

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 68 Issue 4

February 24, 2026



We encourage everyone to use the east atrium entryway leading to the sanctuary where you will find communion, bulletins, coffee, various displays, and the offering slot. Grass will be sown in the courtyard area as soon as the weather allows so until then, we ask that you use the sidewalks. The Lost & Found box will be on the coat rack in the atrium where we will keep items for 1 month.

Cookie Sunday, March 1st! Cookies will be available in the atrium for fellowship after both services.

American Red Cross **Blood Drive**, Wed, **March 4**, 1-6:00 at Crossroads Center. Contact Barbara Fosco if you would like to help

Coffee Talk, Tues, **March 3**, 10:00 at atrium.

Church Board Meeting, Tues, **March 10**, 6:00. Packets will be available in the communion prep room at church on Sunday, March 8.

CFW Bible Study, Thurs, **March 12**, 9:30 at Cardinal Inn.

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**.

Uth@1st Sunrise Service Practice Schedule

Sunday, March 22nd, 6-8pm

Sunday, March 29th, 6-8pm

Preparation is underway for Holy Week events and volunteers are needed asap for:

Uth@1st Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 5th at 6:30am

*Good Friday dramatic presentation. We need 4-5 women, 5-6 men, and 1 teenager. Contact Pastor Michael if interested.

*Good Friday handbell choir. Contact Kathy Curfman 217.248.5214.

On Palm Sunday, **March 29**, kids will sing with palm leaves at 10:30 service. Practice will be during Sunday school and Children's Church.

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

Uth@1st Mission Trip!!

Still Waters Youth Ranch of Appalachia
Barbourville, Kentucky

Sunday May 31st through Friday June 5th

Students must have completed 9th grade to attend.

If interested please contact Niki Dixon 417-392-0729

Vacation Bible School July 12-15, 2026

The **Disciples Sunday School Class** now meets in the church Long Room.

Choir Practice has resumed on **Wednesdays**, 6:30. Childcare is provided. Contact Kay or Kathy with questions.

Everyone is invited to an **Adult Bible Study** on **Wednesdays**, 7:00 a.m., at Jack & Kathy Hull's home.

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

Thank you for the donation of cereal bowls and pop tarts. How kind of you to think of the snack pack program. The items have been used in the bags for the students. With community support, like this, we are able to serve weekly all students who request food assistance. There are currently 76 students at Griggsville-Perry being served. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. God Bless, Lynn Curry, GP Snack Packs Treasurer.

The Valentine Dinner was a great success! The Uth@1st students did a fantastic job of hosting our church's Valentine Dinner. They served food, drinks & desserts, and they also helped with clean up. A huge thank you goes out to Renna Walters who helped with all the food prep & serving. I want to thank Michelle Hart, Sydney Himmelman, John Hull, Caleb Dixon, Thomas & Jenna Hull...these individuals helped decorate, kept students organized, kept food trays full, clean up & most importantly, assisted with organization. Katie Sidwell did a marvelous job organizing the event and ensuring we stayed on schedule. I am so blessed to work with these students & volunteers.

I want to send out a massive thank you to everyone who attended the dinner or donated. Uth@1st is so appreciative of the support First Christian Church provides. We thank you for your continued prayers.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries 1 Bill & Mary VanHoose; 2 Dave Awbrey; 3 Joan Hagerbaumer, Lucas Wombles; 4 Jenna Hull, Niki Dixon; 5 Bill & Carol Schwartze, Alba McNulty; 7 Wayne Chamberlain, Eddie White, Arthur Knake; 8 Brad & Judy Losch, Katie & Keenan Wine, Georgia Ruble; 9 Colby Hayes; 10 Bonnie Dain; 11 Kevin & Kelly Masters; 12 Richard Decker, Ezra Boren, Lucas Wagoner, Michael Wilson; 13 Jacob Hull; 14 John & Jane Calaway, Maci Neff, Mariska Sheurman; 16 Christie Mendenhall, John Schoenherr, Rokettia Brokaw, Ashlyn Havens; 18 Claire Tate; 19 Ashley Grimes; 21 Carolyn Barber; 22 Joseph Pursley, Ethan Palmer; 23 Jim Kallal; 24 Roger Yaeger; 25 Abigail Cox, Henry Knake; 26 Spencer Boren, John Havens, Carol Cooley; 29 Jeremy Tate, Cherie Wagoner; 30 Lisa Pennock, Natilee Grimes; 31 Bill Earls, Hannah Roig.

Excerpts from February 10, 2026 Board Meeting

Call to Order: 6 p.m. by Vice Moderator Bobby Smith.

Elder Devotion and Opening Prayer: Brad Willman led the meeting in a devotion and prayer.

Minutes from Last Meeting: Minutes from the January 13, 2026, meeting were approved by general consensus.

Pastor's Report: Minister's report was attached and discussed. We are beginning to utilize the Atrium and are working out the kinks. Prepared for the February congregational meeting.

Treasurer: Michelle Hart presented information from the report as of January 31, 2026. Unrestricted Operating Checking \$100,000. The total transfer to the GR-Extra Ministries-Elder Discretion fund in January was \$4,714.02. Total General Checking \$1,192,007.65. Total Funds Available for Construction/Renovation \$1,023,642.14. YTD Receipts \$36,253.80. YTD Budgeted \$44,116.00. Difference <\$7,862.20>. Average worship attendance through January: 255. David Bishop moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Justin Poor seconded. Motion carried.

Trustees: Justin Poor submitted a Trustee's Report. Discussions regarding the 2026-2027 insurance are under way. They are looking at options to use memorial funds.

Ministries

Christian Education: Niki Dixon submitted a report. The decision was made to return to Still Waters for the summer mission trip. A date will soon be determined. They are also looking at opportunities to serve the community.

Music: Pastor Michael has agreed to serve as Director of Music for 2026. He presented a proposal to the executive committee to assume the 2026 duties for financial compensation. He has served in this capacity for the last two years without pay even though it is a paid position.

Special Ministries:

Crossroads Center: Jenna Hull submitted a report. The building continues to be utilized regularly. The date for the yard sale has been moved to June. The spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Mississippi Valley Christian Camp is scheduled for April 19.

Building Team: Pastor Michael gave an update on the current progress. If the weather holds, there is a possibility that brick work could begin soon. The HVAC system for the Long Room is nearly done. Library books need to be sorted. Furniture is now assembled and set up thanks to Larry Wigington, David Bishop and Sonya Bishop.

New Business:

A Year-End Discretionary Employee Bonuses Policy was discussed and will be voted on at the March meeting.

Zack Boren made a motion which was seconded by Justin Poor to ratify the bonuses paid for 2025. Motion carried.

David Bishop asked permission to use the Crossroads Center on Sunday afternoon, March 8, as part of the Active Shooter Training being conducted. Permission was granted.

The budgeted amount for Music Director is \$7,500. It was the recommendation of the Executive Committee to pay Pastor Michael \$7,000. Alicia Tate made a motion and it was seconded by Bob Clark to pay Pastor Michael \$7,000 as Director of Music for 2026. Motion carried.

Adjourn: John Hull moved to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Bob Clark seconded. Motion carried.

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

Dear Church Family,

The weather taunted us with a brief taste of spring. A few unseasonably warm days slipped in between the gray grip of winter. Coats were left at home. I found myself walking in shorts a few days. Windows cracked open. The thawed ground seemed to be gathering up energy to bring forth green growth. Then winter returned, as it always does, but something had shifted. The warm days stirred us. They reminded us that spring is coming.

And when spring approaches, preparation begins.

Closets get sorted. Garages are swept. Tools are laid out. Calendars begin to fill with the uptick of activity that comes with a new season of life outside. Spring cleaning is not just about tidying a house. It is about making room for what is ahead.

From now until Easter, we are invited into a season of spiritual preparation. Just as we clean out what has gathered over winter, we have a time to ask the Lord to clear what has quietly accumulated in our hearts. Distraction. Weariness. Complacency. Unconfessed sin. Lent becomes a holy reset, a time to prepare for the celebration of the resurrection by drawing nearer to the One who conquered the grave.

Throughout Scripture, God's people entered seasons of consecration before moments of great significance. Moses remained in the presence of the Lord forty days on Mount Sinai before receiving the Law. Israel consecrated themselves before crossing the Jordan into the promised land. The prophet Joel called the people to "consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly" so they might return to the Lord with all their hearts. Even our Lord Jesus withdrew into the wilderness for forty days of fasting and prayer before beginning His public ministry.

James reminds us, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8, ESV). That promise stands firm.

This season invites us to practice the spiritual disciplines we have recently reviewed with renewed intention. Scripture reading, prayer, fasting, confession, worship, generosity, and fellowship are not religious obligations. They are means of grace. Metaphorically, they open windows through which fresh spiritual air enters the house of our heart.

Let us use these weeks before Holy Week well.

Pray for personal spiritual growth. Ask the Lord to search you and reveal areas of your life that need cleansing and refreshing. Pray for our community. Many around us are carrying unseen burdens. Ask God to awaken hearts and to use our church as a place of truth, compassion, and hope.

Pray for our church and its future. The early church devoted themselves to prayer before major decisions and in seasons of challenge. Pray for unity and wisdom, that decisions would reflect humility, discernment, and courage. In times of uncertainty and division, the church must be faithful in intercession.

Spring is coming. The light is lengthening. Activity will increase.

As Greg shared this past week, let us go beyond attending church to becoming the Church.

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: Marie Awbrey, Chuck Barber, Brenda Bonnett, Richard Decker, Tressa Dickerson, Braycen Douglas, Brian Douglas, Keith Elledge, Sue Evans, Joan Halsey, Mary Harshman, 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) Bob & Phyllis Hammitt (Larry Wigington's brother) Sue Holcomb (Friend of Bev White) Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother) Rhonda Johnson (Kathy Willman's sister) 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: Goldie Heavner
 (Daughter of Jacob & Claire Heavner)*

Stewardship (Offering Only)	2/9-15	2/16-22
Operational	\$8,888.37	\$7,453.27
Property Improvement	15.00	15.00
Outreach-Missionaries	45.00	45.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	224.91	2,144.91
Youth	200.00	0.00
Unmet Needs	200.00	0.00
Outreach-General	<u>50.00</u>	<u>10.00</u>
Total	\$9,653.28	\$9,698.18

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$8,888.37 \$7,626.92
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$11,030

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

The March, April, May edition of **Our Daily Bread** devotional can be found on the sanctuary mantels.

Lectionary

- 3/1: Gen 12:1-4; Ps 121; Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- 3/2: Psalm 128; Numbers 21:4-9; Hebrews 3:1-6
- 3/3: Psalm 128; Isaiah 65:17-25; Romans 4:6-13
- 3/4: Psalm 128; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 7:53-8:11
- 3/5: Psalm 95; Exodus 16:1-8; Colossians 1:15-23
- 3/6: Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22
- 3/7: Psalm 95; Exodus 16:27-35; John 4:1-6
- 3/8: Ex 17:1-7; Ps 95; Rom 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
- 3/9: Psalm 81; Genesis 24:1-27; 2 John 1:1-13
- 3/10: Psalm 81; Genesis 29:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
- 3/11: Psalm 81; Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39
- 3/12: Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32
- 3/13: Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9
- 3/14: Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:32-34; John 1:1-9

Serving Schedule:

March 1: Elder: Zack Boren, Charlotte Dunham
 8:00 Communion: Richard & Rebecca Rhodes
 10:30 Communion: TBA
 Children's Church: Dixon/Boren, Molly Caughlan
 Infant-Age2 Assist: Erin Fesler, Rimi Dixon
 PreK Assist: Amy Harris, Bradyn Dixon
 Safety 8:00: John Havens, Steve Tharp
 Safety 10:30: Sonya Bishop, Keenan Wine, Thomas Hull
 Sunday School Superintendent: Cindy Chamberlain
 Fellowship Treats: Vickie Tharp, Bev White, Sandy Wigington, Amber Poor
March 8: Elder: David Bishop, Hamer Tate
 8:00 Communion: Tom & Debbie Robinson
 10:30 Communion: Jeremy & Alicia Tate
 Children's Church: Stan & Jill Moss
 Infant-Age2 Assist: Cindy Chamberlain, Amy Ruebush
 PreK Assist: Amy Harris, Bonnie Dain
 Safety 8:00: Brad Losch, Kevin Wombles
 Safety 10:30: Billy Fitzmaurice, Jason Thomas, Scott Bacon
 Sunday School Superintendent: Kathy Lehr

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	2/15	2/22
8:00	79	65
10:30	<u>145</u>	<u>187</u>
Total	224	252
Christian Education		
Youth	34	47
Disciples	12	11
Sermon Study	11	12
C.O.F.F.E.E.	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	69	85