

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 67 Issue 8

April 22, 2025



On Sunday, April 20, we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ and we had 4 baptisms! Josie Bradshaw and Tori Stambaugh were baptized during 6:30 service and Eli Smithers and Tyler Walker were baptized during 10:00 service. We are excited for these young people to declare their faith in Jesus Christ and we look forward to continuing to worship with them!

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

The **Thursday Noon Bible Study** will resume on **April 24**.

No **Hangout 45** during April; however, it will resume in May.

Youth Group will resume on **April 27**, 5:30.

All are welcome to attend Ken Bradbury's one act play, "**The Bystanders**", being performed Sunday, **April 27** at:

*9:00 am Perry United Methodist Church, 106 E. South St., Perry

*10:30 am Griggsville United Methodist Church, 115 S. Stanford St., Griggsville

*2:30 pm First Christian Church of Pittsfield, 225 N. Memorial St., Pittsfield

This one-hour play is a collection of stories shared by those who were around Christ before, during, or after the Crucifixion. This powerful drama features Mike Schneider, Cooper Stowers, Audra Nelson, Katie McDannald, Margaret Whitehurst, Buford Stowers, Keith Bradbury, and Brenda Yale. Admission is free. For information call 217.473.4735.

Mark your calendars for the CWF Spring Sale on Sat, May 24, 2025! (Yep – Memorial Day Weekend!) Sale time is 8 AM – 12 PM with most everything half price beginning at 11:00. Items may be brought to the Crossroads gym Tues, Wed, and Thurs, May 20-22, from 8 AM – 5 PM, and Friday, May 23, from 8 AM – 12 PM. (If you need a special time, call Kathy 217-248-5214) For the Spring Sale we will accept most of the usual items including: household, decorations, outdoor, garden, plants, tools, kitchen ware, small appliances, small furniture, footwear, toys, jewelry, books (no encyclopedia sets) and clothing of all sizes. (No TVs, computers, printers, fax, etc.) We always have fun preparing for the sale and enjoy visiting with our shoppers as we welcome them into our lovely Crossroads Center!

Please consider working with us as we set out and price items during the week, or come on sale day to help shoppers and add up/pack purchases. We especially need help after the sale as we box up everything that is leftover.

Proceeds will be distributed among many worthy local non-profit organizations and charities.

Circle V will meet Thurs, **May 1**, 2:00 at Crossroads.

Coffee Talk will be Tues, **May 6**, 10:00 at annex.

Circle IV will meet Thurs, **May 8**, 9:30 at Cardinal Inn.

CMF Luncheon, Sunday, **May 4**, 11:45 am at Crossroads Center. Sign up at the coffee table if you plan to attend so we know how much food to prepare or contact the office. Meeting details will be published soon.

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

<p>Marjorie Gamble will celebrate her 100th birthday on April 26. Let's shower her with birthday cards at: Barry Community Care Center attn Marjorie Gamble 1313 Pratt Street Barry, IL 62312</p>	<p>The graduation season is almost upon us! In May we will be acknowledging the 8th Grade, High School, and College graduates in our church family. Please let us know by May 12 if you have a graduate in your family.</p>
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A massive thank you to Renna Walters, Michelle Hart, Bethany Dunham, John Hull, Katie Sidwell, Kathy Hull, Bob Clark, Matt Sealock, Matt Saxe and Caleb Dixon for helping with the Sunrise Service and a big shout out to our students for participating and sharing their personal encounters with Christ. These students put their heart and soul into sharing all that Christ has done.

Sunday June 1st through Friday June 6th some of our High School students and adults will be heading back to Barbourville, KY to minister at the Still Waters Youth Ranch of Appalachia. We will be hosting a VBS and working on a few projects on the ranch itself. We're looking forward to serving this ministry through work, crafts, Bible lessons and games. As a group we will be stopping at the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Ky to experience Noah's Ark in a whole new way. Please be in prayer for the individuals we are going to minister to and for each of us as we prepare.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who were able to help with the RSVP Luncheon on April 16 and Easter breakfast! Your time assisting in the kitchen is much appreciated!

Excerpts from April 8, 2025 Church Board Minutes

Call to order at 6 p.m. by Moderator Kathy Hull. Matt Saxe led the meeting in a devotion and prayer. Minutes from the March 11, 2025, meeting were approved by general consensus.

Pastor: Minister's report included: Ground has been broken on the new addition and renovation. Chipped finish on the tops of pews was repaired. Finalizing fabric selection for new pew cushions. Preparing for Holy Week Services. Work is continuing on the new website.

Treasurer: Eleanor Jenkins presented the report as of March 31, 2025. The total transfer to the building fund in March was \$10,717.51. YTD Receipts \$145,327.79. YTD Budgeted \$137,389. Difference \$7,938.79. YTD Disbursements \$107,681.89. YTD Budgeted \$138,206. Difference \$30,524.11. Average worship attendance through March 31: 242.

Trustees: A Trustee's Report was attached. The builder's risk policy was enacted through GuideOne to be enforced during the building construction.

Christian Education: Niki Dixon reported that she had met with Sunday School teachers and beginning in the fall, students will be doing a Bible Walk Through curriculum. Plans are also being made for the sunrise Easter service.

Music: There will be a meeting after Holy Week of worship/praise team members. Music is also being reviewed for the 100th Cantata.

Building Team: There was a discussion about the Long Room renovation. Because it is affected by the new construction, a motion was made by Wayne Chamberlain and seconded by Eleanor Claus to do the entire renovation. Most of this cost was already included in the building plan. The family of Carolyn Long Casteel is agreeable to the updates. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business: There was considerable discussion about the state of the parsonage west of the church. There was damage from the storm as well as other structural issues. Members were asked to think about what should be done. Also, the vacancy of Roger Dunham as Trustee will need to be filled.

David Bishop moved to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Wayne Chamberlain seconded and all approved.

Dear Church Family,

As I sit and reflect on the week that has just passed, I find myself overwhelmed—not just by the busyness of Holy Week, but by the sheer depth of what we experienced together as a church family. From Maundy Thursday to Resurrection Sunday, we walked through the final days of Jesus' life with open hearts and attentive spirits.

The journey began with the Maundy Thursday service, where we explored the rich symbolism of Christ in the Passover meal. Each element—the bitter herbs, the lamb, the matzah, and more—came alive with meaning, pointing us to Jesus, our perfect Passover Lamb. This ancient meal wasn't just tradition; it was prophecy fulfilled in Jesus.

This led to our Good Friday. Through the 3 dramatic presentations, we were given a glimpse into the hearts of those whose lives were forever changed by Jesus' death—Mary, Peter, and one we rarely consider, Judas. Their stories became our own. We saw ourselves in their grief, their regret, their wonder.

But what struck me most deeply was what happened after the Good Friday service concluded. One by one, you approached the wooden cross, each carrying a small black cloth—symbolic of your own sin, shame, burdens, and brokenness. Quietly, you took a nail and affixed it to the cross. I stood back and watched. And then, after the last person had left, I stayed behind.

I stood there, gazing at the cross now covered in black cloths, each one representing a life, a story, a need for grace. The weight of it hit me in a way I didn't expect. This was one small room. One church. One night. And yet the cross was covered. Then my mind expanded to think of the sins of our whole congregation... our town... our nation... our world. Every sin, every shameful act, every hidden thought, every sorrow of every generation—past, present, and future—laid upon the shoulders of Jesus.

It was overwhelming.

And yet, He bore it all. Gladly. Willingly. Fully.

The words of the old hymn echoed in my heart: **“When I survey the wondrous cross / On which the Prince of glory died / My richest gain I count but loss / And pour contempt on all my pride.”**

Holy Week reminded me that the cross is not just a symbol of suffering—it is a monument of love. A love that does not shrink from the weight of the world's brokenness, but embraces it to bring healing and redemption.

To everyone who helped make this week so meaningful—thank you. Thank you to our musicians who led us in worship with such sincerity. Thank you to the drama team for bringing the Gospel to life with authenticity and power. Thank you to the choir, the technical crew, our staff, and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Thanks to our cooks and kitchen crew for the wonderful breakfast. Thanks to the youth and youth leaders for an awesome sunrise service. Thanks to the guys who moved the baptistry! And thank you to each of you who came, who participated, who reflected, and who brought your heart to the cross.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. And because of that, everything has changed.

Let us steward the Gospel with gratitude and awe.

Loving you all,
Michael

May Birthdays & Anniversaries 1 Angie Hittner, David James, Jeremy Schoenherr; 2 Chloe Chastain; 4 Buster Mendenhall, Cassie Richmiller, Kirk & Jessica Speckhart; 5 Morgan Plattner, Cadience Roig; 6 Beryl Richards, Angie Ruebush; 7 Will Freesen; 8 Kathy Kindle; 9 Paul & Patty Ruble, Miranda Thomas, Diana Dyer; 10 Julie Lierly, Karleigh Starman; 11 Vera Staffy, Katie Sidwell, Jack Palmer; 12 Corinne Pennock; 13 Randy & Marjie Guthrie; 15 Ron & Shanna Ewers; 16 Brad Losch, Luke Saxe, Maxwell Bonnett; 18 Abby Lipcaman, Lainey Miller; 20 Adrienne Ruebush; 21 Ralph Piper; 22 Zachary Boren, Benjamin Boren; 23 Mackenzie Lipcaman; Wesley Picone; 24 Jamie & Brandi Pennock, Braxton & Laura Boren, Lia Picone, Mary VanHoose; 25 Dalton & Cherise Sheurman; 26 Brian Douglas; 27 Delbert Robertson; 28 Rick Curfman, Randy Guthrie; 29 Isabel Smith, Olivia Smith; 30 Skylar & Cara Knake, Luke & Erin Fesler; 31 Henry Speckhart, Archie Fesler

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			PRAYER CONCERNS: Phoenix Bacon, Kent Bonnett, Craig & Caree Collver, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Joan Halsey, Jeanne Howard, Jim Kallal, Jill Kunzeman, Wally & Marge Lamb, Deloras Martin, Bill Schwartz, Delbert Scranton, Rusty & Jeana Sealock, Michael Smith, Kevin Wombles Karen Birch (John Birch's sister), Dave Dunham (Brokaw/Dyer family), Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother), Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister), Freda Predmore (Sarah McNulty's grandmother), Gail Walston (Laura Grimsley's sister), Robert Wilson (Rachel Cawthon's father), Steve Young (Friend of Bev White) <i>With Sympathy: John Walker (Grace Walker's husband)</i>																													
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																																
Stewardship (Offering Only) 4/7-13 4/14-20 <table><tr><td>Operational</td><td>\$6,693.90</td><td>\$10,112.09</td></tr><tr><td>Property Improvement</td><td>10.00</td><td>50.00</td></tr><tr><td>Outreach-Missionaries</td><td>40.00</td><td>40.00</td></tr><tr><td>DHF</td><td>30.00</td><td>30.00</td></tr><tr><td>Construction/Renovation</td><td>459.91</td><td>10,169.91</td></tr><tr><td>Youth Group</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr><tr><td>Unmet Needs</td><td>0.00</td><td>0.00</td></tr><tr><td>Outreach-General</td><td><u>25.00</u></td><td><u>5.00</u></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$7,258.81</td><td>\$20,507.00</td></tr></table>			Operational	\$6,693.90	\$10,112.09	Property Improvement	10.00	50.00	Outreach-Missionaries	40.00	40.00	DHF	30.00	30.00	Construction/Renovation	459.91	10,169.91	Youth Group	0.00	100.00	Unmet Needs	0.00	0.00	Outreach-General	<u>25.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>	Total	\$7,258.81	\$20,507.00	Serving Schedule: April 27: Elders: Zack Boren, David Bishop 8:00 Communion: Brad & Kathy Willman 10:30 Communion: R. Brokaw, R. Picone, J. Harrison Children's Church: Grace Henthorn, Katie Wine May 4: Elders: Alicia Tate, Wayne Chamberlain 8:00 Communion: Greg & Kim Bonnttt 10:30 Communion: Barbara Fosco, Shari Clark, Scott Bacon, Dave Bryant Children's Church: Ali Curless, Molly Caughlan Fellowship Treats: Carolyn Capps, Sandy Wigington, Bethany Dunham, Kathy Lehr		
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Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.) <i>Received Last 7 Days \$7,493.90 \$9,849.47</i> <i>Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$10,568</i>			Ways To Watch/Listen fccpittsfield.org - Ministries, Live Stream <u>or</u> 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.																													
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The collection boxes for greeting card fronts and reading glasses are at the annex.																																
The <u>March, April, May</u> edition of Our Daily Bread devotional can be found on the sanctuary mantels.																																
Lectionary 4/27: Acts 5:27-32; Ps 118:14-29; Rev 1:4-8; John 20:19-31 4/28: Psalm 122; Esther 7:1-10; Revelation 1:9-20 4/29: Psalm 122; Esther 8:1-17; Revelation 2:8-11 4/30: Psalm 122; Esther 9:1-5, 18-23; Luke 12:4-12 5/1: Psalm 30; Isaiah 5:11-17; Revelation 3:14-22 5/2: Psalm 30; Isaiah 6:1-4; Revelation 4:1-11 5/3: Psalm 30; Genesis 18:1-8; Luke 14:12-14 5/4: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 30; Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-19 5/5: Psalm 121; Ezekiel 1:1-25; Acts 9:19b-31 5/6: Psalm 121; Ezekiel 1:26-2:1; Acts 26:1-18 5/7: Psalm 121; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11 5/8: Psalm 23; Ezekiel 11:1-25; Revelation 5:1-10 5/9: Psalm 23; Ezekiel 20:39-44; Revelation 6:1-7:4 5/10: Psalm 23; Ezekiel 28:25-26; Luke 12:29-32			<table><tr><td>FCC has a presence on the YouVersion Bible app. Check it out!</td><td colspan="2">Worship Service 4/13 4/20</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>8:00</td><td>130 258</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10:30</td><td><u>159</u> <u>206</u></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Total</td><td>289 464</td></tr><tr><td>Wishes & Wants Men's Wrangler jeans. New, washed once, never worn. 42x30. \$5. Carole Elledge 217.285.4929</td><td colspan="2">Christian Education Youth 32 12 Disciples 17 11 Sermon Study 12 6 C.O.F.F.E.E. <u>13</u> <u>11</u> Total 74 40</td></tr><tr><td>Parents: Be sure to watch the Kids@FCC Facebook page for the latest news and events!</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr></table>			FCC has a presence on the YouVersion Bible app. Check it out!	Worship Service 4/13 4/20			8:00	130 258		10:30	<u>159</u> <u>206</u>		Total	289 464	Wishes & Wants Men's Wrangler jeans. New, washed once, never worn. 42x30. \$5. Carole Elledge 217.285.4929	Christian Education Youth 32 12 Disciples 17 11 Sermon Study 12 6 C.O.F.F.E.E. <u>13</u> <u>11</u> Total 74 40		Parents: Be sure to watch the Kids@FCC Facebook page for the latest news and events!											
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