

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 67 Issue 3

February 11, 2025



Valentine's Day Dinner Party, Feb 16, 5:00.

Youth Fundraiser! The cost is \$20 per plate. Your ticket 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).

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. You won't want to miss out on this lovely dinner experience.

Seating is still available! Contact the office or Christian Ed Coordinator Niki Dixon to purchase your tickets. Seating placement will not be assigned.

Building Team Meeting, Mon, Feb 17, 8:30a.m.

The **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** local chapter in Liberty, IL will hold a bed build in Griggsville on Sat, **Feb 22**, 8-Noon at the Bradshaw Pumping building. If you would like to volunteer and need more info then contact Zachary Boren. Tasks will include sand, build, assemble, stain, and brand the wood components of a bunk bed.

Elder Meeting, Tues, Feb 25, 6:00.

The family of Howard Staffy would like to say thank you to Pastor Michael, Rebecca, our Elders, our sound guys, Grace, and the CWF Bereavement ladies for the beautiful service and luncheon. Thank you to our brothers and sisters in Christ for the calls, cards, prayers and food during this time. He loved his church family, and missed being with you the past two years. But, Heaven is now his home, and I'm sure he heard the words, "Well done," when his spirit entered those gates!

If you are looking for ways to help Youth Group then we have an idea! They can always use water and soda, specifically Pepsi, Mt. Dew, Starry, and Dr. Pepper. If you see these items on sale and want to make a purchase at a discounted price then we can certainly use the drinks! Thank you in advance!

CMF is inviting all men in the church family to sign up near the coffee table for Iron Sharpens Iron event! The registration for all high school boys will be paid for by CMF. See the website <https://rpmfm.org/springfield/> for more details or contact Zachary Boren.

IRON SHARPENS IRON

2025

NATIONAL MEN'S ONE DAY EQUIPPING CONFERENCES

SPRINGFIELD, IL

MARCH 15TH

FIRST UMC - SPRINGFIELD, IL

8-30AM - 4-55PM

REGISTRATION STARTS AT \$49 FOR ALL GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE!

RPMFM.ORG

Hangout 45
 Sunday Feb 23
 Following 2nd Service
 \$15/student, 10 spots available
 Contact Niki Dixon to sign up
 417.392.0729

Excerpts from the February 2, 2025 Congregational Meeting

Call to order at 11:45 a.m. by Moderator Kathy Hull. David Bishop opened the meeting in prayer. A quorum of 19 was declared by Rebecca Rhodes, FCC Secretary. The minutes from the November 3, 2024 meeting were read. One correction was made. The minutes with the change were approved unanimously.

Minister's Report: Pastor Michael Ten Eyck thanked the Elders and congregation for stepping up during his health issues in 2024. Members were encouraged to join or begin a small group. The Education Ministry continues to take a look at Sunday School curriculum to make sure Orange meets our goals. The web hosting and financial software is being merged, so there may be some glitches along the way.

Christian Education: The word for 2025 is **Encounter**, to create moments of change in students when they need to be guided back towards God. Volunteers were thanked and are now given an opportunity to refresh and rejuvenate during a one-month break given to them quarterly.

CMF: Congratulations to Steve Tharp as 2024 Man of the Year. There will be a men's retreat in Springfield on March 15. It is also a goal of the group to pair a teen with an adult mentor.

CWF: The group would love to have new members and appreciate those who help with their activities including the Blood Drive and the bereavement dinners. More help is always appreciated.

Crossroads: Use continues to increase.

Property: The pew cushions are in dire need of replacement. If you see something around the properties that needs to be done, please let Pastor Michael know so it can be addressed.

Music: Pastor Michael Ten Eyck, Kathy Curfman and Kay Sealock oversee the music ministry. The 100th cantata will be held in 2025 and there is hope to do something special.

Stewardship Report: Average attendance for 2024 has risen to 250. \$389,290 of the \$542,507 budgeted, which is 71.76%, was spent in 2024. It was explained that administration expenses were under budget because of the lack of additional staff.

Goals for 2025:

- Increase church wide prayer initiatives/ Greater prayer response within services.
- Add more small groups and Bible studies.
- Building project.
- Revise our visitation follow-up ministries (cont.) and create visitation teams.
- Strengthen church community. Promote people to physically come together at dinners, activities and in worship.
- Strategize how to effectively engage the travel ball culture. We must be creative and pray about how to include those who are away because of Sunday activities.

Building Update: A project manager has been hired for our construction. Hamer Tate will be the safety officer. This plan is designed for future expansion but without adding the mechanical parts at this time. The current exposed stained-glass windows will need to be enhanced in order to be up to code. We should have bids for the foundation very soon.

The Plan Going Forward: The permits and final bids are in the process of being acquired. The goal is for the building to begin in March of 2025 with it being completed by Christmas 2025. The building committee will continue to meet regularly. Jenny Tate asked that members make reservations for dinners in advance to help facilitate the purchase of food.

David Bishop made a motion, seconded by Joyce Lemons, to ratify the action of the board in 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn: A motion was made by David Bishop and seconded by Rokettia Brokaw to adjourn. Motion carried. Pastor Michael Ten Eyck closed the meeting in prayer.
Linda Belford, Recording Secretary

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to believe that we are already in the second month of 2025. As we enter February, the symbols of love are all around us. While many associate this time of year with chocolates and flowers, the true story of St. Valentine reminds us of a much deeper love—one that is rooted in commitment to God and His people.

St. Valentine was a priest in the early church who lived during a time when Christ-followers faced great persecution. Despite the dangers, he remained faithful in his commitment to the Lord and His church. One of the most well-known stories about St. Valentine is that he continued to perform Christian marriages in secret when the Roman Emperor had outlawed them. This was the origin of the association with love prevalent in this season. He believed in the power of godly commitment—not just in marriage, but also in gathering together as believers, even at great personal risk.

This example reminds us of the importance of staying committed to our faith and to one another. Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages us, saying, *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."* Gathering together as a church strengthens our faith, encourages our hearts, and reminds us that we are not alone in our walk with Christ.

In today's world, it is easy to let distractions, busy schedules, and even discouragement keep us from fully committing to our church family. However, God calls us to be steadfast. *"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58)*. Just as St. Valentine remained firm in his faith despite opposition, we too are called to remain faithful in our commitment to Christ and to gather with fellow believers.

This month, let's remember and reflect on the courage of St. Valentine and the power of commitment. Whether through attending worship services, joining a Bible study or Sunday School class, or simply reaching out to encourage a fellow believer, let's prioritize staying connected in faith through our bonds of commitment to one another. May we be a church that loves deeply, gathers faithfully, and stands strong together in Christ.

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 & Caree Collver, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Roger Dunham, Scott Dunham, Sue Evans, Joan Halsey, Jeanne Howard, Jim Kallal, Jill Kunzeman, Wally & Marge Lamb, Sharon Rahe, Tom Robinson, Bill & Carol Schwartze, Rusty & Jeana Sealock, Larry Wigington, Karen Birch (John Birch's sister), Dugan Graham (Friend of Barber family), Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother), Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister), Earl Phillips (Eleanor Jenkins' family), Greg Piper (Ralph Piper's son), Gail Walston (Laura Grimsley's sister), Steve Young (Friend of Bev White)

Stewardship (Offering Only) 1/27-2/2	2/3-9
Operational \$12,018.94	\$8,354.37
Property Improvement 10.00	10.00
Outreach-Missionaries 40.00	40.00
DHF 30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation 231.91	164.91
Youth Group 100.00	100.00
Unmet Needs 75.00	0.00
Outreach-General 45.00	225.00
Total \$12,550.85	\$8,924.28

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)
 Received Last 7 Days \$12,018.94 \$8,474.37
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$10,568

The walking track at Crossroads Center is open to the public Mon-Thurs, 8-10 a.m.

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

The March, April, May edition of **Our Daily Bread** devotional can be found on the sanctuary mantels.

Lectionary

2/16: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1; 1 Cor 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
2/17: Psalm 120; 2 Kings 24:18-25:21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-34
2/18: Psalm 120; Ezra 1:1-11; 2 Corinthians 1:12-19
2/19: Psalm 120; Jeremiah 22:11-17; Luke 11:37-52
2/20: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 43:16-34; Romans 8:1-11
2/21: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:1-17; 1 John 2:12-17
2/22: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:18-34; Luke 12:57-59
2/23: Gen 45:3-15; Ps 37:1-11; 1 Cor 15:35-50; Luke 6:27-38
2/24: Psalm 38; Genesis 33:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16
2/25: Psalm 38; 1 Samuel 24:1-22; 1 Cor 11:17-22, 27-33
2/26: Psalm 38; Leviticus 5:1-13; Luke 17:1-4
2/27: Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:1-5; Acts 3:11-16
2/28: Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:6-14; Acts 10:1-8
3/1: Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:15-24; Luke 10:21-24

Serving Schedule:
 Feb 16: Elders: Zachary Boren, Roger Brokaw
 8:00 Communion: Michael & Jessi Smith
 10:30 Communion: Chris & Cherie Wagoner
 Children's Church: Kay Sealock, Mike & Julie Boren
 Fellowship Treats: Bev White, Kathy Hull, Becky Barger, Cindy Chamberlain
 Feb 23: Elders: Matt Saxe, Steve Tharp
 8:00 Communion: Tom & Debbie Robinson
 10:30 Communion: E. & J. Kunzeman, J. & A. Poor
 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.

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 2/2	2/9
	8:00	77 114
	10:30	155 151
	Total	232 265
Wishes & Wants	Christian Education	
For Sale: Gray sofa, good condition, \$50. In a ground level apt. Jimmy Belford 217.285.3222.	Youth	40 41
	Disciples	12 13
	Sermon Study	14 14
	C.O.F.F.E.E.	11 11
	Total	77 79

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