

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois
Volume 66 Issue 28
December 17, 2024



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



Youth Group will **not** meet **Dec 22** due to scheduling conflicts.

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

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.

CWF will host an American Red Cross **Blood Drive** on Tues, **Jan 7**, 1-6:00, at Crossroads Center.

Choir Practice will resume on Wed, **Jan 8**, 6:30. Those who want to sing at the 9:00pm Christmas Eve service need to meet in the Long room that evening by 8:30 to warm up.

The **walking track** at Crossroads Center will open to the public 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 resume in chapter 5 on **Jan 9**.

uth@1st

I.C.E RETREAT

Still time to Sign Up!

Sat. Jan. 4th thru

Sun. Jan. 5th

Green Pastures Camp

Merry Christmas!

The 2025 designated offering envelopes can be found near the coffee table. Let Rebecca know if you would like to start using your own box for 2025.

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.

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

The CWF ladies are thrilled to announce Jennifer Liehr from Perry was the winner of the quilt at the Christmas Bazaar. Congratulations Jennifer!

Thank you to the vesper choir, accompanists, and tech team for you work on the cantata. Thank you everyone who attended or streamed as we made sure to continue the tradition. It was a joy to have the opportunity to direct and worship the Lord through leading the cantata. -Pastor Michael.

Excerpts from December 10, 2024 Board Minutes

Call to order at 6:00 PM by Moderator Brad Losch. Pastor Michael Ten Eyck led the meeting in a devotion and prayer. Minutes from the November 12, 2024 meeting were approved by general consensus.

Pastor's Report: Ministers report was attached and discussed.

Treasurer: Rebecca Rhodes submitted a report and presented information from the report– as of November 30, 2024:

The total transfer to the building fund in November was \$5,593.13.

Total Funds Available for Construction/Renovation \$1,768,079.04.

YTD Budgeted Receipts \$490,343. Difference of \$9,598.64 from the budget.

Average worship attendance through November 30: 251.

Kathy Hull moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Steve Tharp seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustees: Justin Poor submitted a Trustee's Report. ND Harrison moved to approve; Brad Willman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Christian Education: Niki Dixon presented a written and verbal report on many recent and upcoming activities within Christian Education and Youth Group.

Music: Pastor Michael reported that cantata practices are going well, and the choir is looking forward to the Cantata on 12/15/2024.

Building Team: Pastor Michael Ten Eyck noted that bids will be due by 1/10/2025. There has been discussion about water lines. The Building Team is leaning toward doing what is currently required for Phase 1, with the goal of addressing any needed updates or new requirements during Phase 2 of construction, at a later date.

Illini Hospital Playground Agreement: The Board was presented with a termination notice from Illini Hospital Daycare. The daycare is set to close on February 28, 2025. FCC will be responsible for playground maintenance and upkeep from that date moving forward.

FCC Staff Bonuses: Brandi Pennock moved to approve the bonus structure as recommended by the Executive Committee. Wayne Chamberlain seconded, and motion carried.

Kathy Hull moved to adjourn at 6:40 pm; N.D. Harrison seconded and all approved.
Brad Losch closed the meeting in prayer.

Dear Church Family,

Not long ago, I was at a ballgame, enjoying the excitement of the crowd and cheering for the team. Seated just in front of me was a young child who streams our church services regularly. I could tell something was on his mind because he kept glancing back at me, as if he couldn't quite place who I was. Finally, the child turned around and exclaimed, "Hey, aren't you the church guy?" We all had a good laugh at the moment. I was not expected to be found in a gym instead of the church building.

That little exchange got me thinking. How often do we fail to recognize Jesus because we don't expect to encounter Him where we are? John 1:10-14 tells us, *"He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him." Even as Christ dwelt among His people, many missed His presence because they simply weren't looking for Him.*

During Advent, we are reminded of the miracle and wonder of Christ's arrival. But are we truly looking for Him or are we so focused on the season's busyness that we fail to recognize His presence all around us?

Advent is a time of expectation and preparation. It is a time of actively seeking the presence of Christ in our lives, but too often, our eyes are fixed on shopping lists, schedules, and celebrations. We can easily forget that Christ's Spirit dwells within us, calling us to carry His love into every situation we encounter. Are we mindful of His presence in our conversations, our workplaces, and yes, even in the gym at a ballgame?

Just as that child eventually recognized me out of context, we need to train our hearts to recognize Jesus in unexpected places... even if that means bringing His presence with us. The truth of Advent is that God came to dwell among us. *"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). He is still with us, offering His grace and truth in every moment.*

This Advent season, let's slow down and open our eyes to the many ways Christ's presence is here with us. Whether it's through an act of kindness, a moment of stillness, or even the laughter of a child, Jesus is all around us. Let's not miss the chance to encounter Him. Let's bring Him into every moment and every situation, for He has come to dwell with us.

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, Caden Casto, Craig Collver, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Melba Foster, Marjie Guthrie, Joan Halsey, Jeanne Howard, 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), 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: Ann Bell (Cindy Chamberlain/Linda Baumer mother)

Stewardship (Offering Only)	12/2-8	12/9-15
Operational	\$8,871.12	\$6,459.93
Property Improvement	20.00	15.00
Outreach-Missionaries	40.00	40.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	211.91	124.91
Youth	400.00	0.00
Adopt a Family	970.00	0.00
Outreach-General	<u>235.00</u>	<u>210.00</u>
Total	\$10,778.03	\$6,879.84

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)
 Received Last 7 Days \$9,021.12 \$6,459.93
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$10,433

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

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

Lectionary
 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
 12/29: 1 Sam 2:18-20; Ps 148; Col 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52
 12/30: Psalm 147:12-20; 2 Chronicles 1:7-13; Mark 13:32-37
 12/31: Psalm 147:12-20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19
 1/1: Num 6:22-27; Ps 8; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21
 1/2: Psalm 147:12-20; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18
 1/3: Psalm 72; Job 42:10-17; Luke 8:16-21
 1/4: Psalm 72; Isaiah 6:1-5; Acts 7:44-53

Serving Schedule:
 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
 Dec 29: Elders: Spencer Boren, David Bishop
 8:00 Communion: Michael & Jessi Smith
 10:30 Prep: B. Fosco, S. Clark, S. Bacon, D. Bryant
 Children's Church: No Children's Church

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 has a presence on the YouVersion Bible app. Check it out!	Worship Service		
	12/8	12/15	
	8:00	70	126
	10:30	<u>176</u>	<u>148</u>
	Total	246	274
Wishes & Wants	Christian Education		
None at this time.	Youth	28	54
	Disciples	10	13
	Sermon Study	8	9
	C.O.F.F.E.E.	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>
	Total	55	87