Send Network

Peoria Illinois

# Jon Watts

**SHEPHERD'S GATE CHURCH**

Find out how you can

**Pray.**
**Participate.**
**Provide.**

**PRAY.**
Pray for our family as we continue to assimilate into the city of Peoria. Pray for opportunities to connect with others far from God and invite them into our lives. Ask the Lord to give us wisdom to know what we should do in light of the times while we continue to take steps of faith while planting. Ask God to provide us with a team that is hungry for Christ and teachable. And finally, pray that God would be glorified in us as we proclaim Christ to a world that needs good news.

**PARTICIPATE.**
Connect with me by emailing jonwatts@sgcpeoria.com

**PROVIDE.**
Learn the ministry strategy and context, so you can provide relevant resources. Support a missionary financially.

Contact me at jonwatts@sgcpeoria.com, https://x.com/jonwtts or on Twitter

## About the Family

I spent my childhood years in Charlotte, N.C., before relocating to the Peoria, Ill., area during my teen years. After dropping out of high school, I was confronted with the beauty of the gospel at 18 and came to Christ in faith. Sarah and I have been married since August 2014. We have three sons: Leon, Ezra and Ian.

My time in ministry began serving urban and incarcerated teens in Peoria before serving as a student pastor in Eureka, Ill. Sarah and I began having conversations about church planting, which led us to move from Illinois to Virginia so I could complete a pastoral residency at Portico Church in Charlottesville and to train at Grimké Seminary—graduating with a Master of Theological Studies. After three years in Virginia, we moved back to Peoria to plant Shepherd's Gate Church.

## About My Church Plant

The story of Shepherd's Gate Church really began more than 13 years ago. Throughout those years, we prayed regularly for God to make clear what our lives and ministry would look like long term. It is through these prayers and the relationships made along the way that God has confirmed very clearly a vision and desire to see Shepherd's Gate Church planted in downtown Peoria.

In Christ, God makes new people who live for Christ in all the world. Shepherd's Gate Church seeks to exalt the triune God by proclaiming and living that gospel. To accomplish this vision for the city, we aim to engage the city with Christ—making Him known to the unchurched and de-churched people in the city by calling them to turn to Christ for life.

We will begin gathering for public worship in spring 2026.