



Life Together

First Federated Church of Peoria

Vol. 82

No. 1

January 2017

Happy New Year!

Here But To Serve . . .

Sunday, January 8th ~ Installation Sunday

- 10 o'clock worship service.
- Installation of the Class of 2019 Executive Board and Board of Deacon members.
- See page 10 for a farewell to the outgoing Board members and page 11 for the Classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019 Board members.

Children's Midweek Ministry

LOGOS Begins Wednesday, January 4th

- Every Wednesday evening in January at 5:30 pm.
- See back cover for more details.

Save The Date!

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5th

- Annual Midwest Food Bank Mission Fundraiser.

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Life Together

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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 NEW WEBSITE

ffcpeoria.com



Besides college football bowl games, New Year's Day is most closely associated with New Year's Resolutions. Starting a new year with a fresh calendar before us and maybe a new journal, too, we make plans—or rather make “wishes”—to do some things differently. We'll lose that extra weight the crept up over the years.

We'll quit a bad habit. We'll begin an exercise program and join a gym (gyms love this resolution because they know it is “easy money” and this resolution seldom makes it to Easter but the monthly fees continue!) We decide to take a class or spend more time with our families or mend a broken relationship. All with good intentions, but in the words of Mary Poppins, they are often nothing more than “pie crusts promises; easily made and easily broken”. (It strikes me that only Mary Poppins found pie crusts “easily made”!) What we are really wanting to do is embed new habits in our lives.

I've been doing a lot of research on habits and here are a couple of key things that I learned. It is not strictly a matter of will-power. You have to replace one habit with another because a basic law of life is that nature abhors a vacuum. Secondly, if the new habit is too large, hard or overwhelming, it will not last. Start small. One recent podcast used the example of flossing your teeth. If you want to get in the habit of flossing your teeth start with just flossing your front teeth for a few days. If you decide to do more, fine, but build the habit slowly. If you are going to learn to play a musical instrument, don't start by saying that you will practice an hour a day. Begin with

fifteen minutes or ten or five and build your mental/emotional muscle memory. The same is true of going to the gym. Just commit to going to the gym one, two or three days a week, and once you're there, maybe just do one exercise. The key is setting a new pattern.

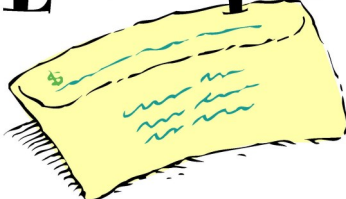
I believe that the one habit that underlies all of the other habits is our spirituality. The gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus was in the habit of going to worship. He prayed before every major decision, and presumably before not so major ones that are not recorded in the bible. And speaking of prayer, this is basic. Start small. I've developed the habit of saying a prayer—silently—when I turn off my bedside lamp at night. Sometimes it is the Lord's Prayer. More often, it is the same one that my parents taught me, that I taught my children and say with my grandchildren. “Now I lay me down to sleep...” When it comes to worship, which is central to our life together and more importantly our spiritual development, start small; commit to attending worship once a month. Worship with a faith community that feeds your spirit. Don't follow a preacher but the One to whom the preacher points. Take a sabbatical from one faith community and visit another but don't neglect this aspect of your life.

The new things of a new year begin with our spiritual life. We will never be truly, eternally successful if we do not have deep spiritual roots. See you in church.

Blessings and happy New Year.

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

Offering Envelopes



DID YOU REQUEST OFFERING ENVELOPES?

- Your requested 2017 offering envelopes are now available in the Commons.
- If you wish to request 2017 offering envelopes there is a sign up sheet on the table with the envelopes.

Over the past three months I have been describing the individual components that comprise a Lord's Day Worship Service. The first section of the worship service is referred to as the Gathering. The second part of the service is called The Word. The final portion of the service is called The Eucharist. Within The Eucharist section there are several smaller parts.

The first part is the *Offering*. Essential to the Christian life is a willingness to offer one's self to God to be shaped, changed, empowered, and directed. Through the elements of each worship service, we witness the costly self-offering Jesus gave of himself so that we might be recipients of his righteousness. In response to what Jesus has first given us, we offer back to God our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our material goods. Our offering is in response to Jesus' ultimate offering of his life for us, and so we "pass the plates" after hearing the Word, and offer our gifts to God. During the Offering music is often played or a testimony of a church member is given in celebration of God's graciousness, another way of offering our gifts (other than the money that goes in the plates) to God. Then, to conclude the *Offering*, a *Prayer of Dedication* is prayed devoting those gifts for the purposes of God.

Following the *Offering* is the *Invitation* to the Lord's Table. Since New Testament times, the Lord's Supper has been a regular part of the Christian worship service. This sacrament, The Lord's Supper/Eucharist (also referred to as Communion), was instituted by Jesus Christ on the same night he was betrayed by Judas. So even before church governments were formed, before creeds and confessions were ratified, before the first word of the New Testament was written the Eucharist was firmly fixed as the heart of Christian faith and life. It is by the Lord's Supper, the bread and the wine, the words and the actions, that the promises of God are made visible and concrete. At the Lord's table the invisible gifts of God are made visible.

During the *Eucharist*, the church blesses God for all that God has done, is doing, and promises to do, and the church offers itself in obedient service to God's reign. It is helpful to think of this sacrament through three lens which converge. It is a feast of: remembrance, communion, and hope. When we come to the Lord's table we do so remembering that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of the Father into the world to assume our flesh and blood, and to fulfill for us all obedience to the divine law. At the Lord's table we come to have communion with Christ who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world. In breaking of the bread, Jesus makes himself known to us as the true and heavenly bread that strengthens us unto life eternal. In the cup, Jesus comes as the Vine in whom we must abide. We believe we commune with Christ through Communion. We also come in hope, believing that the bread and the cup are a pledge and foretaste of the feast of love of which we shall partake when his kingdom has fully come.

*At the Lord's table we
come to have
communion with Christ
who has promised to be
with us always, even to
the end of the world.*

After that prayer have been offered the next part of the worship service is the *Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Wine*. The bread is broken so that all who are gathered may see it done. The wine is poured into the cup in such a manner that everyone participating in the Lord's Supper may see it happen. In these actions we are reminded that Christ's body was actually broken for us and his blood was shed for us.

With the bread broken and the cup poured, the *Communion of the People* may commence. The means by which the bread is given and the cup passed may vary, but the point remains, they are the gifts for for the people of God. In them the invisible grace God gives becomes visible.

After the gifts of God for the people of God have been consumed, the *Thanksgiving* is offered. This prayer has been a central part of the sacrament from very early centuries in Christians worship. In this prayer we thank God for God's mighty acts in the past, present, and the future. The conclusion of this prayer usually ends with the entire church body saying, in voice, the Lord's Prayer

Next up is the *Sending*. In the *Sending*, we hear commitments to seek baptism, discipleship, and reaffirmation of faith. It is a time in the worship service when followers of Christ share their commitment to live into the call God has placed upon their lives. After that, a *Hymn* is usually sung. The *Hymn* is selected to reflect; thanksgiving, hope, remembrance, or communion, as well as our appreciation for God's generousness in our lives and our aspiration to live as God has called us to live.

The very last pieces of the Lord's Day service are the *Charge* and *Blessing*. The *Charge* calls us to be God's agents, bringing healing to the brokenness that is pervasive in this world. In short, God calls the church to join the mission of Christ through service to the world. The *Blessing*, also known as the Benediction, is the last spoken words of the the worship service. They assure us of God's peace and that God's blessing has been given to us. Additionally, they give us confidence that God goes with us wherever we may go.

The structure of the Lord's Day Service has many parts to it, however, each part has been carefully thought out. Whether it seems like it or not, there is intention and purpose behind each piece. I hope through these descriptions of the Lord's Day Worship Service, you have learned a bit more about the intentional structure, the purposes, and the reasons why we do the things we do.

Grace and Peace to you,

Rev. Zach





Kenya & son

FFC'S 5TH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD IS MOVING RIGHT ALONG!

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 with a good job, and has already put many service hours in at the ReStore.

The latest update from Mike VerKuilen, FFC's Habitat contact:

Greetings,

One last Habitat update for the year. All the sheathing and tyvek are on! Tom Howard and I were joined by Steve Seiler and John Calder (he just couldn't let us finish the peak without him). All went well, except our Habitat Foreman, Drew, took an accidental step off the porch and hurt his foot a bit. He's tough and kept on working, though!

Steve had the honor of nailing up most of the hurricane clips to better fasten the trusses to the stud walls. We left a few undone over the basement stairs for Scott from Habitat. We also did a little framing in the basement needed before the basement stairs can be built.

Great job, Everyone! Thanks for your physical and / or spiritual support. We are definitely done for the year. We will get to do siding in January or February as weather allows. Oh boy! I can probably get you in with Drew to help install doors and windows in January if you like ;)

Merry Christmas! I hope you all have a blessed Holiday. Pass the eggnog!

Regards, Mike

Interested in volunteering? There is a sign-up 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 Mike's updates are also posted on the 1stNews.

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.

"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? Call Ann Voll, 692-1781, or email avoll@comcast.net

DAVE RAMSEY'S**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

- Resumes Sunday, January 8th
- 11:30 am, Lifetree Room, following 10:00 am worship

"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.

*In His Service ~ Volunteering Time and Talent***1 SPOT TO SIGN-UP FOR SUNDAY VOLUNTEER POSITIONS**

Would you consider serving a couple Sundays - you'll be given whatever instruction you need.

Greeters: Warmly Welcome Members & Visitors

Ushers: 4 to 6 people to warmly welcome, provide with bulletin, direct to seats, count, collect offering, thank and wish good day at end of service, invite to fellowship, check Sanctuary for left behind items following service.

Fellowship Hour Host: Be our Host during Fellowship Hour. Be as laid back or fancy as you'd like, your choice. Help will be provided if needed. Sign up here, then call the office at 309-685-5258 if you have any questions.

OR . . .

Fellowship Hour Sponsor: Want to help with Sunday Fellowship Hour, but lack the time to make a commitment? Now you can sign up to sponsor a Sunday. For a donation - treats and beverages will be made available in the Commons following the 10:00 am service in your name.



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!

Questions?: Call (309-685-5258) or email (info@ffcpeoria.com) the office, always happy to help!

*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.



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

BAPTISMS: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

- ❖ Annabelle Mona Lundy and William Jeffrey Lundy, children of Molly and David Lundy.
- ❖ Peter Franklin Cover, son of Laura (Sahn) and Ross Cover, grandson of Linda and John Sahn.
- ❖ Anna Ree Evans, daughter of Mary (Sahn) and Joe Evans, granddaughter of Linda and John Sahn

COMPLETED THIS PART OF LIFE

- ❖ December 17th, Lucille Whitley

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

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 office at 309-685-5258.

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.

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, January 3rd, 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

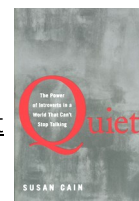
The next gathering of the "Old Buddies," a men's fellowship group that meets for breakfast and fellowship, will be **Tuesday, January 17th, 8:30 am Lutheran Hillside Village, private dining room**.

FFC WOMEN'S CLUB

The Women's Club will meet **Wednesday, January 25th, at 12 noon in the Commons**. Happy Chinese New Year! Learn about what's in store for 2017, the Year of the Rooster! Lunch will be served. All ladies of the congregation are welcome. Please contact the church office at 309-685-5258 with any questions.

THE FFC BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets **Saturday, January 28th, at 10:00 am at the North Branch of Peoria Public Library (3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria, Illinois 61615)**. The book for January is Quiet: The Power Of Introverts In A World That Can't Stop Talking By Susan Cain.



Sunday, January 1st - New Year's Day

- 9:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
10:00 am Fellowship, *Commons*

Monday, January 2nd

FFC Office & Preschool Closed

Tuesday, January 3rd

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

Wednesday, January 4th

- 1:30 pm Staff Meeting, *Memorial Lounge*
5:30 pm LOGOS, Children's Ministry Event, *Great Hall*

Thursday, January 5th

NO Snack Pack Assembly Today

- 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, January 6th**Saturday, January 7th****Sunday, January 8th**

- 8:00 am Worship, *Chapel*
10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
11:00 am Fellowship, *Commons*
11:30 am Financial Peace University, *Lifetree Room*
5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group, *Senior High Room, 3rd floor*

Monday, January 9th

Regular Preschool Sessions Resume

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

Tuesday, January 10th**Wednesday, January 11th**

- 1:30 pm Staff Meeting, *Memorial Lounge*
5:30 pm LOGOS, *Great Hall*
6:15 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting, *Boardroom*

Thursday, January 12th

- 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, January 13th**Saturday, January 14th**

Senior High Lock-In

Sunday, January 15th

- 8:00 am Worship, *Chapel*
9:00 am Finance Committee Meeting, *Triebel Study*
10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
11:00 am Fellowship, *Commons*
11:30 am Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, *Lifetree*
5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group, *Senior High Room*

Monday, January 16th - Martin Luther King Day

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

Tuesday, January 17th

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

Wednesday, January 18th

- 1:30 pm Staff Meeting, *Memorial Lounge*
5:30 pm LOGOS, Children's Ministry Event, *Great Hall*
6:30 pm FFC Board of Deacon's Meeting, *Trinity Room*
6:30 pm FFC Executive Board Meeting, *Boardroom*

Thursday, January 19th

- 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, January 20th

Senior High Ski Trip Departs

- 3:00 pm Junior High Skating, *Owens Rec Center*

Saturday, January 21st

Senior High Ski Trip Returns

Sunday, January 22nd

- 8:00 am Worship, *Chapel*
10:00 am Worship, *Sanctuary*
11:00 am Fellowship, *Commons*
11:30 am Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, *Lifetree*
5:30 pm Senior High Youth Group, *Senior High Room*

Mon Jan 23, 2017

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

Tuesday, January 24th**Wednesday, January 25th**

- 12:00 pm FFC Women's Club, *Commons*
1:30 pm Staff Meeting, *Memorial Lounge*
5:30 pm LOGOS, Children's Ministry Event, *Great Hall*

Thursday, January 26th

- 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, January 27th**Saturday, January 28th**

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

Sunday, January 29th

- 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, January 30th

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

Tuesday, January 31st

- 4:30 pm Missions Committee Meeting, *Boardroom*

COMING UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Memory Verse: "Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me."
 Psalm 119:105 (NIRV)

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Life App: Knowledge - learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do.

Sunday, January 1st: Veggie Tales and Popcorn

Sunday, January 8th: "Three Men Find a Baby"

Bible Story: Three Men Find a Baby (Wise men discover Jesus) • *Matthew 2:1-12*

Bottom Line: Discovering what God says helps you know Jesus.

Sunday, January 15: "Extra Credit"

Bible Story: Extra Credit (Boy Jesus at the temple) • *Luke 2:41-52*

Bottom Line: What God says is the most important thing to know.

Sunday, January 22: "The Big Dipper"

Bible Story: The Big Dipper (Jesus' baptism & John calls Jesus Lamb of God) • *John 1:19-42*
(Supporting: Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-22)

Bottom Line: Discovering what God says helps you follow Jesus.

Sunday, January 29: "Talk to the Hand..."

Bible Story: Talk to the Hand 'Cuz the Savior Ain't Listenin' (Jesus tempted in the wilderness) • *Luke 4:1-13* *(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)*

Bottom Line: Discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS - 2ND SEMESTER PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, January 8th, 11:15 am to 12:00 pm, Creation Station on the 2nd floor

- Please plan on attending this special meeting.
- Questions? Contact Kristen D'Alfonso.

Junior High (6th - 8th Grades)

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

JUNIOR HIGH
THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

"ROAD TRIP"

Road trips are awesome. Whether you're heading to the mountains with your family or 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! Maybe that's because new places are always exciting, or maybe it's just that, more than anywhere else, the unexpected seems to happen on the road. Flat tires. Detours. Surprisingly great lunch stops. Disappointingly awful gas stations. The unexpected is just part of the trip. 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.



2017 CONFIRMATION

Worship Retreat
February 12th

- 11:00 am to 3:30 pm
- FFC's Life Together Center, Garden Room



JUNIOR HIGH
FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, January 20th, Time TBD

- Ice Skating @ Owen Center & Dinner @ Culver's
- Watch your mail for more information or email Kristen D'Alfonso at kdalfonso@ffcpeoria.com

THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL**"UPSIDE DOWN"**

Have you ever thought something worked one way, only to find it didn't? Like maybe as a kid you thought the bathtub drain was a death trap. Then you learned it couldn't actually suck you into the sewer and that was a game changer. Or maybe you were

sure that the closet should be avoided because monsters lived there. Then you learned they didn't. That changed your morning routine for sure. Any time you learn new information, it can turn your world upside down.

Jesus had a habit of doing just that with the people closest to Him. He often did or said things that were the exact opposite of what anyone expected. He'd take ideas that everyone agreed with, ideas that everyone would say, "Of course, that's just the way it is," and He'd flip them upside down. He would tell people to do the exact opposite of what they thought. This was especially true when Jesus talked about how we treat people, specifically people who like us, people who don't, and people we don't even notice.

Sunday, January 1st:

No Class

Sunday, January 8th:

Lesson 1: "Upside Down"

Bottom Line: Be the friend you want to have.

Sunday, January 15th:

SENIOR HIGHS SERVE IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 22nd:

Lesson 2: "Upside Down"

Bottom Line: God, move in me when it comes to my enemies.

Sunday, January 29th:

Lesson 3: "Upside Down"

Bottom Line: Following Jesus = focusing on people who can do the least.

**SKI TRIP**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH &
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST**

- Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena Illinois
- Details to come in mailing
- Questions?: zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com

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!

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

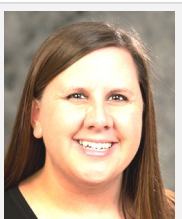
The Preschools at FFC

FFC PRESCHOOL CLOSED DATES

Monday, January 2nd

SIGN-UP FOR CARE DATES

Friday, December 30th
Tuesday, January 3rd
Wednesday, January 4th
Thursday, January 5th
Friday, January 6th
Monday, January 16th



Kathie Harms

**JANUARY EVENTS**

- Monday, January 9th: First Day back after Christmas Break.
- Monday, January 16th: Martin Luther King Day - Sign-Up for Care Day

2016 - 2017 SCHOOL YEAR

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



With the start of a new year it is appropriate to express our gratitude to those men and women who are completing their term of service on the Executive Board and Board of Deacons.

The Executive Board are the elected spiritual leaders of the congregation. Each Board member takes this responsibility seriously.

Rennie Atterbury has been faithful and passionate in his most recent term on the Executive Board. As the moderator of the Finance Committee and having responsibility over our stewardship program he traveled with me to three different conferences and was a frequent drop-in visitor. He shared great insights and perspectives often "speaking truth of power" and was never shy in expressing his opinion. His leadership was a steady passionate voice.

Luke Sheley was the moderator of the Communications Committee and made great efforts in the development of our web page and other communication tools. When he spoke it was always with careful forethought and insight. I know Luke best as the speedy power-hitter on our softball team, of which I am sure that he will continue to pursue.

Robin Simpson most recently served as the moderator of the Membership committee. She was a calm steady voice on the Board who often displayed great wisdom and care for her fellow Board members and the congregation. As was the case with other Board members in her class, she brought profound business sense and sensitivity to our discussions and often clarified issues before the Board.

Chris Crawford was the moderator of Worship committee and displayed great passion for this central aspect of our life together. He gave us the tradition of a Good Friday noontime service. He willingly provided legal insights in business before the Board.

The Deacons are the hands and heart of our Risen Lord and provide hospitality to the congregation and community. Under the able leadership of their moderator **Becky Clifton** and supported by staff members the Rev. Stephen Barch and Kim Snarr they have cared for us through calls, visits and service. Becky Clifton leaves the Deacons a year early in order to take on the responsibilities of the Executive Board, but we also express appreciation for other Deacons who have been faithful in their service to Christ.

Joy Rennich was a steady, quiet influence. She willingly undertook any assignment given to her. She went about her duties with determination and passion, and in my opinion, truly seeing herself as an extension of the hands of Christ.

Anne Binkele completing her second term, Anne's ready effervescent smile and can do attitude has been a blessing to the Board of Deacons and their ministry. There was nothing that Anne would not approach with a can do attitude.

Debi Meils's great love for the people and ministry of FFC was evident in her service. She managed to balance professional, family and church schedules with great skill, without losing sense of her priorities. Her inquisitive nature and spirit of Christian love served her well as she served the membership of FFC. Her ministry was a blessing to everyone it touched.

Julie Paris was the quiet deacon who was often seen working behind the scenes--ushering, serving at funeral receptions and filling in wherever needed. She took putting on the servants towel seriously. Her steady service, soft nature and ready smile was a comfort to many members and non-members alike.

Ann Ragsdale was a quiet worker bee who skillfully balanced family responsibilities and church service. Often accompanied by her husband she was a familiar face wherever a deacon was needed. She was diligent in her tasks and well-organized. Her service was a tremendous blessing to this ministry.

Beth Schlicksup's ready smile and comforting presence was often seen in the most unlikeliest of places. She would travel for hours to stand beside a family as a loved one was laid in their final resting place. Always ready to listen and to serve many of our families thought themselves fortunate to have Beth as "their" deacon. She reached out to all who grieved with notes, phone calls and even a silent physical presence, always ready to give without expecting anything in return.

The congregation has been enriched beyond measure by the unselfish service of our Executive Board members and Deacons who completed their terms of service on their respective Boards in 2016.

Of each one of these servants the words of Jesus applies. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

On behalf of the entire congregation, thank you.



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); Allen 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 Yet to be named

Class of 2017

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

Class of 2018

Rick Snarr and Sally Stone

Class of 2019

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

THANK YOU TO THE MUSIC MAKERS OF 2016

2016 left us with many musical opportunities and experiences.

Both solemn and grand music was offered during Lent and Easter. Our bells laughed and peeled forth their hymns and introits with regularity.

We heard a moving requiem in May. We hosted a wind orchestra from Germany, offered our space to graduate performers from Arizona State, Drake, Bradley and Illinois State University.

Our organ has boomed and cooed, filling these halls with music as Al and others have practiced to bring the stately presence to our 10 o'clock services.

Our children, in Sunday School, Preschool Music and Chapel time, and our VBS and Logos programs sing and praise God in their learning.


We have hosted visiting choirs from Illinois Wesleyan University, Elmhurst College, and Metamora Township High, and continued to host the Orpheus Men's Club of Peoria, which has rehearsed here for decades of its 115 year history.

The Central Illinois Youth Symphony continues to praise us and thank us for the Life Together Center for its rehearsals, fundraisers, recitals and more.

In fact, everyone from traveling musicians from Europe to the jazz singers of the Peoria Heritage Ensemble has remarked on the versatility of the space in the LTC and the appreciation of a church willing to support the partnerships that allow such great music to be heard.

The family of FFC is to thank for that. The Chancel Choir, too, needs a hearty thank you for their effort and worship.

If any of these programs has moved you, you can help support it. You can donate. You can volunteer. You can sing, or ring, or play. The power of music within our worship, celebration, and mourning is undeniable and can always grow in its impact. Plans for 2017's music program are well underway.

Listen. Rejoice. Enjoy. 



First Federated Church of Peoria

www.FFCPeoria.com

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



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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 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

Contact:

Kristen D'Alfonso at kdalfonso@ffcpeoria.com to register and watch your mail for registration information.

**Midweek
Children's
Ministry**

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



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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 Worship and Music

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

Organist

Al Murphy

Preschool Director

Kathie Harms . . . X.18 kharms@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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