

# The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 66 Issue 27

December 10, 2024



**99<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Cantata, "I Call Him Lord", will be Sunday, Dec 15, 5:00.** Rehearsal on Sat, Dec 14, will begin at 10:00 sharp. Childcare will be provided both days.



**Youth Group** will gather at the home of Luke and Michelle Hart after the Cantata on Sun, **Dec 15**. Wear your favorite Christmas gear!



**Elder/Staff Dinner**, Sun, **Dec 22**. Elder meeting at 5:30, meal at 6:00.

**Christmas Eve Service**  
Tues, **Dec 24**, 9:00pm.

*Christmas Eve*



**Hangout 45** for all 4th and 5th grade students will be Sunday, **Dec 29**, after 10:30 service.

**Installation** of 2025 officers and other elected officials will be Sunday, **Jan 5**, during 10:30 service.

The 2024 CWF Christmas Bazaar was a great success! The morning was filled with a steady stream of shoppers enjoying the sweet treats and treasures available. We want to thank everyone who brought donations of food and items to fill the tables. We also want to thank the army of volunteers who worked the days leading up to the Bazaar and worked the day of the event, including clean up! The ladies will meet soon and divide their profits among several outreach missions in the community.

The outpouring of participants in the Adopt A Family mission has been fantastic! No matter if you took a tag from the tree or made a financial contribution for gifts and food, your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated! Special thank you to Judy Losch and Libby Boren for overseeing the mission.

Fun was had by all who went Christmas caroling last Sunday! It is always fun to share the joy of Christmas in song! We want to thank everyone who attended and especially Sandy Wigington for providing the delicious meal afterward!

Thank You!

Parents: Be sure to watch the Kids@FCC Facebook page for the latest news and events!

The **walking track** at Crossroads Center will open starting in January, Mon-Thurs, 8-10:00. Contact Shari Clark if you would like to volunteer supervising in the gym office during that time.

The **Thursday noon study** has finished chapter 4 and will take a break during the holiday season. They will start chapter 5 on **Jan 9**.

Volunteers are needed for a **workday** at the church building sometime after Christmas to remove walls in the office area in preparation for the remodel. Contact Brad Losch if interested.

Dear Church Family,

*Luke 2:25-33 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." 33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.*

-ESV

As we step into the Christmas season, it's easy to let the familiar rhythms carry us: the decorations, the gatherings, the traditions. While these are beautiful and meaningful, they can also lead us to a place of spiritual complacency. Luke introduces us to Simeon, whose heart and life invite us to enter this season differently—expectantly.

Simeon was not just going through the motions of his faith. He was actively waiting, filled with anticipation for what God was about to do. His expectation shaped his daily life, and because of it, he didn't miss the profound moment when Christ entered the world.

What about us? Do we approach this Advent season expecting God to do something new in our lives? Do we pause long enough to sense where He might be leading us? Or have we allowed old habits, busyness, and familiarity to cloud our vision of what Christ wants to do in and through us?

Advent is a time of preparation and reflection, but it's also a time of great expectation. Just as Simeon waited faithfully for the Messiah, we too are called to wait on the Lord, trusting that He is at work. This might mean taking extra time in prayer, stepping out in faith to mend a broken relationship, or simply asking God to reveal Himself in ways we've never noticed before.

As we journey through Advent, let us approach this season with hearts full of anticipation. Christ came to make all things new, and He is still working today. Let's not miss the unique and transformative ways He wants to move in our lives because we're too caught up in what's familiar.

Let this Advent season be marked by faithful expectation, just as Simeon's life was. May we look for Christ in unexpected places and be ready to receive the gifts He has for us. As we journey together toward Christmas, may we each discover the wonder and joy of expecting the Savior to meet us in new and beautiful ways.

Let's enter this season with open hearts and expectant spirits, ready to be amazed by the One who came to bring us life and hope.

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  
 Niki Dixon, 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:** Marie Awbrey, Carolyn Casteel, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Melba Foster, Marjie Guthrie, Joan Halsey, Bill Jenkins, Jim Kallal, Harold Loyd, William Miller, Sharon Rahe, Tom Robinson, Carol Schwartz, Rusty & Jeana Sealock, Larry Wigington, Search for Associate or Youth Minister, Linda Armstrong (Carol Schwartz's sister), Ann Bell (Cindy Chamberlain/Linda Baumer mother), Raeleigh Bess (Nanette Bess' granddaughter), Karen Birch (John Birch's sister), Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother), Bradyn Jensen (Leecia Carnes family), Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister), Earl Phillips (Eleanor Jenkins' family), Steve Young (Friend of Bev White),  
*With Sympathy: Janette Payne Brown (Judy Dunham/Carole Elledge niece)*

<b>Stewardship (Offering Only)</b>	<b>11/25-12/1</b>	<b>12/2-8</b>
Operational	\$8,852.66	\$8,871.12
Property Improvement	10.00	20.00
Outreach-Missionaries	40.00	40.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	99.91	211.91
Youth	100.00	400.00
Operation Christmas Child	140.00	0.00
Adopt a Family	930.00	970.00
Outreach-General	<u>125.00</u>	<u>235.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,327.57</b>	<b>\$10,778.03</b>

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

Received Last 7 Days \$8,852.66 \$9,021.12  
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$10,433

**Serving Schedule:**

Dec 15: Elders: N.D. Harrison, Roger Brokaw  
 8:00 Communion: Richard & Rebecca Rhodes  
 10:30 Communion: Chris & Cherie Wagoner  
 Children's Church: Kay Sealock, Mike & Julie Boren  
  
 Dec 22: Elders: Kathy Hull, Wayne Chamberlain  
 8:00 Communion: Steve & Vickie Tharp  
 10:30 Prep: Gary & Noah Mendenhall  
 Children's Church: Grace Henthorn, Katie McDevitt

**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.

The collection boxes for greeting card fronts and reading glasses are at the annex.

**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.

The December, January, February edition of **Our Daily Bread** devotional can be found on the sanctuary mantels.

**Lectionary**

**12/15:** Zeph 3:14-20; Isa 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18  
**12/16:** Isaiah 11:1-9; Numbers 16:1-19; Hebrews 13:7-17  
**12/17:** Isaiah 11:1-9; Numbers 16:20-35; Acts 28:23-31  
**12/18:** Isaiah 11:1-9; Micah 4:8-13; Luke 7:31-35  
**12/19:** Psalm 80:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 10:10-18  
**12/20:** Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 42:10-18; Hebrews 10:32-39  
**12/21:** Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 66:7-11; Luke 13:31-35  
**12/22:** Micah 5:2-5; Luke 1:46-55; Heb 10:5-10  
**12/23:** Psalm 113; Genesis 25:19-28; Colossians 1:15-20  
**12/24:** Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20  
**12/25:** Isa 62:6-12; Ps 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20  
**12/26:** Psalm 148; 2 Chronicles 24:17-24; Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60  
**12/27:** Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:32-36; John 21:19b-24  
**12/28:** Psalm 148; Isaiah 54:1-13; Revelation 21:1-7

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

**Wishes & Wants**

None at this time.

<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>12/1</b>	<b>12/8</b>
8:00	106	70
10:30	<u>131</u>	<u>176</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>246</b>
<b>Christian Education</b>		
Youth	36	28
Disciples	11	10
Sermon Study	6	8
C.O.F.F.E.E.	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>55</b>