



Our Life Together



Operation Christmas Child ~ Shoebox Sunday Sunday, November 4th

Our Sunday school children will pack shoeboxes during Sunday school on this Sunday with donated items. Our shoeboxes will be gathered, and added to the shoeboxes of many other churches in our area and beyond.

First Federated Church's Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 18th

The Annual meeting of First Federated Church of Peoria, Illinois, will be on Sunday, November 18th, 2018 following the 10:00 am worship service.

All active members are called to attend.



Gingerbread House Party Sunday, November 25th, 5:00 pm

In the Life Together Center of First Federated Church.

This event includes a homemade meal and, of course, gingerbread decorating!

YOUR COST: A bag of decorating candy to share and a donation for the food pantry.

IMPORTANT: Please sign up! Sign up sheets are available at the reception desk and at Preschool information tables and on our website: ffcpeoria.com.

Christmas Eve Worship Services Monday, December 24th

5:00 PM FAMILY SERVICE: This family-oriented service features Christmas carols and the Christmas story shared through readings and hymns. The service will close with candlelight and the singing of *Silent Night*.

11:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: This beautiful candlelit service features special music by our Chancel Choir. Following the sermon, worshippers will join in singing *Silent Night* as the Sanctuary becomes brighter with the passing of the light of Christ.



First Federated Church of Peoria

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



2 **What's Inside . . .**

Page 2

*Glimpse of Grace
Worship*

Page 3

Count Your Blessings

Page 4

Missions

Pages 5

*Music Ministry
Membership*

Page 6

*Our Church Family
Church Fellowship Groups*

Page 7

Farewell Rev. Zach

Page 8

Annual Congregational Meeting

Pages 9

*Adult Christian Education
Prayer / Pastoral Ministries
Postal Forms*

Page 10

Children Ministries

Page 11

*Youth Ministries
The Preschools at FFC*

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
month's newsletter.

CONTACT US

Main Church: 309-685-5258
Email: info@ffcpeoria.com
Fax: 309-685-5451

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 am Chapel Service
10:00 am Sanctuary Service

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

ffcpeoria.com

Glimpse of Grace



"Something there is that doesn't love a wall," Robert Frost wrote, "That send the frozen-ground-swell under it and spills the upper boulders in the sun..." The same, I believe can be said of sidewalks. Grass has a way of encroaching upon its outer borders and coming up between its contraction joints. Before long, unless constantly maintained, the sidewalk itself begins to return to the earth, a mere indentation in the ground. Another one of Nature's reminders: "Earth to earth and dust to dust."

What is true of sidewalks is also true of the soul. If we do not carefully maintain the health of our spiritual lives, the demands of the world will encroach and slowly, ever so slowly, eat away at our spiritual health.

So, how do we maintain our spiritual health. Through spiritual disciplines --worship, prayer, fellowship, generosity, sacrifice, and service. I have become quite fond of lately, "There is a little plant called 'Reverence' in the corner of my soul's garden, which I love to have watered once a week."

We have to do ongoing maintenance of our soul more often than once a week, but once a week is a good start.



Rev. Dr. Frosty Krummel, Jr.

Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Forrest 'Frosty' Krummel, Jr. ☎ 309-685-5258, X-101 📧 fkrummel@ffcpeoria.com

Worship

All Saints' Day is Sunday, November 4th Communion Will Be Served

- 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 5th as we recall those saints of First Federated Church who passed to the Church Triumphant this past year.
- Worshipers will also have the opportunity to light a memorial votive candle in memory of a loved one.

Advent Sermon Series

A Christmas Carol: Rediscovering Faith

Every December for a number of years I have read Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. I've given away numerous copies over the years to family and friends. I find in it an insightful look at the meaning of Christmas and the slippery slope of our human condition.

Pick up a copy and read it this Advent as we look at Forgiveness and Grace.

A Stewardship Footnote

By Senior Minister, Frosty Krummel

"Jesus knew that one's relationship with money is, for many people, the greatest obstacle to living a life of full commitment and faithfulness. ... Whether we like it or not, what we own has a tendency to define, or at least influence, who we are." (Rev. Magrey deVega)

As we enter the final stage of this year's stewardship drive it is a good time to reflect upon the meaning of stewardship.

There is both a theological and what some would call a "practical" reason for a person to participate in a church stewardship campaign. I personally don't like this division between the "theological" and the "practical" because at a very basic level, all of life's decisions are "theological" in so far as they reveal to ourselves and others the true values of our lives. Those things that we hold important as reflected in our priorities.

*With what shall I
return to the Lord
for the favor
bestowed upon me."*

Now, I know that there are some--my father was one of them in his younger days--who think that ministers do not live in the "real world," that they are too "ivory tower-ish," and should never talk about money because they may be seen as "feathering their own nest." There are some who believe that ministers are so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good. But, with the exception of the Kingdom of God, Jesus talked about money and possessions more than any other subject including prayer because he knew that how we spend our money and use our resources reveals our spiritual health.

Unfortunately, the world in which we live Monday through Saturday and even on Sunday afternoon tells us that our "self-worth" is revealed in our "net-worth." That is only a short-term balance sheet.

I remember an old elder in a church I served years ago. I was much younger then and my daughters were small. On a Sunday morning she stopped me in the church kitchen and said, "Listen, don't be afraid to talk to people about money. Volunteering is fine, but

volunteering will not pay the bills, and it will not support mission. So don't be afraid to talk about people's giving." Taking her words to heart, I have never hesitated to talk about money.

On a practical level, I long believed that the church is like a Boeing 747. The building is but the shell of the plane, The four engines that enable a church to get off the ground and fly are Worship, Mission, Fellowship and Education. These are the same hallmarks of the Early Church found in Acts 2:42. The money that we give is the jet fuel the feeds the engines. A church can only fly as high as the financial support of its members and friends. The 2019 budget will be based on the success of the generosity of FFC's family and friends.

On a theological level, well, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. once wrote, "There is a little plant called Reverence in the corner of my soul's garden, which I love to have watered once a week." The spiritual habit of setting aside of our "first-fruits," a percentage of our income--not from the "leftovers" but from the "first fruits"--is one of the ways that we water that little plant in our lives called "Reverence."

So, if you are asking yourself, "How shall I participate in this year's stewardship campaign?" or "How much should I give?" be relieved to know that not I nor anyone else can answer that question for you. I can tell you what Sue and I give to the on-going ministry of First Federated Church, but my decision isn't your decision. I can tell you, though, that it is based on percentage of income. Giving based on percentages is like a float. If our income increases, so does our contribution. If it decreases, so does our contribution. Guilt and obligation is not involved in any way, shape, or form.

If you have not yet participated in this year's "Count Your Blessings" campaign, I invite you to prayerfully ask God what your financial commitment should be to the ministry of First Federated Church. Consider the words that prophet of old, "With what shall I return to the Lord for the favor bestowed upon me."



Passport To Hope

The Missions Committee Fall Fundraiser was held Saturday, September 29th In our Life Together Center.

Thanks to the generous support of attending guests and those who could not attend but gave as well, \$12,919.23 was raised to support our Snack Pack program and our Wana Wa Mola Mission in Kenya.

It took many people to organize this event.

We thank them all for their hard work and dedication ~ this event would not have been such a success without the contribution from each of you.



Thank You All!

'Tis The Season . . . Almost!

FFC Giving Tree

Please bring a smile to the face of a young person by providing them something special and new this Christmas. The Giving tree will be placed in the Commons by mid-November and will benefit children from Common Place and Crittenton Center.

You can choose one or more stars, purchase the gifts, and place the wrapped gifts with star firmly attached to the outside of the gift back under the tree.

Mission Committee volunteers will deliver the gifts mid-December for Christmas delivery to the recipients!



Annual FFC 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 early in December and represents a unique giving opportunity. Most Advent Sundays will feature one of our catalog mission concerns during a "Mission Moment" at the 10 am worship service.

Crittenton Stocking Stuffer Store

Once again we will partner with the Crittenton Centers and provide a shopping experience for preschoolers in their related programs. Volunteers are always welcomed to help little ones pick out gifts for Mom and Dad, Brother and Sister, Grandma and Grandpa. Watch the Home Edition and 1stNews for this year's shopping date. For more information, please contact the church office at 309-685-5258.



Ongoing FFC Missions

Snack Pack

- Packing weekend snacks for children at Common Place and Whittier Grade School takes place Thursday mornings at 8:30 am* in the LTC warehouse.

* Holiday weeks, schedule may vary.

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.

Orpheus Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 2nd, 3:00 pm

The men of Orpheus will fill our sanctuary with music at 3:00 pm.

Come support this wonderful, seasonal event. Several of FFC's own men sing in the group and Russel Boulton will lead the ensemble. We will say goodbye to the Fall, celebrate Illinois' birthday, and usher in Christmastide with beautiful music, both new and old, and even have a caroling sing-a-long.

Sing~It~Yourself Messiah

Sunday, December 9th, 3:00 pm

This annual holiday tradition will once more be hosted at First Federated Church.

A professional ensemble under the direction of Dr. John Jost will lead in combined chorus and audience while soloists: Soprano - Courtney Huffman, Mezzo - Denise Gamez, Tenor - Eric Ashcraft, Baritone - Saul Nache dazzle with their voices, featured in the arias of the is great masterwork.

The event is free, though those looking to support this project may call or email Russel for more information.

Join Our Music Ministry

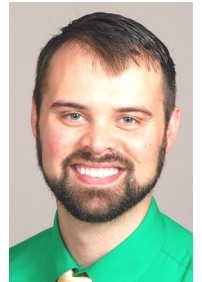
Come and join the Chancel Choir and express your faith through song! If you are at all interested, stop by at 9:00 AM that Sunday and sit in on rehearsal. I would love discuss the many possibilities for participation in the music at First Federated Church!

Join our Sound Team! We have an additional goal that is open to those who doubt their music skills but would like to help at our 10:00 am worship service. Our sound system team has room to grow. If interested, please contact me or Andy Braun.

I have the privilege of hearing the congregation raise the strain whether we are in session or not and I can factually state that there are many fine voices that would fit in well with our Chancel Choir. Please, if interested, contact a choir member or me.

Russel Boulton

Director, Worship and Music



Worship & Music Director, Russel Boulton ☎ 309-685-5258, x.104 ✉ rboulton@ffcpeoria.com

Our Church Family

Church Membership ~ Informational Brunch

Sunday, December 2nd, 11:15 am in the Bride's Lounge on the 2nd floor

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of First Federated Church please contact the church office at 309-685-5258 or email cwalter@ffcpeoria.com.

We'd love to see you there!

Interested in
Membership?
Maybe NOW is the time!

Our Church Family

A Matter of Record

Completed This Part Of Life

September 8th - Joyce Dalton
September 18th - Samuel Nelson Higus
October 10th - Matthew C. Bair

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.

New Members ~ Please make them welcome!

Sunday, August 26th
Holly and Bob Creel
Sandy and Dennis Reed



Sandy and Dennis Reed

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.

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 the church office at 309-685-5258 or check the Home Edition or our e-newsletter, 1stNews.

KNITTING / CROCHETING MINISTRY ■

Our Knitting Group gathers on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am in our Memorial Lounge. They work on Prayer Shawls that are delivered to hospitalized or ill congregants, Baby Blankets that go to families with new babies, New Member afghans and Graduation afghans that go to our graduating High School Seniors. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Alice Racine through the church office at 309-685-5258.

OLD BUDDIES BREAKFAST ■

The "Old Buddies," is a men's fellowship group that meets for breakfast and fellowship monthly. They meet Tuesdays at 8:30 am in the Private Dining Room of Lutheran Hillside Village. Meetings will be held on November 20th and December 18th. All gentleman of the church are welcome.

FIRST FEDERATED WOMEN'S CLUB ■

The Women's Club will meet Wednesday, December 5th at noon in the Commons. The program will be "A Prairie Christmas" by Brian Fox Ellis, Professional Storyteller. Lunch will be served. Membership is open to all women of First Federated Church. For more information you may contact Women's Club President, Ann Ragsdale through the church office at 309-685-5258.

THE FFC BOOK CLUB ■

The November/December meeting of the book club will be Saturday, December 1st at 10:00 am at the North Branch of Peoria Public Library (3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria, Illinois 61615). The book will be *The Orphan's Tale* by Pam Jenoff.



Additional events for some of the above groups may be added. These events will be publicized in the Home Edition, our Sunday news insert which you will find in your Sunday bulletin each week, and in our E-newsletter, the 1stNews, which is emailed to subscribers each Friday afternoon. You may subscribe to the 1stNews on our website: ffcpeoria.com/newsletter/ or by contacting the church office at 309-685-5258, X-100 or cwalter@ffcpeoria.com.

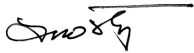
Dear Members and Friends of FFC,

Like you, it is with sadness that we have accepted the resignation of our Assistant Minister Zach Lysdahl. His impact upon us was great and his time with us was too short. But, God's plans and timing are not always ours. And, as part of a clergy couple, I know full well how difficult it is to balance marriage, family, and profession within the greater Church.

Zach has been an outstanding colleague; an innovator, a leader, and an example not only in the area of youth and families but within the whole congregation. He was someone that many of you and I could lean on for wisdom and insight. He will be missed.

Yet, at the same time, we cannot help but to be happy for his wife "Alex" as she begins a new call as an Associate Minister in southern Illinois. We also know that God has greater plans for Zach as he finishes writing the last page in the chapter of his life entitled "First Federated Church."

Prayers and blessings, one and all.



Dear First Federated Church Family,

What a joy these last two and a half years have been for me. So much has happened: I've witnessed many baptisms, I've journeyed with confirmands into church membership, I've gone across the country on youth group mission trips, I've ate my share of barbecue at young family events, I've visited with church members at their homes and at the hospital, I've prayed with the church, I've read the Bible with the church, I've preached, I've mourned the loss of members and friends, and celebrated the Lord's Supper with you, as a community of Christ's disciples. All of these experiences have left an impression upon me. One that will not be forgotten, and I will carry with me into my future ministry, wherever that might be. Thank you for giving me room to grow, try new things, and learn what it means to be a pastor and brother in Christ. You are wonderful, kind, and generous, the embodiment of what and who God has called all Christians to be.

God has called Alex and me to a new place. One where she will be an Associate Pastor, which means my time with FFC is quickly coming to a close. My last Sunday as Assistant Pastor of Youth and Young Families will be October 28, 2018. It is not easy for me to leave, but I trust in God's promise to never leave nor forsake us. This promise is to individuals and also to communities. God is present at FFC. In fact, God is accomplishing mighty things through the church. Hungry children are being fed through the snack pack program. The homeless are getting housing through Habitat for Humanity. Disciples are being formed through Sunday school. The good news of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed inside and outside the church through you all, by your words and your actions. God is at work in the community of Peoria through you. I am excited for the future of FFC and how God is and is going to continue to use the church to share the love of Jesus Christ with all people.

It is clear that God has called us to Belleville and we are excited. Although, I am not sure what is next for me in terms of the day-to-day, I believe God has a plan and it is only a matter of time before God reveals it. Until then, I look forward to supporting my wife's ministry, exploring Belleville, Illinois by bicycle, and adventuring to new places in the St. Louis area with my wife.

Peace be with you,



Annual Congregational Meeting

The Call to Active Members Of First Federated Church of Peoria, Illinois To the Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of First Federated Church, Peoria, Illinois shall be held
Sunday, November 18th, 2018 five (5) minutes after the
Benediction at the congregation's 10 o'clock 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 2019 annual budget, as presented by the Executive Board;
4. And other business related to the above items.



Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel, Jr
Moderator



Kent Kowalske
Vice Moderator

Prayer Ministry ~ Pastoral Care

Children's Ministry ▫ Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Sunday ~ November 4th



Our Sunday school children will pack shoeboxes during Sunday school on this Sunday with donated items. Our shoeboxes will be gathered, and added to the shoeboxes of many other churches in our area and beyond.

Gingerbread Baking Dates

- Interested church "groups" (men's groups, youth group, young families, etc.) who are interested in baking gingerbread, please have them contact Jessica Sheley.
- November 4th and 11th - Volunteers appreciated
- To volunteer contact Jessica at jsheley@ffcpeoria.com!



November In Sunday School

Memory Verse: "Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do." Ecclesiastes 4:9

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Life App: Cooperation – Working together to do more than you can do alone.

Sunday, November 4th

All children will participate in Shoebox Sunday.

Sunday, November 11th

Bible Story: Building the Tabernacle (Exodus 19, 25)
Bottom Line: God wants us to work together.

Sunday, November 18th

Bible Story: Joshua Wins the Battle Over the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-13)
Bottom Line: Work together to help someone succeed.

Sunday, November 25th

Bible Story: Jesus Heals the Paralytic (Luke 5:17-26)
Bottom Line: Work together to help someone in need.

December In Sunday School

Sunday, December 2nd

Christmas Program Rehearsal

Sunday, December 9th

Christmas Program Rehearsal

Saturday, December 15th

Christmas Program Rehearsal,
12:30 to 1:30 in the Great Hall.
Pizza party to follow!



Program Practice

Sunday, December 16th

Christmas Program Rehearsal

Sunday, December 16th

Christmas Program, 6:00 pm, FFC Sanctuary

Sunday, December 23rd

All children remain in worship

Sunday, December 30th

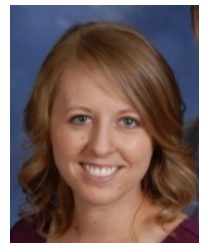
Movie & popcorn



Children's Midweek Ministry

Wednesdays in January ~ 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
5:30 to 7:00 pm

- Watch your mail for registration information or pick it up at church.
- Kindergarten through 5th grade
- Ministry, manners, food and fun.
- For more information contact Jessica Sheley at jsheley@ffcpeoria.com or 309-685-5258 X-105.



Jessica Sheley

Director of Children's Ministries

Junior Highs (5th ~ 8th Grade) / Senior Highs (9th ~ 12th Grade)

Junior Highs ~ Fellowship

Dinner & Game Night!

- Friday, November 16th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- Junior High room, 3rd floor, FFC

Christmas Party

- Friday, December 7th, 6:00 to 7:30 pm
- Location to be determined

Junior Highs Sunday School

- Junior High classes take place on Sundays during 10:00 am worship in the Junior High room on the third floor.

Junior Highs to Help With Shoebox Sunday

Sunday, November 4th - during Sunday school

Fall Confirmation Schedule

Teaching Retreat

- Sunday, November 4th, 11:15 – 4:00 pm
- Garden Room, Life Together Center



Senior Highs ~ Fellowship

Christmas Party

- Sunday, December 9th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
- Location to be determined

Senior Highs ~ Sunday School

- Senior Highs remain and participate in our 10 am worship service.
- Senior Highs meet for fellowship, study and food on Sunday evenings at 5:30 pm in the Senior High room on the third floor.

Junior and Senior Highs to Help With the Gingerbread House Party

Saturday, November 24th

- Set-up at the Life Together Center - Time to be determined

Sunday, November 25th

- Gingerbread House Party

The Preschools at FFC



Preschool Dates

- November 21st: Thanksgiving Celebration 10:15 - 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall
- November 22nd - 23rd: No School
- December 15th: Preschool / Sunday School rehearsal for Christmas Program 10:30 am in the Sanctuary
- December 16th: Children Christmas Program 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary
- December 21st: Christmas Party 10:00 - 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall
- December 24th - January 2nd: No School



Brittany Arnold

Director, The Preschools at FFC

First Federated Church of Peoria

www.ffcpeoria.com

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Children's Christmas Program!

Join us for an exciting event this Christmas season!

Our FFC Sunday school children will join with our FFC Preschool children for this year's Christmas Children's Program!
Program will be held on **Sunday, December 16th at 6:00 pm in FFC's Sanctuary.**

Children will rehearse during Sunday school on the following dates:
Sundays, November 25th, and December 2nd, 9th and 16th.

All are welcome!

Music will also be rehearsed in Preschool classes during the week.

Final rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 15th

At 10:30 am in FFC's Life Together Center, Great Hall.

A pizza party will follow rehearsal.

Children ages preschool - 2nd grade will be singing;
grades 3rd - 5th grade will serve as readers and bell ringers.

All children are encouraged to wear their "Sunday best" for the program.

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.101 fkrummel@ffcpeoria.com

Minister of Pastoral Care

Rev. Stephen Barch . . . X.103 sbarch@ffcpeoria.com

Director of Worship and Music

Russel Boulton . . . X.104 rboulton@ffcpeoria.com

Organist

Al Murphy

Preschool Director

Brittany Arnold . . . X.108 barnold@ffcpeoria.com

Director of Children's Ministries

Jessica Sheley . . . X.105 jsheley@ffcpeoria.com

Sunday Nursery Attendants

Kirsten Hanson and Heather Foster

Administrative Manager

Gail Weghorst . . . X.106 gweghorst@ffcpeoria.com

Financial Secretary

Lisa Hoepker . . . X.107 lhoepker@ffcpeoria.com

Secretary

Cecelia Walter . . . X.100 cwalter@ffcpeoria.com

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