

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 68 Issue 3

February 10, 2026



The atrium east door is now open.

We encourage everyone to use this as the main entryway to the sanctuary where you will find coffee and displays.



CWF Bible Study
Thursday, **February 12**
9:30
Cardinal Inn

Youth Group Valentine Dinner Fundraiser!
Sunday, **February 15.**
Doors open at 5:00.
Thank you in advance to everyone who has purchased a ticket and able to join us!

The **Disciples Sunday School Class** will wait one more week and move to the Long Room on **February 22.**

Elder Meeting, Tues, Feb 24, 6:00.

American Red Cross
Blood Drive
Wednesday, **March 4**
1-6:00
Crossroads Center

The **Carol V. Baughman Scholarship** is available to students in the church family pursuing a degree in education or religious studies. Contact the church office for more info or an application **by March 20.**

Disciple Heritage Fellowship National Conference
April 29-30
First Christian Church in Decatur
Cost \$149/person or \$199/married couple.
Check out early bird discounts or register at discipleheritage.org/conference

Save The Date
Vacation Bible School 2026
July 12-15

Everyone is invited to an **Adult Bible Study** on **Wednesdays**, 7:00 a.m., at Jack & Kathy Hull's home! What a great opportunity for a midweek dive into the word!



Looking for a way to serve in the church? We need 2 volunteers to help in Children's Church during 10:30 service on the 4th Sunday of each month. Contact Niki for info.



Church Family

Thank you all for thoughts, calls, texts and prayers, through the past several weeks. Surgery went well and I am recovering well. Gina and I greatly appreciate everyone! Special thanks to Charlotte Dunham, and the ladies, who knitted the beautiful prayer shawl.

God Bless - Dave Bryant

At Sunday's meeting of the Christian Men's Fellowship, David Awbrey was elected CMF Layman of the Year for 2025. David's association with First Christian Church goes way back. He served as chairman of the church board back in the 1980s. In recent years he has been involved in the Coffee Sunday School class and with CMF, especially in helping feed the group, which we all appreciate.

Crossroads Center is open to the public for **walking** Monday through Thursday, 8-10:00 a.m.

Excerpts from February 1, 2026 Congregational Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Moderator Brad Losch.

Pastoral Prayer: Brad Losch opened the meeting in prayer.

Quorum: A quorum of 19 was declared by Rebecca Rhodes, FCC Secretary.

Minutes from Last Meeting: The minutes from the November 2, 2025, meeting were read by Recording Secretary Linda Belford. A motion was made by Jenny Tate and seconded by Justin Poor to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Minister's Report: Pastor Michael Ten Eyck expressed that this year was marked by three defining projects/events:

*The Building Project. *The 100th Annual Christmas Vespers. *The pastoral unplanned work of community care in the face of profound tragedy.

Christian Education: The word for 2026 is **Deep**, deepening our walk with God. A recap of the year was presented by Niki Dixon.

Written reports were provided in the Year-End Report by: Moderator, Kathy Hull; Office Secretary, Rebecca Rhodes; CMF, Zack Boren; CMF, Barb Fosco; Crossroads, Jenna Hull; Elders, David Bishop; Evangelism, Alicia Tate; Nominating Committee, Charlotte Dunham; Jail Ministry, Wayne Chamberlain; Property, Bob Clark & Steve Tharp; Safety, N. D. Harrison; Shepherding, David Bishop; Stewardship, Zack Boren; Trustees, Justin Poor; Worship & Music, Pastor Michael; Missions, Cindy Chamberlain; Outreach, Alicia Tate.

Stewardship Report: Treasurer Eleanor Jenkins presented the Year-End Financial Report.

Highlights include:

Average attendance for 2025 dropped slightly to 243.

\$456,138 of the \$549,555 budgeted, which is 83%, was spent in 2025.

During 2025, \$215,850 was received/allocated towards the construction project. Total funds available for construction/renovation as of December 31, 2025 = \$1,093,836.

The budgeted expenditures for 2026 are \$573,547. Needed weekly to meet budget -- \$11,030.

A motion was made by Judy Ferguson and seconded by Bobby Smith to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

Goals for 2026:

Grow in discipleship (Biblical literacy and spiritual disciplines).

Acclimating to using the Atrium.

Reset and recover from the building process.

Grow the Diaconate.

Vision for the future...short- and long-term planning.

Building Update: The building project is nearly completed. Brick work will be done when the weather gets warm enough. Pastor Michael explained how the process began several years ago and the bumpy road that it took getting to its completion. Actual construction began in April 2025 and the doors were opened in early 2026. A 3,182 ft² addition along with a 1,125 ft² remodel of the Long Room were completed for a total of 4,307 ft² at a cost of \$1,160,337. We were blessed with many volunteers who saved thousands of dollars in labor costs.

Current Phase: Dedication and Stewardship of the Atrium.

A question was asked and Pastor Michael explained that the building was constructed so that classrooms, an elevator, a kitchenette, and/or administrative offices could be added if deemed necessary at some time in the future.

Those who spent countless hours in the building process in one capacity or another were thanked along with a special thanks expressed to Pastor Michael.

Adjourn: A motion was made at 12:35 p.m. by Judy Ferguson and seconded by Judy Losch to adjourn. Motion carried.

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

Linda Belford, Recording Secretary

Dear Church Family,

Recently, I went out for a walk after one of the heavy snows. The sidewalks were buried, packed down by days of boots and paws and passing feet. In places, it was hard to tell where the sidewalk actually was. Everything looked equally white, equally solid, equally trustworthy. I followed the path that others had clearly taken before me, assuming that where many had walked must surely be the right way.

Then the temperatures began to rise, and as the snow softened and melted, something became clear. The well-worn path I had been walking on was not actually the sidewalk at all. It ran alongside it. What had once felt firm underfoot began to sag and shift, turning soft and unstable. I found myself slowing down, testing each step, searching for something solid. Only then did I see it clearly: the true sidewalk, hidden for a time, but steady and unmoving beneath the melting snow. Once I stepped onto it, my footing was sure again.

That walk lingered with me, because it felt eerily similar to the times we are living out together.

There are many paths today that seem safe simply because they are popular. They are packed down by repetition, affirmed by crowds, and reinforced by familiarity. Yet popularity does not equal permanence. When the cultural temperature changes, when pressure comes, when hardship melts away the surface, those paths often reveal themselves to be unstable. They are not founded upon solid ground, but upon instability masked by repetition and circumstance.

Scripture repeatedly calls God's people to traverse on something firmer.

The Prophet Isaiah declares, "The word of our God will stand forever" Is 40:8, ESV. While opinions shift and values drift, God's Word remains unchanged. It is not shaped by the popular traffic of the crowd, nor is it weakened by the seasons and circumstances of time and chance.

The apostle Paul warns of a time "when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions" 2 Tim 4:3, ESV. That kind of teaching can feel comforting, even firm for a while. But like that snow-packed shortcut, it cannot support the weight of real life for long. The weather will change. The sun will come out. The snow will eventually melt, revealing the error in the popular path.

Jesus Himself gave us the clearest picture. "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock" Matt 7:24, ESV. The storms still came. The rain still fell. The difference was not the absence of trouble, but the presence of a foundation that held.

Sound Christian doctrine, grounded in Scripture, is that solid sidewalk. It may not always be the most visible path. At times it can even be hidden beneath layers of cultural noise. Yet it is steady. It does not give way when life gets heavy. It holds us when grief presses down, when doubt creeps in, and when obedience costs us something.

Paul urges the church, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind" Rom 12:2, ESV. Renewal happens as we return again and again to God's Word, letting it shape our thinking, our loves, and our lives.

As a church family, may we be people who search for the solid ground. May we gently help one another step off the unstable paths of popular opinion and onto the enduring truth of Scripture. And may we walk with confidence, knowing that beneath our feet is not shifting snow, but the unchanging promises of God.

"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" 1 Cor 3:11, ESV.

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: Brenda Bonnett, Dave Bryant, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Braycen Douglas, Brian Douglas, Keith Elledge, Sue Evans, Joan Halsey, Mary Harshman, Claire Heavner, Elaine Hoaglin, Donnie Houchins, Jim & Judy Kallal, Rusty Sealock, Jim Stark, Bernall Ackerman (Friend of TenEyck family) Karen Birch (John Birch's sister) Christine Creamer (Calvin Anderson's mother) Denny Dell (Friend of Brokaw family) Vivian Dyer (Kevin Dyer's sister-in-law) Debbie Gouran (Donnie Houchins' daughter) Bob & Phyllis Hammitt (Larry Wigington's brother) Sue Holcomb (Friend of Bev White) Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother) Kevin Kingery (Friend of Nathen Lothridge) Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister) Billy Lowe (Barbara Fosco's nephew) Steve Newbery (Friend of Wilson family) Roger Phoenix (Jaunae Bacon's father) Raylan Turnbull (Friend of VanHoose family) Robert Wilson (Rachel Cawthon's father)

Sympathy:
 Jan Burhman (Friend of Wilson family)
 Della Hull (Rex Lothridge's mother)
 Lois Quinn (Andi Henry's grandmother)

Stewardship (Offering Only)	<u>1/26-2/1</u>	<u>2/2-8</u>
Operational	\$12,521.01	\$10,853.07
Property Improvement	65.00	55.00
Outreach-Missionaries	45.00	45.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	264.91	144.91
Youth	200.00	200.00
Outreach-General	<u>210.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Total	\$13,335.92	\$11,577.98

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)
 Received Last 7 Days \$13,372.01 \$11,538.07
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$11,030

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

2/15: Ex 24:12-18; Ps 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt 17:1-9
 2/16: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Ex 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34
 2/17: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Rom 11:1-6
 2/18: Joel 2:1-17; Ps 51:1-17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:10; Matt 6:1-21
 2/19: Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7
 2/20: Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17
 2/21: Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7
 2/22: Gen 2:15-3:7; Ps 32; Rom 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11
 2/23: Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18
 2/24: Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10
 2/25: Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14
 2/26: Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7
 2/27: Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31
 2/28: Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10

Serving Schedule:
February 15: Elder: Charlotte Dunham, Brad Willman
 8:00 Communion: Steve & Vickie Tharp
 10:30 Communion: Rokettia Brokaw, Joyce Harrison
 Children's Church: Kay Sealock, Mike & Julie Boren
 Infant-Age2 Assist: Jordan Lamb, Emma Wombles
 PreK Assist: Amy Harris, Rimi Dixon
 Safety 8:00: Billy Fitzmaurice, Brad Losch, Michael Smith
 Safety 10:30: Bill Grimsley, Scott Bacon, Steve Lehr
 Sunday School Superintendent: Kay Sealock

February 22: Elder: Zack Boren, Hamer Tate
 8:00 Communion: Greg & Kim Bonnett
 10:30 Communion: B. Fosco, S. Clark, S. Bacon, D. Bryant
 Children's Church: TBA
 Infant-Age2 Assist: Renna Walters, Madelyn Saxe
 PreK Assist: Amy Harris, Bonnie Dain
 Safety 8:00: Noah Mendenhall, Stan Moss, Eli Smithers
 Safety 10:30: Caleb Dixon, Jeremy Tate, Larry Wigington
 Sunday School Superintendent: Vickie Tharp

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

Needed: Old sheet music and used/broken guitar strings.
 Sonya Bishop 910.874.1535

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

Worship Service	<u>2/1</u>	<u>2/8</u>
8:00	101	87
10:30	<u>150</u>	<u>174</u>
Total	251	261
Christian Education		
Youth	37	33
Disciples	12	11
Sermon Study	10	10
C.O.F.F.E.E.	<u>0</u>	<u>13</u>
Total	59	67