

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 67 Issue 14

July 8, 2025



“LIVE IT OUT VBS”

July 13

Kick Off with Family Meal at the Congregational Park.

The meal will be served 11:30-12:15.

Everyone in the church family is encouraged to attend!

We will have some tables and chairs but feel free to bring your lawn chair.

Waterslide and games will be set up!

Registration table will be available for all VBS attendees!

July 14-16

Vacation Bible School!

6:00-8:30

NOTE THE TIME ADJUSTMENT

Parents are asked to walk their children to the gym
to drop off and to pick up.

Youth Group will meet Sunday, **July 13**. Plan to get wet!
Watch the Kids@FCC Facebook page for details!

Elder Meeting, Tues, July 22, 6:00.

First Christian Church's Safety Team could use a few additional volunteers so that no one serves more than once a month. If you want more information, please call or text me. -N.D. Harrison, Cell: 217.370.1451

We will **not** have **Children's Church** at 10:30 service during June and July.

Beginning this September we will start an Old Testament Bible Walk Thru Sunday School curriculum. We're so excited to guide our students on a deeper knowledge of God's Word. Please be in prayer as we start to develop lessons.

Thank you for the prayers for my niece Darci Brooks. Her surgery went well. -Deloras Martin & Darci Brooks.

GriefShare is a support group that meets weekly. You'll find it to be a warm, caring environment and will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your long journey through grief. The program is nondenominational and features biblical concepts for healing from your grief. The next 14 week series will begin Tues, **July 15**, 6-8P.M. at the Pittsfield Calvary Baptist Church. Facilitators will be Bill Durall, Brenda Booth, and Vicki Harshman (217.285.6520). It is not necessary to pre-register but feel free to contact Vicki if you have questions. Your prayers for this series would be greatly appreciated.

Pardon our dust during the construction process.

It's Time For Vacation Bible School!

Redeeming the Summertime

The summer is flying by. All seasons of life are short when you consider how brief is our time on earth. But this summer seems to be particularly short. The kids were in school until June, and we have some school activities starting the last week of July – where is the summer?

In my memory, summer was a time for staying up late listening to a Cardinals baseball game, then waking up late and reading a book. Here and there I also had to mow some yards, but those are some of my favorite summertime memories.

My parents also believed in good old-fashioned American road trip vacations, where we would log 5,000 miles and see a third of the country. Naturally that means I also want my kids to experience (or endure) that kind of broadening travel. But everything takes time (and money).

In Psalm 90, Moses reflects on the brevity of our lives:

*The years of our life are seventy,
Or even by reason of strength eighty;
Yet their span is but toil and trouble;
They are soon gone, and we fly away.
Who considers the power of your anger,
And your wrath according to the fear of you?
So teach us to number our days
That we may get a heart of wisdom.*
~Psalm 90: 10-12, ESV

Moses says there is wisdom in rightly numbering, or being aware of the number of, our days. When I was younger, it was easy to think that the end of my life was so far away I didn't really need to consider it. Now I am thoroughly middle-aged, and my own mortality is far more obvious to me. I can clearly see that this summer is short, and this year is more than half over, and my children are growing fast, and I do not bounce back from physical activity like I used to. As my father likes to say, "none of us is getting any younger." There is wisdom in recognizing all of these things.

The wise response is to use our time well, for the glory of God. As Paul writes in the book of Ephesians:

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ~Ephesians 5: 15-16, ESV

The King James Version translates the phrase "making the best use of the time" as "redeeming the time." I've always liked that idea. Time is a gift given to us in this mortal life. We all get the same amount of it each day. But the days themselves are "evil" in the sense that we are surrounded by temptations to sin or be self-centered or simply to be distracted. We can "redeem" the time in the same way we can redeem a coupon – we turn it in for something better. We can redeem the time by using the days we are given to glorify God instead of glorifying ourselves, as we enjoy him and look forward to coming home to him.

In his book *Don't Waste Your Life*, John Piper writes about a plaque that hung in his kitchen when he was a boy. It read:

*Only one life,
'Twill soon be past;
Only what's done
For Christ will last.*

May that be the cry of our hearts as we redeem this summertime, and this fall, and next year, and all the days we are given until Christ comes again or we go home to be with the Lord.

Zachary Boren, Elder

<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Office Hours: M-TH 8:00am–3:30pm; F 8:00am-Noon Worship Times: Every Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am</p>	<p>PRAYER CONCERNS: Phoenix Bacon, John & Jane Calaway, Craig & Caree Collver, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Bill Earls, Sue Evans, Terry Fine, Ruth Anne Goodin, Joan Halsey, Donnie Houchins, Jeanne Howard, Jim Kallal, Marge Lamb, Rusty & Jeana Sealock, Karen Birch (John Birch’s sister), Nancy Foster Donnell (Katie Wine’s grandmother), Dave Dunham (Brokaw/Dyer family), Dennie Hull (Jack Hull’s brother), Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr’s sister), Phil Lipcaman (Chris Phipps’ brother), Diana McCartney (Friend of Evans family), Chris Nichols (Friend of Bob Evans family), Beth Wade (Friend of Schwartze family), Gail Walston (Laura Grimsley’s sister), Robert Wilson (Rachel Cawthon’s father) <i>With Sympathy: Carolyn Casteel</i></p>																													
<p>Stewardship (Offering Only) 6/23-29 6/30-7/6</p> <table><tr><td>Operational</td><td>\$8,268.80</td><td>\$11,955.03</td></tr><tr><td>Property Improvement</td><td>150.00</td><td>10.00</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>124.91</td><td>164.91</td></tr><tr><td>Youth</td><td>250.00</td><td>200.00</td></tr><tr><td>Unmet Needs</td><td>0.00</td><td>75.00</td></tr><tr><td>Outreach-General</td><td><u>5.00</u></td><td><u>25.00</u></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$8,868.71</td><td>\$12,499.44</td></tr></table> <p>Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.) <i>Received Last 7 Days</i> \$8,268.80 \$12,104.33 <i>Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget</i> \$10,568</p>	Operational	\$8,268.80	\$11,955.03	Property Improvement	150.00	10.00	Outreach-Missionaries	40.00	40.00	DHF	30.00	30.00	Construction/Renovation	124.91	164.91	Youth	250.00	200.00	Unmet Needs	0.00	75.00	Outreach-General	<u>5.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	Total	\$8,868.71	\$12,499.44	<p>Serving Schedule: July 13: Elders: Roger Brokaw, Zachary Boren 8:00 Communion: Michael & Jessi Smith 10:30 Communion: Jeremy & Alicia Tate July 20: Elder: Steve Tharp, Matt Saxe 8:00 Communion: Dan & Sue Speckhart 10:30 Communion: Jason & Erica Thomas</p>		
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	<p>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.</p>																													
<p>The collection boxes for greeting card fronts and reading glasses are at the annex.</p> <p>The <u>June, July, August</u> edition of Our Daily Bread devotional can be found on the sanctuary mantels.</p>	<p>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. 97.5 FM - Sunday mornings at 10:30</p>																													
<p>Lectionary 7/13: Amos 7:7-17; Deut 30:9-14; Col 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37 7/14: Psalm 7; Amos 3:9-4:5; James 2:1-7 7/15: Psalm 7; Amos 4:6-13; 1 John 3:11-17 7/16: Psalm 7; Amos 5:1-9; Matthew 25:31-46 7/17: Psalm 52; Amos 5:10-17; Hebrews 5:1-6 7/18: Psalm 52; Amos 5:18-27; Ephesians 3:14-21 7/19: Psalm 52; Amos 6:1-14; Luke 8:4-10 7/20: Amos 8:1-12; Gen 18:1-10; Col 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42 7/21: Psalm 119:17-32; Amos 7:1-6; Colossians 1:27-2:7 7/22: Psalm 119:17-32; Amos 8:13-9:4; 1 John 2:1-6 7/23: Psalm 119:17-32; Amos 9:5-15; John 6:41-51 7/24: Psalm 85; Hosea 4:1-19; Acts 1:15-20 7/25: Psalm 85; Hosea 5:1-15; Acts 2:22-36 7/26: Psalm 85; Hosea 1:11-2:15; Luke 8:22-25</p>	<p>FCC has a presence on the YouVersion Bible app. Check it out!</p> <p>Wishes & Wants None at this time.</p> <p>Parents: Be sure to watch the Kids@FCC Facebook page for the latest news and events!</p>	<table><tr><td>Worship Service 6/29</td><td>7/6</td></tr><tr><td>8:00</td><td>100 59</td></tr><tr><td>10:30</td><td><u>133</u> <u>149</u></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>233 208</td></tr></table> <p>Christian Education</p> <table><tr><td>Youth</td><td>35</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>Disciples</td><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Sermon Study</td><td>10</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>C.O.F.F.E.E.</td><td><u>10</u></td><td><u>6</u></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>64</td><td>45</td></tr></table>		Worship Service 6/29	7/6	8:00	100 59	10:30	<u>133</u> <u>149</u>	Total	233 208	Youth	35	26	Disciples	9	7	Sermon Study	10	6	C.O.F.F.E.E.	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	Total	64	45				
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