



Our Life Together

SAVE THE DATE ~ WILD GAME DINNER

Friday, January 25th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm,

- FFC will provide sides ~ Need donations of wild game
- If you are able bring a dish of wild game or are unable to attend please contact Luke or Shane through the church office.
- If you are planning to attend please sign-up at the reception desk so we have a proper head count.
- This will be a great event with lots of great food and fellowship.



Join Us Sundays

Sunday, January 6th ~ Epiphany

- Communion will be served at both the 8:00 and 10:00 am services.
- Installation of New Church Officers and Board of Deacon members will be held at the 10:00 am service.
- Our Sunday school teachers will meet in Creation Station (11:15 am.)

Sunday, January 13th ~ The Baptism of Christ

- Our Confirmands will gather in the Garden room for their Worship Retreat (11:30 am.)
- Our Board of Deacons will meet in the Bride's Lounge (11:30 am.)

Sunday, January 20th ~ Second Sunday after Epiphany

- A New Member Informational Brunch will be held in the Bride's Lounge (11:15 am.)

Sunday, January 27th ~ Third Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 3rd ~ Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

- Our Annual Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser for Midwest Food bank will be held in Fellowship Hall (11:15 am.)

Sunday, February 10th ~ Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- Sunday school children deliver valentines to Buehler Home residents
- Our Confirmands will gather in the Garden room for their Mission Retreat (11:30 am.)
- Our Board of Deacons will meet in the Bride's Lounge (11:30 am.)

Sunday, February 17th ~ Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 24th ~ Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

- Sunday school children will celebrate Pretzel Prayer Sunday

Wednesday, March 6th ~ Ash Wednesday ~ Join Us For The 6:30 pm Service



The 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 by:

FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH

3601 N Sheridan Road
Peoria, Illinois 61604

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

CONTACT US

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

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

ffcpeoria.com

Glimpse of Grace



One afternoon a father heard a pounding noise in the basement. He went downstairs to explore and found that his young child was using the handle end of a screwdriver to drive nails into a piece of soft pine.

"What are you doing?" the father asked.

"I'm makin' something," the child replied, "but this is a terrible hammer."

The dad reached for a box of wood screws and said, "Let me show you something." He easily twisted the screw into the wood. "Now you try."

The child did and much to the little delight, squealed, "This is easy!"

"Well," the father said as he walked back up the stairs, "You'll find that things work best when you use them as they were intended."

That's true of you and I, too. Several years ago I was in a men's bible study when one of the members talked about his frustration over being a dentist. His father insisted that he become a dentist so he went to a good private college and top rated dental school. But he found his practice to be unfulfilling. One of the members asked the dentist what he really wanted to be when he was a small boy. "A jazz pianist." "Have you ever thought about giving that a shot now?"

Later the dentist said that that somewhat offhand comment was like a near-sighted man putting on glasses. Suddenly things looked clearer. He began to see his career as a means to an end. Slowly he eased out of his dental practice and for several years now he has substituted for "vacationing" dentists while he plays jazz piano to, as he says, "the glory of God."

God made each one of us for a purpose. Our job may not be our "calling" or true vocation. If you're a "screwdriver" don't worry about being a "hammer." Both the hammer and the screwdriver can build something wonderful in God's Kingdom.

What Are Your Favorite Things About First Federated Church?

For some it is the music. For others the youth programs. Maybe it is the traditional worship service or the 8 am service. You may have a one word answer; Stronghold, Mission, Friendships. No one can disagree that our facilities are truly "awe-inspiring," especially the sanctuary.

Have you ever thought about how you could "endow" your annual pledge so that your favorite things about FFC can be continued or enhanced? By remembering the church in your will you can do this. Did you know that if you set aside 10 times your annual pledge in your estate planning, your financial support to the ministries of FFC will continue forever? It will even multiply as others join you in this perpetual ministry.

If you would like information on how to remember FFC in your estate planning please contact the church Endowment Committee.

Rev. Dr. Frosty Krummel, Jr.

Senior Minister

Wana Wa Mola: **Swahili for "God's Children"**

In December of 2018 the Mission Committee was blessed when it received an "on-the-ground" report from Carrie Watkins-Reichartz about the ministry of Wana Wa Mola. She is in Mombasa several times a year to oversee another ministry as well as serving on the Board of Directors of Wana Wa Mola.

There are currently 21 "boys" in the Wana Wa Mola home as well as an additional 250 street children being served by the ministry. The boys in the home are evaluated by a psychologist who assesses their academic and vocational abilities. All of the boys have their most elementary educational needs met. Those who are too far behind in school are enrolled in vocational training. All of the boys become self-supporting.

There is also a spiritual component to their life together. The boys begin the day with community devotions before going to school. They end the day with community evening prayers. On Sundays they attend worship at the Crossroads Church and frequently participate in their congregational activities.

Abdallah Hussein's Story:

"I am 14 years old. I come from Kasarani. At home we did not have enough food to eat and I could not go to school because my father would not buy me the books I needed and the uniform. He beat me a lot at home. Eventually I ran away and came to Mombasa town. Living on the streets I begged for money to buy food. I used bhang (an illegal marijuana-like substance) and "mogoka" (an illegal synthetic street drug). I was often bullied by older street boys and chased by the city police.

I came to Wana Wa Mola through Crossroad church where I used to go with other street boys every Sunday to pray. I talked to one of the Wana Wa Mola mentors who agreed to let me come to Wana Wa Mola. At Wana Wa Mola life has been good because I have a place to sleep, food to eat, I bathe everyday, I wear nice clothes, there is no bullying, and I will go to school in January. I am in class five (5).



FFC's Souper Bowl Sunday

All Proceeds go to Midwest Food Bank



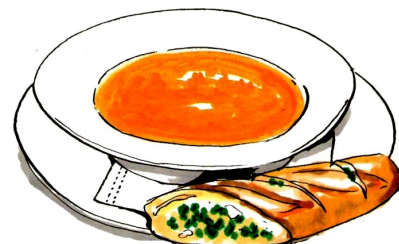
- Sunday, February 3rd, following the 10:00 am worship service in our Fellowship Hall
- \$6 per adult, \$4 per child, or \$20 for a family

Soup Judging!

- Enter a favorite soup in our soup judging
- Two winners will be chosen: People's Choice and Judge's Choice.
- Win bragging rights for the year!

Make Your Reservation!

- Use the sign up sheet at the reception desk.
- Visit our website: <http://www.ffcpeoria.com/ffcs-souper-bowl-sunday/>



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.

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.

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 year's catalog featured:

Center for Prevention of Abuse
Common Place Family Learning Center
Crittenton Centers
ELITE Youth Programs

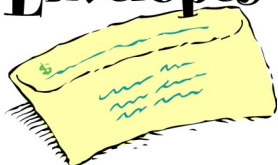
EPIC
The ~~gim~~ Foundation
Heddington Oaks
Midwest Food Bank

Neighborhood House
Paws Giving Independence
Peoria Public Schools Foundation
Southside Mission

We enjoyed Sunday Mission Moments from several of these groups including ELITE, EPIC, Paws Giving Independence and Crittenton Centers. We look forward to reporting final totals as soon as they are compiled.

Thank you for your generous support.

Offering Envelopes



Requested Offering Envelopes

- Your requested 2018 offering envelopes are now available on a table just behind the reception desk.
- If you wish to request 2018 offering envelopes there is a sign-up sheet on the table with the envelopes.

Crittenton Stocking Stuffer Shopping Fun

Once again FFC partnered with the Crittenton Centers to provide volunteers to help little ones pick out gifts for Mom and Dad, Brother and Sister, Grandma and Grandpa.

And the fun ensued . . .



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: Saturday, February 16th: Dinner at PVII (8305 N. Allen Road, Peoria.) Contact Judy Thompson through the church office.

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. Projects include: Prayer Shawls which are delivered to hospitalized or ill congregants; Baby Blankets delivered to families with new babies; New Member afghans; and afghans presented each year to our youth ministry graduating high school seniors. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Alice Racine through the church office.

Old Buddies Breakfast ▪

"Old Buddies," is a men's fellowship group that meets for breakfast and fellowship monthly on the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 am in the Private Dining Room of Lutheran Hillside Village. All gentleman of the church are welcome. First quarter meetings are scheduled for January 15th, February 19th, March 19th.

First Federated Women's Club ▪

The Women's Club meets the third Wednesday of each month (*November & December meetings are combined*). 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.

Wednesday, January 23rd at Noon members and guests will gather in the Commons. The program will be "The Wreck of the Columbia" presented by Ken Zerski, Broadcaster and Author. Lunch will be served.

Wednesday, February 27th at Noon members and guests will gather in the Commons. The program speaker will be Pam Rumba, Executive Director of Common Place Family and Learning Center. Lunch will be served.

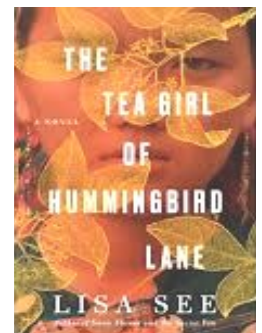
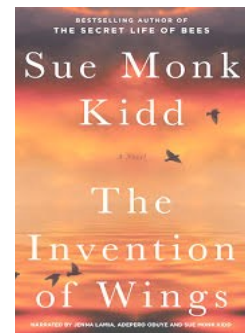
The FFC Book Club ▪

The Book Club meets the fourth Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at the North Branch of Peoria Public Library (3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria, Illinois 61615).

Selected reading for the January 26th meeting will be Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd.

Selected reading for the February 23rd meeting will be The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See.

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.



Church Membership ~ Informational Brunch

Sunday, January 20th, 11:15 am in the Bride's Lounge,
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!



A Matter of Record

Completed This Part Of Life

November 19th - Martha McGinnis
December 23rd - JoAnn Feucht

Birth

November 13th - Hunter Blake Hedlin
Parents are Sheena (Samuelson) and
Blake Hedlin. Blake has an older sister,
Maeve. Craig and Mindi Samuelson are
grandparents, Blake is their sixth
grandchild.



New Member

Sunday, November 11th - Tim Carley
Please make him welcome!



*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.*

Music Ministry

Join Our Music Ministry

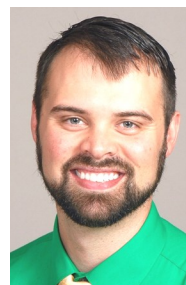
- The Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells have sung and rung nearly every week from the second Sunday of September to the present. Their rehearsals and focus during Sundays are greatly appreciated, and I hope the members of the congregation sitting in the pews have offered their thanks, also, for the effort given to enhance our worship experience. That being said, many of you in the pews have immense musical talent and would fit in just fine with our merry band of minstrels. There is a folder and a robe waiting for you. Please, come and make music with us. The bells practice at 6:00 most Thursday evenings and the choir follows at 7:00. If you play an instrument, we can always look to add such an offering to our services.
- 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.

Russel Boulton

Director, Worship and Music

Mr. Boulton

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



On December 2nd approximately 300 people
enjoyed the Orpheus Holiday Concert.



On December 16th approximately 250 people
joined us for the Sing-It-Yourself Messiah.

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant

With the start of a new year we express our appreciation to the members of our Executive Board and Board of Deacons whose terms come to an end.

Our Board of Deacons are the compassionate hands and heart of the congregation. Often they work behind the scenes, unnoticed as they care for the congregation in the members' times of "plenty and want." Their most "public" ministry is one of compassion as they comfort families during times of grief.

Retiring Deacons are:

Thank you all for your service.

Welcome New Executive Board & Board of Deacons Members

Ordination / Installation of Officers

Sunday, January 6th, 10:00 am worship service

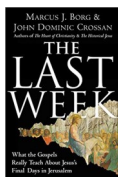
- Our new board members will be installed in front of our congregation and will begin their duties.
- Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their service to our congregation.

Adult Monday Bible Study

- Will resume January 14th
- Mondays, 12:30 -1:30 pm
- Bride's Lounge, 2nd floor
- Our Great Courses New Testament bible studies will resume with "Jesus: the Apocalyptic Prophet" and continue through "The Acts of the Apostles, Paul-The Man & the Mission," as well as the New Testament letters, including Revelation.
- All that you need to bring is an inquisitive and open mind.

Theology On Tap Is Back!

- Beginning Tuesday, January 15th
- 7:00 to 8:00 pm at Bearded Owl Brewing
(112 State Street #1a, Peoria, IL 61602)
- Subsequent dates are January 29th, February 5th & 26th, March 5th, 12th & 26th, April 2nd, 9th, & 16th
- We will be discussing The Last Week, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. This book takes an in-depth look at the last week of Christ's life on earth according to the gospel of Mark.
- You are encouraged to purchase your own copy of this book.
- This study will be guided by Shane Richardson.



Meditation Group

- Resumes Thursday, January 10th
- Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Memorial Lounge
- Contact Ann Voll for information at 309-691-1781 or avoll@comcast.net.

Off Campus Bible Studies

- Resumes Thursday, January 10th
- Thursday mornings.
- Independence Village at 9:00 am
- Lutheran Hillside Village at 10:30 am in the private dining room.
- Led by Rev. Frosty Krummel

Sunday Seminars

- January / February Seminars are in planning!
- Watch for the Home Edition and 1stNews for further information.

Pastoral Care ~ Prayer Ministry

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 Rev. Krummel or Rev. Barch to come to your home.

Shut-In Ministries

- If you are home-bound and would like church bulletins and sermons mailed to you each week please contact the church office at 309-685-5258.



Rev. Steve Barch
Pastoral Care Minister

Rev. Steve Barch ☎ 309-685-5258, X-103 ✉ sbarch@ffcpeoria.com

Prayer Ministries

- **Our Prayer Teams**
 - We can add your prayer request to a congregation-wide prayer list, Rev. Steve's Prayer Team list, or the "just the staff" list. Your request will be kept as confidential as you choose.
 - Rev. Steve Barch emails a list out weekly to his Prayer Team Members; this list is kept confidential within his group.
- **Special Prayer Bulletins**
 - Health concerns, up-coming surgery ~ please let us know. We can notify the congregation usually within minutes of your request.
 - Contact the church office at 309-685-5258 or cwalter@ffcpeoria.com if you would like an email sent to the congregation with your prayer request.
- **Prayer Bulletin: Blessings Delivered**
 - The birth of a child is a blessing delivered, please let us know when you have an addition to your family, and our faith family as well.
 - Contact the church office at cwalter@ffcpeoria.com, include photos and information.

January In Sunday School

Memory Verse: "God's power has given us everything we need to lead a Godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Life App: Self Control – Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to.

Sunday, January 6th

Bible Story: City With Broken Walls Proverbs 25:28

Bottom Line: Doing what you should can keep you safe.

Sunday, January 13th

Bible Story: Slow to Anger Proverbs 16:32

Bottom Line: Think before you lose your temper.

Sunday, January 20th

Bible Story: Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

Bottom Line: I need to make the wise choice.

Sunday, January 27th

Bible Story: Too Much of a Good Thing Proverbs 25:16

Bottom Line: Know when to stop.

Sunday School Teacher Meeting

- Sunday, January 6th, 11:15 am, Creation Station
- 2nd semester curriculum
- Childcare will be provided



Children's Midweek Ministry

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

February In Sunday School

Memory Verse: "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servants of everyone." Mark 9:35

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

Life App: Service – Lending a hand to help someone.

Sunday, February 3rd

Sunday school children will make Valentine's Day cards which will be delivered to Buehler Home on February 10th.

Sunday, February 10th

Sunday school children will deliver Valentine's to the residents of Buehler Home during Sunday school.

Saturday, February 17th

Bible Story: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet John 13:1-17

Bottom Line: Serve others because of what Jesus did for us

Sunday, February 24th

Bible Story: Meet People's Needs 1 Peter 4:10-11

Bottom Line: Look for ways to serve others



Pretzel Prayer Sunday

- Sunday, February 24th
- Children will make pretzels and focus on the meaning of prayer and Lent during Sunday School.



Jessica Sheley

Director of Children's Ministries

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

Youth Holiday Celebrations



Junior and Senior High Students celebrated Christmas fellowship, food and fun graciously hosted by the VandeWiele family. Senior Highs on Sunday, December 9th. Junior Highs on Friday, December 14th.

Junior Highs (5th ~ 8th Grade)

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.
- Sunday, February 10th - No Sunday school
- Junior Highs will help with Valentine Delivery to Buehler Home Residents.

Junior Highs ~ Fellowship

- Dinner & Ice Skating
- Friday, January 18th, Time TBD
- Bowling at the Christian Center
- Friday, February 8th, 6:00 pm

Confirmation Schedule

- Worship Retreat
- Sunday, January 13th, 11:15 – 4:00 pm
- Garden Room, Life Together Center
- Missions Retreat
- Sunday, February 10th, 11:15 – 4:00 pm
- Garden Room, Life Together Center



Senior Highs (9th ~ 12th Grade)

Senior Highs ~ Sunday school

- Senior Highs remain and participate in our 10 am worship service.
- Sunday, January 13th, 5:30 pm ~ Evening gatherings resume
- Senior Highs meet for study, fellowship, food on Sunday evenings at 5:30 pm in the Senior High room on the third floor.



Stronghold Retreat ~ Save The Dates

- Friday, March 1st
- Saturday, March 2nd
- Sunday, March 3rd
- All 8th graders and Senior Highs Invited!
- Planning will begin soon, watch your mail for updates.

The Preschools at FFC



Preschool Dates

- Thursday, January 3rd - Preschool classes resume
- Monday, January 21st - Martin Luther King Day, Preschool closed
- Thursday, February 14th - Classroom Valentine Parties



2018 Christmas Children's Program

A combined FFC Preschools and FFC Sunday school program was presented Sunday, December 16th in our Sanctuary. About 75 children and over 275 family members were in attendance to enjoy the program. Thank you Brittany Arnold and staff, Jessica Sheley and staff, and Russel Boulton for organizing a great event!

Brittany Arnold
Director, The Preschools at FFC



Brittany Arnold ☎309-685-5258, x.108 ✉barnold@ffcpeoria.com

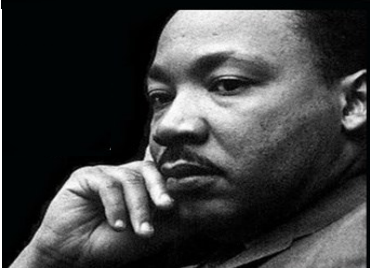
First Federated Church of Peoria

www.ffcpeoria.com

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P 309-685-5258 • F 309-685-5451 • info@ffcpeoria.com



First Federated Church &
The Preschools at FFC
will be closed
Monday, January 21st.



In Honor of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



Children's Midweek Ministry

- Wednesdays in January ~ 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
- 5:30 to 7:00 pm
- 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.
- Next LOGOS dates will be in April.

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

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

Welcome

Life Together Center Event Planning Information

Please visit: ffcpeoria.com/serve/life-together-center/

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