

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 67 Issue 6

March 25, 2025



Check out kids@FCC Facebook page to stay up on all the happenings at FCC.

***Hangout 45** - Sunday, **March 30th**, following 2nd Service...Fishing, Food & Fun at Jeff & Renna Walters' home...parents please pack a lunch for your kiddo...pick up at 1:30 in front of Crossroads.

***uth@1st Small Groups** - Sunday, **March 30th**

Guys - Meet at Crossroads Center at 2:00pm to leave for Siloam Springs...fishing, campfire, food & God.

Gals - Leave after 2nd service to head to Springfield...Buffalo Wild Wings, Scheels & worship night with Charlotte Dunham

***ENCOUNTER** a Risen Savior! Sunrise Service **April 20th** 6:30am at Crossroads Center.

We do not have Children's Church on 5th Sundays; therefore, **no Children's Church on March 30.**

Coffee Talk, Tues, **April 1**, 10:00. Stop by the annex for coffee and conversation with Pastor Michael!

Circle V Meeting, Thurs, **April 3**, 2:00, at Crossroads Center. **Circle IV Meeting**, Thurs, **April 10**, 9:30, at Cardinal Inn.

Are you interested in being baptized and/or placing your membership with FCC? If so then plan to attend the **First Things First** class on Sunday, **April 6**, at 9:15 in the sanctuary. Let the office know if you are interested but unable to attend. We will have baptisms on Resurrection Sunday, April 20.

Board Meeting, Tues, **April 8**, 6:00. Packets will be ready April 6.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, **April 13**
Regular service schedule.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, **April 17 & 18**
7:00p.m. both days.

Resurrection Sunday, **April 20**
6:30 Sunrise Service in the gym led by Youth Group.
7:30 Breakfast.

8:45 Sunday School.
10:00 Worship Service in the sanctuary.

Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Sunday, April 27, 11:00-1:00

Adults \$10, Children 3-12 \$5, Age 2 and under free
Crossroads Center - Eat in or carry out

Disciple Heritage Fellowship National Conference May 7-8

First Christian Church of Decatur
To register and for more details visit
discipleheritage.org/conference

Registration includes 2 day conference admission
and 3 meals.

Mark your calendars for
*****LIVE IT OUT VBS*****
July 13th through 16th
Interested in lending a hand
contact Niki Dixon 417-392-0729

The Crossroads Center kitchen has been a flurry of activity in recent weeks. We want to thank all of the volunteers who have helped in any way with the funeral dinner for the David Grimsley family and the banquet for PHS boys basketball.

Construction Team Updates Some exciting updates from this weeks construction team meeting!

- We are diligently preparing the outside of the building for the project. Pardon our dust!
- Foundation work should begin next week, April 2. Please be mindful to look for parking updates.
- We will send steeple points with any adjustments that need to be done in leu of construction equipment. Remember to remain clear of the job site for safety during the construction process.

The **Carol V. Baughman Scholarship Fund** is available for students pursuing a degree in teaching or religious studies. Contact the church office by **March 31** for more info or an application.

Spring break is over and now it is crunch time leading up to final exams for many of our college students. Our JWCC Ag Center students are finishing up their spring semester this week! Please keep all of our students in your prayers and give them some encouragement if you see them around town.

Let's meet at the Annex on Monday, 4/7, at 6:30 pm to pack care packages for our college students. Please bring an item for packing. We have 19 students who will receive a box.

Thank you for supporting our college students! Alicia 630-251-2757

Pew Cushion Update We have received samples and quotes from several companies on the pew cushions. The sample that Pastor Michael shared last Sunday will be in the sanctuary again next weekend. The price is a little better than what we anticipated. The lead time in making them is 6-9 months as they are custom made. An individual will be coming on site to make physical templates. We appreciate the anonymous donor and the trustees for working with memorials to address this.

Iron Sharpens Iron Conference

On March 15, six men and two youth from FCC attended the Iron Sharpens Iron men's conference in Springfield. The all-day conference featured time for worship and prayer, a keynote from Bryndan Lorritts (a pastor from Pontiac, Michigan) on trusting God through the storms of life, and a concluding keynote from Delano Squires (a research fellow at The Heritage Foundation) on the need for Biblical manhood in our world today.

We also attended numerous breakout sessions on topics from outdoor youth ministry to being a faithful Christian grandparent. We enjoyed time for fellowship over lunch and dinner. We're considering how we might apply some of the ideas we got at the conference. One thought is to structure a youth ministry that utilizes the numerous outdoor resources we have available in Pike County, along with the skills and experiences of many of the men of our church.

Thanks to Caleb Dixon for driving the church van! We'll discuss ideas from the conference at our next regular CMF lunch meeting in May.

Zack Boren, CMF President

April Birthdays & Anniversaries 1 Nic Daniel; 3 Julie Plattner, Henry & Amy Speckhart, Ellis & Jean Sanderson, Karlie Patterson, Shelby Patterson; 4 Buster & Wanda Mendenhall; 5 Charlene Anderson, Bob Barton; 8 Juliana Lacey, Lilee Knake; 9 Joyce Lemons, Austin Long; 10 Brian Ruebush, Alicia Tate; 11 Evan Hart, Molly Dain, Rick & Mary Wombles; 13 Josie Pennock; 14 Don & Mary Lou Chamberlain; 16 Ellis Sanderson; 17 Gemma Miller; 20 Sandy Herring, N.D. & Joyce Harrison; 21 Wanda Mendenhall; 22 Taylor Hayes, Logan Sidwell; 23 Pat Apps, Charlotte Dunham; 24 Lena Boren; 25 Colby Tate, Jordan Lamb, Joseph Thomas, Erin Fesler; 26 Donnie Apps, Marjorie Gamble, Kevin Tharp; 27 Molly Caughlan; 30 Mary Harshman.

Excerpts from March 11, 2025 board meeting minutes

Call to order at 6:00 p.m. by Moderator Kathy Hull. Pastor Michael Ten Eyck led the meeting in a devotion and prayer. Minutes from the February 11, 2025, meeting were approved by general consensus.

Pastor's Report: Minister's report was attached and discussed. Many hospital visits. Spent time giving support to Pikeland administrators and first responders in the wake of a tragic car accident that impacted the community. Continue working with the building team and the contractor, Mike Black.

Treasurer: Eleanor Jenkins submitted a report and Rebecca Rhodes presented information from the report as of February 28, 2025: The total transfer to the building fund in February was \$29,331.42. YTD Budgeted Receipts: \$84,544 with difference of + \$15,405.75. YTD Disbursements \$74,847.00, YTD Budgeted \$95,675, Difference \$20,828. Net Non-Budget Receipts/ Disbursements \$22,240.14. Average worship attendance through February 28: 242
David Bishop moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Steve Tharp seconded. It passed unanimously.

Trustees: Report was attached and Justin Poor discussed the decision to accept the quote from GuideOne for the church insurance. The report was approved by consensus

Christian Education: Niki Dixon discussed the attached report. There were many challenges in February due to a traffic accident in the community involving PHS students. In addition to the attached report, Niki brought a proposal for a Mission Trip to Still Waters Ranch on June 1-6. Approximately 10 high school students plus chaperones would like to attend. David Bishop made a motion and it was seconded by Roger Brokaw that the church would pay \$347 per student (Still Waters Ranch balance, a portion of the fuel cost and admittance to the ARK Encounter). Parents would pay a \$100 deposit and be responsible for the student's personal expenses.

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Motion passed unanimously. There will be a Sunday School teacher meeting on March 23 to discuss Sunday School curriculum and options available other than our current Orange curriculum.

Music: Preparing for Lent.

Crossroads Center: Report was attached. The gym floor will be refinished sometime during the last 2 weeks of July. The dining room chairs have been professionally cleaned. Looking at options to clean and repair the dining room floor.

Building Team: The building team presented bids for windows and doors/hardware. Alicia Tate made a motion, seconded by Bob Clark that both of these bids be accepted. Motion carried.

Since the last board meeting, board members were asked to vote on four other bids that needed attention in a timely matter. All four recommendations were approved by an email reply. Those bids were for electric, plumbing, heating/cooling, concrete. Also, there will be an additional \$6,500 cost for mechanical drawings which is now required by the City of Pittsfield.

Michael showed an example from one company of pew cushions. Additional bids will be coming soon. Jim Dain will be in the pulpit March 30.

New Business:

The motion made was to ratify the actions of the Building Committee and its members to date and change the name to the Construction Committee who will work for the current board in the decision making process. Motion carried. All current members will make the transition. Members are: Michael Ten Eyck, Kathy Hull, Bobby Smith, Brad Losch, Bob Clark, Keith Elledge and Hamer Tate.

David Bishop moved to adjourn at 7 p.m. Steve Tharp seconded. Meeting adjourned. Kathy Hull closed the meeting in prayer.
Linda Belford, Recording Secretary

Dear Church Family,

It's been a blustery few weeks. Day after day, the wind has howled through the trees around my house, shaking loose what seemed like every dead stick and brittle limb. I would head outside, spend an afternoon gathering them from the yard, and finally step back with a sigh of satisfaction at a job well done. But inevitably, the next morning, I would wake up to a fresh batch of fallen sticks—new debris scattered across the grass. The wind had done it again, shaking loose more dead wood that I hadn't even realized was still hanging on.

At first, it was frustrating. After all, I had *just cleaned everything up! But after a while, I began to see something deeper in this cycle. The wind, as annoying as it was, wasn't causing the mess—it was revealing it. The sticks were already dead. They were just clinging to the branches, hidden and unnoticed, until the wind exposed them.*

It reminded me of Hebrews 9:14 (ESV), which says, *"how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."* Just like the dead limbs in the trees, we all have "dead works" that linger—old habits, pride, selfish motives, or empty routines. And while we may clean up the obvious ones from time to time, there are still more clinging to our hearts, unnoticed and unaddressed.

God, in His grace, often uses the winds of life—trials, disruptions, or even just unexpected challenges—to shake loose what doesn't belong. It's uncomfortable, even irritating, but it's a necessary part of growth. If we're not careful, we might become complacent when we see a bit of progress. We might say, "Look at how far I've come," and settle into comfort. But God loves us too much to leave us there.

Just like those stubborn dead limbs, He knows what still needs to fall away. And He uses the winds to help us see it.

So let us not grow weary or frustrated when the gusts return. Let us not resist the process of pruning and purifying. Instead, let us be thankful for the God who continues to cleanse us, not just once, but continually, so we can fully serve the living God with a renewed heart and a life full of purpose.

Even in the wind, He is working. Let it blow. Let the wind do its work!

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: Phoenix Bacon, Kent Bonnett, Craig & Caree Collver, Rick Curfman, Roger Curfman, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Joan Halsey, Jeanne Howard, Jim Kallal, Jill Kunzeman, Wally & Marge Lamb, Heather Manwell, Sharon Rahe, Bill Schwartze, Rusty & Jeana Sealock, John Walker, Larry Wigington, Kevin Wombles

Karen Birch (John Birch's sister),
 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),
 Robert Wilson (Rachel Cawthon's father),
 Steve Young (Friend of Bev White)

*With Sympathy: Herschel Carter (Rhonda Irwin's father),
 David Chamberlain (Dan Chamberlain's brother),
 David Grimsley (Bill Grimsley's father),*

Stewardship (Offering Only)	3/10-16	3/17-23
Operational	\$7,516.20	\$6,812.66
Property Improvement	10.00	10.00
Outreach-Missionaries	40.00	40.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	301.91	164.91
Youth Group	100.00	0.00
Outreach-General	<u>25.00</u>	<u>405.00</u>
Total	\$8,023.11	\$7,462.57

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$8,787.20 \$8,352.66
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$10,568

Serving Schedule:

Mar 30: Elders: David Bishop, Charlotte Dunham
 8:00 Communion: Debbie Robinson
 10:30 Communion: Jeremy & Alicia Tate
 Children's Church: No Children's Church

April 6: Elders: Alicia Tate, Roger Brokaw
 8:00 Communion: Michael & Jessi Smith
 10:30 Communion: Jason & Erica Thomas
 Children's Church: Ali Curless, Molly Caughlan
 Fellowship Treats: Chris Smith, Dorothy Yaeger,
 Barbara Fosco, Leanna Schlabowske

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 2025 camp dates are now posted on the Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp website. Check it out!

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

3/30: Joshua 5:9-12; Ps 32; 2 Cor 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-32
3/31: Psalm 53; Leviticus 23:26-41; Revelation 19:1-8
4/1: Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10
4/2: Psalm 53; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Luke 9:10-17
4/3: Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24
4/4: Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:8-15; Philippians 2:25-3:1
4/5: Psalm 126; Exodus 12:21-27; John 11:45-57
4/6: Isa 43:16-21; Ps 126; Phi 3:4-14; John 12:1-8
4/7: Psalm 20; Exodus 40:1-15; Hebrews 10:19-25
4/8: Psalm 20; Judges 9:7-15; 1 John 2:18-28
4/9: Psalm 20; Habakkuk 3:2-15; Luke 18:31-34
4/10: Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 53:10-12; Hebrews 2:1-9
4/11: Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 54:9-10; Hebrews 2:10-18
4/12: Psalm 31:9-16; Leviticus 23:1-8; Luke 22:1-13

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 3/16	3/23
	8:00	109
	10:30	<u>154</u>
	Total	263

Wishes & Wants

None at this time.

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

Christian Education		
Youth	45	41
Disciples	12	12
Sermon Study	10	9
C.O.F.F.E.E.	<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>
Total	81	71