

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 68 Issue 11

June 23, 2026



On Sunday, June 21, we celebrated Brady Kaufmann's decision to declare his faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized during 10:30 service. We are excited for Brady and glad to worship with him each week!

The **choir** will practice on Wed, **July 1**, 6:30, and will sing Sunday, **July 5**.

Cookie Sunday! July 5. Sweet treats and fellowship in the atrium after both services.

Coffee Talk, Tues, **July 7**, 10:00, atrium.

Sew 'n Share, Thurs, **July 9 & 23**, 9AM-3PM, annex.

Board Meeting, Tues, **July 14**, 6:00. Packets will be in the church communion prep room on July 12.

Jenna Hull is doing **Yoga** in the Crossroads Center gym on **Thursdays**, 8-8:30am, and you are welcome to join her. Bring your mat and start your day with Jenna!

See the Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp website for 2026 summer camp dates. Online registration is available. Our Christian Men's Fellowship will pay one half the cost of youth in our church family to attend the camp.

Grown Up VBS! July 13-15. Same time as kids VBS. Women of all ages are welcome! Crafts, Laughter, Jesus! Contact Renna Walters 931.217.6842

LIGHT IT UP! VBS 2026.

Kick-off celebration will be July 12 following 10:30 service. Lunch will be served - Pulled pork, chips, vegetables, dessert. Water games will be set up for the young and young at heart!

VBS Mon, July 13 - Wed, July 15, 6-8:30.



Excerpts from June 9, 2026 Church Board Meeting

Prior to the beginning of the board meeting Ashleigh Wisslead, Family Engagement Specialist for the Tracy Family Foundation, was a guest speaker. She presented info on the Communio organization.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Moderator Brad Losch.

Elder Devotion and Opening Prayer: Alicia Tate led the meeting in a devotion and prayer.

Minutes: Minutes from the May 12, 2026, meeting were approved by general consensus.

Pastor's Report: Minister's report was attached and discussed. Highlights include a Baptism class, baptism, PHS bacca-laureate, funeral and appreciation for youth sponsor leaving the area.

Treasurer: Michelle Hart presented information from May 31, 2026. Unrestricted Operating Checking \$98,914.04. Total Funds Available for Construction/Renovation \$967,511.98. YTD Receipts \$220,829.16; YTD Budgeted \$242,657; Difference \$21,827.84. YTD Disbursements \$189,949.33; YTD Budgeted \$226,255; Difference \$36,305.67. Average worship attendance through May 2026 = 248. Bobby Smith moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Hamer Tate seconded. Motion carried.

Christian Education: Niki Dixon reported that the Mission Trip went well. The students were remarkable and worked hard. The hygiene kits prepared by the youth were distributed and very much appreciated.

Music: The choir will be singing July 5th for the 250th celebration.

Crossroads Center: Jenna Hull submitted a report. The work on the walking track is completed.

Building Team: Doors and windows have been caulked, concrete has been installed on the west of the Atrium, parking lot to be sealed soon, recoated and repaired roof of the Long Room, and installed hose reel for the new building.

Old Business: Questions were answered concerning the bid to repair brick on the sanctuary which will be started in September. David Bishop made a motion and Michael Ten Eyck seconded to accept the bid. The bill will be paid from the construction fund. Motion carried.

New Business: There are wooden chairs in the attic that need to be disposed of or given away. There has been an applicant for the associate Minister position and the elders will be meeting with them.

Adjourn: At 6:56 p.m. Michael Ten Eyck made a motion which was seconded by John Hull to adjourn and all approved.

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES 1 Cameo Fesler; 2 Michelle Gates, Bev White; 4 Jimmy Dain, Stacey Helms, Brooks Richmiller, Jim Stark; 5 John & Ashlyn Havens; 6 Sue Speckhart, Charlie Hull, Myrtle Tharp, Sophia Gengler; 8 Cherise Sheurman, Michelle Hart; 9 Mike Boren, N.D. Harrison, Carmen Long, Kayla Boren; 10 Keith & Carole Elledge, Preston Dunham, George Ruble; 11 Charlie Quirarte; 12 Shelby Bauer, Elyren Fitzmaurice; 14 Corey Tharp, Jeremy & Alicia Tate, Luella Boren; 15 Julie Boren; 16 Marie Awbrey; 17 John Pennock, Lauren Saxe, Sydney Bauer, Marilyn Losch; 18 Bill & Helen Earls, Bexley Fesler; 20 Austin Fine; 21 David & Sonya Bishop; 22 Scott Bacon, Nolan Daniel; 23 Teresa Bauer, Dan Chamberlain, Hamer & Jenny Tate, Jordyn Apps, Laura Grimsley, Stan Moss; 24 Jim Dain; 25 Evan Darnell; 26 Greg & Kim Bonnett, Brian Bradshaw; 27 Chris Phipps, Kevin Wombles; 28 Amber Poor, Kathy Hull, Kayla & Spencer Boren, Carol Schwartze, Dana & Judy Ferguson, Bryce & Brittney Frieden; 29 Carolyn Capps; 30 Evan Lipcaman, CJ & Danielle Hayes, Caleb Wombles; 31 Rorie Dunham, Richard & Rebecca Rhodes.

Happy or blessed?

I recently celebrated my 45th birthday. Halfway to 90! I enjoyed the annual reminder of the passing of time – a reminder to redeem the time and use it for God's glory.

On my birthday, many people wished me "happy" birthday, and it got me thinking about what we mean when we say that. By most conventional measures, I am "happy" most of the time. But I also have bad days, some of which I would not describe as happy. We all know there is a deeper sense in which we as Christians have a joy in the Lord that transcends our circumstances, meaning we can have joy even on days that are not happy.

That distinction between happiness and deeper joy made me think about two different ways we use the word happy. Most of the time when we say we are happy we mean we are marked by pleasure in the moment. But sometimes we mean something more like fortunate. I think the second sense is much more like what Jesus was trying to tell us in the Beatitudes.

In Matthew 5:3-12 (ESV), Jesus says:

- 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Take verse 10 for example. Anyone who has ever experienced persecution for righteousness' sake knows that it does not make you happy in the first sense. We do not experience pleasure in the moment. Yet we can know and remember that we are happy in the second sense – fortunate because Jesus promised us that we would inherit the kingdom of heaven. That is a hope that can sustain us through many an unhappy day.

The Greek word Jesus uses in the Beatitudes is makarios, which means blessed, happy, or fortunate, and according to The New Bible Commentary (2010), is "a term of congratulation and recommendation."

So when Jesus says we are blessed when we mourn, or blessed when we are poor in spirit, he is saying we are to be envied because of our deeper spiritual state. We will be comforted! Our is the kingdom of heaven! We are fortunate. We are in a true spiritual condition that others should envy and emulate. However, as Paul says in Romans 8:25 (NIV), "but if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." There are many aspects of true beatitude that we have to wait for, even as we recognize that we are fortunate to have a hope that does not put us to shame.

Of course, other promises of the Beatitudes can yield something much closer to happiness in the first sense. Being merciful, being pure in heart, or being a peacemaker give us a sense of pleasure in the moment, and also make us fortunate recipients of God's blessings as we recognize that we will receive mercy, will see God, and will be called sons of God.

As I was thinking about this on my birthday, I responded to one "happy" birthday text as follows: "I'm blessed and therefore happy in all the ways that matter."

My prayer for you all is that you would experience God's blessing as you recognize how fortunate you are in Christ, and as you walk in true beatitude on the daily journey through and to the kingdom of heaven.

In Christian Love,
Zack Boren, 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: Marie Awbrey, Chuck Barber, Richard Decker, Greg Dickerson, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Mary Gates, Joan Halsey, Jim & Judy Kallal, Josie McClintock, Carol Schwartze, Janet Scranton, Jim Stark, Karen Birch (John Birch's sister)
 Weston & Maddi Campbell (Elledge family)
 Martha Chamberlain (Dan Chamberlain's sister)
 Christine Creamer (Calvin Anderson's mother)
 Denny Dell (Friend of Brokaw family)
 Vivian Dyer (Kevin Dyer's sister-in-law)
 Bill Freesmeyer (Edith Gant Family)
 Bob & Phyllis Hammitt (Larry Wigington's brother)
 Carol Hark (Friend of Linda Belford)
 Sue Holcomb (Friend of Bev White)
 Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother)
 Chaddam Johnson (Friend of Wilson family)
 Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister) Steve Newbery (Friend of Wilson family)
 Averie Ratliff (Russ/Jeana Sealock's granddaughter)
 Lucas Rife (Commission Encounter) Michael Sleight (Kathy Wainman's son)
 Melinda Upchurch (Friend of Schwartz family) Tim Vahle (Friend of Ten Eyck family)

With Sympathy:

Alice Ghrist,
 Mike Slayden

Stewardship (Offering Only) 6/8-14 6/15-21

Operational	\$8,131.22	\$6,893.44
Property Improvement	115.00	15.00
Outreach-Missionaries	45.00	45.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	124.91	99.91
Unmet Needs	250.00	0.00
Outreach-General	310.00	10.00
Total	\$9,006.13	\$7,093.35

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$8,131.22 \$7,193.44
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$11,030

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

Lectionary

6/28: Gen 22:1-14; Jer 28:5-9; Rom 6:12-23; Matt 10:40-42
 6/29: Psalm 47; Genesis 22:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
 6/30: Psalm 47; 1 Kings 18:36-39; 1 John 4:1-6
 7/1: Psalm 47; Isaiah 51:1-3; Matthew 11:20-24
 7/2: Psalm 45:10-17; Genesis 25:19-27; Romans 7:1-6
 7/3: Psalm 45:10-17; Genesis 27:1-17; Romans 7:7-20
 7/4: Psalm 45:10-17; Genesis 27:18-29; Luke 10:21-24
 7/5: Gen 24:34-67; Zech 9:9-12; Rom 7:15-25; Matt 11:16-30
 7/6: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Genesis 27:30-46; Romans 1:18-25
 7/7: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Genesis 29:1-14; Romans 3:1-8
 7/8: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Genesis 29:31-35; John 13:1-17
 7/9: Psalm 119:105-112; Exodus 3:1-6; Romans 2:12-16
 7/10: Psalm 119:105-112; Deuteronomy 32:1-10; Romans 15:14-21
 7/11: Psalm 119:105-112; Isaiah 2:1-4; John 12:44-50
 7/12: Gen 25:19-34; Isa 55:10-13; Rom 8:1-11; Matt 13:1-23
 7/13: Psalm 142; Micah 1:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
 7/14: Psalm 142; Jeremiah 49:7-11; Ephesians 4:17-5:2
 7/15: Psalm 142; Obadiah 15-21; Matthew 13:10-17
 7/16: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Isaiah 44:1-5; Hebrews 2:1-9
 7/17: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Ezekiel 39:21-29; Hebrews 6:13-20
 7/18: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Exodus 14:9-25; Matthew 7:15-20

Serving Schedule:

June 28: Elder: Hamer Tate, Zack Boren
 8:00 Communion: Dan & Sue Speckhart
 10:30 Communion: B. Fosco, S. Clark, S. Bacon, D. Bryant
 Children's Church: Debbie Robinson, Sue Miller
 Infant-Age2 Assist: Jordan Lamb, Renna Walters
 PreK Assist: Amy Harris, Bonnie Dain
 Safety 8:00: Brad Losch, Michael Smith
 Safety 10:30: Caleb Dixon, Jason Thomas, Steve Lehr
 Sunday School Superintendent: Vickie Tharp
July 5: Elder: Wayne Chamberlain, Bob Clark
 8:00 Communion: Brad & Kathy Willman
 10:30 Communion: Eric & Jill Kunzeman
 Children's Church: Ali Curless, Molly Caughlan
 Infant-Age2 Assist: TBA
 PreK Assist: Amy Harris, TBA
 Safety 8:00: John Havens, Stan Moss
 Safety 10:30: Billy Fitzmaurice, Jeremy Tate, Larry Wigington
 Sunday School Superintendent: Cindy Chamberlain
 Fellowship Treats: Sonya Bishop, Jordan Lamb, Kathy Hull, Julie Dehart

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.

Worship Service	6/14	6/21
8:00	91	99
10:30	141	170
Total	232	269

Christian Education

Youth	38	32
Disciples	11	5
Sermon Study		11
C.O.F.F.E.E.	14	11
	63	59

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