

the HERALD

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PEORIA | OCTOBER 2019

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Letter from the Editor



Pastor Tim and many supporters lay hands on Kate Rolffs, commissioning her missions work. Photo by Miguel Rios

As we prepare to move into Fall, this issue features one story after another about moving from our comfort zone, into something new and Spirit directed.

The idea to do a feature on Kate Rolff's exciting, challenging missions adventure actually came late in the production of this issue. However, it seemed natural to also include her on the cover. After all, we are a people who are called to be on the move. I admire how Kate, who at such a young age, has said yes to God's calling to minister His love and grace in far away places, leaving her family and friends for an extended period of time. It's an example we can all gain from, and it comes from someone much younger than most of us.

As you move through these pages, look at how the Holy Spirit is moving us to never settle and remain content right where we are. It's in moving, changing, and growing that we are participating in the divine. After all, from cover to cover, Scripture is full of examples of how people are moved and changed when they follow God's lead.

I'm humbled to be a part of such a vibrant, forward-thinking ministry. And, I'm proud to see the way our people are taking up the call (even if it's in seemingly small ways) to move out of our sameness and into the challenge of doing vital work.

I once would have been content to have stayed nestled in Southern Indiana all of my life, but just look at what I would have missed if I failed to go when the Spirit of God led. It's quite an adventure, and I for one am looking forward to seeing what is in store for us as we grow stronger and better together.

Greg Fish
Editor

the HERALD

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DISCLAIMER: The information represented here is for the purpose of informing the FUMC-Peoria congregation of the change of events for a month. They are however subject to change. For more up-to-date information, refer to us online at www.fumcpeoria.org, via social media platforms (@fumcpeoria), or via our weekly email newsletter, eHighlights.

ON THE COVER:

Kate Rolff's prayer card is front and center to remind us to intercede for her new adventure with Jesus.

DEADLINES: Articles to be considered for publication in **The Herald** must be submitted to Greg Fish at gfish@fumcpeoria.org by 10 AM on the tenth day of the month preceding issue date. In the subject line of your email submission, type, "HERALD." All submissions are subject to editing and style standards, and their use is solely at the discretion of the editor. Picture submissions are encouraged to accompany your submission. Focus on individuals and smaller numbers of people who help tell the story. Group photos will be accepted, but are not ideal.

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We're A Downtown Church On

P₃ U₁ R₁ P₃ O₁ S₁ E₁

By the Rev. Dr. Timothy Ozment

As we continue to look forward to where our congregation is headed, I have thought back to the 26 listening circle conversations I had two years ago. I reviewed answers to the four questions I asked; and, I rediscovered what I learned then about the heart of our congregation.

We're a downtown church on purpose. That's a great mission statement for a large part of who we are and what we're about. We're here because we choose to be here among the people of the downtown area. Our heart is tied to those who need to be fed, clothed, housed, and lifted to new heights.

SERVING CHRIST WHEREVER WE SEE A NEED | offer Jesus to everyone we're in connection with | ANSWER GOD'S CALL TO BE IN MISSION AND MINISTRY TO THOSE WHO GATHER | offer the love of Jesus and the hope of a brighter tomorrow | serving Christ wherever we see a need | offer Jesus to everyone we're in connection with | answer God's call to be in mission and ministry to those who gather | offer the love of Jesus and the hope of a brighter tomorrow | "We're here because we choose to be..." | SERVING CHRIST WHEREVER WE SEE A NEED | offer Jesus to everyone we're in connection with | ANSWER GOD'S CALL TO BE IN MISSION AND MINISTRY TO THOSE WHO GATHER | OFFER THE LOVE OF JESUS AND THE HOPE OF A BRIGHTER TOMORROW | serving Christ wherever we see a need | offer Jesus to everyone we're in

We've adopted Lincoln school (just a few blocks away) as an important place to be on mission and in ministry. We're pouring several ministries into that school in an effort to reach out to children on a weekly basis (Backpack Buddies that send children home with food on weekends; after-school programs like the Lincoln choir; Lincoln Arts program; and a weekly Gospel Club.)

In the summer, our Morton Square soccer league touches the lives of 200+ children. We've adopted the Peoria police force and send birthday cards, letters of encouragement, occasionally bring refreshments to the police station, and support the annual Fallen Officer's Memorial Service. The Loaves and Fish Ministry feeds on average, 300 people every Saturday; the medical clinic provides free health assessments, and the clothing closet hands out much needed supplies. Neutral Ground is a place where those with HIV can come and receive personal hygiene items, a warm smile, and a prayer. On Wednesdays our benevolence ministry helps people obtain

a valid ID or duplicate birth certificate which are needed for employment, housing, or to register children for school.

We're a downtown church on purpose – and that purpose is serving Christ wherever we see God in need. We're a downtown church on purpose – and that purpose is to offer Jesus to everyone we're in connection with. We're a downtown church on purpose – and that purpose is to answer God's call to be in mission and ministry to those who gather at our doorstep every week. We're a downtown church on purpose – and that purpose is to offer them the love of Jesus, and the hope of a brighter tomorrow.



PASTOR TIM OZMENT

is the Directing Pastor of First United Methodist Church - Peoria.

Time Change Moving Forward November 3

The process of moving towards a time change for the Renew and Renuevo worship services on Sunday morning is moving forward.

Under the plan, the Renew (contemporary) worship service will move from 11 AM to 9:45 AM. This will create space for the Renuevo bi-lingual worship service to move from 5 PM to 11:15 AM in the near future. Both services meet in the Worship Center.

The Renew service time change will take place on Sunday, November 3. There has already been quite a bit of work done, and we believe we are now ready to make this move.

Part of our motivation in making this change on November 3 is so that our worship services, children, youth, and adult Sunday morning ministries have the month of November to experience the new rhythm and settle into a different structure before the Advent and Christmas guests begin to arrive.

Thank you for all your prayers, encouragement, support, thoughtful questions, and willingness to hear and answer a call to something new.

Entre Amigas Women's
Conference

Revive

at your Soul's Spa

October 11-12
Friday 4 - 9 pm
Saturday 9 am - 2 pm

\$70

Online Registrtrtion
fumcpeoria.org/latino-ministry/eventos1/

Pastor Janie Reyes
Ft Wayne, In

Congreso Entre Amigas

Revive

Un Spa para tu alma

Octubre 11-12
Viernes 4- 9 pm
Sábado 9 am - 2 pm

\$70

Inscripciones en linea
fumcpeoria.org/latino-ministry/eventos1/

Pastora Janie Reyes
Ft Wayne, In

HONDURAS

A Partnership For Transformation

By the Rev. Adrian Garcia

The Honduras Mission Team was in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from August 6-13. Tegucigalpa is the capital of Honduras with a population of 1.5 million. Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Central America; over half the population lives in poverty.

The purpose of the trip was to encourage and grow disciples of Jesus Christ through an ongoing relationship with our partner church, Aposento Alto (Upper Room) United Methodist.

Our team helped with a two-day medical clinic that included two general physicians, a pediatrician, a gynecologist, a dentist and a pharmacist. Many people in Honduras are unable to find medical care due to the relatively high cost and availability. Together with volunteers from Aposento Alto, over 250 men, women and children received medical and dental care.

Our team hosted a Women's Conference on Saturday. About forty women attended for fellowship, games, music, and inspirational messages. A children's program was held at the same time. On Saturday evening, we celebrated with a youth conference that included worship, games, a biblical message, and some earth-shaking music.

As we reflect on God's presence in our partner church in Honduras, we ask that you pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who face many life challenges, including:

- Pastor Leydi, as she leads her congregation of committed believers in the midst of extreme poverty and occasional violence.
- A young lady, age 22, who is supporting her mother as a hairdresser. Due to a poor economy, finding work is difficult. She is prayerfully considering a relocation to Europe so she can provide for her family.
- A young man, age 23, who lost both legs in a gangland shooting six years ago. He attends church regularly and is part of the worship band. His faith and perseverance are truly inspiring.
- A single mother, age 19, with an infectious smile. She dreams of becoming a nurse. She has a bright future, and is hopeful for an opportunity to further her education.

Aposento Alto expressed heartfelt appreciation for the prayers and support of First United Methodist Church in Peoria.

The Honduras Mission Team included Pastor Miguel Rios, Rosie Rios, Pastor Adrian Garcia, Lily Garcia, Maria Taylor, Chelsea Nelson, Julie Nelson and Kevin Nelson.



PASTOR ADRIAN GARCIA
is the pastor of Latino and Outreach Ministries.

Do You Know How to Study Scripture?

By the Rev. Tanya Edwards-Evans

Over the past two months, I have asked questions to test your knowledge of the Bible.

Some of you may have thought you knew the answers, only to find out you did not. Some may have used Google to find the answers.

The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, believed that Scripture should be the first thing we learn. **For Wesley, Scripture was a means of grace— instituted by God—by which to measure all Christian doctrine, and by which to sustain our practice of faith. This conforms with the rule and practice of the historic church.**

Some have asked me how to study the Bible. Here is what I do: First, I use a parallel version of the Bible. I use a translation I can easily read, along with an audio version of the Bible.

Secondly, I find a friend who wants to study along with me.

Third, I set a time for study each day.

Fourth, I create a journal with thoughts and questions from the Scripture I study each day.

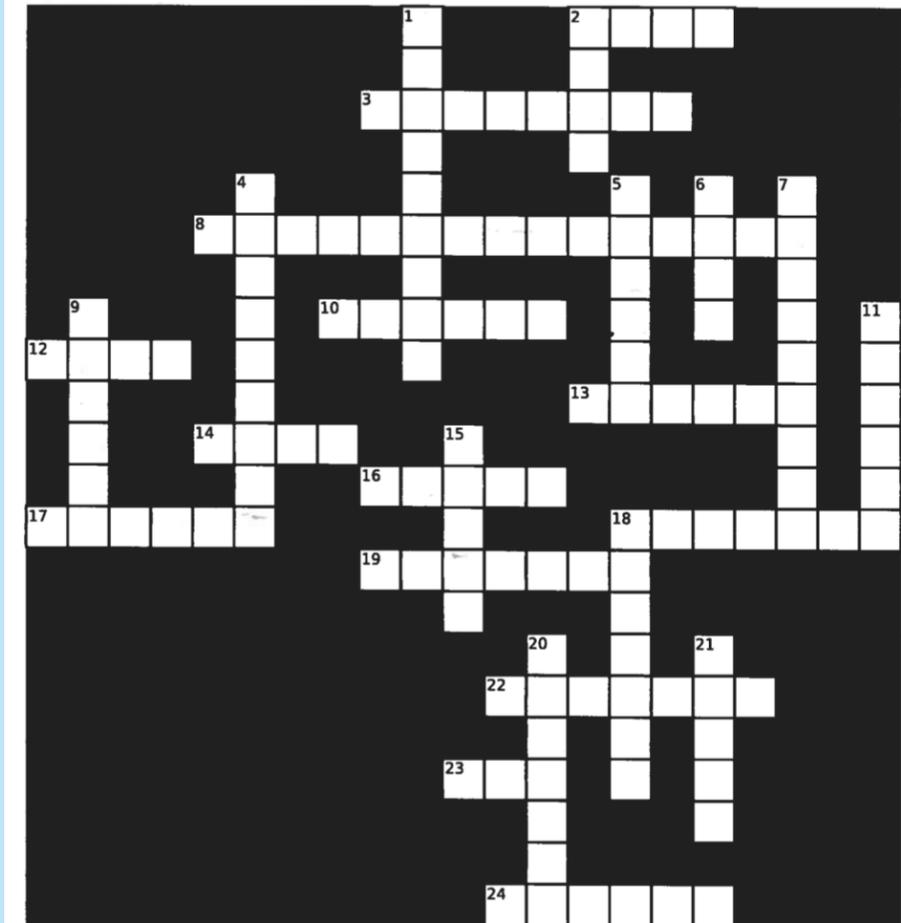
Fifth, I pray with my study partner for understanding of the Scripture.

For the next few months, we will be exploring how to study the Bible so that we may learn, grow and go into all the world to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

(To the left is a puzzle Pastor Evans has created to help you with your Bible studies this month. -Ed.)



PASTOR TANYA EDWARDS-EVANS
is an associate pastor at FUMC.



FIRST WIVES OF BIBLICAL HUSBANDS

Across

- 2 Wife of Clopas
- 3 Wife of Moses
- 8 Wife of Pilate
- 10 Wife of Lemech
- 12 Wife of Heber the Kenite
- 13 Wife of Solomon
- 14 Wife of Jacob
- 16 Wife of Elimelech
- 17 Wife of Nabor
- 18 Wife of Nabal
- 19 Wife of Joseph (OT)
- 22 Wife of Lappidoth
- 23 Wife of Adam
- 24 Wife of Elkanah

Down

- 1 Wife of Aquila
- 2 Wife of Joseph
- 4 Wife of Zechariah
- 5 Wife of Chuza
- 6 Wife of Boaz
- 7 Wife of Uriah the Hittite
- 9 Wife of King Ahasueus
- 11 Wife of David
- 15 Wife of Hosea
- 18 Wife of Saul
- 20 Wife of Isaac
- 21 Wife of Abraham

LOAVES & FISH

a day in the life

by Dan Philips

7:00 Saturday morning rolls around, and all is peaceful and quiet in Wesley Hall.

Nancy, a Loaves and Fish kitchen coordinator, is the first to arrive, quickly bringing the kitchen to life. In an hour's time, the kitchen is bustling with other volunteers, working to prepare a delicious meal for our neighbors.

Just a day ago, others helped Nancy prepare the Saturday meal, processing nearly 500 pounds of excess fresh food that comes in each week from Dunlap schools. This arrangement, thanks to Heart of Illinois Harvest, allows them to be good stewards of the extra food they have, and gives us a good amount to add to what we offer.

By 8:30, a continental breakfast is ready for volunteers which includes Nancy's homemade banana bread, donuts, fresh fruit, and more.

As the clock ticks 9:30, volunteers are on the scene from many Peoria area churches, schools, groups, clubs, and folks serving community service hours. Many of them attend other churches, but come to Loaves and Fish to serve and to be a part of this vital community ministry.

10:00 arrives, and guests begin to arrive for the Alive worship service. By the bottom of the hour, about 75 guests are in Alive hearing the Good News of Jesus.

The Thomas Phillips Medical Clinic volunteers are now on hand, and the clinic begins to see the first of the weekly guests. The clothing

room is also busy preparing to serve the needs of 70 individuals, as they do two Saturdays out of every month.

In the meantime, volunteers are treated to pizza and homemade chili. Loaves and Fish needs 45-65 volunteers to serve the average 300 people we see each week. The numbers vary, and God always supplies just what we need.

11:30 is go-time, and everyone is ready for the exciting 90 minutes of ministering to come. One by one our friends and neighbors enter Wesley Hall, anxious for a meal, and to socialize with family and friends. Each week at noon, we pause to give thanks to the Lord. This week, Walter, an older man from Germany, leads us in the Lord's Prayer spoken in German. As he recites the words he has known his entire life, the dining room is quietly listening. As he says, "Amen," many join in to say Lord's Prayer in English.

Finally, as our guests depart, many take time to thank us for the good meal, the food from the pantry, and for showing them God's love and grace. Before we know it, the day comes to a close, and the volunteers work to get the kitchen and Wesley Hall cleaned up and ready for the next week. By 3:00, the kitchen lights are turned off, and the volunteers go their own way knowing they have made a difference.

Wesley Hall becomes peaceful and quiet once again.



Photos by Dan Philips



Rich Kid/ Poor Kid Relationship

By Jim Bateman

I have had a rich kid/poor kid relationship with God.

Poor kids don't hang out with rich kids much. It's not a matter of hostility. It's just that they don't have much in common. I can be like that with God. I'm sitting here in Peoria trying to do a few little good things while God is out there creating a universe. And, that's just for starters. How much do we have in common? Why would I try to develop a relationship?

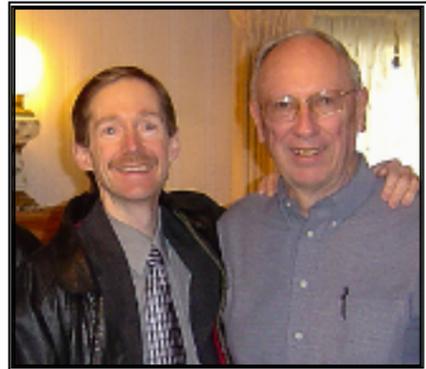


Photo provided by Jim Bateman

For several years we watched our oldest son, Brad, suffer from Parkinson's disease. His last year was pretty tough, ending with his death a year and a half ago.

God lost his Son tragically as well. Some might say if God is having a hard time with that death, He could go create some new stars or new worlds to take his mind off of His grief. But, someone who says that has never lost a child.

I have talked with God about my grief in having a son who suffered and died. And, God has talked with me about His. We understand each other. We have something in common.

Heralding The Herald

By Rodney Nelson

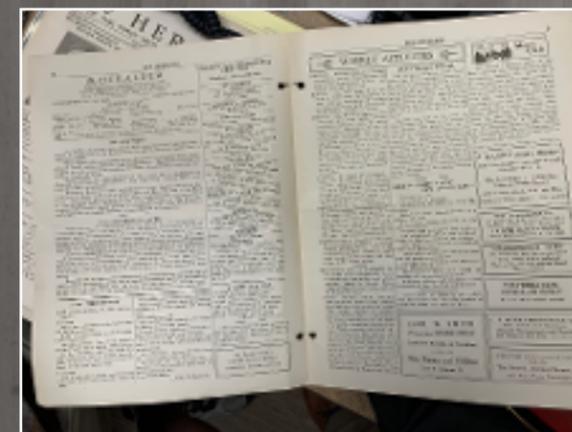
I find exploring our Heritage Room to be endlessly fascinating. Recently, I came across old copies of *The Herald*.

The very first issue, dated January 1, 1938, was particularly interesting. The name of the newsletter then was *The Herald*. In the photo of me holding that issue is a picture of our bishop at the time, Bishop Waldorf, who made visits to our church every other year. The pastor was Dr. W. M. Briggs.

Also of interest, is the fact that *The Herald* contained advertisements. Members of First Church, including doctors, lawyers, insurance agents, opticians, and dentists, placed ads in the newsletter. There is also a half page ad for Peoples Federal Savings & Loan Association formerly located at 107 S. Jefferson (near the current Twin Towers).

The subscription cost was 50 cents per year, or five cents per individual issue. Of course, the name of our church was a bit different as well. In 1938, we were the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

A lot has changed in the past 81 years since this first issue was printed, not only in our church, but in the world as well.



Photos by Greg Fish

BACK-TO-SCHOOL WAS A BASH!



BECAUSE WE HAVE A FOUNDATION

The First United Methodist Church Foundation was established in 1985 to provide for projects, events, and ministries that could not be funded with our regular tithes and offerings. In September, the Foundation approved a grant for a four member team to travel to Liberia to assess the possibility of partnering with Korsen United Methodist School. They have also announced their first Appreciation Luncheon to honor donors, which will take place on October 8 at Mt. Hawley Country Club. If you're a donor but have not received an invitation, please contact LaVonne Schleeter at 309-692-2752. The Foundation wishes to express gratitude to the Shirley Stanfield estate for their gift that establishes a Senior Care Ministry to provide visitation and spiritual care to our senior members who reside in nursing homes, the hospital, and at home.



Photo by Jeanette Kosier



Photo by Jim Bateman



Photo by Jim Bateman

By Kara Bushong

Sunday, September 8 was a full but great day. We gave out Bibles to third graders, had our Promotion Sunday School celebration, commissioned Sunday School and small group leaders, began small group sign ups, and held our Back-to-School Bash. As a new member on staff, I was a little nervous as to how we could pull it all off. I was amazed at how many people pitched in to make the day one that people would remember. I will remember the day for a different reason than most; this day helped my transition from just being on staff to feeling like I was part of the church family. I got to mingle with parents and play games with the kids. I received my first hug from a child at this church that day, which was something I had been missing. Most importantly, I saw my kids and husband interacting with other families. Thank you Peoria First for a making my family feel at home.



Photo by Jeanette Kosier



HEY MOMMY, MOM, MOM, MOMMY, MOM, MOM, MOMMY, MOM

Mommy Moments is a ministry of FUMC Peoria for mothers of young children. It is a weekly gathering during the school year that encourages women in their parenting, marriages, and life at home. If you'd like to attend one of the Monday meetings, you can register online at www.fumcpeoria.org/connect/adult/mommy-moments/.

ANOTHER GREAT IDEA IS IN THE BOOKS!

The church library now has an online catalog. Once completed, you will be able to see everything in the library from your electronic devices. As of now, well over 200 library items have been entered and more are being added every week. Most of the DVD group study materials and some books have been entered. This collection is merely a small representation of what populates the shelves. Using the catalog is easy, simply go to www.librarycat.org/lib/FUMCLibrary. Key in a book title, author or topic, and click "search." Please note that while an item's status will come up as available, you'll need to contact Lori Herold at the library to assure its availability and to have it put on hold. Please excuse any disarray in the library as books are being pulled for a book sale on November 24 from 9:45-12:30 in Wesley Hall. At that sale, there will be drawings for prize baskets and new books, too. Check



next month's Herald for more details. The library is open Sundays from 8-noon, Tuesdays from 2:30-5:30 PM, and Wednesdays from 9-noon. Other times are by appointment. If you have questions, email library@fumcpeoria.org.

SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATE MISSIONS DINNER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2



KATE ROLFF'S GREAT ADVENTURE FOR JESUS



Photo by Julie Rolffs

Kate Rolffs has followed her heart and found her mission.

As our very own homegrown missionary, Kate will be serving with World Race Gap Year, a program of Adventures in Missions, through September of next year. Kate joins 36 other 18-20-year-olds for this nine-month journey to Swaziland, Thailand, and Nicaragua.

While on this adventure, Kate's activities will include serving children orphaned by AIDS in Africa, victims of human trafficking in Asia, and teaching English to street children in Latin America.

Her calling to serve has been nurtured by the community here at FUMC Peoria. It all started with family mission trips to Dulac, Louisiana when she was just 6 years old. Next came church sponsored trips to Cincinnati, St. Louis, the Czech Republic, Liberia, and Northern Ireland.

When reflecting on the impact of FUMC, Kate's mom, Julie Rolffs, reminds us all, "YOU are a part of Kate's story! YOU helped raise up this young woman to answer God's call upon her life."

In a recent social media post, Kate expressed her heart for the work she is doing saying,

"Never thought I'd be the girl worshipping at a bus stop. Or singing my heart out in the middle of the airport. Never thought I'd be journaling on a bus because I just can't contain my excitement for the Lord and what He's been showing me. Never thought I'd learn how to evangelize and be stretched out of my comfort zone... no way i could do any of this without (Jesus). No way I would want to do this without Him. No way I would have the strength and peace I have about four entire days of travel to finally get my feet on Swazi soil. But Jesus..."

You can follow along with Kate's journey by subscribing to her blog www.katerolffs.theworldrace.org. Click on "Subscribe for Updates."



Dinner 5:30 PM | Wesley Hall
Program 7 PM | Worship Center



connect. serve. grow.

COLLIDE

YOUTH SERVICE RETREAT

The Collide Youth Service Retreat is a unique opportunity for youth in grades 6-12 to worship together, have fun together, and serve together. We will be joining our friends from Kankakee, Asbury, and Tuscola UMC on Friday, November 1, for an overnight retreat. Friday is for worship and fun, and Saturday is for service and learning. We will leave just in time to make it back for the Celebrate Missions Dinner on Saturday. Youth will stay through the dinner. Cost is \$30 and includes the retreat and Celebrate Missions Dinner. Register by October 20.



Youth MINISTRIES



Kix CLUB

Children in grades 3-5 are invited to join us for fun and fellowship through a variety of events. The goal is to help children recognize their need for relationships and learn to build them well with other children, adults, and ultimately, with Jesus. The more the merrier! And, kids are encouraged to invite friends. Be on the lookout in your email, announcement slides at church, Facebook, *The Herald*, and more, for upcoming events.

A note from Kara:

I am grateful to the people that answered God's call to be leaders in the Children's Ministry during the Sunday School hour this year. The kids are going to be blessed and grow in faith because of these leaders and I would like to ask the congregation to cover them in prayer by name: Aaron Copes, Marcus Jackson, Greg Potts, Helen Potts, Rhonda Rutledge, Jackie Surrat, Damiana Zaborowski, and Laura Zaborowski.

*- Kara Bushong
Director of Children & Family Ministries*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Oct 20

We'll be going to Ackerman's Farm in Morton. We will meet at the church at noon. We'll have lunch before loading into the church vans and heading out. Parents may pick up kids at 5 PM. The cost per child is \$5.00. Scholarships are available upon request.

Sunday Nov 24

Blessed & Thankful Family Day Kids of all ages and their families are invited to join us in Wesley Hall after church for a potluck. Following the meal, we'll bless others by making Gingerbread Nativity Scenes for the Caring Hearts ministry. We will also spend time prepping for the Christmas program, which includes rehearsal and prop/set making. The event will end at 4 PM.



PEORIA FIBER ART GUILD EXHIBIT AND STYLE SHOW

October 20 – November 24

First Friday Open House and Demonstration, November 1.

Style Show on Saturday, November 9 at 2 PM.

TWO VIEWS

Featuring the work of Carol Quell and Ann E. Coulter

September 15 – October 13

First Friday Open House: October 4, 5-8:30 PM

Entertainment by award winning artist Paul Adams, 6-8 PM

Both Ann and Carol have lived in central Illinois for most of their lives, both have Master of Fine Arts degrees from Bradley University and both have been practicing artists in Peoria for many years. Though they share the same subject in their work, it is approached from different directions. Ann's work is perceptual, based on observation and description of reality, while Carol's is more focused on the emotional or imagined world of nature. Both artists are glad to have the opportunity to exhibit together, to share in the celebration of nature, and to see the world through another artist's eyes.



Save the Date for Lessons & Carols!



Mark your calendars now and start inviting your friends to celebrate the birth of Christ through music and the spoken Word. Our acclaimed event, Lessons and Carols, will be held

Saturday, December 14, 6 PM

Sunday, December 15, 11 AM, 6 PM

We are thrilled to announce that Yvonne Greer and Greg Batton will be our guest readers.

Yvonne has hosted shows on Peoria's WMBD-TV and WMBD Radio, Chicago's WLS and WGN Radio, and the nationally syndicated Health Radio Network.

Greg is the co-host of "The Greg & Dan Show," weekday mornings on WMBD-1470/100.3, one of downstate Illinois' highest rated morning shows.





LIVING THE FIVE

DIG INTO GOD'S WORD. DISCOVER TOGETHER HOW THESE PRINCIPLES WILL GIVE YOU THE LIFE YOU LONG FOR AND THE RELATIONSHIPS GOD WANTS FOR YOU.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

2, 9, 16, 23, 30
PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

4
DATE NIGHT
NOW YOUTH WEEKEND
FIRST FRIDAY OPEN HOUSE

5
CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE

11
RENEUVO WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

21
CHURCH COUNCIL

WORSHIP EVENTS

Saturdays

Alive (Loaves & Fish) | 10:30 AM |
Rooms L65 & L67

Sundays

Traditional | 8:30 & 11:00 AM | Sanctuary
RENEW | 11:00 AM | Worship Center
Renuevo | 5:00 PM | Worship Center

Wednesdays

Contemporary Worship | 6:30 |
Worship Center

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES & SMALL GROUP STUDY

Study guides available for \$10

**Our mission is to make
disciples of Jesus Christ for
the transformation of Peoria
and the World.**



FIRST
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
PEORIA • ILLINOIS