

# The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 68 Issue 2

January 27, 2026



**The atrium east door will be open on Sunday, February 1.** We encourage everyone to begin using this as the main entry-way to the sanctuary where you will find coffee and displays.

**Congregational Meeting, Sunday, February 1,** after 10:30 service. Agenda will include review of 2025.

<b>February 1 Cookie Sunday!</b>	The <b>2025 giving records</b> will be mailed prior to <b>February 1</b> to those who have requested in prior years.	<b>Coffee Talk</b> Tuesday, <b>February 3</b> 10:00 @ Annex
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**The Kids Outdoor Zone event scheduled for Sat, January 31 has moved to Sat, February 7.**  
 Young men will learn about the importance of trapping, trapper ethics, trap setting, and fur handling.  
 This event will allow attendees to see trapping first hand!  
 Young men ages 4<sup>th</sup> grade to 12th grade are welcome to attend.  
 Please meet at the Crossroads parking lot by 9:00am.  
 Boys will return to Crossroads by 1:15 PM.  
 Hiking boots or rubber boots and dressing for cold weather is recommended.  
 If you have specific questions please contact Blake Ruebush.

Interested in being baptized? Pastor Michael will lead a <b>Baptism Class</b> on Sunday, <b>February 8</b> , at 9:25 in the annex.	<b>Christian Men's Fellowship</b> dinner meeting has moved from Jan 25 to <b>Sunday, February 8</b> , after 10:30 service at Crossroads Center.
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<b>Board Meeting</b> Tuesday, <b>February 10</b> 6:00 Annex	<b>CWF Bible Study</b> Thursday, <b>February 12</b> 9:30 Cardinal Inn	Like to cook for others? Debbie Robinson is leading the meal train and would like to add you to her volunteer list! Contact Debbie at <a href="mailto:debbierobinson_62363@yahoo.com">debbierobinson_62363@yahoo.com</a> for more info.
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	<b>Youth Group Valentine Dinner Fundraiser!</b> Sunday, <b>February 15.</b> <b>Doors open at 5:00.</b> Tickets are now available! \$20	
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<i>First Christian Church Family, Thank you for all of your prayers and support. I was blessed with an amazing father. Sincerely, Angie Ruebush &amp; Family</i>	<i>Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped clean the new building. You were an awesome team and your help was tremendous!</i>	Crossroads Center is open to the public for <b>walking</b> Monday through Thursday, 8-10:00 a.m.
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**February Birthdays & Anniversaries** 1 John Hull, Lisa Wombles; 2 Madison Palmer, Clara Fitzmaurice; 3 Jessica Dain, Russ Sealock, Ryan Spann; 4 Kaitlyn Apps, Sydnee Cox, Carlos Quirarte; 6 Roger Brokaw, Elliott Fesler, Lori Bradshaw; 8 Kathy Lehr; 10 Patty Ruble, Jade Barker, Bryce Frieden; 11 Tom & Debbie Robinson; 12 Alice Christ, Jamie Sweeting, Emma Wombles; 14 Kevin & Terri Wombles; 17 Richard Rhodes, Jill Kunzeman, Miriam Fitzmaurice; 19 Beau Sealock; 20 Amy Casto, Jill Moss; 21 Stella Bonnett, Wiley Speckhart; 22 Chelsea Hayden, Chad Sealock, Jessica Hull, Rick Wombles, Ron Phipps; 23 Karly Losch, Luke & Michelle Hart; 24 Vickie Tharp, Justin Pennock, Jason Thomas, Mariah Thomas; 25 Jake McNulty, Lloyd Casto, Crista O'Brien; 26 Peyton Apps, Glen Cooley; 27 Kelly Masters, Erik Tharp, Josie Fesler; 28 Ron & Teresa Bauer, Ruth Bennett.

## Excerpts from January 13, 2026 Board Minutes

**Call to Order:** 6:00 p.m. by Moderator Brad Losch.

**Elder Devotion and Opening Prayer:** David Bishop led the meeting in a devotion and prayer.

**Minutes from Last Meeting:** Minutes from the December 9, 2025, meeting were approved by general consensus.

**Pastor's Report:** Minister's report was attached and discussed. Highlights include: Daily updates concerning progression of the building project. Plans are for the nursery to be open on Sunday, January 18, and the new entry way a couple of weeks after.

**Treasurer:** Michelle Hart submitted a treasurer's report as of December 31, 2025. The total transfer to GR – Extra Ministries in December was \$20,739.40. Total Funds Available for Construction/Renovation \$1,093,836.18. YTD Receipts \$595,109.84; YTD Budgeted \$549,555; Difference \$45,554.84. YTD Disbursements \$456,137.72; YTD Budgeted \$549,555; Difference \$93,417.28. Net Non-Budget Receipts/Disbursements \$131,868.48. Average worship attendance through December 2025 = 243. Hamer Tate moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and John Hull seconded. Motion carried.

**Trustees:** Justin Poor submitted a Trustee's Report. They are starting insurance discussions.

**Christian Education:** Niki Dixon submitted a report. Highlights include: At least 35 students attended the Christmas party. Xtreme Conference in Branson went very well. Sunday School and Kids Church are going well. Niki presented two options with cost analysis being considered for a mission trip this summer for our youth – back to Kentucky or going to Arizona. The cost of the two trips varies widely. The Elders will discuss this further and give their recommendation.

**Music:** Post-cantata clean up continues with cleaning of robes and organization of music. Worship teams are preparing for lent.

**Crossroads Center:** Jenna Hull submitted a report. Highlights include: The building is getting lots of use. A very successful blood drive was held.

**Building Team:** Pastor Michael gave an update on the current progress. Ed Picone attended and gave some suggestions for the coffee bar. Some suggestions were mentioned for the name of the new building. The Elders will further discuss these two topics. Currently we have paid \$1,072,058 towards the building project with estimated \$108,623 still outstanding which is an estimated total of \$1,180,682.

**Old Business:** A bid was received to replace the balcony and stairway carpet at a cost of \$12,840 which includes removing the old carpet and installing the new. Wayne Chamberlain made a motion that was seconded by Brad Willman to use either money from Property Improvement or Construction funds. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

Each board member acknowledged their knowledge of the board Policy document with their signature. It was suggested that the safety team also get a background check.

Modern Rules of Order will be used for board meetings.

Church Representation: Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp – Rod Gordley, Pike County Unmet Needs – Julie Boren, Children First – Ashlyn Havens.

A motion was made by David Bishop to allow a group called "Sew & Share" to use the open room in the annex, or other location as needed, two Thursdays a month at no cost. Zach Boren seconded. Motion carried. The purpose of the group is to sew and donate items to be used in the community and around the world.

John Hull made a motion and Justin Poor seconded to renew our membership to the Pike County Chamber & Economic Development Corp.

**Adjourn:** David Bishop moved to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. John Hull seconded and all approved.

**Closing Prayer:** Paston Michael closed the meeting in prayer.

Linda Belford, Recording Secretary

## Supporting Church Safety and Security

Setting aside a preacher who don't know "Come Here from Sick'em" about the Bible and a personal relationship with Jesus, there are probably three things that turn people away from a church. They are: 1) unkept restrooms, 2) nurseries without proper care providers, and 3) an uncomfortable feeling about the safety of the worship environment. In tornado alley (used to be Oklahoma but now Illinois ranks number 1) people want to know where to go if the weather gets bad in a hurry. And, when we continually hear about mischief caused by bad people entering spaces set aside for education or worship, it is hard not to think about safety. While we at churches need to trust God more than we do, safety was a ministry focus. During Old Testament times as the "children of God" rebuilt the walls of the temple (Nehemiah 4) and worshipped (Nehemiah 7) there were people designated to watch over and defend the flock. Church safety is one piece of the ministry pillars that support FCC.

Storms arise quickly at almost anytime of year. When public alert systems blare, we need to know safe places for refuge. It is generally a poor decision to try to run or drive away from safe areas to escape the event. As a portion of the safety team, there are maps located in each building which direct us to safe areas for storms. Each member should be familiar with the maps. And one of the duties of the "safety team" is to assist movements of all the congregation to those areas in a reasonable manor. Generally, the necessity for relocating and directions will be delivered from the pulpit. As they say on airplanes, "the best exit may be behind you" as you sit in the same pew each week.

There are several members of the church who have fire training. The buildings are up to codes and Pittsfield Fire Department conducts walk-throughs for training purposes. We have tested alarms which function to alert key individuals and the alarm company, and fire suppression equipment (including hand-held extinguishers) in place to assist with delaying a fire until the congregation can evacuate. Personal awareness and common support are keys to safe and expedited evacuations.

At least three health-related events happened this past year resulting in a person requiring medical attention. Whether it was a slip and fall event, a sudden dizziness and collapse or just excessive heat, your friends needed help. When there is a pause in the service or you see someone in trouble, please make a decision as to whether you can help or just need to make space for others to work. It is always helpful to offer a quick prayer and invoke God's grace on the person(s), but maintain a physical awareness of emergency needs also.

And, finally to me at least, we live in a world of people who do harmful things to others for unknown reasons. FCC has a security team including people observing cameras, doormen and observers throughout the campus to minimize these threats. The best way to have a safe worship space is to have a friendly and welcoming environment until it cannot be that way. Some of you know, I am a hugger and extend a hand frequently. My Grandma suggested hugging as a good way to determine how big the hole needed to be just in case you had to bury them (just kidding, maybe). Self-awareness and communication are the driving factors to control bad behavior. Then, say or do something more than observing or filming on your phone. We choose to rely on Police officers when our assessment indicates that we cannot handle situations. The amount of time required for a response has it's own impact on the decisions. If it is the hair on the back of your neck that is tingling, notify one of the Team to start the actions.

In closing, there are people at FCC who feel that your safety during each worship experience here is our spiritual mission. We want a welcoming and safe campus for all who share that goal.

Submitted by David Bishop

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**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:** Brenda Bonnett, Dave Bryant, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Braycen Douglas, Brian Douglas, Keith Elledge, Sue Evans, Joan Halsey, Mary Harshman, Claire Heavner, Donnie Houchins, Jim & Judy Kallal, Rusty Sealock, Jim Stark, Bernall Ackerman (Friend of TenEyck family) Karen Birch (John Birch's sister) Janie Bishop (David Bishop's sister) Jan Buhrmann (Friend of Wilson family) Christine Creamer (Calvin Anderson's mother) Judy Dain (Jim Dain's mother) Denny Dell (Friend of Brokaw family) Vivian Dyer (Kevin Dyer's sister-in-law) Bob & Phyllis Hammitt (Larry Wigington's brother) Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother) Kevin Kingery (Friend of Nathen Lothridge) Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister) Steve Newbery (Friend of Wilson family) Raylan Turnbull (Friend of VanHoose family) Robert Wilson (Rachel Cawthon's father) *With Sympathy: Deloris Neely (Amber Poor's grandmother)*

**Stewardship (Offering Only) 1/12-18      1/19-25**

Operational	\$9,630.63	\$5,913.22
Property Improvement	10.00	10.00
Outreach-Missionaries	40.00	40.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	274.91	99.91
Youth	25.00	0.00
Outreach-General	<u>5.00</u>	<u>205.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,015.54</b>	<b>\$6,298.13</b>

**Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)**

Received Last 7 Days \$10,440.63 \$6,715.22  
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$11,030

**Serving Schedule:**

**February 1:** Elder: Wayne Chamberlain, Matt Saxe  
 8:00 Communion: Dan & Sue Speckhart  
 10:30 Communion: Larry & Sandy Wigington, Justin & Amber Poor  
 Children's Church: Niki Dixon/Kayla Boren, Molly Caughlan  
 Infant-Age2 Assist: TBA  
 PreK Assist: Amy Harris, TBA  
 Safety 8:00: Keenan Wine, Noah Mendenhall, Eli Smithers  
 Safety 10:30: Sonya Bishop, Jeremy Tate, Scott Bacon  
 Sunday School Superintendent: Cindy Chamberlain  
 Fellowship Treats: B. White, K. Hull, R. Rhodes, C. Chamberlain  
**February 8:** Elder: Bob Clark, Zack Boren  
 8:00 Communion: Brad & Kathy Willman  
 10:30 Communion: Jason & Erica Thomas  
 Children's Church: Stan & Jill Moss  
 Infant-Age2 Assist: TBA  
 PreK Assist: Amy Harris, TBA  
 Safety 8:00: John Havens, Kevin Wombles, Patrick Lamb  
 Safety 10:30: Jason Thomas, Larry Wigington, Thomas Hull  
 Sunday School Superintendent: Kathy 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**

- 2/1: Micah 6:1-8; Ps 15; 1 Cor 1:18-31; Matt 5:1-12
- 2/2: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25
- 2/3: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6
- 2/4: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26
- 2/5: Psalm 112:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5
- 2/6: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18
- 2/7: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8
- 2/8: Isa 58:1-12; Ps 112:1-10; 1 Cor 2:1-16; Matt 5:13-20
- 2/9: Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Rom 11:2-10
- 2/10: Ps 119:105-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25; 2 Cor 4:1-12
- 2/11: Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30
- 2/12: Psalm 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Hebrews 8:1-7
- 2/13: Psalm 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Hebrews 11:23-28
- 2/14: Psalm 2; 1 Kings 21:20-29; Mark 9:9-13

**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.

**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**

None at this time.

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

Worship Service	1/18	1/25
8:00	113	26
10:30	144	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>41</b>
Christian Education		
Youth	36	
Disciples	12	
Sermon Study	6	
C.O.F.F.E.E.	11	
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	