

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 65 Issue 29

December 19, 2023



December 24

One worship service in the sanctuary at 9:00AM.
Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary at 9:00PM.
Childcare provided only during the morning service.



We are excited to announce the following individuals declared their faith in Jesus Christ and placed their membership with FCC on December 17: Bob and Janice Barton, Cindy Morrow, Nora Renoud. Also, on December 11, Delbert and Janet Scranton were baptized. Welcome everyone to the church family!

Installation of 2024 Officers and Officials will be during 10:30 service on **Jan 7**.

Coffee Talk, Tues, **Jan 9**, 10:00.

Board Meeting, Tues, **Jan 9**, 6:00.
Packets will be ready Jan 7.

Choir Practice will resume Wed, **Jan 10**, 6:30.

Circle IV Meeting, Thurs, **Jan 11**, 9:30.

The **Thursday noon Bible Study** will resume in **January**. Watch for details.

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

No regular **Youth Group** meeting until January.
Watch Kids@FCC Facebook page for all the latest youth announcements.

We want to thank everyone that contributed in any way to the Adopt A Family project this year. Your generosity has been a blessing to those in need in the area!

Dear FCC family,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your generous support towards my mission work. Thank you for allowing Cindy and Wayne to share about my mission work among the Roma people in Ukraine. Your contribution has made an incredible impact on both the mission and the lives of those I serve. I am truly touched by your willingness to invest in this mission. Your belief in our cause is a source of motivation for me and the entire Pioneer Bible Translators team.

It's through the kindness and generosity of individuals/churches like you that I can continue to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. Your financial support has enabled me to assist the Roma people in Ukraine with food and clothes this Fall.

I assure you that your donation will be used judiciously and will have a lasting impact on those we serve.

Your support goes beyond just financial assistance; it's a beacon of hope and solidarity for those who need it most.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and support. I am immensely grateful for your contribution, and I look forward to sharing updates on the progress and impact of our mission work.

<https://us11.campaign-archive.com/?u=982e89adbd135f7ce336a2d9b&id=4bc7f86568>

Warmest regards,
Jan Barczuk

January Birthdays & Anniversaries 1 Kirk Speckhart; 2 Shanna Ewers, Landon Poor, Lucas Poor, Roger & Charlotte Dunham; 4 Grace Henthorn; 5 Kurtis Johnson, Sami Johnson; 6 Don & Barbara Fosco; 7 Mary Wombles; 8 Jack & Kathy Hull, John Birch; 9 Hamer Tate; 11 Shari Clark, Addilyn Ruebush, Missy Borrowman; 12 Matt Sealock, Laura Chamberlain; 13 Thomas Hull, Leanna Schlabowske; 14 Maycee Douglas; 15 Cameron Herring; 16 Mary Lou Chamberlain; 17 Christopher Wagoner; 19 Charles Gates; 20 Harold Loyd; 21 Bryn Fine, Terri Wombles; 23 Tyler Grimsley; 24 Bobby & Chris Smith, Kaden Ferguson; 26 Jeanne Howard, David & Julie Myers; 27 Katie McDevitt; 28 Keith Elledge, D.J. Wintjen, Keenan Wine; 30 Deana Jones, Jeff Walters; 31 Dave & Sandy Herring.

Excerpts from December 12, 2023 Board Meeting

Helen Earls gave the opening devotion and prayer. Minutes from the November 14, 2023, meeting were approved by general consensus.

Pastor's Report: Ministers report was attached. There are several individuals planning to be baptized and join the church in December.

Treasurer: Michelle Hart presented information from the report - as of November 30, 2023:

Unrestricted Operating Checking \$100,000. The total transfer to the building fund in October was \$7,726.24. Total Funds in the bank available for Construction/Renovation \$1,556,870.96. Total Funds including remaining pledges: \$1,606,307.38. Kathy Hull moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Roger Brokaw seconded. Passed unanimously.

Christian Education: Pastor Michael stated the youth have been busy with church activities including caroling.

Music: Kayla stated she is busy with preparations for the Cantata and Christmas Eve service.

Crossroads Center: Shari Clark submitted a report. Pastor Michael added that the walk-in cooler roof has been resurfaced to fix the leak. Work continues on sealing the cooler bottom area.

Building Team: Brad Losch stated we will resume pursuing the building project in early 2024.

New Business:

Pastor Michael reminded everyone that 2023 year end reports will soon be due.

Brad Losch stated Abigail Heavner has submitted her resignation as Nursery Attendant effective January 1, 2024. The Executive Committee has some ideas for a replacement and is also open to suggestions.

The church staff was asked to exit the room while year-end bonuses were discussed.

Roger Brokaw stated our roadside signs at the entrance to Pittsfield might need updated. He also stated we could add the church info to the YouVersion Bible app.

Helen Earls addressed the board as this was her final meeting before moving to Georgia next month after a lifetime of service to FCC. She gave words of encouragement in several areas including the building project and our search for an associate pastor. Helen stated FCC has a lot to be thankful for.

Adjourn: The Motion to Adjourn was made by Kathy Hull and seconded by Brad Willman. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:40PM.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Michael gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Rhodes, Recording Secretary ProTem

How Do I Say Goodbye?

First, I want to say it has been such an honor and privilege to serve First Christian Church of Pittsfield. When I first accepted the elder position over 20 years ago, I was really unsure of myself. I certainly didn't feel the least bit worthy. But, I did feel called by God to accept and I have learned in my life, sometimes the hard way, not to ignore that. So, I prayed and prayed and embarked on a faith journey that has been so rewarding that there are simply not enough words to express it here.

I had a really good example in my Father and my Mother and the many other adults in the congregation who had mentored me in childhood, teen years, and young adulthood. So many people stood by me and encouraged me in all of life's ups and downs, both personally and in the church. It inspired me to do the same for others and I have tried my best to do that.

My work in Christian Education, Music, and later Crossroads has taught me so much. I want to share just a few thoughts with you:

Music is about worship not performance. So many emotions can be expressed through music. Scripture can come alive in music in a way that stays with people and touches lives in ways that mere words cannot. It also can change lives in ways that talking just doesn't do. That's why we all still remember the words of the songs that were popular in our teen years. It was the music. It's imperative to worship to stay in close relationship with God and I personally believe that music is the life blood of worship. Worship styles will change through the years but true worship is between you and God and music enhances that like nothing else. Embrace it.

Christian Education is THE MOST IMPORTANT thing we do as a church. It is imperative that we teach children in the "way in which they should go so they won't depart from it". But first and foremost, we have to love them and build relationships with them or they won't hear the words. Our actions will always speak louder than our words. So we must show them how important it is to understand the love of God and how to share it with others. The Bible is the best resource we have but they won't hear it if we don't love them first. Our team of Youth leaders and Sunday School teachers understand this and are committed. I pray you will continue to send these leaders to Orange Conference. It is such a valuable resource!!!

Crossroads taught me to trust God in all things and to keep Him in all things. It also taught me that when it is God's will and we respond, He will use it for good. It also taught me how much fun it can be when we work together for God's glory even in mundane things. I have gotten close to so many people through my work at Crossroads both in the church and in the community. Many people came to be church people through some of these activities over the years at Crossroads. It has been such a blessing and I pray it continues to be a blessing not only to our church but also to the community which we are called to serve.

I have never felt better about the future of First Christian Church. Kayla is a blessing beyond measure to the church. Kacie and her volunteer team understand Christian Education and are so passionate about it that they are growing not only in massive numbers but also in spiritual faith and understanding. The elder team is Biblically and spiritually strong and we have a deep bench. They will continue to lead and support this church in the way in which it should go. Crossroads Center has come alive again since Covid and is again serving and touching the community. It has also proven that it can be used for many church purposes. We are blessed!

I cannot talk about being blessed without mentioning Rebecca. She is so much more than an employee and certainly more than her title indicates. She literally keeps the church going. She is bright, intuitive, and hard working. She is the best administrative assistant that anyone could ever have! She keeps all the balls in the air and she does it with a smile and with joy! She is compassionate and kind to all. We are truly blessed to have her!

I cannot close this without expressing my deep appreciation and affection for Pastor Michael. I have loved and learned from a lot of ministers over my lifetime, but I have never had the privilege of working for such a long time with the same minister. It has been so rewarding to watch the congregation grow in their faith, their Biblical knowledge, and their desire to build their relationship with God and with each other. Thank you, Michael, for trusting God and answering the call to come here. Thank you for going the distance through some pretty difficult situations. Thank you for trusting me to lead, for doing life with me, for loving me and letting me love you, and yes, for even letting me boss you around once in awhile. I will always be praying for you and your family and I will always be a phone call away.

So, to my church family whom I dearly love, I leave you in good hands in so many ways but the most important thing is that I leave you in God's hands. I will continue to pray for all of you and for the ministries of this church. I love you all and leaving is one of the hardest things I have done in my life. So, I am not going to say goodbye, instead, I say, until I see you again.

Love,
Helen

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) 12/4-10 12/11-17**

Operational	\$10,426.96	\$ 9,879.05
Property Improvement	135.00	10.00
Outreach-Missionaries	40.00	40.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
DHF-Ukraine	0.00	120.00
Construction/Renovation	1,175.29	1,569.29
Youth	40.00	0.00
Music	25.00	0.00
Every Little Thing	0.00	200.00
Adopt A Family	680.00	0.00
Outreach-General	<u>105.00</u>	<u>575.00</u>
Total	\$12,657.25	\$12,423.34

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$10,835.96 \$10,104.05

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

PRAYER CONCERNS: 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, Karen Birch (John Birch's sister), Patty Curry (Alicia Tate's aunt), Bradyn Jensen (Leecia Carnes Family), Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister), Terri Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister), Kevin McDonald (Bev White's nephew), 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), Newborn twin boys (Carol Schwartz family)

With Sympathy: Jeff Cox

Kay Foreman (Judy Ferguson's sister)

Ardis Claypool (Linda Decker's sister)

Serving Schedule:

Dec 24: Elders: Judy Ferguson, Brad Willman

9:00 Prep: Larry & Sandy Wigington

Dec 31: Elders: Matt Saxe, Hamer Tate

8:00 Prep: Steve & Vickie Tharp

10:30 Prep: Jeremy & Alicia Tate

Children's Church: Kacie Lipcaman, Youth Group

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.

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.

Lectionary

12/24: 2 Sam 7:1-16; Luke 1:46b-55; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

12/25: Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

12/26: Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:19-28; Hebrews 8:1-13

12/27: Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Mark 11:1-11

12/28: Psalm 148; Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18

12/29: Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:5-15; Matthew 12:46-50

12/30: Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12; 2 Peter 3:8-13

12/31: Isa 61:10-62:3; Ps 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

1/1: Num 6:22-27; Ps 8; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

1/2: Psalm 148; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18

1/3: Psalm 110; Proverbs 1:20-33; James 4:1-10

1/4: Psalm 110; Proverbs 3:1-12; James 4:11-17

1/5: Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31

1/6: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Worship Service 12/10 12/17

8:00 112 120

10:30 173 195

Total 285 315

Christian Education

Age 3-PK 6 8

K-2nd 10 9

3rd-5th 18 19

Jr/Sr High 19 19

Disciples 13 11

Sermon Study 10 11

C.O.F.F.E.E. 11 11

Total 87 88