

# The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 65 Issue 27

November 28, 2023



The 2023 CWF CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be Sat, Dec 2, 7:30-1:30 at Crossroads Center! The Treasure Chest will offer slightly used items. The Country Store will have baked goods. Tickets for the Love Raffle quilt and other items will be available. There will be something for everyone! Come one, come all! CWF will share proceeds from the day with local charities.

<b>Cookie Sunday Dec 3!</b>	<b>Youth News</b>	The Thursday noon Bible Study will resume Dec 7 at Crossroads Center.
<b>Coffee Talk</b> Tues, Dec 5, 10:00. Stop by the annex for conversation with Pastor Michael.	Dec 3: 5:00 Youth Band Practice 6:00 Youth Group Dec 10: 3:00 Hangout45 4:45 Caroling Watch Kids@FCC Facebook page for updates!	<b>Christmas Caroling, Dec 10.</b> Meet at 4:45 at Crossroads. Leave at 5:00 for nursing homes, etc. Return to Crossroads for supper.

<b>Church Board Meeting</b> Tues, Dec 12 <b>5:00 due to school events</b>	<b>Circle IV Meeting</b> Thurs, Dec 14 9:30	<b>Cantata Practice</b> Sat, Dec 16 10:00	<b>Kids' Christmas, songs in Cantata on Dec 17, 5:00.</b> For ages PreK-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Practices: Wed in Dec at 6:30; Dec 16 10:00; During Children's Church. JH/HS kids wanting to participate in Cantata please see Kayla.
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<b>98th Annual Christmas Cantata, will be Dec 17, 5:00</b> in the sanctuary.	<b>Tues, Dec 19:</b> 5:30 Elder Meeting 6:00 Elder/Staff Dinner	<b>December 24</b> One worship service in the sanctuary at 9:00AM. Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary at 9:00PM.
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**December Birthdays & Anniversaries** 2 Alayna Justice, 3 Eryn Lipcaman, Gena Londrie, Hayley Wombles, Leo Willman, Eleanor Willman; 5 Ronan Speckhart; 6 Jessica Speckhart Smith, Scott & Jennifer Palmer; 9 Sandy Wigington; 10 Steve Hayden, Renita Ten Eyck; 11 Marci Speckhart; 13 Jack Hull; 15 TJ Reel; 14 Patrick Lamb; 16 Tim Belford, Dave Bryant; 17 Barbara Fosco, Cara McNulty, Konnor Wombles, Arabella McNulty; 18 Jim Belford, Brody Tomhave; 20 Bill & Ann Ferguson; 22 Donnie & Tereasa Apps, Emmett Boren; 23 Laynie Hart, Hannah Wagoner; 24 Cheryl Birch, Adam Maxwell, David Bishop; 25 Betty Hayden; 26 Timothy Hull, Katie Cox, Beth Willman, Jim & Marcia Stark; 27 Matt Saxe, Brad Tomhave; 28 Marcia Stark; 31 Braxton Boren.

## FCC ADOPT- A- FAMILY 2023

The Outreach Ministry is again participating in the Adopt-A-Family program. 2023 has continued to be a tough year for many, and we hope to spread some joy this year to approximately 25 local families in need. Each family receives a food basket and food voucher, and many families will also receive requested gifts.

**Additionally, this year, we are supporting Pikeland students through Every Little Thing with clothing and hygiene donations. These tags will be noted as "school—do not wrap."** Please return these donations in the marked bins.

**INSTRUCTIONS** On Nov 26 and Dec 3, the sanctuary Christmas tree will be decorated with color-coded tags. Find a tag (or tags) with a gift you are willing to purchase, take it off the tree, fill out the bottom section, detach, and place in the basket at the table. Please write legibly so we can track down gifts if needed!

Please return wrapped gift(s) with tag—or unwrapped school donations—no later than Sunday, December 10th to the annex.

**NOTE:** If your gift includes several items, it's very helpful to put all pieces/items in **one box or gift bag** and attach the tag to the outside of the box/bag.

**Monetary donations in offering are also appreciated.** Please mark your check or envelope "Adopt-A-Family". The funds will be used first for presents that are not returned, then for gift cards for groceries.

## TIMELINE

**Sunday, Nov 26 and Dec 3** – select tags from the decorated tree in the overflow room/sanctuary.

**Sunday, Dec 10:** deadline to return wrapped gifts with tags on the outside—or unwrapped donations for Pikeland schools, along with food donations.

We realize the turnaround is short. After getting your tags, you have about 2 weeks to get your gifts/food to the annex. **Also, the Outreach Ministry encourages you to SHOP LOCALLY! Please only participate if you can meet the deadlines.**

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## **FCC ADOPT- A- FAMILY 2023**

### **ADOPT- A- FAMILY FOOD DRIVE**

ADDITIONALLY: Food items, not out of date, are being accepted in the annex.

Ages 0 - PreK: boxed dessert, Jello, Pudding mix.

K-2nd: macaroni & cheese, canned soup.

3rd-5th: Peanut Butter and Jelly.

6th-7th: canned fruit and vegetables.

8th-High School: oatmeal packets, dry cereal.

Adult Classes: canned tuna or chicken dry pasta, canned spaghetti sauce.

Congregation: any of the above categories.

\*\*please check expiration dates and condition of the donations. Food that is expired or damaged will be thrown away\*\*

**QUESTIONS: contact Libby at [libbyboren@gmail.com](mailto:libbyboren@gmail.com) or call/text 217-491-8909.**

**All donations due back to the church or annex by Dec 10.**

### **Excerpts from November 14, 2023 Church Board Meeting**

Call to order 5:59PM by Moderator Brad Losch. N.D. Harrison gave the opening devotion and prayer. Minutes from the October 10, 2023, meeting were approved by general consensus.

Wayne and Cindy Chamberlain gave a presentation and discussed their recent mission trip to Poland and Ukraine. They discussed their experience while there, provided pictures, and told stories of the families, children, and other missionaries they met while there.

Ministers report was attached.

Michelle Hart submitted a report and Rebecca Rhodes presented information from the report. The total transfer to the building fund in October was \$8,605. Total Funds Available for Construction/Renovation \$1,552,803.80; Total Funds including remaining pledges \$1,605,167.38. YTD Receipts \$414,640.50; YTD Budgeted \$428,220. Average worship attendance through October 31: 244. Leecia Carnes moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Brandi Pennock seconded. Passed unanimously.

Pastor Michael stated the attendance for our youth at the Soak Service on November 12 was really great. Leecia Carnes pointed out that when she attended two recent 10:30AM services, she was amazed to see how much attendance has grown amongst the youth and that high schoolers are pulling up to church with a carload of other high schoolers.

Kayla stated everything is going well, and she is busy with preparations for Christmas.

Pastor Michael added that the walk-in cooler leak is significant, and needs addressed quickly.

Leecia Carnes informed everyone that some of the outreach ministry will meet Thursday, November 16 in the front room of Cross-roads to work on the tags for our Christmas tree if anyone is interested in helping.

Brad Losch provided a building team update. He stated the southwest exit is now fixed and looks good. The team will take a brief break through the holidays and then get back into working on the project in January.

It was brought up that there are two school events on December 12, 2023, which is the next board meeting. N.D. Harrison made a motion to change the start time of that meeting to 5:00PM instead of 6:00PM. Leecia Carnes seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

With Helen Earls getting ready to move, the church needed to replace our representative for Unmet Needs. Julie Boren is agreeable to being the new representative. Pastor Michael made a motion to approve Julie Boren as the Unmet Needs representative. N.D. Harrison seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Finally, Pastor Michael updated everyone for Christmas Services. Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year. There will be a regular Sunday morning service at 9:00AM. That will be the only service in the morning. If groups want to have Sunday School too then they can. He stated there will also be the Christmas Eve nighttime service starting at 9:00PM.

The Motion to Adjourn was made by Leecia Carnes and seconded by Brandi Pennock. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:40PM.

## The Christmas Tree

It was wonderful to have our kids home for Thanksgiving break. Our quiet house was once again bustling with activity and merriment as we celebrated the long weekend together. Much like she did during her childhood, our youngest was asking daily if we could put up the Christmas tree and the accompanying decorations. Much like years earlier, I responded to her incessant requests with a smirking obtuseness. Near the end of the break, I finally relented to her petitions for festive expression and I left for work.

When I returned home at lunch, the house had been transformed. I examined the tree in all of its glory. It was a menagerie of ornaments that had been both created and acquired over the years, but several of them I had no recollection of. In particular, was a glass whale ornament. I inquired of my wife as to its origin but she was at a loss as well. We both assumed it had been purchased or gifted as a reminder of a vacation to the ocean at some point. Because I had not regularly rehearsed its special nature nor shared it with my family, its meaning and significance had been lost and forgotten.

It got me wondering, how many items or traditions in our church are like that mysterious whale ornament? How many are observed but not understood?

How will the next generation know if we do not share?

One of the beautiful things about the Jewish faith is the instruction to teach the next generation the things of God. The entire book of Deuteronomy is a retelling of the law of Moses and the deeds of God.

*Deuteronomy 6:1-7 "Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.*

*4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ESV*

As we enter Advent, I encourage you to take time this year to make some efforts to explain the whys behind so many of the things we do. Those relational connections are invaluable to the continuation of the faith.

Loving you all,  
Michael

**First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois**

Church Building: 225 N. Memorial Street  
 Crossroads Center: 125 W. Jefferson Street  
 Offices: 115 W. Jefferson Street  
 Phone (217) 285-4129  
 E-mail: info@fccpittsfield.org

**Staff:**

Michael Ten Eyck, Pastor  
 Kayla Boren, Music Coordinator  
 Kacie Lipcaman, Christian Education  
 Rebecca Rhodes, Administrative Secretary  
 Grace Henthorn, Custodian  
 Bob Clark, Audio/Video/Maintenance  
 Shari Clark, Event Coordinator  
 Rodney Gordley, Facilities Assistant

**Office Hours: M-TH 8:00am-3:30pm; F 8:00am-Noon**

**Worship Times: Every Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am**

**Stewardship (Offering Only) 11/13-19 11/20-26**

Operational	\$6,670.26	\$7,818.68
Property Improvement	20.00	20.00
Outreach-Missionaries	40.00	40.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
DHF-Ukraine	50.00	50.00
Construction/Renovation	2,844.29	820.29
Youth	400.00	0.00
Adopt A Family	225.00	375.00
Outreach-General	<u>510.00</u>	<u>15.00</u>
Total	\$10,789.55	\$9,168.97

**Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)**

Received Last 7 Days \$7,170.66 \$7,818.68

Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,732

**Ways to Give**

- Mail: PO Box 306, Pittsfield, IL 62363
- Online: Website fccpittsfield.org then Resources
- At the Office: 115 W. Jefferson Street
- Black metal offering boxes secured on the sanctuary mantels.

Contact Kacie or any Youth Group Leader if you would like to help provide Youth Group Meals.

**Lectionary**

- 12/3:** Isa 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
- 12/4:** Psalm 79; Micah 4:1-5; Revelation 15:1-8
- 12/5:** Psalm 79; Micah 4:6-13; Revelation 18:1-10
- 12/6:** Psalm 79; Micah 5:1-5a; Luke 21:34-38
- 12/7:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Hosea 6:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10
- 12/8:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 11:19-26
- 12/9:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Mark 11:27-33
- 12/10:** Isa 40:1-11; Ps 85:1-13; 2 Pet 3:8-15; Mark 1:1-8
- 12/11:** Psalm 27; Isaiah 26:7-15; Acts 2:37-42
- 12/12:** Psalm 27; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 11:1-18
- 12/13:** Psalm 27; Malachi 2:10-3:1; Luke 1:5-17
- 12/14:** Psalm 126; Habakkuk 2:1-5; Philippians 3:7-11
- 12/15:** Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:2-6; Philippians 3:12-16
- 12/16:** Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:13-19; Matthew 21:28-32

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Wayne Baughman, Roger Brokaw, Carolyn Casteel, Vivian Cloninger, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Ruth Anne Goodin, Marjie Guthrie, Joan Halsey, Stacey Helms, Jim Kallal, Sandra Reel, Search for Associate or Youth Minister, K-Lou Ashmore (Friend of Jill Moss), Karen Birch (John Birch's sister), Patty Curry (Alicia Tate's aunt), Kay Foreman (Judy Ferguson's sister), Sandy Henry (Kristen Address' mother), Bradyn Jensen (Leecia Carnes Family), Debra Kreyling (Judy Ferguson's sister), Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister), Terri Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister), Vince Moore (Denny Moore's brother), Marcia Schimpf (Kacie Lipcaman's cousin), Rusty Sealock (Jean Sanderson's son-in-law), Journee Vinyard (Kim Bauer's family), Tom Wainman (Kathy Wainman's family)

*With Sympathy: Gary Buchanan (Edith Gant's brother), Mike Knight, Jeff Templeton (Libby Boren's brother),*

**Serving Schedule:**

Dec 3: Elders: Roger Brokaw, N.D. Harrison  
 8:00 Prep: Greg & Kim Bonnett  
 10:30 Prep: Betty Hayden, Eleanor Jenkins, S&J Palmer  
 Children's Church: Libby Boren, Ali Curless  
 Fellowship Treats: J. Tate, J. Ferguson, C. Lacey, L. Boren  
 Dec 10: Elders: Hamer Tate, Spencer Boren  
 8:00 Prep: Tom & Debbie Robinson  
 10:30 Prep: Larry & Sandy Wigington, Justin & Amber Poor  
 Children's Church: Stan & Jill Moss

**Ways To Watch/Listen**

**fccpittsfield.org** - Ministries, Live Stream or Resources, Sermons.  
**YouTube** - Search First Christian Church of Pittsfield and subscribe.  
**Facebook** - Search First Christian Church of Pittsfield.  
**WBBA 97.5**, Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Sermon only.  
**90.9 FM** while parked next to the church building.

**Worship Service 11/19 11/26**

8:00	72	94
10:30	<u>178</u>	<u>168</u>
Total	250	262

**Christian Education**

Age 3-PK	5	6
K-2nd	2	7
3rd-5th	14	14
Jr/Sr High	23	26
Disciples	16	14
Sermon Study	7	7
C.O.F.F.E.E.	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
Total	76	83

The Crossroads walking track will be open weekday mornings starting in January through March or as the weather determines. Contact Shari Clark if you would like to supervise the gym office on a rotating basis.

*The Turkey Dinner was a fabulous evening for food and fellowship! We served almost 230 meals! We want to thank everyone who was able to attend and enjoy the evening together!*