

# The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 68 Issue 13

July 28, 2026



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| <b>August 2</b> will be <b>Cookie Sunday!</b> Fellowship and treats will be in the atrium after both services for all to enjoy!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Coffee Talk</b> , Tues, <b>Aug 4</b> , 10:00, Atrium. Stop in for coffee and conversation with Pastor Michael.                                                    |
| <b>Youth Group</b> will go to Jellystone on Sunday, <b>Aug 9</b> . Watch Kids@FCC Facebook page for details!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Board Meeting</b> , Tues, <b>Aug 11</b> , 6:00. Packets will be ready Aug 9.                                                                                      |
| <b>Deacon Training</b> , Wed, <b>Aug 12</b> , 6:00, annex. We understand this time may not work for everyone but please try to attend if you are able. It will take an hour or less. Let Zack Boren know if you cannot attend.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Sew 'n Share</b> , Thurs, <b>Aug 13 &amp; 27</b> , 9AM-3PM, annex.                                                                                                |
| <b>Choir members</b> – please return your folder to the office so that we can prepare them for cantata practice.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Morning movement and meditation on the word, <b>Thursdays</b> , 8-8:30 at Crossroads Center. Move your body and glorify the Lord. Contact Jenna Hull with questions. |
| <b>AUGUST BIRTHDAYS &amp; ANNIVERSARIES</b> 1 Gary Pursley, Renna Walters, Audriana Mendenhall-Roig; 2 Justin & Amber Poor, Evelyn Frieden; 3 Becky Weir; 4 Charlie & Jessica Hull, Amy Harris; 5 Jean Sanderson; 6 Tereasa Apps, Sue Evans, Lindsey Hull, Jim & Julie Dehart; 7 Danielle Hayes; 8 Bill Ferguson, Denny & Beryl Richards, Brennan Tomhave; 9 Noah Mendenhall, Cameron Sweeting, Rachel Boatright; 10 Faith Saxe, Stan & Jill Moss; 11 Nora Renoud; 13 Michael & Renita Ten Eyck, 14 Reggie Pennock, Brandi Pennock, Bobby Smith; 15 Larry Wigington, Kathy Wainman, Rodney & Grace Gordley, 16 Emma Saxe, Alysia Cooley; 17 John & Cheryl Birch, Madelyn Saxe; 18 Gary & Rhodora Pursley, Anna Gengler; 19 Butch & Jacque Walston, Sarah McNulty, Kevin Dyer; 20 Chris Apps, Jessica Graham Speckhart; 21 Sophia Freesen, Amanda Sledge; 22 Terry & Bryn Fine; 23 Sarah Sweeting, Judy Ferguson, Judy Kallal, Roger & Rokettia Brokaw; 24 Steve Lehr; 25 Kelly Lentz; 28 Bob & Janice Barton; 29 Ciera Anderson; 31 Caroline Smith, Terry Reel, Oliver Shade. |                                                                                                                                                                      |

*VBS was a huge success!!! My heart was so full watching our kiddos worshipping, laughing and just being kids. We had over 50 individual students come through Crossroads - it was remarkable. VBS could not have happened without a team of outstanding volunteers!! A huge thank you to Katie Sidwell for making sure all my i's were dotted & t's crossed and to Renna Walters for hosting our Grown Up VBS! Can't wait for next year!!*

## \*Team Leaders

PreK - Michael & Jessie Smith  
K-1st - Kathy Lehr & Sue Miller  
2nd-3rd - Shanna Ewers & Molly Caughlan  
4th-5<sup>th</sup> - Spencer Boren & Justin Poor

## \*Tech Team

Bob Clark  
Pastor Mike TenEyck

## \*Welcome Team

Cindy Chamberlain  
Charlotte Dunham

## \*Activity Team

Crafts - Karley Bogatzke  
Gym Time - Billy & Stacy Fitzmaurice  
Water Games - Matt Sealock

## \*Teacher Team

Laynie Hart  
Kamdyn Dixon  
Piper Henry  
Madelyn Saxe  
Rimington Dixon

## \*Student Team

Stella Bonnett  
Rhoni Edwards  
Caroline Smith  
Aubree Douglas  
Emma Wombles  
Jacob Hull  
Raylan Smith  
Harper Fesler  
Josie Fesler  
Lex Bogatzke  
Clara Fitzmaurice  
Brady Dixon  
Michaela Winchell

## Excerpts from July 14, 2026 Board Minutes

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

Elder Devotion and Opening Prayer: John Hull led the meeting in a devotion and prayer.

Minutes from Last Meeting: Minutes from the June 9, 2026, meeting were approved by general consensus.

Pastor's Report: Minister's report was attached and discussed. Highlights include: Baptism class and baptism, grief recovery for families, marriage counseling and prayed with members before procedures.

Treasurer: Michelle Hart presented information from the report as of June 30, 2026.

Unrestricted Operating Checking: \$100,000

The total transfer to the GR—Extra Ministries-Elder Discretion Fund in June was: \$3,347.51

Total Funds Available for Construction/Renovation: \$955,294.51

Average worship attendance through June 2026: 245

Bobby Smith moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and John Hull seconded. Motion carried.

Trustees: Justin Poor submitted a Trustee's Report. Two memorial contributions were received and a construction fund CD was renewed.

Christian Education: Niki Dixon submitted a report. A significant amount of time has been spent on preparing for VBS.

Music: Choir is done until Cantata prep in the fall.

Crossroads Center: Jenna Hull submitted a report. July has been a relative quiet month but things will begin to ramp up again in August and September.

Building Team: Pastor Michael gave an update: Parking lot is sealed and painted, doors for Crossroads and Annex are ordered and being delivered, taking another look at signage and a speaker will be moved to better facilitate overflow area and a committee is working with the city to make the west side of the Atrium more accessible.

New Business: After a committee met via Zoom with a representative from Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru) representing Northwestern University and Loyola and discussion by the Elders, a motion was made by Zach Boren and seconded by Brad Willman to make a monthly payment out of the Evangelism fund in the amount of \$125 per month. Motion carried.  
The church has received a candidate for associate pastor position.

Adjourn: Bobby Smith made a motion, seconded by John Hull to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Michael closed the meeting in prayer.

Dear Church Family,

Last week, a news story caught my attention. It read more like a Sci-Fi movie script than a real-life incident. Apparently, an AI system broke the established self-contained boundary, called a digital sandbox, that was made to keep it isolated. It escaped the isolated network and went on the internet, hacking another company's systems. The story was a chilling reminder that we are not always in control as much as we think we are.

In this situation, systems were built, safeguards were designed, and plans were made to keep everything under control, but despite all the care and planning, something happened beyond their control.

Life is often like that. We may plan, prepare, and attempt to arrange our lives as carefully as we can, but sometimes we encounter situations beyond our control. In our attempts to control our schedule, save money, monitor the weather, manage our health, and try to prepare for every possibility (all of which are not bad things), we can deceive ourselves into quietly trusting our plans more than the God who rules over them.

In preparing for this week's message in John 6, I found a vivid picture of this struggle.

After Jesus fed the five thousand, the disciples entered a boat and began crossing the Sea of Galilee toward Capernaum. Jesus was not in the boat with them. As darkness fell, a strong wind began to blow, and the sea grew rough. The disciples were experienced fishermen, but skill and familiarity could not calm the storm. Their planning and experience fell short of their needs...then they saw Jesus walking on the sea.

John 6:20 tells us that the disciples were frightened, but Jesus said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid". Jesus gave them something far better than a science lesson on storms or a lecture on better planning; He gave them Himself... "It is I."

The disciples felt out of control, but Jesus never was.

That is the comfort of God's sovereignty. It does not mean that storms won't come or that following Jesus will cause us from ever feeling afraid. It means that no storm or circumstance will separate us from the One who will never forsake us. Simply stated, He is never overwhelmed by the events that overwhelm us.

Perhaps you're in a storm now. Whether it is a storm of finances, a health issue, a relationship struggle, a work challenge, or any other storm that is making you feel like your boat is being tossed about out of control, the invitation of John 6 is not to pretend the waves are small, but to look for Christ in the midst.

He may not calm every storm immediately, but He will never abandon us during life's storms. Finding out that we are not in control is not bad news. It is there where we learn that He is in control. The world does not rest upon our ability to anticipate every danger, solve every problem, or keep every part of life safely contained. It rests beneath the sovereign rule of a faithful Savior.

In the storm is when we can hear Him say, "It is I; do not be afraid."

Our peace is not found in controlling the storm. It is found in knowing the One who walks upon it.

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](mailto: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, Edna Baughman, Zack Boren, John Calaway, Richard Decker, Greg Dickerson, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Cameo Fesler, Charlie & Mary Gates, Joan Halsey, Jim & Judy Kallal, Zane Schlieper, Carol Schwartz, Janet Scranton, Jim Stark, Bates Allen (Barbara Fosco's brother), Weston & Maddi Campbell (Elledge family), Martha Chamberlain (Dan Chamberlain's sister), Christine Creamer (Calvin Anderson's mother), Evelyn Dehart (Harold Loyd's sister), Denny Dell (Friend of Brokaw family), Vivian Dyer (Kevin Dyer's sister-in-law), Bill Freesmeyer (Edith Gant family), Adam & Angie Hammitt (Larry Wigington's family), Bob & Phyllis Hammitt (Larry Wigington's brother), Carol Hark (Friend of Belford family), 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), Lois Payne (Judy Dunham/Carole Elledge's sister), Lucas Rife (Commission Encounter), Michael Sleight (Kathy Wainman's son), Melinda Upchurch (Friend of Schwartz family), Tim Vahle (Friend of Ten Eyck family), Donna Wade (Grace Gordley's grandmother)

**Stewardship (Offering Only) 7/13-19 7/20-26**

|                         |               |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Operational             | \$7,581.86    | \$8,345.22    |
| Property Improvement    | 0.00          | 95.00         |
| Outreach-Missionaries   | 45.00         | 45.00         |
| DHF                     | 30.00         | 30.00         |
| Construction/Renovation | 124.91        | 124.91        |
| Outreach-General        | <u>290.00</u> | <u>210.00</u> |
| Total                   | \$8,071.77    | \$8,850.13    |

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

Received Last 7 Days \$7,536.86 \$8,405.22  
Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$11,030

**Ways to Give**

- Mail: PO Box 306, Pittsfield, IL 62363
- Online: Website [fccpittsfield.org](http://fccpittsfield.org) then Resources
- At the Office: 115 W. Jefferson Street
- Black metal offering boxes secured on the sanctuary mantels.

**Serving Schedule:**

**Aug 2:** Elders: Bob Clark, Matt Saxe  
8:00 Communion: Tom & Debbie Robinson  
10:30 Communion: Rokettia Brokaw, Joyce Harrison  
Children's Church: Ali Curless, Molly Caughlan  
Infant-Age2: Erin Fesler, Cindy Chamberlain  
Pre-K Assist: Amy Harris, Madelyn Saxe  
Safety 8:00: Kevin Wombles, Stan Moss  
Safety 10:30: Billy Fitzmaurice, Jeremy Tate, Keenan Wine  
Sunday School Superintendent: Cindy Chamberlain  
Fellowship Treats: K. Speckhart, K. Wainman, J. Kunzeman, C. Sherwin  
**Aug 9:** Elder: Charlotte Dunham, David Bishop  
8:00 Communion: Michael & Jessie Smith  
10:30 Communion: B. Fosco, S. Clark, S. Bacon, D. Bryant  
Children's Church: Stan & Jill Moss  
Infant-Age2: Elliot Alger, Jordan Lamb  
Pre-K Assist: Amy Harris, Kamy Dixon  
Safety 8:00: Patrick Lamb, Steve Tharp  
Safety 10:30: Sonya Bishop, Bill Grimsley, Scott Bacon  
Sunday School Superintendent: Kathy Lehr

**Lectionary**

8/2: Gen 32:22-31; Isa 55:1-5; Rom 9:1-5; Matt 14:13-21  
8/3: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 31:22-42; Romans 1:8-15  
8/4: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 32:3-21; Acts 2:37-47  
8/5: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 43:1-7; Matthew 15:32-39  
8/6: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Gen 35:22b-29; Acts 17:10-15  
8/7: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Gen 36:1-8; Acts 18:24-28  
8/8: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Gen 37:5-11; Matthew 16:1-4  
8/9: Gen 37:1-28; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Rom 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-33  
8/10: Psalm 28; Genesis 37:29-36; 2 Peter 2:4-10  
8/11: Psalm 28; Genesis 39:1-23; Romans 9:14-29  
8/12: Psalm 28; Genesis 40:1-23; Matthew 8:23-27  
8/13: Psalm 133; Genesis 41:14-36; Revelation 15:1-4  
8/14: Psalm 133; Genesis 41:37-57; Acts 14:19-28  
8/15: Psalm 133; Genesis 42:1-28; Matthew 14:34-36

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

**Ways To Watch/Listen**

**[fccpittsfield.org](http://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 7/19 7/26**

|       |            |            |
|-------|------------|------------|
| 8:00  | 82         | 74         |
| 10:30 | <u>137</u> | <u>114</u> |
| Total | 219        | 188        |

**Christian Education**

|                                                                                      |              |          |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Parents: Be sure to watch the Kids@FCC Facebook page for the latest news and events! | Youth        | 11       | 18       |
|                                                                                      | Disciples    | 13       | 12       |
|                                                                                      | Sermon Study | 8        | 12       |
|                                                                                      | C.O.F.F.E.E. | <u>4</u> | <u>7</u> |
|                                                                                      |              | 36       | 49       |