

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 67 Issue 24

November 25, 2025



CWF Bazaar - Saturday, December 6, 7:30-1:00

Treasure Chest We will be taking your donations for our indoor yard sale on Wed & Thurs, Dec. 3rd & 4th, 7:30 - 5:00, and on Fri, Dec 5th, 7:30 until noon. Please be sure your sale items are in good, clean condition. We are looking forward to offering our usual treasures of jewelry, glassware, kitchen goods, household items, books, TOYS, shoes, purses, bedding, small appliances, smaller furniture pieces, outdoor items, tools, and seasonal decorations. We will have a special section for Christmas decorations, so sort yours as you begin your holiday prep and let us offer your overstocked items to our shoppers! The only clothing we can take will be Christmas/holiday pieces of all sizes. We will accept coats. They will be available in the foyer for free. If you enjoy sorting/setting up for sales, please consider coming to help during the donation times listed. Are you able to work on sale day, Saturday, December 6? We need cashiers (easiest job ever,) sales assistants (add up and bag the purchases,) and roaming greeters to make our guests feel welcomed! Our beloved clean-up crew would also be thankful for your help after the Bazaar ends! All of our proceeds go to area non-profits. Your contributions of donations or your time are very much appreciated. If you have questions or can offer to assist, text or call Kathy Curfman at 217-248-5214.

The **Country Store** will be ready to accept baked and homemade items on Thursday afternoon, Dec 4, and all day Fri, Dec 5. We would love to have all items before Friday noon so they can be put in containers. If you have any questions, please contact Bev White 285-2420 or Barbara Fosco 285-2608.

The **Gift Room** will be accepting items that you no longer use but are in good condition to pass on to another shopper. Also, any handcrafted items will also be welcomed.

We are taking orders for ½ pound containers of \$6 cheese olive nut and \$5 pimento cheese spreads. Contact the office or place your order at the coffee table by Nov 30. You will pay and pick it up at the Bazaar.

Tickets for the **Love Raffle** quilt and other items are available. 1=\$2. 3=\$5. 6=\$10. 10=\$18. See Joyce Lemons or Charlotte Dunham!

FCC ADOPT- A- FAMILY 2025

The Outreach Ministry is again participating in the Adopt-A-Family program. 2025 has continued to be a tough year for many, and we hope to spread some joy this year to local families in need. Each family receives a food voucher, hygiene products and requested gifts.

INSTRUCTIONS On Nov 30, the sanctuary Christmas tree will be decorated with color-coded tags. Find a tag (or tags) with a gift you are willing to purchase, take it off the tree, fill out the bottom section, detach, and place in the basket at the table. Please write legibly so we can track down gifts if needed!

Please return wrapped gift(s) with tag no later than Sunday, December 7th to the annex. NOTE: If your gift includes several items, it's very helpful to put all pieces/items in **one box or gift bag** and attach the tag to the outside of the box/bag.

Monetary donations in offering are also appreciated. Please mark your check or envelope "Adopt-A-Family." The funds will be used first for presents that are not returned, then for gift cards for groceries.

TIMELINE

Sunday, Nov 30 – select from the remaining tags on the decorated tree in the overflow room/sanctuary.

Sunday, Dec 7: deadline to return wrapped gifts with tags on the outside.

We realize the turnaround is short. After getting your tags, you have about 2 weeks to get your gifts to the annex. **Also, the Outreach Ministry encourages you to SHOP LOCALLY! Please only participate if you can meet the deadlines.**

Note: We will be giving food vouchers this year instead of accepting food donations.

QUESTIONS: contact Judy Losch at 217-248-7595 or Jenna Hull at 816-604-8923

All donations due back to the church or annex by Dec 7.

Coffee Talk , Tues, Dec 2 , 10:00.	The 100th annual Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, Dec 21, 5:00. Calling all kids grades K-4th!!! Kids are invited to sing a song in the 100 th Cantata! We will practice at the beginning of Sunday School. Contact Kayla Boren for more details! Youth Group Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, Dec 21 , following the Christmas Cantata. The Hart family has graciously opened their home for us. Christmas Eve Service , Wed, Dec 24 , 9:00 p.m. There will be no Hangout 45 during December due to scheduling conflicts.
Cookie Sunday! Dec 7.	
Christmas Caroling Update: Due to a scheduling conflict with other events in the community, our Christmas Caroling for Sun, Dec 7 , has been <u>canceled</u> this year.	
Board Meeting , Tues, Dec 9 , 6:00.	
CWF Bible Study , Thurs, Dec 11 , 9:30 at Janice Barton's home.	
Elder/Staff Dinner , Sunday, Dec 14 , 5:30.	

Youth Group will not meet on Sunday, Dec 14 & 28 due to scheduling conflicts.

Excerpts from November 11, 2025 Church Board Minutes

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m. by Moderator Kathy Hull. Wayne Chamberlain led the meeting in a devotion and prayer. Minutes from the October 14, 2025, meeting were approved by general consensus.

Pastor's Report: Minister's report was attached and discussed. Highlights include: By-law Revision and Congregational Meeting prep. The Building Project continues to take up much time. Special thanks for Long Room remodel volunteers: Hamer, Steve, Sonya, David, Larry, Bob, Bob, Brad. (Hope I haven't missed anyone!) Thanks to Keith Elledge for work on the railing!!! (Caleb, Brad, Hamer for help getting it welded and loaded.) Thank you to David and the Elders for helping in visits while the building project has been so time consuming. Christmas Eve service is in the works.

Treasurer: Eleanor Jenkins submitted a report as of October 31, 2025. The total transfer to the building fund in October was \$10,394.74. YTD Receipts \$469,768.70. YTD Budgeted \$454,439. Difference \$15,329.70. YTD Disbursements \$358,961.73. YTD Budgeted \$446,310 Difference \$87,348.27. Average worship attendance through October 31 242. David Bishop moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Steve Tharp seconded, Motion passed.

Christian Education: Highlights include: Uth@1st attended the annual Vesper Service, had prayer and worship on the square and then a bonfire and hayride at Charlotte Dunham's farm. Currently 25 students and 5 adults are registered to attend Xtreme Winter Conference in December. Six scholarships have come in. Guy's Outdoor Zone had their first activity. Hangout 45 will be visiting the Kamaroo Farms in Calhoun County. PreK-8th grade are using the Bible Walk Through lessons that Niki is creating. The changes in how the nursery is handled are working well. Many new volunteers.

Music: Gearing up for the 100th Christmas Vespers service.

Crossroads Center: Jenna Hull submitted a report and reminded members to sign up for the all-church turkey dinner on November 19.

Building Team: Pastor Michael said that there is a lot going on with the optimistic hope that it will be ready to go by Christmas.

New Business: Deep cleaning has been done in the Crossroads kitchen. CMF is planning another Outdoor Event on 11/22 at the city lake.

Adjourn: Eleanor Jenkins made a motion to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Alicia Tate seconded and all approved.

Closing Prayer: Michael Ten Eyck closed the meeting in prayer.

Linda Belford, Recording Secretary

December Birthdays & Anniversaries 2 Alayna Justice; 3 Eryn Lipcaman, Gena Londrie, Hayley Wombles, Leo Willman, Eleanor Willman; 5 Ronan Speckhart, Harper Fesler; 6 Jessica Speckhart Smith, Scott & Jennifer Palmer; 9 Sandy Wigington; 10 Steve Hayden, Renita Ten Eyck; 11 Marci Speckhart; 13 Jack Hull; 14 Patrick Lamb, Conor Farniok; 15 TJ Reel; 16 Tim Belford, Dave Bryant; 17 Barbara Fosco, Cara McNulty, Konnor Wombles, Arabella McNulty; 18 Jim Belford, Brody Tomhave; 20 Bill & Ann Ferguson; 22 Donnie & Tereasa Apps, Emmett Boren; 23 Laynie Hart, Hannah Wagoner; 24 Cheryl Birch, Adam Maxwell, David Bishop; 25 Betty Hayden, Jeana Sealock; 26 Timothy Hull, Katie Cox, Henry Willman, Jim & Marcia Stark; 27 Matt Saxe, Brad Tomhave; 28 Marcia Stark; 29 Kevin & Diana Dyer; 31 Braxton Boren, JJ Patterson, Joey Graham.

The Turkey Dinner was such a great evening of food and fellowship! We want to thank everyone who was able to attend and enjoy the warm, loving fellowship in the room. This would not have been possible without Judy Ferguson and her entire team on the kitchen crew! Thank you to each and every attendee and volunteer!

New concrete has been poured, and railings are made but are not installed yet. Please be careful while walking in the church building and be vigilant of those who need assistance.

Elder Corner

Dear Church Family,

I came across a short story about a man named Henry Stanley. Henry Morton Stanley was born on January 28, 1841, and passed away on May 10, 1904. Stanley was a Welsh-American known as an explorer, journalist, soldier, colonial administrator, author, and politician.

During his time as a journalist, Stanley worked for the New York Herald. In November 1871 he took on the quest to find Dr. David Livingstone, a missionary who had not been heard from for five years since he started his work in Africa. Livingstone's goal was to introduce the native Africans to God and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Stanley wrote in his journal, "I left the United States as an adventurer, seeker, and reporter looking for a story about a lost missionary. I was prejudiced against religion and cared little about Dr. Livingstone's work as a missionary in Africa. My only concern was he dead or alive and to bring back Livingstone's story to the New York Herald."

Dr. Livingstone was found. After spending several months with him, Stanley began to ask himself what inspired this man to be doing the work here in Africa. Dr. Livingstone was known to say, "Leave all and follow me." Little by little Stanley saw Livingstone's piety, gentleness, zeal, and ability to keep that life style each and every day. Stanley's view of Christianity changed from a cynical one to observing the hope and trust that can be found in following Christ.

Stanley returned to the United States, never to talk with Dr. Livingstone again. After some time he heard of Livingstone's death. Stanley remarked that he was determined to follow Livingstone's footsteps for he had met a man that changed his view of Christianity for the rest of his life.

At this Thanksgiving season, let's give thanks to God for individuals who have made an impact on our walk with God and live our life in a real life-giving relationship with God.

In Christian love,
Wayne Chamberlain, FCC elder

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 Gordley, Custodian Bob Clark, Audio/Video/Maintenance Jenna Hull, Event Coordinator Office Hours: M-TH 8:00am–3:30pm; F 8:00am-Noon Worship Times: Every Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am			PRAYER CONCERNS: John & Jane Calaway, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Braycen Douglas, Brian Douglas, Charlotte Dunham, Sue Evans, Joan Halsey, Mary Harshman, Claire Heavner, Donnie Houchins, Jeanne Howard, Jim & Judy Kallal, Marge Lamb, Ralph Piper, Nora Renoud, Rusty & Jeana Sealock, Jim Stark, Bill Van Hoose, Randy Alloway (Friend of Chamberlain family) Karen Birch (John Birch's sister) Chloe Birdsell (Friend of Wilson family) Janie Bishop (David Bishop's sister) Jan Buhrmann (Friend of Wilson family) Terry Collins (Angie Ruebush's father) Denny Dell (Friend of Brokaw family) Greg Dyer (Kevin Dyer's son) Helen Sue Hendricker (Kathy Hull's aunt) Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother) Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister) Diana McCartney (Friend of Evans family) Zoey O'Leary (Friend of Wilson family) Robert Wilson (Rachel Cawthon's father) <i>With Sympathy: Missy Borrowman, Norman Bryant (Dave Bryant's father), Linda Hittner (Angie Hittner's sister-in-law)</i>																																																						
Stewardship (Offering Only) 11/10-16 11/17-23 Operational \$10,006.83 \$8,700.25 Property Improvement 10.00 10.00 Outreach-Missionaries 40.00 40.00 DHF 30.00 30.00 Construction/Renovation 219.91 144.91 Youth 200.00 50.00 Adopt a Family 50.00 445.00 Outreach-General <u>245.00</u> <u>5.00</u> Total \$10,801.74 \$9,425.16 Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.) Received Last 7 Days \$10,006.83 \$8,700.25 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$10,568			Serving Schedule: November 30: Elder: David Bishop, Steve Tharp 8:00 Communion: Richard & Rebecca Rhodes 10:30 Communion: Larry & Sandy Wigington Children's Church: Niki Dixon Infant-Age2 Assist: Grace Henthorn, Rimi Dixon PreK Assist: Amy Harris, Kamy Dixon Safety 8:00: Brad Losch, Michael Smith, Stan Moss Safety 10:30: Caleb Dixon, Patrick Lamb, Steve Lehr December 7: Elder: Wayne Chamberlain, David Bishop 8:00 Communion: Michael & Jessi Smith 10:30 Communion: Jeremy & Alicia Tate Children's Church: Ali Curless, Molly Caughlan Infant-Age2 Assist: Erin Fesler, Judy Ferguson, Laynie Hart PreK Assist: Amy Harris, Kamy Dixon Safety 8:00: Keenan Wine, Steve Tharp Safety 10:30: Jeremy Tate, Scott Bacon																																																						
The collection boxes for greeting card fronts and reading glasses are at the annex.			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.																																																						
The <u>December, January, February</u> edition of Our Daily Bread devotional can be found on the sanctuary mantels.			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																																																						
Lectionary 11/30: Isa 2:1-5; Ps 122; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:36-44 12/1: Psalm 124; Genesis 8:1-19; Romans 6:1-11 12/2: Psalm 124; Genesis 9:1-17; Hebrews 11:32-40 12/3: Psalm 124; Isaiah 54:1-10; Matthew 24:23-35 12/4: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 1:12-17, 21-26 12/5: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 30:19-26; Acts 13:16-25 12/6: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 40:1-11; John 1:19-28 12/7: Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12 12/8: Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 12/9: Psalm 21; Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21 12/10: Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37 12/11: Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10 12/12: Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18 12/13: Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18			<table> <tr> <td colspan="2">Wishes & Wants</td><td colspan="2">Worship Service</td><td>11/16</td><td>11/23</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">None at this time.</td><td colspan="2">8:00</td><td>94</td><td>96</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">10:30</td><td><u>179</u></td><td><u>185</u></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">Total</td><td>273</td><td>281</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" rowspan="5">Parents: Be sure to watch the Kids@FCC Facebook page for the latest news and events!</td><td colspan="2">Christian Education</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Youth</td><td>28</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Disciples</td><td>10</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Sermon Study</td><td>13</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">C.O.F.F.E.E.</td><td><u>5</u></td><td><u>11</u></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Pardon our dust during the construction process.</td><td colspan="2">Total</td><td>56</td><td>65</td></tr> </table>			Wishes & Wants		Worship Service		11/16	11/23	None at this time.		8:00		94	96			10:30		<u>179</u>	<u>185</u>			Total		273	281	Parents: Be sure to watch the Kids@FCC Facebook page for the latest news and events!		Christian Education				Youth		28	40	Disciples		10	7	Sermon Study		13	7	C.O.F.F.E.E.		<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	Pardon our dust during the construction process.		Total		56	65
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