

^{Our} Life Together

Beginnings

Coming Back Together 2022 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

A stewardship campaign encourages commitments, or pledges, from church members to help us budget for the following year. Based on these pledges, church leadership determines what we hope to accomplish in 2022.

Every dollar pledged is vital and no amount is too small to make a difference!

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

Sunday, September 19th Stewardship Kick-Off 8 & 10 am Worship Services

September 19th - November 14th Stewardship Pledge Collection

> Sunday, December 5th Congregational Meeting with 2022 Budget Approval

HELP US PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR BY SUBMITTING YOUR PLEDGE BY NOVEMBER 14TH 0 0



"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Would you like to be part of a ministry that makes a real difference in others' lives when they need it most - and in your own? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister!

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who provide one-to-one caring ministry to people experiencing grief, divorce. Ioneliness. job loss. hospitalization. and many other life difficulties.

Stephen Minister training equips you to do an excellent job as a Stephen Minister as well as to improve the quality of all your relationships.

We are searching for recruits for the Stephen Ministries program beginning shortly here at First Federated Church.

Please contact Rev. Stephen Barch if you would like to have a conversation about becoming part of this exciting new ministry.

Office : 309.685.5258 x103 • Cell : 309.361.0182 : Text OK Email : sbarch@ffcpeoria.com



The First Federated Church of Peoria

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

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First Federated Church

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Contact Us

Phone • 309.685.5258 Email • info@ffcpeoria.com Fax • 309.685.5451

Office Hours 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Friday

Worship Services

8 am Sunday Service 10 am Sunday Service Reservations not required

> Visit Our Website ffcpeoria.com

WHERE DID THE SUMMER GO?

Where did the summer go? This year has already flown by; it is 2/3rds of the way complete. How did that happen?

Part of the explanation is that so many things have happened during this year. We have experienced the up and down cycles of COVID and the ever-changing infection rates and guidelines that we should follow. There has been grief and loss: loved ones have passed away and circumstances have hindered the sharing of our grief and the appropriate consolation. Classroom and school closings have unexpectedly disrupted our plans. Feelings of exasperation have become the norm because our lives have been placed on hold or thrown into turmoil, sometimes both at the same time. And, let's not mention the political issues or natural disasters that have bombarded our newsfeeds.

But you, you are to be commended for your resiliency – your adaptability, your coping skills – in dealing with the onslaught and rapidity of change that you have faced. You have recognized that there is something greater out there that is able to provide sense and stability for your life. This greater force is called faith. And through faith, you have risen to the task exceedingly well. Allow me to provide a few examples:

- People are still joining the church.
- Baptisms still occur.
- We achieved a successful capital campaign in a short period of time.
- A record amount was raised through last year's Christmas catalog.
- A record amount was raised for mission through this year's Rummage Sale that will support our ministry through Snack-Pack and Wana Wa Mola.
- The endowment is at the largest point that it has ever been.

- Your faithful giving helped the church achieve a surplus at the end of last year.
- The roof is being replaced.
- The Christian education wing underwent some remodeling efforts in order to meet new fire code.
- Singing and congregational response has resumed.
- The organ will be repaired and back in operation shortly.
- The parking lot will be resealed this Fall.
- People are stepping forward with volunteer efforts and hours.
- The Senior Pastor Search Committee a great assemblage of individuals is underway.
- A Stephen's Ministry is beginning.
- And yet, there are still other items that have not been named.

Wow! Such great, loving responses!

"How have we done this?" you may ask. It is because you are allowing yourself to live in the aspect of faith – of seeing the possibility of what God can do because of you, with you, through you. In seeing that possibility, a difference has been made in all of us as programs are enriched and lives changed.

All of these things have happened because of the encounters in which possibility and love were fully present. And if those stories can be multiplied like an epidemic, we WILL see a changed, better world, a

world where love and possibility are the threads that hold everything together.



On behalf of the church Finance Committee, thank you all for your contributions to the Raise Our Roof campaign. Your amazing generosity has allowed us to exceed our goal of \$350,000 in only a few short months and will allow us to pay for our beautiful new sanctuary roof! We are blessed to have a wonderful facility and

appreciate your financial support that enables us to accomplish this important capital project. We will celebrate this accomplishment in Our Life Together after the dust settles from the construction.



Contributions In Memory / Honor of . . .

Our Contributors

S T E W A R D S H I P

Coming Back Together STEWARDSHIP 2022

As a new school year is starting, it's also time to launch our 2022 Stewardship campaign: "Coming Back Together"

In the following paragraphs, some of the church's Executive Board members share why they support First Federated Church. Each one talks about a different one of our four pillars of faith:

WORSHIP · EDUCATION · MISSION · FELLOWSHIP

As you read through them, think about all the reasons you also support the church.

Worship is the first church experience we are exposed to whether we are looking for a Church, or we are just visiting. I believe that worship can take place anywhere from a field to a Cathedral; from a small group to a crowd with thousands. Regardless of location or number of people, church starts with a good worship service. In 2016 when we were looking for a church, Frosty's sermons kept us coming back for more.

There is not a Sunday that goes by that I do not hear something in the sermon that I needed to hear, whether it's fuel for the week, challenging my current perspectives, charging me to take action or providing comfort.

I give so that my family and I have a tangible place to go to worship together, to hear stories that are

thousands of years old that ground us in tradition. These ancient stories are brought to life in sermons at FFC, and still ring true today. They remind us what it means to be human.

I give so that hopefully anyone who partakes in any given Sunday will hear what they need to hear for both their personal and spiritual growth, find comfort, and be challenged or charged. I give so that you and I can fully live into our humanity and divinity.



Vice-Moderator

Christian Education spans the generations at FFC.

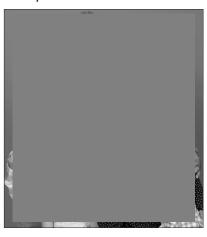
As a former Sunday school teacher and Theology on Tap participant, I have experienced both the

teaching and learning side of what our congregation offers. I feel that our ability to learn with and also from each other helps grow our faith.

As a Sunday school teacher I was able to work with the youth of the congregation and see the excitement that Shoebox Sunday, Empty Tomb Sunday, and Kickoff Sunday gave to our youngest members here at FFC. Even through the COVID crisis, Ms. Jessica has given our youth activities to look forward to like Easter egg hunts, hot dog roasts, Vacation Bible School, and LOGOS.

Giving to FFC is one of the ways to help ensure even our youngest continue to see the bright light FFC offers during a time of uncertainty.

, Christian Education chair



STEWARDSHIP

One of the reasons I give to FFC's annual stewardship drive is to support the Senior High youth program. Every Sunday we all see the youngest kids in the youth program being ministered to in the Sanctuary. Once those same kids move through Junior High, we see less of them in the Sanctuary, but they continue with youth group every Sunday evening and begin going to Stronghold as they enter high school.

Each year at Stronghold is a building block in the spiritual formation of children at FFC. Even if you know kids that have attended, it can be hard to see what impact Stronghold has on them, what it means for them to be there and fellowship with their peers. When graduating seniors minister to younger kids during the retreat, that's when these kids begin to reveal Stronghold's significance in their lives.

It's meant a lot to them. Stronghold's a big deal. It's more than the sum of its' parts. It's one of our church's primary opportunities to mentor and guide these kids on their faith journey. It leaves a mark on them.

They can sense God with us on those evenings, they can feel the energy, the power of good that comes from Christian fellowship in the Lord's presence. It's a great feeling for me to be there when that happens, to see the light inside them begin to be seen by all.

We couldn't do it without the support of our entire congregation. Thanks very much to each of you for supporting the youth program... whether you have kids in it or not, whether you were raised in it or not. I want you to know that the program truly does build disciples. Stronghold is a place where it all comes together under God's watchful eye.

, 2022 Stewardship Campaign co-chair

We have just completed the most successful Rummage Sale that has been held at First Federated Church. People might think that this is only a benefit for the missions that we support and the people purchasing items. Those that work the sale know that this is not true. The volunteers gain friendship and camaraderie throughout the preparation and days of the sale. There is tremendous satisfaction in knowing that we have truly helped others.

Consider how being a part of something adds to the satisfaction of the work that is done. When we make a pledge to First Federated Church, we actively support it. We do not go to church on Sunday, we go to our church. We gain much by being a part of the congregation and know that we are helping support the missions and activities with our pledges. We may be giving when we make a pledge, but we are also receiving much in return. . Executive Board secretary

Whatever the reason you come to First Federated, we need your financial support.

Individual contributions are the number one source of support to keep our programs running throughout the year and which allow the church to provide the experiences you look forward to. Please give prayerful consideration to making a financial commitment to support this church and all the good things it is doing, and fill out a card!

Many Blessings, , 2022 Stewardship Campaign co-chair

Coming Back Together





FELLOWSHIP

Young Families Group •

Adults under 50, single, married, or with a family. This group enjoys gathering in fellowship together. All are welcome and have a place in helping us create this community.

EVENT : Young Families Book Club : <u>The Phoenix Affirmations</u> by Eric Elnes

Wednesday's ~ September 15th, 22nd and 29th, from 5:45 to 7 pm in the Life Together Center. First 15 minutes will be social time, followed by an hour long discussion. Snacks will be provided, please bring your own drinks. Childcare is available. Contact Jessica Sheley for more information at jsheley@ffcpeoria.com

First Federated Women's Club •

Women's Club will resume their monthly meetings beginning Wednesday, September 22nd at 1 pm in the Commons. A light refreshment will be served and we will enjoy a time of fellowship with our church friends as we discuss and plan the our future meetings.

You may pay your yearly dues of \$20 at the meeting, or if you cannot attend, you may send a check made out to First Federated Church with "Women's Club" on the memo line.

Dates for meetings for the rest of 2021 are October 27th and December 1st. Programs information to follow.

We are excited and grateful that Women's Club will be resuming for the 2021-2022 year and hope to see you there. All women of the church and guests are welcome. If you have any questions contact Ann Ragsdale through the church office.

The FFC Book Club

The Book Club is meeting in person on the fourth Saturday of each month at 10 am at the North Branch of the Peoria Public Library. Contact the church office if interested in the book club. The book list is as follows:

September 25th ~ Beauty In Broken Places: A Memoir of Life, Faith, and Resilience by Allison Pataki

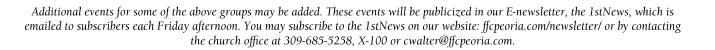
October 23rd ~ Once Upon A River by Diane Setterfield

broken places

ALLISON PATAKI

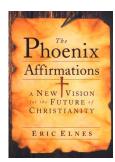
beauty in the

December 4th ~ And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie



The following groups have not begun gathering formally. We will keep you posted on their status going forward.

Saturday Night Live, Outdoor Enthusiasts Group, Knitting / Crocheting Ministry, and Old Buddies Breakfast





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A Matter of Record

Baptisms

September 5th Nora Ann Fisler Child of Richard and Leigh Ann Fisler

October 3rd, 2021 Charlie Michael Higus Child of Timm and Eleanor Higus

Completed This Part Of Life

August 3rd ~ Norma Doubet August 8th ~ Karen Korf, sister of Trish Fordyce August 20th ~ Frederick 'Rick" Snarr August 30th ~ Benjamin "Ben" Sommer

Incoming Transfers - New Members

Richard and Leigh Ann Fisler

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 Membership

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

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music

Good news is singing and ringing into our sanctuary. As of current CDC guidelines, we can sing in worship, so long as we are masked. As numbers decline (please pray that they do) we can have a hopeful, music filled, future. To that end, Choir returns to the chancel! We will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 9th at 6 pm, and look to restart ringing bells following.

Worship

As we begin the program year the Worship Committee will be striving to provide as much normalcy to our church year as we can. We want to offer as welcoming and warm an environment as we are able here at FFC. We will also offer some of our unique worship traditions, like the lighting of memorial candles for All Saints. Due to the proximity of the observance and the desire to keep everyone safe, we will offer the opportunity to light candles on both October 31st and November 7th. As we look forward to the Advent season, please consider how you can, safely, and healthfully, help FFC be a beacon of holiday cheer and hope.

Hospitality

We are, excitedly, looking forward to the fun filled Kick Off Sunday on September 19th, following the 10 am service. We will also host another 11:15 outdoor service the first week of October, and hope to grow our worshipping family with more safe and welcoming opportunities in 2021. We thank everyone who has aided us in doing the work of FFC, even in these trying times.

Please be smart, be kind, and stay healthy.





A RUMMAGE SALE TO REMEMBER!

Thank You to the Many Volunteers

- Thanks to all of you who gave of your time and talent to make this sale such a great success!
- Thanks to all of you who donated or purchased sale items!
- Our total this year was \$19,835.97

DON'T FORGET OUR ONGOING MISSIONS COLLECTIONS



Friendship House Food Pantry

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

The Center for the Prevention of Abuse

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



THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY WE HAVE RAISED JUST OVER \$6,000 FOR HAITIAN RELIEF.

This collection will be split evenly between our UCC and PCUSA denominations who get the

funds

to where they are most needed.

THANK YOU!



STEPHEN MINISTRY ~ PASTORAL CARE



First Federated Church will be welcoming Stephen Ministries to our campus. Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian education organization founded in 1975. Their resources cover topics such as caring ministry, assertive relating, spiritual gifts discovery, grief support, spiritual growth, and more.

Rev. Steve has begun his training and is looking for additional volunteers.

Keep the success of this and all FFC programs in your prayers.

For more information on Stephen Ministries you may visit:

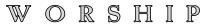
stephenministries.org or contact Rev. Steve at sbarch@ffcpeoria.com

Pastoral Calls, Hospital or Home Visits and Communion

- Contact the office 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. Barch to come to your home.
- If you are home-bound and would like church bulletins and sermons mailed to you each week.

Prayer Ministries

- Prayer List One. Congregation-wide prayers, requested through 1stNews prayer bulletins
 - Prayer List Two. Rev. Steve's Prayer Team, weekly list to team members only kept confidential
 - Prayer List Three. Just The Staff / Just The Minister list, No publication, passed by word of mouth only



Our Worship Committee meets monthly to oversee our worship processes. They work diligently to ensure our both our engagement in the worship service and our safety and peace of mind in attending inperson.

Worship Attendance Guidelines

Instructions for Attending Worship

If You Are Experiencing Any Of The Following, Please Do Not Come To Worship Instead, You May Want To Contact Your Health Care Provider Or A Family Member.

Fever or chills? Cough? Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing? Fatigue? Muscle or body aches? Headache or Sore throat? New loss of taste or smell? Congestion/runny nose? Nausea/vomiting? Diarrhea? The guidelines presented by the committee have been researched and follow CDC guidelines. Thank you all for your continued corporation and support. We pray the soon we can gather without restrictions.

When Coming To Church For Worship

Arrive 15 to 20 minutes before the start of service.

Enter through the North (green awning) door, please be respectful of distancing, masks are mandatory.

Everyone is asked to sign in on the sheets provided at the tables outside the Chapel and in the Narthex.

Preaching Schedule

September 5th	Labor Day Weekend / Holy Commun Hebrews 11-12 (selected verses)	ion / Baptism of Nora Fisler Standing on the Shoulders of Giants
September 12th	Rev. Steve Barch, Pastoral Care Minister	
September 19th	Biblical Ancestors / Fall kick-off / Ste Esther 1 (selected)	wardship season starts Vashti: The Woman Who Just Said "No!"
September 26th	Biblical Ancestors Esther 4:1-16	Esther: Living Your Destiny
October 3rd	World Communion Sunday / Outdoo Acts 2:38-47	r Worship / Baptism Charlie Higus Remember Your Baptism
October 10th	Stewardship Emphasis 2 Corinthians 9:1-15	How Can I Be a Cheerful Giver?
October 17th	Bible Workshop Sunday Deuteronomy 6:4-9	The Treasure of a Bible
October 24th	Proverbs 29:18	Developing Your Vision
October 31st	Halloween/ All Saint's Day Acts 17:1-9	Troublemakers in a Troubled World
November 7th	Holy Communion / Remembrance of Deuteronomy 6:4-9	the Saints / Stewardship emphasis God's Faculty
November 14th	Stewardship emphasis Acts 5:1-5	Giving God Your Stash
November 21st	Psalm 103	What are You Thankful For?
November 28th	Advent 1 Colossians 2:16-17	The Symbols of Christmas



CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF & CHURCH PICNIC

- Sunday, September 19th, 10 am worship
- Children & Junior Highs will begin this Sunday school year at the 10 am service, Seniors at 5:30 pm
- An outdoor church picnic will follow this service.
- Food, shaved ice from Tropical Sno, bouncy slide, Gaga ball and more!
- For more information or to volunteer contact Jessica Sheley @ jsheley@ffcpeoria.com



OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE & CHURCH PICNIC

- Sunday, October 3rd, 11:15 am
- Hot dog roast to follow
- For more information or to volunteer contact Jessica Sheley @ jsheley@ffcpeoria.com

BIBLE DEDICATION & WORKSHOP

- Sunday, October 17th, 10 am worship
- · Third graders and preschoolers will receive Bibles.
- Third graders and their parents will attend a Bible workshop during the Sunday school hour.
- For more information contact Jessica Sheley @ jsheley@ffcpeoria.com

SHOEBOX SUNDAY IS NOW WISH LIST SUNDAY

- Collection will begin Sunday, October 3rd.
- Needed items will be from mission partners Wish Lists, complete list to follow.
- Mission partners include: Neighborhood House, Crittenton Center, The Center for the Prevention of Abuse.
 - Packing will be Sunday, November 7th during Sunday school.

Questions: Contact Jessica Sheley.



Jessica Sheley Director of Children's Ministries



JUNIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP

- Friday, September 17th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
- This event is open to 6th 8th graders. They are welcome to invite friends, as always!
- We will be "hanging out at the church" if the weather cooperates we will be outside at the LTC patio tables. We'll do dinner, Gaga ball, games, etc.
- Contact Jessica Sheley at jsheley@ffcperoia.com if interested in attending.

SENIOR HIGH KICK-OFF!

- We will gather Sunday, September 19th at 5:30 pm
- Additional information will follow



GINGERBREAD HOUSE PARTY

- Our party is scheduled for the evening of Sunday, November 28th
- We are hoping for an in-person Gingerbread Party with decorating & dinner. A curbside pick-up event is also an option this detail will finalize as we get closer to the event date.
- Reservations will be required for either option and sign up will be available at the end of October, early November.
- Baking of gingerbread men and houses has begun, to volunteer contact Jessica Sheley



Lisa Hackett Director of Youth Ministries



CALENDAR

September 2021 6th - No School ~ Closed For Labor Day

October 2021

11th - Grandparents Day ●●
29th - Classroom Halloween Party, Families welcome ●●

November 2021

24th - The Preschools at FFC will be closing at 12 pm on this day 25th through 28th - No School ~ Closed for Thanksgiving Break

December 2021

23rd - Preschool Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall (gym) from 10:00 to 11:00am.
 Families are welcome ●● The Preschools at FFC will be closing at 12 pm this day
 24th through January 2nd - No School ~ Closed for Christmas Break

•• Pending local and state virus mitigation guidelines

Openings Available for the 2021 - 2022 School Year!

Registration Information

• You may read or download Registration Forms and Pricing Information on our website:

www.ffcpeoria.com/preschools-peoria-il/

- Forms are available for pick up at the church office or we can mail them out to you upon request.
- We will enroll until we are full.
- If you have any questions, please contact Brittany at 309-685-5258 or barnold@ffcpeoria.com.

Brittany Arnold Director, The Preschools at FFC



☎309-685-5258, x108 🗘 barnold@ffcpeoria.com

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Do we have your current:

- Phone number: land line or cell; may we text you?
- Address: street number, city, state and zip
- Email: double check that we have your current email; do you want to be included on the 1stNews and Prayer Bulletin list?

You may give us a call, drop us a note or send us an email to update your information.



First Federated Church of Peoria

w w w . f f c p e o r i a . c o m 3601 North Sheridan Road, Peoria, Illinois 61604 P 309-685-5258 • F 309-685-5451 • info@ffcpeoria.com





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- Food, shaved ice from Tropical Sno, bouncy slide, Gaga ball and more!
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CHILDREN'S MIDWEEK MINISTRY

- Wednesdays in October ~ October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th, 5:30 to 7:00 pm
- Dinner, recreation, Bible lesson, and craft
- Open to Kindergarten through 5th grade
- Cost is \$20 per child
- For more information contact Jessica Sheley at jsheley@ffcpeoria.com or 309.685.5258 x105.

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

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Director of Worship and Music Russel Boulton X.104 rboulton@ffcpeoria.com
Organist: Marcia Richardson
Preschool Director
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Life Together Center Event Planning Information
Please visit: ffcpeoria.com/serve/life-together-center/

