

# The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 66 Issue 29

December 31, 2024



<p><b>Installation</b> of 2025 officers and other elected officials will be Sunday, <b>Jan 5</b>, during 10:30 service.</p>	<p>The <b>walking track</b> at Crossroads Center will open to the public starting <b>January 6</b>, Mon-Thurs, 8-10:00 a.m. There will be an attendant in the gym office during that time.</p>
<p>CWF will host an American Red Cross <b>Blood Drive</b> on Tues, <b>Jan 7</b>, 1-6:00, at Crossroads Center.</p>	<p><b>Coffee Talk</b>, Tues, <b>Jan 7</b>, 10:00 at annex.</p>
<p><b>Choir Practice</b> will resume on Wed, <b>Jan 8</b>, 6:30.</p>	<p><b>Circle IV meeting</b>, Thurs, <b>Jan 9</b>, 9:30 at Cardinal Inn.</p>
<p>The <b>Thursday noon study</b> will resume in chapter 5 on <b>Jan 9</b>.</p>	<p><b>Board Meeting</b>, Tues, <b>Jan 14</b>, 6:00. Packets will be ready Jan 12.</p>
<p><b>Valentine's Day Dinner Party, Feb 16, 5:00.</b> Youth Fundraiser! Cost is \$20 per plate. Your reservation will include a delicious meal of marinated pork chops, green beans, salad, baked potato, rolls, and desserts! Entertainment throughout the evening! The best servers around will wait on you and you can even tip them if they are up to par (The youth)</p> <p>This fundraiser is an event that brings us all together to fellowship, have fun, and allows the students the opportunity to serve those who support them all year! The dinner will be held in Crossroads Center. There will be no carry out dinners this year. You won't want to miss out on this lovely dinner experience.</p> <p>Contact the office or Christian Ed Coordinator Niki Dixon to make your reservation.</p>	

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 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!

*Thank you Sonya Bishop for repairing the stained glass window near the sanctuary coffee area! It looks fantastic!*

*We want to thank everyone who was available to help with the Sharron Houchins funeral luncheon. Your time was appreciated!  
-CWF Bereavement Ministry*

**January Birthdays & Anniversaries** 1 Kirk Speckhart, Russ & Jeana Sealock; 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, Keenan Wine; 30 Deana Jones, Jeff Walters; 31 Dave & Sandy Herring.

Dear Church Family,

As I began preparing to pack away my Christmas decorations this year, I found myself reflecting on the process. What began as a simple task of putting away the lights and ornaments that had brightened our home throughout the season quickly became a teachable moment for me. Sometimes God uses funny things to get our attention.

Some of my Christmas lights were old and damaged. Despite my best efforts, sections no longer worked on many of the strands. I found a few ornaments that had broken pieces, their original beauty was now marred by wear and tear over the years. There were also some old crafts from when my children were small—precious at the time, but now a little worse for wear. I had held onto them out of sentimentality or politeness, but deep down, I knew it was probably time to let some of them go. (Forgive me, Renita, but the tree is only so big!)

As I carefully sorted through each item, I began to ask myself an important question: Are there things in my life that I should leave behind as I head into 2025? Just as I was discarding broken lights and outdated decorations, I wondered if God might be calling me to declutter my heart and life similarly.

Scripture often speaks of leaving behind the old to make room for the new. In Isaiah 43:18-19, the Lord says, *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”* This passage reminded me that God desires to do something new in us, but we must first be willing to let go of what is no longer useful, healthy, or part of His plan.

So, what might God be asking us to leave behind? Perhaps it’s an old habit or mindset that no longer serves His purpose. Maybe it’s the burden of past mistakes or relationships that have grown toxic. It could be pride, stubbornness, or a refusal to submit to God’s plan in our life. Like broken decorations, some things have simply reached the end of their season.

At the same time, God calls us to preserve and nurture what truly matters. Just as I carefully packed away my favorite decorations to use again next year, we should hold tightly to the treasures of faith, hope, love, and community. These are the things God uses to light our path forward.

As we step into 2025, let’s take time to prayerfully examine our hearts and lives. What needs to stay? What needs to go? And most importantly, what new thing might God be preparing to do in us if we make space for Him to work?

This year, let’s commit to heading into the new year God’s way—by leaving behind what no longer brings Him glory and holding fast to the things that draw us closer to His purpose.

Together, we can walk into this new season with open hearts and uncluttered lives, ready for the blessings He has in store.

Happy New Year, and may 2025 be a year of fresh starts and abundant grace! Embrace New Life... in 2025!

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:** Carolyn Casteel, Craig Collver, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Melba Foster, Joan Halsey, Jeanne Howard, Bill Jenkins, Jim Kallal, Harold Loyd, Sharon Rahe, Tom Robinson, Rusty & Jeana Sealock, Howard Staffy, Larry Wigington, Search for Associate or Youth Minister, Linda Armstrong (Carol Schwartz's sister), Karen Birch (John Birch's sister), Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother), Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister), Earl Phillips (Eleanor Jenkins' family), Steve Young (Friend of Bev White)

*With Sympathy:*  
 Sharron Houchins (Donnie Houchins' wife)  
 Dixie Smith (Brad McClintock's grandmother)

<b>Stewardship (Offering Only)</b>	<b>12/16-22</b>	<b>12/23-29</b>
Operational	\$7,314.21	\$10,595.50
Property Improvement	10.00	10.00
Outreach-Missionaries	80.00	40.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	344.91	144.91
Adopt a Family	600.00	0.00
Outreach-General	<u>227.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$8,606.12	\$10,845.41

**Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)**  
 Received Last 7 Days \$8,264.21 \$10,595.50  
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$10,433

**Serving Schedule:**  
 Jan 5: Elders: David Bishop, Wayne Chamberlain  
 8:00 Communion: Dan & Sue Speckhart  
 10:30 Prep: Rokettia Brokaw, Rosi Picone, Joyce Harrison  
 Children's Church: Ali Curless, Molly Caughlan  
 Fellowship Treats: M. Hart, D. Robinson, R. Bennett, C. Elledge

Jan 12: Elders: Steve Tharp, Bob Clark  
 8:00 Communion: Steve & Vickie Tharp  
 10:30 Prep: B. Fosco, S. Clark, S. Bacon, D. Bryant  
 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.  
**90.9 FM** while parked next to the church building.

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**  
**1/5:** Jer 31:7-14; Ps 147:12-20; Eph 1:3-14; John 1:1-18  
**1/6:** Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12  
**1/7:** Psalm 72; Daniel 2:1-19; Ephesians 4:17-5:1  
**1/8:** Psalm 72; Daniel 2:24-49; Ephesians 5:15-20  
**1/9:** Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
**1/10:** Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 2:1-10  
**1/11:** Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 2:11-16  
**1/12:** Isa 43:1-7; Ps 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-22  
**1/13:** Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 4:1-16; Ephesians 6:10-17  
**1/14:** Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 5:12-21; 1 John 5:13-21  
**1/15:** Psalm 106:1-12; Numbers 27:1-11; Luke 11:33-36  
**1/16:** Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Acts 8:18-24  
**1/17:** Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:19-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-7  
**1/18:** Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Luke 11:14-23

**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!

<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>12/22</b>	<b>12/29</b>
8:00	72	89
10:30	<u>148</u>	<u>150</u>
Total	220	239

**Wishes & Wants**  
 None at this time.

<b>Christian Education</b>		
Youth	27	27
Disciples	10	11
Sermon Study	8	7
C.O.F.F.E.E.	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	51	55

**Cookie Sunday!**  
**January 5.**