

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 66 Issue 8

April 9, 2024



It's always exciting to have baptisms and we had 6 of our youth get baptized on Sunday, March 31. Riggston Bonds, Dominic Cooper, Jocelyn Hardwick, Abby Opitz, Mackenzie Opitz, and Shelby Patterson all declared their faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized during our Sunrise Service. Then during our 10:00 service that morning, Bill Schwartze came forward to declare his faith in Jesus Christ and placed his membership with FCC. We celebrate the decisions our youth and Bill have made!

Congratulations Skylar and Cara Knake on the birth of their son, Henry Knake! Henry has been welcomed home by siblings Arthur and Lilee. Henry was born Monday, March 25.

Mission Trip to Artemus Christian Church. Leave Sat, June 1 and return Fri, June 7 (flexible). Sign up & deposit (\$100) due Fri, April 12. Contact Wayne Chamberlain for details.

**Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**

Sunday, April 14
Crossroads Center
11:30-1:00
Adults—\$10
Children 3-12—\$5
Age 2 & under—Free
Eat in or Carryout

**Western IL Chapter of
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Banquet Fundraiser**
Sunday, April 14, 4:30

JWCC Student Activity Center
Register online: www.westernilfca.org
There is no cost to attend but a free will offering to support the ministry of FCA will be accepted.

**Elder Meeting, Tues,
April 23, 6:00.**



**Disciple Heritage Fellowship
National Conference**
April 24-25

@ First Christian Church Decatur
Cost \$99/person or \$149/married couple.
Includes 2 day admission and 3 meals.
To register: discipleheritage.org/conference

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Wed, May 1

1:00 - 6:00
Crossroads Center
Host: CWF
Contact Barbara Fosco if you would like to help



American Red Cross

**Christian Men's Fellowship
Luncheon**

Sunday, May 5
Crossroads Center
Save the date and watch for details



The graduation season is almost upon us! In May we will be acknowledging our 8th Grade, High School, and College graduates. Please let us know **by May 12** if you have a graduate in your family.



Church Garage Sale
Sat, June 1

More details will be announced soon regarding items that we can / cannot accept.



Vacation Bible School
July 14-17



We want to thank everyone who helped in any way with the Holy Week events! From the Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday readers theater, Sunrise Service led by our youth, Breakfast, 10:00 Worship Service - it took many hands to make these events possible and we could not have done it without you. *He Is Risen!*

Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp
 Camp Work Days: Sat, April 20 & May 18, 9:00, lunch provided. These days will be used to get the grounds and buildings ready for campers.

Sunday, May 19, Noon—?, Camp Opening Fun Day, Free Carry in lunch at 1:00. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult

Sat, June 8, Day Camp K-2nd grade, \$40
 Sun, June 9-14, High School 9-12th grade, \$145
 Sun, June 16-21, Jr. High 6-8th grade, \$145
 Sun, June 23-27, Upper Elementary 3-5th grade, \$130
 Fri, June 28-29, First Chance Camp 1-2nd grade, \$25/\$55
 Fri, Sept 7, Family Camp, \$100 per family

FCC has been assigned to clean the boys dorm at the close of camp, 3:00, on June 14, 21, 27, 29.

Christian Men's Fellowship will pay half the cost for our youth to attend camp.

Thank you everyone who assisted with the Evelyn Black funeral luncheon. Your time is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to Ruth Bennett, Julie Dehart, Sue Evans, Edith Gant, Mary Gates, and Joyce Lemons! These ladies volunteered their mornings for 3 months to allow the gym to be open for safe community walking this year. Without volunteers we would not be able to offer this service to the community.

FCC has many chances to offer anyone who has not volunteered since covid 19. Not all are long commitments. Coming soon is a need for kitchen help at Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp this summer. If you feel the call to help the youth at camp, please contact Shari Clark for detail information.

In mid May we will complete the June, July, August communion preparation schedule for both services. Let Rebecca know by May 17 if you are on these schedules and have weekends that you will be gone before the summer schedule is mailed.

Pastor Michael will be out of the office April 23-25. Contact your elder or the office if you had a need during those days.

Dear friend of DHF:

It may be early in 2024, but God has already opened new doors to Disciple Heritage Fellowship to impact churches across the country.

We have heard from congregations from West Virginia to Missouri to California, all who are new to the ministry of DHF. Some want help in securing their next pastor; others want to connect with theologically conservative congregations. Many are asking, "What can we do next?" All want help from a solidly biblical foundation, which we try to offer.

DHF also works to ensure pastors are ministered to through personal contact and our eight online study groups. These groups build relationships among pastors as they study together creating greater effectiveness and support in each pastorate.

In just two weeks, we will gather in Decatur, IL for our DHF National Conference, Wednesday and Thursday, April 24-25, 2024. DHF '24 will be two days of worship, learning, and networking for church leaders from across the country. Your partnership and gifts to DHF allow us to host a low-cost, high impact conference to encourage and equip servants of God with the tools needed for effective ministry. Please consider joining us in Decatur, IL for DHF '24. To discover more about our ministry or learn more about DHF '24, please visit discipleheritage.org. While there, you can register for DHF '24 and link to hotel options for the conference. We appreciate you joining in the work of encouraging churches to fulfill Christ's mission. You can safely and securely make a gift at discipleheritage.org/give.

Thank you for giving generously to impact pastors and congregations through Disciple Heritage Fellowship!

Together, for the glory of God,

Rick Grace, DHF Church Liaison

Elder Corner

Having recently observed the season of renewal during Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday – I would imagine (and hope) each of us came away enriched in our spiritual life. We were reminded of the adulation that was heaped on Jesus as he rode the donkey through the cheering crowd, the humility that he showed in the washing of the feet of his disciples as they communed at the Last Supper, the agonizing pain that Jesus suffered at the hands of his aggressors, and finally, the victorious rising of our Savior as he promised the hope of Eternal Life. What a range of emotions in the course of one week!

We who attended the Holy Week services, and those of us who have learned about the Gospel of Jesus through the years in Sunday School classes and worship services as children and young adults have a general knowledge of Jesus' experiences while he was on earth. But what about those who've never heard the Gospel? Have we been and are we now bold enough in our daily lives to share the Gospel of Jesus to others?

In 1 Corinthians 1:18 Paul tells us: *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* In other words, if a child is to repent and believe in Christ, then it will be through the proclamation of the message of the cross.

So, it seems to me that all of us need to follow the mantra of the youth of our church in BEING INTENTIONAL in growing our Christian faith and sharing that faith with others! I am reminded of an incident years ago when I was led by a group of young people to share the Gospel, but was hesitant to do so:

It was the Spring of the year, the week before Easter, and I was teaching a class of Freshman English when a student, with a puzzled look on her face, asked: "Mrs. Dunham, is there anything more to Easter than the Easter Bunny hiding eggs?" Shocked at this question, I looked out over the class and witnessed several of my male students, who I knew attended Sunday School and church, turning their heads in unison to look at the questioning student in disbelief!

I immediately began concocting the lame excuse that I was not able to answer her question because of church vs. state issues that might cause me to lose my job, when one of those boys rose from his seat, walked to the open door that led to the hallway and the principal's office. He closed the door, saying, "I'll guard the door, Mrs. Dunham!" Humbled by that freshman boy who was BEING INTENTIONAL in standing by the closed door so his classmate could hear The Story, I veered from my lesson plan for the day and proceeded to tell the Story of Jesus in that public school classroom on that Spring day.

The boldness of that freshman boy was impressive, but my hesitancy to share the Story of Jesus because of the fear of a legal issue was not! The recent challenge of our FCC Youth to BE INTENTIONAL in sharing our faith is taken! Incidentally ... I didn't lose my job!

In Christian Love,
Charlotte Dunham, Elder

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

PRAYER CONCERNS: Tereasa Apps, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Marjorie Gamble, Marjie Guthrie, Joan Halsey, Stacey Helms, Jim Kallal, Marilyn Losch, Sharon Rahe, Erica Thomas, Search for Associate or Youth Minister, Raeligh Bess (Nanette Bess' granddaughter), Karen Birch (John Birch's sister), Bradyn Jensen (Leecia Carnes Family), Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister), Marcia Schimpf (Kacie Lipcaman's cousin), Rusty Sealock (Jean Sanderson's son-in-law), Journee Vinyard (Kim Bauer's family),
With sympathy:
 Evelyn Black (Mary Gates' sister)
 Lois Ruble (Joan Halsey's sister-in-law)

Stewardship (Offering Only) 3/25-31	4/1-7
Operational \$8,375.12	\$11,584.87
Property Improvement 10.00	30.00
Outreach-Missionaries 40.00	40.00
DHF 30.00	30.00
DHF-Ukraine 100.00	50.00
Construction/Renovation 273.91	144.91
Youth 0.00	300.00
Unmet Needs 250.00	265.00
Outreach-General <u>225.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>
Total \$9,304.03	\$12,469.78

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$8,913.12 \$12,134.87
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$10,433

Wishes & Wants

Free: McKesson Compressor Nebulizer System machine.
 Barbara Fosco 217.285.2608.

Lectionary

4/14: Acts 3:12-19; Ps 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-48
4/15: Psalm 150; Jeremiah 30:1-11a; 1 John 3:10-16
4/16: Psalm 150; Hosea 5:15-6:6; 2 John 1:1-6
4/17: Psalm 150; Proverbs 9:1-6; Mark 16:9-18
4/18: Psalm 23; Genesis 30:25-43; Acts 3:17-26
4/19: Psalm 23; Genesis 46:28-47:6; Acts 4:1-4
4/20: Psalm 23; Genesis 48:8-19; Mark 6:30-34
4/21: Acts 4:5-12; Ps 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
4/22: Psalm 95; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Peter 5:1-5
4/23: Psalm 95; 1 Chronicles 11:1-9; Revelation 7:13-17
4/24: Psalm 95; Micah 7:8-20; Mark 14:26-31
4/25: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 8:1-7; Acts 8:1b-8
4/26: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 8:11-13; Acts 8:9-25
4/27: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 9:7-15; Mark 4:30-32

Serving Schedule:

April 14: Elders: Bob Clark, N.D. Harrison
 8:00 Prep: Brad & Kathy Willman
 10:30 Prep: TBA, Scott & Jenny Palmer
 Children's Church: Stan & Jill Moss
 Youth Group Meal Team: Charlotte Dunham, Alicia Tate
 April 21: Elders: Charlotte Dunham, Brad Willman
 8:00 Prep: Richard & Rebecca Rhodes
 10:30 Prep: Larry & Sandy Wigington, Justin & Amber Poor
 Children's Church: Kay Sealock, Mike & Julie Boren
 Youth Group Meal Team: Sandy Wigington, Elaine Hoaglin

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.
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.

FCC now has a presence on the YouVersion Bible app. Check it out!

Worship Service 3/31	4/7
8:00	224
10:30	<u>274</u>
Total	498

Christian Education

Age 3-PK	4	7
K-2nd	8	7
3rd-5th	11	7
Jr/Sr High	12	12
Disciples	10	12
Sermon Study	11	9
C.O.F.F.E.E.	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
Total	67	63