

# The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 68 Issue 15

August 25, 2026



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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Coffee Talk, Tues, <b>Sept 1</b> , 10:00, atrium.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | Promotion Sunday will be <b>Sept 6</b> when youth will move to their next class level.                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| Ladies! There is a new Sunday school class just for you! Please join me while we walk through Galatians 5 and dive into the fruit of the spirit – joy, love, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and sometimes the hardest... self-control. We will meet in the dining room starting Sunday, <b>Sept 6</b> , 9:15. Can't wait to see you there! Contact Renna Walters with questions 931.217.6842. |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| Board Meeting, Tues, <b>Sept 8</b> , 6:00.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | Sew 'n Share, Thurs, <b>Sept 10 &amp; 24</b> , 9AM-3PM, annex.                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| All women in the church are invited to the <b>Christian Women's Fellowship Bible Study</b> on Thurs, <b>Sept 10</b> , 9:30 at Cardinal Inn. Meetings are the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month Sept thru May. Contact Joyce Lemons for more info.                                                                                                                                                                        |  | Hangout 45, Sunday, <b>Sept 6</b> after 10:30 service for grades 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> . Contact Niki with questions.                                                                                                                    |  |
| Nominating forms are on the sanctuary mantels for officers and officials who's term will begin Jan 1, 2027. <b>Due date to submit is Monday morning, Sept 14.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| The <b>Thursday Noon Bible Study</b> will resume on <b>Sept 17</b> at Crossroads Center in the book "Praying with Women of the Bible for 30 Days" by Sherry Harney. Contact Cindy Chamberlain if you plan to attend so we can order enough books.                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| Back to School Bash for grades 6-12 <sup>th</sup> , Sunday, <b>Sept 20</b> , 6-8:00. Food, inflatables, worship, Jesus.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | ImpactLife will hold a <b>Blood Drive</b> on Tues, <b>Sept 29</b> , 1-6:00 at Crossroads.                                                                                                                                                            |  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Party, Fri, <b>Oct 2</b> , 9:30-11:00, High School Students only. Food and inflatables.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  | Vesper Service, Sunday, <b>Oct 11</b> at Hamer & Jenny Tate farm. Mark your calendar. Worship, food, fishing, campfire.                                                                                                                              |  |
| Attention parents! PLEASE contact Alicia Tate or the office with your college student's new address! Our <b>College Student Ministry</b> will soon prepare back to school care packages.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | Needed: Volunteer Sunday School Teacher for K-1 <sup>st</sup> Grade to teach alongside Niki. Contact her if interested.                                                                                                                              |  |
| We could use an additional <b>drummer</b> on our worship team rotation. If you have the ability and are interested then let us know!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | Periodically we send out a "Steeple Point" which is a mass email to the congregation with timely info or reminders. If you would like to be added to the email list then write Rebecca a note in the attendance pad with your email printed clearly. |  |
| The September, October, November edition of <b>Our Daily Bread</b> is now available in the atrium.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | Choir members – please return your folder to the office so that we can prepare them for cantata practice.                                                                                                                                            |  |

## Excerpts from August 11, 2026 Board Minutes

**Call to Order** 6 p.m. by Vice Moderator Bobby Smith. Wayne Chamberlain led the meeting in a devotion and prayer. Minutes from the July 14, 2026, meeting were approved by general consensus.

**Pastor's Report:** Minister's report included VBS, Staff evaluations, Cantata preparation, Book sorting.

**Treasurer:** Michelle Hart presented information as of July 31, 2026. Unrestricted Operating Checking \$99,940.61. YTD Receipts \$306,788.35; YTD Budgeted \$330,889; Difference \$24,100.65. YTD Disbursements \$266,356.91; YTD Budgeted \$328,121; Difference \$61,764.09. Net Non-Budget Receipts/Disbursements \$51,658.81. Average worship attendance through July 2026 = 239. David Bishop moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and John Hull seconded. Motion carried.

**Trustees:** Justin Poor submitted a Trustee's Report. Memorials were received in the names of Don Chamberlain and Alice Ghrist. The Withus semi-annual distribution was received - \$5,312.92. It was thought that the Withus trust will be distributed in 2030.

**Christian Education:** Niki Dixon submitted a report. VBS was a great success. A back-to-school event and 5<sup>th</sup> quarter party are being planned. September 6 will be Promotion Sunday. Tickets have been purchased for Xtreme Winter Conference in December 2026. Pastor Michael added, in the absence of Niki, that she has purchased curriculum for the nursery through preschool students from The Gospel Project for only \$24 that will be used over a 2-year cycle then reused. Renna Walters will soon start a new women's Sunday school class in the dining room.

**Crossroads Center:** Jenna Hull submitted a report. The fall calendar is filling up with practices. The gym air intake vents will be checked.

**Building Team:** Pastor Michael gave an update: Parking signs have been installed. Waiting on city to respond with their amount of involvement on west side parking improvements. Semi long-term goal is to tear down house then oil/chip the lot and adjust the alley level.

**Adjourn:** David Bishop made a motion, seconded by Alicia Tate to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

**Closing Prayer:** David Bishop closed the meeting in prayer.

Rebecca Rhodes, Recording Secretary pro-tem

**September Birthdays & Anniversaries** 1 Bill Irwin, Julie Dehart, Cameron Sledge; 2 Joan Halsey, John & Lisa Pennock; 5 Steve & Vickie Tharp; 6 Michael & Sharon Wilson; 7 Ruth Anne Goodin; 8 Michael Smith, Rhodora Pursley; 9 Liam Bonnett, Jacob Heavner; 10 Chuck & Carolyn Barber, Billy Fitzmaurice, Avanelle McNulty; 11 Jamie Pennock; 12 Courtney Pennock, Levi Boren; 13 Judy Losch, Melissa Douglas, Brylee Piper; 14 Chris & Amber Apps, Brian & Angie Ruebush, Bob Clark; 15 Terry Fine, Frank Smith, Connor Sweeting, Avery Wyatt; 16 Dorothy Yaeger, Elijah Mendenhall, Kay McKinney, Weston & Maddi Campbell; 17 Gary Mendenhall, Hendrix Lipcaman, Clara Speckhart, Ryan & Schuyler Spann; 18 John & Jennifer Griffith; 19 Karen Goodwin, Ryder Lipcaman, Abram Sledge; 20 Alex Tharp, Ethan Darnell; 21 Rex Lothridge, Rilee Boatright, Jameson Lacey; 22 Bethany Dunham, June Speckhart-Quirarte, London Thometz; 23 Allison Plattner, Ben Freesen, Tate Kunzeman, Nathan Lothridge, Thomas & Jenna Hull; 24 Loyd & Amy Casto, Amy Cox; 25 Steve Tharp; 26 Victoria Dain; 27 Leecia Carnes; 28 Bill & Rhonda Irwin; 29 Bill & Laura Grimsley; 30 Ellie Eft, Patrick & Jordan Lamb, Wren Frieden.

Dear Church Family,

Last week our family gathered in Breckenridge, Colorado, for a wedding we will remember for the rest of our lives. Mountain weddings always have one unpredictable guest. No, it is not that crazy uncle; it is the weather.

All week long, the forecast called for afternoon thunderstorms on the big day. I watched the forecast, refreshed the weather app more times than I would care to admit, hoping for the best. The big day arrived, and the morning began beautifully. Blue skies and sunshine seemed to imply that the forecast had been erroneous, but as the hours passed, the clouds rolled in.

Before long, rain began to fall, and thunder was heard in the distance. Surprisingly, everyone remained remarkably optimistic. There was no panic, no sense that the day was ruined. We understood this was out of our hands, so we kept moving forward, trusting it would all work out, somehow... And it did!

Just before the time photographs needed to be taken, the rain ceased. Yes, clouds remained, but the rain held off. The wedding party gathered, pictures were taken, guests arrived, the ceremony began, but the rain stayed away through the entire ceremony.

Later, during the reception meal, there was suddenly a stir among the guests. People began pointing toward the windows and stepping outside. What was the commotion about?

Across the valley in the mountain sky, there appeared a beautiful rainbow. Then the scene became even more remarkable. The setting sun illuminated the mountains with a brilliant golden light known as alpenglow. As the mountains began to glow, the rainbow became a double rainbow...it was simply breathtaking.

I found myself thinking about something very simple: There could not have been a rainbow without the rain.

All day we had wished the clouds away. We would have gladly traded them for uninterrupted sunshine. Yet those very clouds, and the rain they carried, became part of what made the evening unforgettable.

Isn't that often how life works? We pray for clear skies. We hope that our plans unfold smoothly, relationships are without challenges, decisions are obvious, and difficulties disappear. Yet Scripture repeatedly reminds us that God can use the difficult seasons of our lives to produce something that sunshine alone never could.

Paul writes that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope. That does not mean we necessarily have to enjoy life's storms, but it means we can trust that the storm does not get the final word. Romans 5:3–4 declares, *"We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."* Sometimes the clouds we want to remove are the very backdrop on which God paints something beautiful.

I bet that years from now, very few people will remember what the weather forecast predicted that morning, but everyone who stood outside beneath those mountains will remember the glowing peaks and that double rainbow stretching across the sky.

Perhaps that is a good picture of faith. When the clouds gather, keep trusting. When the forecast looks uncertain, keep walking. When a little rain falls on the plans you carefully made, do not assume the story has been spoiled... look for the rainbow.

Sometimes, the memory becomes beautiful just because there was rain.

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

| <b>Stewardship (Offering Only)</b> | <b>8/10-16</b> | <b>8/17-23</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Operational                        | \$19,648.43    | \$6,402.08     |
| Property Improvement               | 115.00         | 15.00          |
| Outreach-Missionaries              | 45.00          | 45.00          |
| DHF                                | 30.00          | 30.00          |
| Construction/Renovation            | 124.91         | 124.91         |
| Youth                              | 200.00         | 20.00          |
| Unmet Needs                        | 200.00         | 0.00           |
| Outreach-General                   | <u>310.00</u>  | <u>210.00</u>  |
| Total                              | \$20,673.34    | \$6,846.99     |

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

Received Last 7 Days \$21,001.93 \$6,402.08  
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.

#### Lectionary

8/30: Ex 3:1-15; Jer 15:15-21; Rom 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28  
8/31: Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 4:10-31; Revelation 3:1-6  
9/1: Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 5:1-6:13; Revelation 3:7-13  
9/2: Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 7:14-25; Matthew 12:22-32  
9/3: Psalm 149; Exodus 9:1-7; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21  
9/4: Psalm 149; Exodus 10:21-29; Romans 10:15b-21  
9/5: Psalm 149; Exodus 11:1-10; Matthew 23:29-36  
9/6: Ex 12:1-14; Ezek 33:7-11; Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20  
9/7: Psalm 121; Exodus 12:14-28; 1 Peter 2:11-17  
9/8: Psalm 121; Exodus 12:29-42; Romans 13:1-7  
9/9: Psalm 121; Exodus 13:1-10; Matthew 21:18-22  
9/10: Psalm 114; Exodus 13:17-22; 1 John 3:11-16  
9/11: Psalm 114; Exodus 14:1-18; Acts 7:9-16  
9/12: Psalm 114; Exodus 15:19-21; Matthew 6:7-15

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Marie Awbrey, Edna Baughman, Zack Boren, Richard Decker, Greg Dickerson, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Cameo Fesler, Charlie & Mary Gates, Joan Halsey, Laynie Hart, Donnie Houchins, Jim & Judy Kallal, Zane Schlieper, Janet Scranton, Jim Stark, Flora Campbell (Elledge great granddaughter), Christine Creamer (Calvin Anderson's mother), Evelyn Dehart (Harold Loyd's sister), Denny Dell (Friend of Brokaw family), Vivien 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), Lucas Rife (Commission Encounter), Michael Sleight (Kathy Wainman's son), Tim Vahle (Friend of Ten Eyck family), Donna Wade (Grace Gordley's grandmother)  
*With Sympathy: Martha Chamberlain (Dan Chamberlain's sister)*

#### Serving Schedule:

##### Aug 30, 2026

Elder: Brad Willman, Zack Boren  
8:00 Communion: Steve & Vickie Tharp  
10:30 Communion: Jason & Erica Thomas  
Children's Church: Niki Dixon  
Infant-Age2: Emma Wombles, Linda Baumer  
Pre-K Assist: Amy Harris, Konner Wombles  
Safety 8:00: Stan Moss, Steve Tharp  
Safety 10:30: Sonya Bishop, Jeremy Tate, Keenan Wine  
Sunday School Superintendent: Cindy Chamberlain

##### Sept 6, 2026

Elder: Wayne Chamberlain, Charlotte Dunham  
8:00 Communion: Greg & Kim Bonnett  
10:30 Communion: L&S Wigington, J&A Poor  
Children's Church: Ali Curless, Molly Caughlan  
Infant-Age2: Erin Fesler, Judy Ferguson  
Pre-K Assist: Amy Harris, Bradyn Dixon  
Safety 8:00: Brad Losch, Patrick Lamb  
Safety 10:30: Bill Grimsley, Scott Bacon, Steve Lehr  
Sunday School Superintendent: Cindy Chamberlain  
Fellowship Treats: R. Rhodes, S. Speckhart, K. Hull, B. Fosco

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

Needed: Scrap fabric  
&/or old clothes,  
preferably fall colors for  
art project. Sonya  
Bishop 910.874.1535

Parents: Watch the  
Kids@FCC Facebook  
page for the latest  
news and events!

#### Worship Service 8/16 8/23

|       |            |            |
|-------|------------|------------|
| 8:00  | 74         | 88         |
| 10:30 | <u>127</u> | <u>126</u> |
| Total | 201        | 214        |

#### Christian Education

|              |           |           |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Youth        | 40        | 31        |
| Disciples    | 11        | 10        |
| Sermon Study | 9         | 6         |
| C.O.F.F.E.E. | <u>13</u> | <u>11</u> |
|              | 73        | 58        |