

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 67 Issue 25

December 16, 2025



**The 100th annual Christmas Vespers Service
“He Shall Reign Forevermore”
will be Sunday, Dec 21, 5:00.
Doors will open at 4:00.**



Christmas Eve Service, Wed, Dec 24, 9:00 p.m.



On Sunday, Dec 14, we celebrated the baptism of Jacob Hull during 10:30 service. We are excited for Jacob and that we are able to walk in faith with him!

Youth Group Christmas Party will be on Sunday, **Dec 21**, following the Christmas Cantata. The Hart family has graciously opened their home for us.

The **Xtreme Winter Conference** will be **Dec 27-29**. Keep our youth group and adults in prayer as they encounter Christ with other youth and for safe travels.

There will be no Hangout 45 during December.

Youth Group will not meet on Sunday, Dec 28.

Installation of the newly elected officers with terms beginning in January will be during the 10:30 service on **Jan 4**.

Looking for a way to volunteer? There will be **Safety Team Training** on Tues, **Jan 6**, 6:00. Contact N.D. Harrison with questions. Like to cook? Contact Jenna if you would consider being a certified cook in our kitchen.

The **Thursday Noon Bible Study** will resume on **Jan 8** in Chapter 7.

High School 5th Quarter Party, Fri, **Jan 9th** at Crossroads Center. Doors open at 9pm.

The Crossroads Center kitchen recently passed the yearly Health Dept inspection. Thank you everyone for your diligent work in the facility!

Your response to the Adopt-A-Family ministry this year was so inspiring with all tags being adopted the first Sunday! We want to thank everyone who participated and helped bring joy to those in need in our county!

We are aware of recent newsletters arriving late. This newsletter will be mailed Dec 17 and we hope it reaches your mailbox in a timely manner.

Thank you to all the ladies and gentlemen who helped serve the Missy Borrowman and Cork Lemons funeral dinners. Bless you all! -CWF Bereavement Ministry

The Christian Women's Fellowship Bazaar was a fun filled event! Many shoppers stopped in for treasures, treats, and fellowship. We want to thank everyone who donated items, baked goodies, shopped, and those who worked so hard to make this such a huge success. Proceeds will benefit outreach ministries in the church and local benevolent organizations.

Your generous support of the Pike County Christmas Basket Program is greatly appreciated and has contributed to another successful year of helping needy Pike County families. We sincerely thank you.

-Pike County Christmas Basket Coordinators

Excerpts from December 9, 2025 Board Meeting

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

Pastor's Report: Minister's report was attached and discussed. Highlights include: The Building Project continues to move forward but takes lots of time and volunteers. Special shout out to Larry Wigington for installing the new pocket doors and Sonya Bishop for repairing the stained glass windows. And we appreciate Hamer Tate, Steve Tharp and Bob Clark who continue to work on a regular basis. Pastoral connections with families impacted by recent deaths. Thanks to Jenna Hull in her first year being responsible for the Thanksgiving dinner.

Treasurer: Eleanor Jenkins presented information from the report as of November 30, 2025: Unrestricted Operating Checking: \$ 100,000. The total transfer to the building fund in November was \$6,667.77. Total Funds Available for Construction/Renovation \$1,155,169.52. YTD Receipts \$512,466.59. YTD Budgeted \$507,283. Difference \$5,183.59. YTD Disbursements \$393,148.95. YTD Budgeted \$488,841. Difference \$95,692.05. Average worship attendance through November 30 = 243. David Bishop moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Justin Poor seconded. Motion carried.

Christian Education: Report was attached. Niki submitted a grant application to DOT Foods which was awarded in the amount of \$500 to help pay for costs of the Branson trip for Uth@1st. Hangout 45 enjoyed their trip to Kamaroo Farms and had lots of questions. Working with students, teachers and families to resolve some behavior issues during Sunday school and Children's church.

Music: Cantata is in crunch time.

Crossroads Center: Jenna Hull submitted a calendar and reported that it's very busy.

Building Team: Pastor Michael explained that the brick for the front has finally arrived but because of the cold weather, it will probably be spring before it can be completed. Plumbers and electricians are finished and the Long Room is nearly done. Be cautious around the new building especially until the snow guards can be installed on the roof.

Old Business:

The following three motions were made by the Elders:

1. Donate \$5,000 to DHF using funds from Evangelism. Motion carried.
2. Currently any amount over \$100,000 in the Operating line item of the checking account goes into the Building Fund. Discontinue that automatic rollover into the Building Fund. Motion carried.
3. Rollover any excess over \$100,000 in the Operating line item of the checking into a line item to be named Extra Ministries and will be used at the discretion of the elders. Motion carried.

The carpet in the balcony needs to be replaced.

Pew cushions should arrive soon.

New Business:

Staff end of year bonuses were discussed and the amounts will be finalized by the board via email in the next few days.

Adjourn: David Bishop moved to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Eleanor Jenkins seconded and all approved.

Closing Prayer: Zach Boren closed the meeting in prayer.

Dear Church Family,

During Advent, we have been looking at some of our most beloved Christmas songs and their timeless message. Even thinking about Christmas songs has a way of stirring our hopes. We imagine Christmas lights, those familiar melodies, meaningful gatherings, and a sense that everything will be just right by Christmas. We plan carefully, and look with expectation to the perfect Christmas. And yet, as many of us know from experience, plans do not always unfold the way we imagine.

The Christmas story itself reminds us of that truth. Mary and Joseph certainly did not plan to welcome their first child far from home, surrounded by animals, with no room available. They did not expect a manger to become a cradle or questionable shepherds to be their first visitors. The long-awaited Messiah arrived not with comfort and certainty, but with interruption, inconvenience, and surprise. And still, God was powerfully at work. What looked like a detour was actually the fulfillment of His promise. Emmanuel had come. God was, and is, with us!

In many ways, our church family can relate this season. The building project has not gone entirely as planned. We had hoped it would be fully completed by Christmas, ready to welcome this season with everything finished and functioning. Instead, unexpected delays have slowed progress and shifted timelines. Hopes have been deferred a bit. Plans adjusted and spaces rethought. I have had to fight a bit of disappointment mixed in with anticipation.

Yet, in spite of this, Advent invites us to pause and remember what truly matters. Christmas has never been about perfect circumstances or finished projects. It has always been about God stepping into imperfect places with His perfect love and abiding peace. The light of the world did not wait for everything to be ready. He came into the mess, the waiting, and the uncertainty.

So this Christmas, we choose to focus our hearts where they belong. We rejoice that God's love has come down to us in Jesus. We celebrate Emmanuel, God with us, in every season and situation. We give thanks that even when our plans change, His promises and His peace never do.

I hope you will join me in celebrating Christ's birth in our two upcoming special services. The Vesper Choir will present the **100th Christmas Vespers on Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 pm**, and on **Christmas Eve, December 24 at 9:00 pm**, join us for our **Candlelight Service**, as we lift our voices, light our candles, and proclaim the Christmas story of good news of great joy.

This Christmas, finished or unfinished, planned or unexpected, may our hearts prepare Him room. God is with us... and that is more than enough.

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 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, Jim & Judy Kallal, Marge Lamb, 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 Buhmann (Friend of Wilson family)
 Christine Creamer (Calvin Anderson's mother)
 Judy Dain (Jim Dain's mother)
 Denny Dell (Friend of Brokaw family)
 Greg Dyer (Kevin Dyer's son)
 Vivian Dyer (Kevin Dyer's sister-in-law)
 Debby Hammond (Charlotte Dunham's sister)
 Helen Sue Hendricker (Kathy Hull's aunt)
 Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother)
 Kevin Kingery (Friend of Nathon Lothridge)
 Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister)
 Zoey O'Leary (Friend of Wilson family)
 Blake Williams (Friend of Nathon Lothridge)
 Robert Wilson (Rachel Cawthon's father)

With Sympathy:
 Terry Collins
 (Angie Ruebush's father),
 Jeanne Howard,
 James "Cork" Lemons
 (Elaine Hoaglin's brother),
 Diana McCartney,
 Blane Miller

Stewardship (Offering Only) 11/24-30		12/1-7	12/8-14
Operational	\$8,643.27	\$10,206.39	\$ 9,057.11
Property Improvement	10.00	60.00	10.00
Outreach-Missionaries	60.00	40.00	40.00
DHF	30.00	30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	164.91	253.91	124.91
Youth	0.00	505.00	255.00
Adopt a Family	190.00	600.00	700.00
Unmet Needs	75.00	0.00	0.00
Outreach-General	<u>5.00</u>	<u>205.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>
Total	\$9,178.18	\$11,900.30	\$10,222.02

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$8,643.27 \$10,381.39 \$9,107.11

Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$10,568

Serving Schedule:

December 21: Elder: Zack Boren, Bob Clark

8:00 Communion: Steve & Vickie Tharp

10:30 Communion: Justin & Amber Poor

Children's Church: Kay Sealock, Mike & Julie Boren

Infant-Age2 Assist: Jordan Lamb, Emma Womble

PreK Assist: Amy Harris, Evan Hart, Konnor Womble

Safety 8:00: Billy Fitzmaurice, John Havens, Brad Losch

Safety 10:30: Bill Grimsley, Jason Thomas, Larry Wigington

December 28: Elder: Bob Clark, Charlotte Dunham

8:00 Communion: Brad & Kathy Willman

10:30 Communion: Larry & Sandy Wigington, Chris & Cherie Wagoner

Children's Church: Grace Gordley, Katie Wine

Infant-Age2 Assist: Renna Walters, Linda Baumer

PreK Assist: Amy Harris, Bonnie Dain

Safety 8:00: Brad Losch, Michael Smith, Stan Moss

Safety 10:30: Caleb Dixon, Patrick Lamb, Steve Lehr

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

The December, January, February edition of Our Daily Bread devotional can be found on the sanctuary mantels.

Lectionary

12/21: Isa 7:10-16; Ps 80:1-7; Rom 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25
 12/22: Luke 1:46b-55; Isaiah 33:17-22; Rev 22:6-7, 18-20
 12/23: Luke 1:46b-55; 2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29; Galatians 3:6-14
 12/24: Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20
 12/25: Isa 62:6-12; Ps 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20
 12/26: Psalm 148; Wisdom 4:7-15; Acts 7:59-8:8
 12/27: Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:22-31; 1 John 5:1-12
 12/28: Isa 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb 2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23
 12/29: Psalm 20; Jeremiah 31:15-22; Luke 19:41-44
 12/30: Psalm 20; Isaiah 26:1-9; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 12/31: Psalm 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19
 1/1: Num 6:22-27; Ps 8; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21
 1/2: Psalm 20; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12
 1/3: Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22

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.

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.

97.5 FM - Sunday mornings at 10:30

Wishes & Wants	Worship Service	11/30	12/7	12/14
None at this time.	8:00	60	65	89
	10:30	81	150	166
	Total	141	215	255
Christian Education				
Parents: Be sure to watch the	Youth	3	36	39
Kids@FCC Facebook page for	Disciples	0	9	7
the latest news and events!	Sermon Study	7	12	10
	C.O.F.F.E.E.	9	5	9
Pardon our dust during the	Total	19	62	65
construction process.				