



# Our Life Together



## Youth Sunday

Join us Sunday, May 6th as we celebrate our Youth. Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will prepare and lead worship services and younger children will act as ushers and greeters.



## A Special Tribute

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13th. We invite any interested men to sing a special anthem on Mother's Day to thank all of our mothers and grandmothers.

We will rehearse Sundays, May 6th and May 13th at 9:30 am leading up to the special day. If you are interested, please email: [rboulton@ffcpeoria.com](mailto:rboulton@ffcpeoria.com).



## Faith and Family Night at the Ballpark

- **Saturday, June 23rd, 6:30 pm, Dozer Park**
- \$9.00 Tickets
- Sign-up sheet at reception desk
- Concert & Post-Game Fireworks
- **Reservation deadline is Sunday, May 27th - Your check is your reservation**



## 2018 Vacation Bible School - Register Now!

- **Sunday, July 15th - Thursday, 19th, 5:30 to 8:00 pm**
- Visit our website - [ffcpeoria.com/children](http://ffcpeoria.com/children) to sign up and pay.
- Register and pay by June 1st - Early Enrollment Discount.

### VBS Volunteers Needed!

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

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

Please complete the volunteer registration form (reception area) or contact Jessica Sheley at [jsheley@ffcpeoria.com](mailto:jsheley@ffcpeoria.com) if you are interested.



**First Federated Church** of Peoria

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



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## Life Together

is published monthly by:

### FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH

3601 N Sheridan Road  
Peoria, Illinois 61604

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

### CONTACT US

Main Church: 309-685-5258  
Email: [info@ffcpeoria.com](mailto: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](http://ffcpeoria.com)

## Glimpse of Grace



Frosty

I had a birthday this past month. And, I am at that stage of life where when I am asked, "What do you want for your birthday?" my reply is that I really have no "wants." If I want something, I buy it or at least learn to do without it. Both my wants and needs are getting simpler with each passing year. However, when pressed about a present, I tell my family to give me something that I can eat or drink or that will sell well at my estate sale. For many, if not most of us, when our time here on earth comes to a close there will be two estate sales; one of our worldly goods and another of our soul.

When my folks died, my wife and I were left with the responsibility of sorting through over 50 years of accumulated "stuff." We did the best we could, my wife more than I because memory after memory rose up within my heart with each dresser drawer, nook and cranny. In the end, though, we had a professional come in, organize and conduct an estate sale. In the process, I am sure that some of their most prized and precious "heirlooms" were under-appreciated or not recognized by me and those things ended up not be treasures at all.

That is one kind of estate sale, but there is another kind of estate sale: an estate sale of the soul. In I Chronicles 29, King David set the stage for this latter estate sale. He declared to the 12 clans of Israel to remember that God is the source of all wealth and power. No one truly pulls themselves up by their own bootstraps because no one can choose the family into which they are born, their time in history, or their nation. For much of their most formative years they are powerless.

In his parables, Jesus noted that we begin life with certain handicaps and opportunities (talents) based on the color of our skin and our family of origin. In these parables he noted that there is a day of reckoning, of accounting, in which we are judged on how well we used the gifts of God to make this world a richer or poorer place. Have we built others up and made them small in order to make us look large. Have we been selfish or generous? Did we see the naked and the hungry and walk by? Did we care not only for ourselves, our kin and kind, our generation, or did we remember our responsibility to the generations that will come after us? Did we give more than we took or did we live in such a way that those around us and this world are the poorer by our passing by here? These are the eternal questions that each of us will be asked when the number of our days draw to a close. These are the elements of our spiritual estate, the estate sale of the soul.

David closed his soliloquy by calling upon the people to bless the Lord with their offering, to give liberally of their wealth in the work of the temple, to give with no strings attached but out of joyful response to God's blessings in life. And their response was, in the words of one commentator, "extravagant;" a thousand bulls, lambs and rams--an extravagant demonstration of their devotion and dedication.

The truth of the two estate sales of life, the one that is fleeting and the other that is eternal is that a life dedicated to stewardship in the Lord is a life filled with joy, peace, hope, and celebration. Amen.

## Count Your Blessings

*Remarks made to the worshipping congregation on April 22nd.*

I'm excited to be the first of several of our congregation members to talk to you over the next few months about how I personally count my blessings as a Christian, as a member of our church, and why I support the church with my time and resources.

As someone that grew up at First Federated, what I've seen as blessings for my family and I have actually grown over time! I'll concentrate on two.

The first is our Christian education and youth programs that have had a lasting impact on our two kids, who are now both young adults. They will both tell you that being a part of our Christian Education program, the confirmation program, and the youth programs (including Stronghold) had a big impact on developing their faith, learning what it means to be a Christian, and developing a group of friends for a lifetime! As a part of that, I've had the pleasure of going on several mission trips with our youth and the experiences they get on those trips really do matter for so many things in their lives (and for me in my life). It's very important to me to remember that my kids were supported by the congregation during their time in the program and it's equally important to me to continue to support the programs for the kids that are in it today with my financial support.

*It's very important to me to remember that my kids were supported by the congregation during their time in the (Youth) program and it's equally important to me to continue to support the programs for the kids that are in it today with my financial support.*

The second blessing for me to talk about this morning is our mission programs. I'm proud that we're both a giving church and a doing church! Habitat for Humanity, Snack Pack, the rummage sale, Wana Wa Mola, our missions catalog, and our youth mission trips are all great examples of programs that

help people, and help us to continue to grow as Christians. We also have incredible blessings in our church building and next door at the Life Together Center. The LTC is continuing to develop as an activity hub for our congregation and our community as an important part of our missions program! Our mission activities take many forms and the continued support by all of us of our time and resources is incredibly important!

These are two of the reasons why Laura and I financially support the ministry of our church!

Kent Kowalske,  
Executive Board Vice-Moderator

*(Kent currently shares his time and talent as a member of our Executive Board and as Pulpit and Staff Moderator. He is also actively involved with the Nominating, Buildings and Grounds, and Congregational Life Committees.)*



## Save These Dates!

**Friday, August 17th & Saturday, August 18th**  
**FFC Rummage Sale**

**Saturday, September 29th**  
**Passport to Hope**

Watch for more information on volunteer and donation opportunities for both of these upcoming Missions Committee events.

## Ongoing FFC Missions

### **Snack Packs for Whittier Primary School**

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

### **Box Tops for Education**

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

### **Friendship House Food Pantry**

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

### **The Center For The Prevention of Abuse**

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

# Our Church Family

## A Matter of Record

### Baptism

April 8th - Ivy June Sheley, daughter of Jessica and Luke Sheley, baby sister of Violet.

*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](mailto:info@ffcpeoria.com).*

## Church Membership

### WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of First Federated Church, please contact Rev. Zach Lysdahl at [zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com](mailto:zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com) or 309-685-5258, X102.



## Church Fellowship Groups

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

**EVENT:** Saturday, May 19th, 5:45 pm. Granite City Food & Brewery, 230 Conference Center Drive, East Peoria  
Please contact Judy Thompson through the church office at 309-685-5258.

**OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS GROUP** ▪ This group is comprised of anyone who enjoys the outdoors. All are welcome. For more information about the group or events, please contact the church office at 309-685-5258 or check the Home Edition or our e-newsletter, 1stNews.

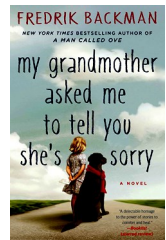
**YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP** ▪ Adults between the ages of 25 and 45, single, married, or with a family. This group gathers monthly to enjoy great community events and engage in mission opportunities. All are welcome and have a place in helping us create this community. For more information about the group or events, please contact Rev. Zach Lysdahl at 309-685-5258, X-12 or [zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com](mailto:zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com).

**KNITTING / CROCHETING MINISTRY** ▪ This group is now on Summer Hiatus. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Alice Racine through 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, May 15th at 8:30 am Lutheran Hillside Village, private dining room.**

**FIRST FEDERATED WOMEN'S CLUB** ▪ Women's Club will hold their Spring luncheon **May 23rd at noon** in the Commons. It will be catered by Barrack's Cater Inn, the cost will be \$15. The program will be "Button, Button. Who's Got the Button" by Carol Peterson. To make a reservation mail your check to Jan Chapman or to the Church office. You may also pay your annual dues of \$20. Please make a note on your check the amount covers both luncheon and dues. Reservations must be in by May 16th. Membership is open to all women of First Federated Church. For more information you may contact Women's Club President, Barb Hein through the church office at 309-685-5258.

**THE FFC BOOK CLUB** ▪ Please Note Meeting Date Adjustment ▪ **Saturday, May 19th, at 10:00 am at the North Branch of Peoria Public Library (3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria, Illinois 61615).** The book for the May gathering will My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You She's Sorry by Fredrik Backman.







## FFC Softball

Come cheer our FFC Softball Team on to Victory! Games are played Sunday evenings and are listed on our website calendar ([ffcpeoria.com/calendar](http://ffcpeoria.com/calendar)), in our *Home Edition*, included in each week's service bulletin and in our E-Newsletter, *1stNews*.

**All games are played at Peoria Stadium, 315 E War Memorial Drive, Peoria**

<b>Sunday, May 6th:</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Field S-3</b>	<b>VS. The Pour House</b>
<b>Sunday, May 13th:</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Field S-3</b>	<b>VS. Royal Publishing</b>
<b>Sunday, May 20th:</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Field S-4</b>	<b>VS. Around the Horn</b>
<b>Sunday, May 27th:</b>	<b>No Games, Holiday Weekend</b>		

## Prayer Ministry ~ Pastoral Care

### Prayers, Pastoral Calls, Hospital Visits or Home Communion

**Give the office a call at 685-5258**

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

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

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



## In His Service

### Executive Board

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

**MODERATOR** . . . Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel, Jr.      **VICE-MODERATOR** . . . Kent Kowalske

#### Class of 2018

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

#### Class of 2019

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

#### Class of 2020

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

### Board of Deacons

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

#### Class of 2018

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

#### Class of 2019

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

### Nominating Committee

#### Class of 2018

Jill Koch, John Morris, Ron Silver, Kim Snarr

#### Class of 2019

Laura Kowalske, John Mooney, Robin Simpson, Linda Sahn

### Clerk of the Congregation

Suzanne Mooney

# Teaching

## Children's Ministry

### Coming Up In Sunday School

*Kindergarten ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

**Sunday, May 6th:**

**Youth Sunday** - all children remain in worship.

**Sunday, May 13th:**

**Mother's Day** - Today we celebrate the mothers who teach Sunday school by giving them a day off! Children will enjoy a Veggie Tales movie.

**Sunday, May 20th:**

**Last Day of Sunday school** - Heifer Celebration!

**Sunday, May 27th:**

**Veggie Tales Movie**



### Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

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

- **Sunday, May 20th**
- **9:15 am in the Commons**

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

## Junior Highs (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders)

### 2018 Confirmation

**Tuesday, May 15th**  
Confirmands present stoles  
to Executive Board

- 6:30 pm
- Boardroom, Life Together Center



**Sunday, June 3rd**  
**Confirmation Sunday**

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

Rev. Zach Lysdahl ♦ ☎309-685-5258 X-102 ✉zlysdahl@ffcpeoria.com

## Adult Christian Education

### Meditation Group

- Thursdays at 10:00 am
- Memorial Lounge
- Final meeting of the program year will be Thursday, May 17th
- Contact Ann Voll for information at 309-691-1781 or avoll@comcast.net.

### Off Campus Bible Studies

Each Thursday at:

- Independence Village at 9:15 am
- This Bible study will continue through the summer.  
Led by Rev. Zach Lysdahl.
- Lutheran Hillside Village at 10:30 am
- Final meeting of the program year will be Thursday, May 24th.  
Led by Rev. Frosty Krummel



**SPRING AT THE PRESCHOOLS AT FFC  
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2018 - 2019 SCHOOL YEAR**

*Current Programming:*

*Part-Day & Full-Day options for ages 2 to 6. FFC Members and siblings receive a discount on Preschool tuition.*

**END-OF-YEAR PROGRAMS**

- ❖ Full-Day Preschool Spring Concert
- ❖ Friday, May 25th at 6:00 pm
- ❖ FFC Sanctuary

Time To Think About . . .

FFC  
SUMMER  
CAMP

**KIDS' SUMMER CAMPS AT FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH**

- ❖ June 4th - August 3rd, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, with before and after-care options available
- ❖ Ages 2 to 10
- ❖ Daily, Weekly or Whole-Summer Rates
- ❖ Science, Art, Water-Play, Farm, Bugs, and Camping
- ❖ Talk with Kathie at 309-685-5258, X-108 about registration.



# First Federated Church of Peoria

www.ffcpeoria.com

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



*This Year's  
Pentecost  
Offering  
Recipient Is  
Habitat  
House!*

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



## First Federated Church of Peoria

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309-685-5258 • www.ffcpeoria.com

# Welcome

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#### Senior Minister

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#### Minister of Youth and Families

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#### Minister of Pastoral Care

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#### Organist

Al Murphy

#### Preschool Director

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#### Building and Grounds Manager

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