The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois
Volume 68 Issue 20
November 10, 2026

We are excited to say that on Sunday, Nov 1, Richard and Kristi Graves declared their faith in Jesus Christ during our 10:30 service and placed their membership with FCC. Welcome to the church family!

We will **decorate** the church for Christmas on Sunday, **Nov 15, beginning at 5:00**. Everyone is welcome to come help get the building ready for the Christmas season!

Our kitchen crew will prepare a **turkey dinner** for the church family on Wed, **Nov 18**. Serving will be from 5:00-6:45. We will not offer carryout meals in our effort to encourage everyone to come and fellowship together. Sign up one time, either in the atrium or let the office know if you plan to attend so we can get an estimated attendance.

Choir/Cantata Practice, Wednesdays, 6:30.
Cantata Kids Choir! K-5th grade. Practice begins Wed, **Nov 18th,** 6-6:30pm.
Cantata will be Sunday, **Dec 20**, 5:00.

Sew N Share will start meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Next meeting will be Nov 19, 9-3:00, annex. Contact Linda Belford with questions.

We will host the **Community Thanksgiving Service** on Sunday, **Nov 22**, 6:00.

Elder Meeting, Tues, **Nov 24**, 6:00.

Blood Drive, Tues, **Jan 5**, 1-5:30, Crossroads Center.

Thank to Charlotte Dunham for welcoming our youth to her beautiful farm, for this year's Hayride. We appreciate the Thomas family for the use of their trailer & pick up truck. We are so grateful for our sponsor always willing to tackle any adventure!

The December 5, 2026 CWF Bazaar has a big change this year: it will be held in the dining room instead of the gym. That change will allow us to pare down the indoor yard sale content to become more aligned with the Bazaar's purpose of focusing on Christmas. While we will still have the Gift Room with lovely handmade pieces and new/lightly used gift items and decorations, the remainder will feature your donated treasures of all-things-Christmas and the winter season. As you begin your holiday decorating, remember that we welcome your unused/gently loved items! Watch here for drop-off details. Call Kathy Curfman with questions (217-248-5214.)

The 2026 CWF Bazaar will once again offer our famous Cheese/Olive/Nut spread, as well as our regular Pimento Cheese spread! Call the office, 217-285-4129, to pre-order the half-pound container(s) of your choice, priced at $5.00 for the Pimento Cheese, and $6.00 for the C/O/N. Orders MUST BE CALLED IN BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH . Orders can be picked up in the Bake Shop on the day of the Bazaar. (Other arrangements can be made, if necessary, when ordering.) While there will be some extras for sale in the Bake Shop that day, you can be assured of obtaining yours by simply calling ahead. So, "spread" the word, and call by 11/29 to place your orders!

Rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF PITTSFIELD, ILLINOIS
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
November 1, 2026

Call to Order: 11:45 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 February 1, 2026, meeting were read by Recording Secretary Linda Belford. Justin Poor made a motion which was seconded by Joyce Lemons to approve the minutes after one correction – change CMF to CWF. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Recommendations: John Hull presented the following slate of officers and officials for 2027: Moderator, Brad Losch; Vice Moderator, Bobby Smith; Treasurer, Michelle Hart; Recording Secretary, Eleanor Jenkins; Trustee, Dan Speckhart; Elders—Roger Brokaw, Caleb Dixon, Judy Ferguson, Steve Tharp. A motion was made by Keith Elledge and seconded by Jenny Tate to accept the slate of officers. Motion carried.

Budget: Church Secretary Rebecca Rhodes explained the 2027 budget proposal. A 5% salary increase is included for non-pastoral staff who are continuing on. The Pastor's salary will increase 3%. $15,000 was added to the associate/youth pastor position. Christian Ed shows a significant increase due to curriculum now being purchased and anticipated growth in mission work. Utility expenses were adjusted due to atrium completion. Insurance rates were increased due to expected rate increases. Worship increased due to coffee bar usage and new communion cup/juice combo. A motion was made by David Bishop and seconded by Kayla Boren to accept the proposed budget. Motion carried.

Comments from Pastor Michael: It is expected that custodial staff will be expanded. We need to be thinking about the possibility of purchasing a parsonage for an associate/youth pastor. Thanks was again expressed to the Building Team as well as Bobby Smith and Brad Losch and the many others who put in countless hours in the project.

Adjourn: At 12:03 p.m. a motion was made by David Bishop and seconded by Rokettia Brokaw to adjourn. Motion carried.

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

Linda Belford, Recording Secretary

FCC ADOPT- A- FAMILY 2026

The Outreach Ministry is again participating in the Adopt-A-Family program. 2026 has continued to be a tough year for many, and we hope to spread some joy this year to local families in need. Each family receives a food voucher, hygiene products and requested gifts.

INSTRUCTIONS On **Nov 22 & 29**, the Christmas tree will be decorated with tags. Find a tag (or tags) with a gift you are willing to purchase, take it off the tree, fill out the bottom section, detach, and place in the basket at the table. Please write legibly so we can track down gifts if needed!

Please return wrapped gift(s) with tag no later than Sunday, **December 6th** to the atrium. NOTE: If your gift includes several items, it's very helpful to put all pieces/items in one box or gift bag and attach the tag to the outside of the box/bag. Monetary donations in offering are also appreciated. Please mark your check or envelope "Adopt-A-Family." The funds will be used first for presents that are not returned, then for gift cards for groceries.

TIMELINE

Sunday, Nov 22 & 29 – select from the remaining tags on the decorated tree in the overflow room/sanctuary.

Sunday, Dec 6: deadline to return wrapped gifts with tags on the outside.

We realize the turnaround is short. After getting your tags, you have about 2 weeks to get your gifts to the annex. Also, the Out-reach Ministry encourages you to SHOP LOCALLY! Please only participate if you can meet the deadlines.

Note: We will be giving food vouchers instead of accepting food donations.

QUESTIONS: Contact Judy Losch at 217-248-7595 or Jenna Hull at 816-604-8923

All donations due back to the atrium by Dec 6.

Dear Church Family,

This time of year, something I always dread is the inevitable arrival of those pesky ladybug-looking Asian Beetles! I don't know about you, but I have developed a rather strong dislike for these little creatures, and especially the stink they leave when you swat at them. They seem to take great joy in swarming me on my walks, and crawling down my shirt, making me wiggle in a most undignified way. Then there is the constant battle of vacuuming them off the windowsills as they find their way into the house from every nook and cranny.

But this year, much to my surprise and delight, their presence hasn't been nearly as bad. Being the inquisitive person I am, I began researching what was going on. Had they simply not arrived yet, or had something reduced their numbers?

I came across an interesting theory. The timing of our heavy rains and the unseasonable weather patterns may have reduced the population of aphids, their primary food source. If so, without enough aphids to eat, the beetles may resort to eating their own larvae.

Yuck! Talk about turning on your own!

Now, I don't know if that is what happened or if we are about to get the beetle apocalypse, but it certainly got me thinking that unfortunately, sometimes people aren't all that different.

We see it in politics, where people seem more interested in destroying their opponents than solving problems. We see it in social groups, communities, and even sports, where self-interest can quickly destroy a team. But surely that kind of behavior doesn't find its way into the church, does it? Tragically, we know better.

As we come to chapter 17 in our journey through the Gospel of John, we encounter one of the most remarkable prayers in all of the Bible—the actual Lord's Prayer. Knowing what lies ahead, Jesus prays for Himself, for His disciples, and then for all who will come to believe in Him through their testimony. (Yes, that includes you and me.)

What does Jesus pray for… Unity.

In John 17:21, Jesus prays, *"that they may all be one,"* and then reveals why this matters so much: *"so that the world may believe that you have sent me."* (ESV)

In the last moments before His arrest, Jesus is praying for the unity of His followers. Our unity is not merely a nice idea or a way to make church life more pleasant. It is an integral part of our witness to the world!

But we need to understand what Christian unity really means. Unity in Christ does not mean that everyone agrees on everything. It certainly doesn't mean that everyone else finally comes to their senses and realizes that my opinions and perspectives are always right! (Although, I must admit, that would make things considerably easier.)

Biblical unity isn't about everyone getting their way. It is about everyone surrendering their way to "*The Way*"… to Christ.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:2-3 to walk *"with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,"* and to be *"eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

Unity requires humility, gentleness, patience, and love. Those aren't always our natural responses when someone disagrees with us. They are, however, evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives.

In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Imagine how much healthier our homes, relationships, and churches would be if we consistently demonstrated those qualities, especially when we disagreed!

The truth is, unity is not the absence of differences; it is the presence of Christ in the midst of those differences.

We come from different backgrounds, have different experiences, hold different opinions, and possess different personalities. But what unites us in Jesus Christ is infinitely greater than anything that might divide us.

Jesus said in John 13:35, *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Our world has plenty of examples of people tearing one another apart. What it desperately needs is people demonstrating love for one another because they have been transformed by the love of Christ.

So, as we continue our journey through John's Gospel, I hope we take Jesus' prayer seriously. May we be a congregation that strives to honor Christ above personal preferences, extend grace rather than criticism, pray to God about people rather than talk about them to others, and build one another up instead of tearing them down.

After all, the church should be the one place where we don't have to worry about being eaten alive by our own! Let's leave that to the beetles.

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: Bernal Ackerman, Edna Baughman, Zack Boren, Greg Dickerson, Tressa Dickerson, Brian Douglas, Sue Evans, Charlie & Mary Gates, Joan Halsey, Donnie Houchins, Jim & Judy Kallal, Bill Schwartze, Janet Scranton, Jim Stark, Kathy Willman, Flora Campbell (Elledge great granddaughter), Christine Creamer (Calvin Anderson's mother), Denny Dell (Friend of Brokaw family), Vivian Dyer (Kevin Dyer's sister-in-law), Adam & Angie Hammitt (Larry Wigington's family), Bob & Phyllis Hammitt (Larry Wigington's brother), Sue Holcomb (Friend of Bev White), Dennie Hull (Jack Hull's brother), Chaddam Johnson (Friend of Wilson family), Pat Lehr (Steve Lehr's sister), Gus Macy (Friend of Joyce Lemons family), Steve Newbery (Friend of Wilson family), Lucas Rife (Commission Encounter), Marita Roberts (Randy Roberts' wife – DHF), Mike Thompson (Jason Thompson's father), Roger Walston (Laura Grimsley family), Debby Wilder (Brandi Pennock's mother)
With Sympathy: Richard Decker

Stewardship (Offering Only)	**10/26-11/1**	**11/2-8**
Operational	$12,451.83	$18,464.67
Property Improvement	65.00	95.00
Outreach-Missionaries	55.00	45.00
DHF	30.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	149.91	124.91
Youth	0.00	400.00
Unmet Needs	20.00	20.00
Outreach-General	490.00	110.00
Total	$8,336.66	$19,289.58

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)
Received Last 7 Days $13,206.83 $18,660.67
Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget $11,030

Ways to Give
Mail: PO Box 306, Pittsfield, IL 62363.
Online: Website fccpittsfield.org then Resources.
At the Office: 115 W. Jefferson Street.
Church Atrium: Giving Slot.

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

Lectionary
11/15: Judges 4:1-7; Zeph 1:7-18; 1 Thess 5:1-11; Matt 25:14-30
11/16: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Judges 4:8-24; Romans 2:1-11
11/17: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Exodus 2:1-10; 1 Thess 5:12-18
11/18: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Esther 7:1-10; Matthew 24:45-51
11/19: Psalm 100; Genesis 48:15-22; Revelation 14:1-11
11/20: Psalm 100; Isaiah 40:1-11; Revelation 22:1-9
11/21: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:25-31; Matthew 12:46-50
11/22: Ezek 34:11-24; Ps 100; Eph 1:15-23; Matt 25:31-46
11/23: Psalm 28; Numbers 27:15-23; 2 Timothy 2:8-13
11/24: Psalm 28; Zechariah 11:4-17; Revelation 19:1-9
11/25: Psalm 28; Jeremiah 31:10-14; John 5:19-40
11/26: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 13:1-9; Revelation 14:6-13
11/27: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 14:1-9; 1 Thess 4:1-18
11/28: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Micah 2:1-13; Matthew 24:15-31

Serving Schedule:
Nov 15, 2026
Elders: Zack Boren, John Hull
8:00 Communion: Michael & Jessie Smith
10:30 Communion: Jeremy & Alicia Tate
Children's Church: Kay Sealock, Mike & Julie Boren
Infant-Age2: Carol Cooley, Rimi Dixon
Pre-K Assist: Amy Harris, Bradyn Dixon
Safety 8:00: John Havens, Michael Smith
Safety 10:30: Sonya Bishop, Jason Thomas, Jeremy Tate
Sunday School Superintendent: Kay Sealock

Nov 22, 2026
Elders: David Bishop, Brad Willman
8:00 Communion: Dan & Sue Speckhart
10:30 Communion: Jason & Erica Thomas
Children's Church: Debbie Robinson, Sue Miller
Infant-Age2: Linda Baumer, Linda Belford
Pre-K Assist: TBA, Bonnie Dain
Safety 8:00: Kevin Wombles, Jordan Lamb
Safety 10:30: Larry Wigington, Scott Bacon, Steve Lehr
Sunday School Superintendent: Vickie Tharp

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.

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

Worship Service	**11/1**	**11/8**
8:00	108	73
10:30	158	167
Total	266	240
Christian Education		
Youth	32	27
Disciples	16	10
Sermon Study	10	9
C.O.F.F.E.E.	7	9
Women's Group	0	0
	65	55