*
 12:00 pm Preschool Closes
 1:30 pm Staff Meeting, *Memorial Lounge*

Thursday, November 24th - Thanksgiving

- Church Office Closed
 Preschool Closed

Friday, November 25th

- Church Office Closed
 Preschool Closed

Saturday, November 26th

- 10:00 am Junior High Gingerbread House Set-up, *Central Room*

Sunday, November 27th

- 8:00 am Worship, *Chapel*
 10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
 11:00 am Fellowship, *Commons*
 5:00 pm Gingerbread House Party, *Life Together Center*
 Junior High Youth Group - Gingerbread Party
 Senior High Youth Group - Gingerbread Party

Monday, November 28th

- 12:45 pm 'The Story' Bible Study, *Lifetree*

Tuesday, November 29th**Wednesday, November 30th**

- 1:30 pm Staff Meeting, *Memorial Lounge*



Fall Back, Saturday, November 5th!



COMING UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Sunday, November 6th: Shoebox Sunday, Central Room

Sunday, November 13th: Christmas Program Rehearsal

Sunday, November 20th: Christmas Program Rehearsal

Sunday, November 27th: Christmas Program Rehearsal

Saturday, December 3rd: Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
10:30 am -12:00 pm, Great Hall

Sunday, December 4th: Christmas Program
5:00 pm, Great Hall



LOGOS

'Like VBS once a week!'

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
JANUARY DATES

January 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th!

THANK YOU

To all of our Logos volunteers, including our table parents and cooks! We had a great time!



Sign-up sheet at reception desk, sign up online, use this QR with your smart phone or go to our website: ffceoria.com



HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATION?

Our annual Gingerbread House Party will be held on Sunday, November 27th at 5:00 pm in The Life Together Center.

SHOEBOX SUNDAY

November 6th

NO DONATIONS OF SHOEBOXES NEEDED THIS YEAR!

SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED—

- **Personal items:** Toothbrush/paste, bar soap, lip balm, flip flops, hair brush
- **Small toys & hard candy:** Stuffed animal, flashlight/batteries, mini-balls, pens & notebooks, crayons, etc.
- **Please DO NOT include:** Anything that spills, oozes, melts, is expired, or can be a weapon.

**100
BOX
GOAL!**



On November 6th, the Sunday school children and youth will be packing & wrapping shoeboxes for children around the world through Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Our goal is to fill 100 shoe boxes. Each shoe box costs \$7 to ship so donations are helpful too!!

Drop off your supplies in one of the boxes outside the Commons until 10 am November 6th.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Children will rehearse each week during Sunday school Beginning Sunday, November 13th.

Saturday, December 3rd: Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal, 10:30 am -12:00 pm, Great Hall

Sunday, December 4th: Christmas Program 5:00 pm, Great Hall



Youth Ministry (6th - 12th Grades)

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



SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

Christmas Wreath Sale

- October 30th - November 13th
- \$30 per wreath, due at time of order
- Watch for Senior Highs with clip boards to place your order!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

"Teaching" Retreat

- Sunday, November 6th, Garden Room
- 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Don't forget to wear your T-shirt!

JUNIOR HIGH

Sunday school

- November 6th: Assist children with Shoebox Sunday
- November 13th: "No Filter" (lesson 1)
- November 20th: "No Filter" (lesson 2)
- November 27th: "No Filter" (lesson 3)

SENIOR HIGH

Sunday School

- November 6th: Assist children with Shoebox Sunday
- November 13th: "If You Only Knew" (lesson 3)
- November 20th: Serve is worship (no class)
- November 27th: "Shameless" (lesson 1)

Fellowship - Sunday Evenings in November

- November 6th & 13th - Gingerbread Baking
- November 20th - Fellowship, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, 3rd floor Senior High Room
- November 27th, Assist with Gingerbread House Party!

"THE STORY", A BIBLE STUDY

- Mondays, 12:45 to 2:00 pm
- Lifetree Room at FFC's Life Together Center
- Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, *The Story* sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Using the clear, accessible text of the NIV Bible, it allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. Led by Rev. Steve Barch

MEDITATION GROUP

- Thursdays at 10:00 am
- Will NOT meet November 17th or 24th
- FFC's Life Together Center, Lifetree Room
- Questions? Call Ann Voll, 692-1781, or email avoll@comcast.net

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY!**

- Each Sunday until Thanksgiving, then finishing up in January.
- Following 10:00 am worship
- Each class is up to 90 minutes and includes a light meal.
- Cost to each family is \$102.
- Use the QR code to the right with your smart phone for registration or visit ffcpeoria.com.

**Pastoral Care ~ Prayer Ministry****PRAYER & MEALS MINISTRIES**

Contact the church office if you or someone you know has a prayer concern, may need for a meal or other concern.

We have a staff and prayer team willing to pray confidentially for you and a group willing to make meals for those going through a difficult time.

Contact Kim Snarr at ksnarr@ffcpeoria.com if you'd like to help with Meal Ministries.

Contact Rev. Steve Barch if you would like to be on the Prayer Team. sbarch@ffcpeoria.com or 309-361-0182

**PASTORAL CALLS, HOSPITAL VISITS OR HOME COMMUNION**

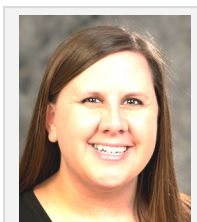
Give the office a call at 685-5258

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.

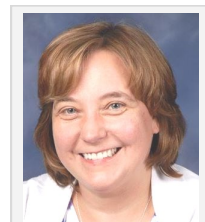
Director, Kathie Harms ☎309-685-5258, x.18 ✉kharms@ffcpeoria.com
Assistant Director, Carol Nelson ☎309-685-5258, x.18 ✉cnelson@ffcpeoria.com

The Preschools at FFC

Kathie Harms

**NOVEMBER EVENTS**

- November 23rd: Preschool Thanksgiving Feast, Preschool closes at Noon
- November 24th: Preschool closed
- November 25th: Preschool Closed



Carol Nelson

2016 - 2017 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Recently the Executive Board received the results of the latest audit performed by Koch Consultants, Ltd. Below you will find a summary letter of introduction. Please contact the office if you would like a copy of the full report. You can email us at cwalter@ffcpeoria.com and we can either send you a digital copy or put a hard copy into the mail to you.



Koch Consultants, Ltd.
P.O. Box 1400
Tremont, IL 61568
Phone 309.267.3796
Fax 309.216.3796
www.kochconsultants.com
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

To the Members and Executive Board
First Federated Church of Peoria
Peoria, Illinois

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of **First Federated Church of Peoria** (the Church) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Church's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Church's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Church's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We consider the following deficiencies in the Church's internal control to be material weaknesses:

Segregation of Duties

Due to the Church's small size, many of its accounting functions are performed by individuals with little oversight provided. Ideally, duties involving the custody of assets, authorization of transactions, and record-keeping should be segregated among numerous people. For many smaller organizations, budget constraints make it difficult to provide for adequate segregation. However, from a fraud deterrent perspective, adequate segregation is very important as it helps protect both the organization and the personnel involved.

1

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Church are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year. We noted no transactions entered into by the Church during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements involved the valuing of pledges receivable and the related allowance for doubtful accounts.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. The following material misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were corrected by management:

	Effect on Change in Net Assets
To record current year fixed asset additions	\$ 859,672
To establish contribution receivable	100,000
To adjust prepaid and payable amounts	(33,048)
To record depreciation expense	(151,140)
To adjust pledges receivable	(495,759)

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

3

Receipts

Positive aspects of the controls over receipts include – the ushers preparing a written report at initial collection and a board member (or other volunteer) assisting the accountant with counting the donations and making the deposit. However, there are a handful of members that have requested direct deposit of their donation commitments to the Church. The accountant handles this process with little oversight. We recommend an independent person review these direct deposits on a regular basis to determine all have been properly approved and all are being properly deposited in the Church's account.

Disbursements

Positive aspects of the controls over disbursements include – committee members or the pastor are involved with approving the transactions and a second person is involved with signing checks. However, the accountant (who is an authorized check signer) records all transactions in the general ledger and prepares the month-end bank account reconciliations; no one reviews the reconciliations. We recommend an independent person receive the unopened monthly bank statements and review all activity (especially cancelled checks) before the accountant receives the statement for reconciling. We are pleased to note that – beginning in 2015 – an independent review is being performed by the treasurer.

Preschool Accounting Process

Virtually all of the Preschool accounting functions are performed by the director, with very little oversight by other personnel. Also, the system used (*Microsoft Word* billing and *Microsoft Excel* receipt records) is easily prone to mistakes. There is no easy method for matching receipts to billings. We recommend an independent person regularly review the billing and receipt information. We also recommend a more sophisticated system be used.

OTHER REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

We have audited the financial statements of the Church for the year ended December 31, 2014, and have issued our report thereon dated September 21, 2015. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter dated April 20, 2015. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

2

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial, accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated September 21, 2015.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain issues. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Church's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Church's auditor. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

* * * * *

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the executive board, and others within the Church, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Koch Consultants, Ltd.

September 21, 2015

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WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN TO BE "FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH DOUGH BOYS!"

Saturday, November 19th, 9:00 am
FFC, 2nd floor kitchen

- We will bake gingerbread houses and gingerbread men for our upcoming annual Gingerbread House Party.
- This is a great time for fellowship and service.
- Please let us know that you are going to be there by calling the church office at 309-685-5258
- See you there!



Community Fellowship

HERITAGE ENSEMBLE - JAZZ NIGHT Second Annual Evening of Jazz Gala

Saturday, November 12th, 7:00 pm
Great Hall of the Life Together Center

- The evening will be filled with live jazz by the John Cooper Jazz Quintet as well as a special performance by the Ensemble.
- Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served along with beer and wine cordials. All proceeds will be used for general operating expenses and scholarships for members of the Youth Heritage Ensemble.
- General admission is \$50 (7:00) and premium admission is \$100 (6:00). Premium admission includes a pre lecture by the Artistic Director along with a commemorative gift and reserved seating.



VERDI REQUIEM - BRADLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS

Sunday, November 20th, 3:00 pm
St. Mary's Cathedral, 607 NE Madison Avenue, Peoria

- Verdi Requiem will be performed by the Bradley Community Chorus and the Bradley University Orchestra under the direction of Dr. John Jost. Mr. Russ and Emma Hartzell sing in the ensemble.
- The mixed group of college students and community members has worked diligently this Fall to prepare this master work. It is a very famous work that can reach the full spectrum of emotion and musical elegance.
- Tickets are \$10 for adults, free for students, and available for prior purchase by contacting Bradley University's Music Department.



PEORIA SYMPHONY GUILD'S MUSICAL MONDAY "WHAT MAKES IT RUSSIAN?"

Monday, November 14th, 7:00 pm
FFC Sanctuary and Commons

- We know it when we hear it – the passion and power of Russian music. But what really make it Russian? PSO Concertmaster Marcia Henry Liebenow helps us discover the secret.
- Marcia Henry Liebenow, violin and Andrea Molina, piano.
- Free admission for Guild members; \$5.00 for non-members.
- Refreshments to follow performance.



PANCAKES WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 3rd
Central Room of the Life Together Center

- Breakfast from 9:00 to 9:30 am
- Activities from 9:30 to 11:30 am
- Visit with Santa (photo with Santa \$5), crafts and songs
- Tickets: Advance Tickets Only - Adults \$10.00 and Kids \$5.00
- To purchase tickets or for questions call Judy Thompson 309-635-7280.
- This event is a fundraiser sponsored by P.E.O. Chapter FQ, a philanthropic women's organization.



**First Federated
Church of Peoria**

www.FFCPeoria.com

A Federated Church of
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and
United Church of Christ



3601 N. Sheridan Road | Peoria, Illinois 61604 | P 309.685.5258 | F 309.685.5451 | info@FFCPeoria.com



Our Upcoming Christmas Season

Look for your favorite events and save the dates!

Sunday, December 27th - 1st Sunday of Advent

Chancel Bells will perform for our 10:00 am service
Gingerbread House Party at 5:00 pm in the Great Hall

Saturday, December 3rd

Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal, 10:30 am in the Great Hall

Sunday, December 4th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Children's Christmas Program & Strolling Meal, 5:00 pm, in the Great Hall

Wednesday, December 7th

FFC Women's Club Christmas Meeting & Party, Noon in the Commons

Friday, December 9th

Preschool Holiday Concert at 4:30 pm in the Great Hall
Junior High Christmas Party

Sunday, December 11th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

New Members & Baptisms
Giving Tree Gift Deadline
Our Annual Cantata during the 10:00 am service
Sing it Yourself Messiah at 1:00 pm
Senior High Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 14th

Preschool Holiday Concert at 3:30 pm in the Great Hall

Sunday, December 18th - 4th Sunday of Advent

Friday, December 23rd

Preschool Christmas Party

Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Services at
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day

9:00 am Christmas Worship service in the Sanctuary
(This will be the only service, there will not be an 8 or 10 am service)

Monday, December 26th

FFC Office & Preschools Closed

Saturday, December 31st - New Year's Eve

Sunday, January 1st - New Year's Day

9:00 am Worship service in the Sanctuary
(This will be the only service, there will not be an 8 or 10 am service)



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

PROGRAM & SUPPORT STAFF

Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel ... X.11 fkrummel@ffcpeoria.com

Minister of Youth and Families

Rev. Zachary Lysdahl ... X.12 zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com

Minister of Pastoral Care

Rev. Stephen Barch ... X.23 sbarch@ffcpeoria.com

Director of Congregational Life and Events

Kim Snarr ... X.20 ksnarr@ffcpeoria.com

Director of Worship and Music

Russel Boulton ... X.14 rboulton@ffcpeoria.com

Organists

Al Murphy, Landon Westerfield

Preschool Director

Kathie Harms ... X.18 kharms@ffcpeoria.com

Assistant Preschool Director

Carol Nelson ... X.19 cnelson@ffcpeoria.com

Sunday School Coordinator

Kristen D'Alfonso ... X.28 kdalfonso@ffcpeoria.com

Sunday Nursery Attendants

Kirsten Hanson and Heather Foster

Financial Secretary

Lisa Hoepker ... X.16 lhoepker@ffcpeoria.com

Building and Grounds Manager

Eric Judd ... ejudd@ffcpeoria.com

Administrative Secretary

Cecelia Walter ... X.10 cwalter@ffcpeoria.com

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