

The Pittsfield Christian



First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 63 Issue 25

November 30, 2021

<p>CWF Christmas Bazaar Friday, Dec 3, 7:30-1:00 Coffee cake, cinn rolls, baked goods, handmade items, unique gifts & ornaments, Love Raffle, indoor yard sale with gently used items. No luncheon.</p>	<p>Adopt-A-Family gifts and food are due this coming Sunday, Dec 5. You can bring your items to the church Long Room that morning.</p>	<p>Dec 5 will be Cookie Sunday!</p>	
<p>Coffee Talk! Tues, Dec 7, 10:00 at the Annex. Stop by for coffee and discussion with Pastor Michael!</p>	<p>Are you a bell player? Or want to try it? We need 8-10 dedicated ringers for a joyful song of praise at our Christmas Eve Service! Our practices will be on Sat, Dec 4 from 9:00 - 10:00am then Wed evenings from 5:00 - 6:00 on Dec 8th, 15th, and 22nd. If you are interested and have time to commit to rehearsals, please contact Kathy Curfman (217-248-5214 call, text or pm) as soon as possible.</p>		<p>Youth Group will meet Dec 9 and go caroling on Dec 16.</p>
<p>Elder Dinner, Sun, Dec 12, 5:30.</p>	<p>Church Board Meeting, Tues, Dec 14, 6pm.</p>	<p>Christmas Caroling! Dec 16, Thurs, 5:30. Everyone is welcome! Come join us! Meet in the dining room and wear your festive gear!</p>	
<p>Dec 18, Sat, 10:00, final Cantata rehearsal. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater!</p>	<p>Christmas Cantata! Dec 19, Sun, 5:00 in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited! All kids grade K-12 interested in participating in the Cantata or the Christmas Eve service, contact Kayla ASAP at kayla.boren88@gmail.com or text 217.370.2166.</p>	<p>Christmas Eve service will begin at 9p.m. in the sanctuary.</p>	
<p>Crossroads Center Walking Hours Mon thru Thurs, 8-10 a.m., Starting in January Contact Shari Clark or the office if you would like to volunteer sitting in the gym office while we provide this service to the community.</p>	<p>2022 predated offering envelopes will soon be here. Let the office know if you would like to have your own set.</p>		

December Birthdays & Anniversaries **2** Alayna Justice; **3** Eryn Lipcaman, Gena Londrie, Hayley Wombles, Leo Willman, Eleanor Willman; **5** Marc James; **6** Jessica Speckhart Smith, Scott & Jennifer Palmer; **9** Sandy Wigington; **10** Steve Hayden, Renita Ten Eyck; **11** Marci Speckhart; **12** Alyssa Casto; **13** Jack Hull; **14** Matt James; **15** TJ Reel; **16** Tim Belford, Dave Bryant; **17** Barbara Fosco, Cara McNulty, Connor Wombles, Arabella McNulty, Daniel Williams; **18** Jim Belford, Brody Tomhave; **20** Bill & Ann Ferguson; **21** Taylor Sweeting; **22** Donnie & Tereasa Apps, Emmett Boren; **23** David Koltveit, Laynie Hart, Hannah Wagoner; **24** Cheryl Birch, Adam Maxwell, David Bishop; **25** Betty Hayden; **26** Timothy Hull, Katie Cox, Beth Willman, Jim & Marcia Stark; **27** Matt Saxe, Brad Tomhave; **28** Marcia Stark; **31** Braxton Boren.

<p><i>Bill Van Hoose was baptized during the 10:30 service on Sunday, Nov 28. Bill and wife Mary have been attending for some-time and we are excited to celebrate his faith!</i></p>	<p>CWF recently hosted an American Red Cross blood drive. There were 31 good donations with people coming in all afternoon with several walk-ins accepted. Red Cross will be at the Pittsfield American Legion on Jan 11. All who donated at our drive will be eligible to donate there too. Thank you to everyone who came to donate or volunteered during the day!</p>
<p>The Turkey Dinner was a wonderful time of fellowship! We had approx. 100 attend plus approx. 100 carryout meals. Thank you everyone who enjoyed the meal and a BIG thank you to the kitchen crew!</p>	<p><i>Dear Church Family - A HUGE Thank You to all who volunteered their time and effort in preparing the church Thanksgiving Dinner! Our family really enjoyed the delicious meal. (And I want the recipe for the wonderful dressing – it's so much better than mine!!!) We are so thankful for all of you. Love, The Sherwins</i></p>
<p><i>Congratulations JP and Cassie Richmiller on the birth of their daughter, Denver Lynne, on Fri, Nov 12 @ 10 a.m. Proud grandparents are Judy and Dana Ferguson.</i></p>	<p><i>Thank you to everyone for all the prayers that were sent up for Gary and I during his illness. Thank you to the men who came so quickly to build a ramp so that we could get Gary in easier when he came home from the hospital. Thank you to those that prepared the delicious meal for after the service. I appreciate all of you so much. -Deana Jones.</i></p>

Excerpts from Congregational Meeting November 7, 2021

Call to order at 11:47 AM by Bobby Smith, Moderator. Elder Roger Brokaw opened the meeting with prayer. The September 26, 2021 Congregational Meeting minutes were read by Recording Secretary, Kathy Curfman. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Jack Hull and seconded by Leecia Carnes. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Purpose: Elder Larry Wigington presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers for congregational approval. The nominations were Moderator: Bobby Smith; Vice Moderator: Brad Losch; Treasurer: Michelle Hart; Recording Secretary: Leecia Carnes; Trustee: Roger Dunham; Elders: Spencer Boren, Kathy Hull, N.D. Harrison, and Brad Willman; Deacons: Rokettia Brokaw, Noah Mendenhall, Eric Kunzeman, Jill Kunzeman, Rosi Picone, Michael Smith, Jessica Speckhart-Smith, Charlie Hull, Jessica Hull, Steve Tharp, Vickie Tharp, and Gary Mendenhall. Zack Boren moved to accept the slate as presented. Jenny Tate seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The proposed 2022 budget was presented. Barbara Fosco moved to accept the 2022 Budget as presented with a second by Eleanor Jenkins. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Information/Updates: Moderator Bobby Smith informed the congregation of the ongoing parking replacement projects. The project is progressing well with most areas completed in two weeks.

A restroom with 2 seats (1 handicapped) and a baby-changing table is being constructed in the old music office near the Long Room, and the opening of the west entrance to the sanctuary will be widened to allow better access. A sink will be installed in the old administration office for a communion prep area.

Pastor Michael updated the congregation on the new education wing building plans. With the purchase and remodel of the Annex, the plans are being downsized. The intention is to build with no debt and to maximize the existing spaces. Hopefully, this project planning phase can begin the first quarter of 2022.

Moderator Bobby Smith said the tree root that had caused a big delay has been removed and water line replaced. The sidewalk will be repaired. Bobby also discussed the need for tuckpointing at the Crossroads Center. As deemed most critical, the top of the building was repaired last summer, but significant damage to the lower part must be addressed. A plan will be developed to use any 2021 budget surplus toward the repairs along with a 1- or 3-year plan to pay off the \$94,000 estimated repair and upkeep.

Elder Helen Earls reported that a daycare is interested in using our playground. A contract is being drawn up with specific details such as scheduled time, maintenance, and additional equipment.

With no other questions or items to present, Moderator Bobby Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. Judy Ferguson made the motion and Jack Hull seconded. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:26 PM. Pastor Michael closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Curfman, Recording Secretary

Excerpts from Church Board Meeting November 9, 2021

Call to order at 6:00PM by Moderator Bobby Smith. Pastor Michael opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer. Minutes from October 12, 2021 meeting were approved by general consensus.

Pastor's Report: Highlighted items: the November Congregational Meeting; new restroom planning outside the Long Room; Advent plans completed, still working on Christmas Eve service; parking lot project moving along quickly.

Treasurer: as of October 31, 2021: Unrestricted Operating Checking \$85,438.82. Unrestricted Operating Checking Parking Replacement \$70,944. YTD Budgeted Disbursements \$290,578.04. Total funds available for construction/renovation (education bldg) \$1,202,055.35.

Trustees: The church received an anonymous donation of soybeans delivered to Bunge-SCF in Griggsville. The donation will be held for 30 days as per donation rules, then determine when to sell.

Christian Education & Music: Kayla Boren reported that a trial run of Kid's Connection will begin early next year. Christmas caroling will be Dec 16th and Cantata will be Dec 19th. The Christmas Eve service is planned with a Homecoming theme.

Crossroads Center: The gym will be open for walking in January.

Building Team: Bobby Smith reported that the team is installing an additional church restroom.

Old Business: Bobby Smith reported that the Annex root ball was removed and the water line repaired. The old dirt will be removed and good fill dirt added. The parking lot replacement is progressing nicely.

New Business: Helen Earls and Libby Boren discussed a Playground Agreement to be presented to a daycare that will define terms and conditions of usage. After discussion and questions, the Board determined a need to consult on insurance coverage, to make some language changes, to list more specific time availability guidelines, and determine proper signage.

The motion to adjourn was made by Judy Ferguson and seconded by Larry Wigington. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM and Pastor Michael closed with prayer.

Elder Corner

Our Thursday noon Bible study group has been studying the Max Lucado book "You Are Not Alone" based on the book of John. I love the book of John because it is so concise and direct. It is full of the story of Jesus but it abounds in memorable quotes that we can all use in our own life struggles and to also help others in theirs. The use of scripture is important if we are to bring people to Christ. It is in the book of John that most of my most memorized verses are to be found. As we prepare for this special holiday that celebrates the birth of our savior, I think it is important to remember not only his birth, but his life, the lessons he taught us, the brutal death he suffered for us, and ultimately his resurrection which conquered death for our salvation!

Christmas will come this year, whether the gifts arrive in time or not. It has amazed me this season, that all the news can talk about is whether the supply chain issue will ruin Christmas. As if it could! People who think that really have missed the point and maybe have missed the boat altogether. And what a tragedy that would be! I think as Christians we have to do a better job of communicating the message and meaning of Christmas to our families, our friends, and the world. If we don't, who will?

I am going to share with you some of my favorite verses from John. Feel free to tape to your frig or put in your Bible. They are worth memorizing. I hope you find this helpful. All verses are from the NIV translation.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him shall have eternal life. For God did not send his son to condemn the world but to save the world through him.

John 6:35 Jesus declared: "I am the bread of life. Who comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 8:12 I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.

John 13:34-35 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 14: 1-3 (One of my personal favorites) Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My father's house has many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:6 (Another of my favorites) I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 15:4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself. It must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15: 12-13 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down his life for one's friends.

John 16: 33 In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

God will have the final say. So rest in God's great love, His grace, and His peace and be ready to be a part of His story because our stories are rewritten in Him when we give our lives to Him. He is ready to use us to further His kingdom but it is still our choice. I pray that each of you will find your story in 2022 filled with the love and hope found only in Christ.

I pray blessings and protection for each of you and your families this Christmas and in the year to come.

Love and Blessings to all,
Helen Earls

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
 Kayla Boren, Music Coordinator
 Rebecca Rhodes, Administrative Secretary
 Gina Bryant, Custodian
 Bob Clark, Audio/Video/Maintenance
 Shari Clark, Event Coordinator
 Rodney Gordley, Assistant Event/Student Ministry Coord

Office Hours: M-TH 8:00am-3:30pm; F 8:00am-Noon**Worship Times:** Every Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Prayer Concerns: Wayne & Edna Baughman, Jaunae Bacon, Kim Buck, Brian Douglas, Ron Halsey, Kelly Masters, Wanda Mendenhall, Julie Myers, Richard Rhodes, Debby Wilder, Mireya Williams, Additional Ministry Staff Search
 Karen Birch (John Birch's sister)
 Jerry Brooks (Deloras Martin's family)
 Betty Carnes (Leecia Carnes' grandmother)
 Ezra Collver (Craig & Carrie Collver's grandson)
 Linda Gratton (Friend of Karl Benjamin)
 Lilee Knake (Daughter of Skylar & Cara Knake)
 Kay Matthews (Jean Sanderson's sister)
 Kay McDonald (Bev White's niece)
 Jeffrey Moore (Deloras Martin's family)
 Julie Talley (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law)

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Dora Lee Claus who passed away.

Stewardship (Offering Only)	<u>11/15-21</u>	<u>11/22-28</u>
Operational	\$5,789.70	\$6,267.58
Property Improvement	10.00	55.00
Outreach-Missionaries	60.00	40.00
DHF	80.00	30.00
Construction/Renovation	25.00	25.00
Unmet Needs	500.00	.00
Adopt a Family	830.00	455.00
Outreach-General	<u>25.00</u>	<u>55.00</u>
Total	\$7,319.70	\$6,927.58

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$5,789.70 \$6,267.58
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,175

Bulletin announcements are posted to our website each week. Go to Resources, Bulletin Announcements.

Lectionary

12/5: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Phil 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
12/6: Psalm 126; Isaiah 40:1-11; Romans 8:22-25
12/7: Psalm 126; Isaiah 19:18-25; 2 Peter 1:2-15
12/8: Psalm 126; Isaiah 35:3-7; Luke 7:18-30
12/9: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 6:1-8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
12/10: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 8:4-12; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
12/11: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 9:8-15; Luke 1:57-66
12/12: Zeph 3:14-20; Isa 12:2-6; Philip 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
12/13: Isaiah 11:1-9; Numbers 16:1-19; Hebrews 13:7-17
12/14: Isaiah 11:1-9; Numbers 16:20-35; Acts 28:23-31
12/15: Isaiah 11:1-9; Micah 4:8-13; Luke 7:31-35
12/16: Psalm 80:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 10:10-18
12/17: Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 42:10-18; Hebrews 10:32-39
12/18: Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 66:7-11; Luke 13:31-35

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.
WBBA 97.5, Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Sermon only.
90.9 FM while parked next to the church building.

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 are secured on the sanctuary mantels, gym and fellowship hall for your convenience.

Wishes & Wants: Need shelled pecan halves for holiday baking?
 Contact Rex Lothridge 217.491.1533

	<u>11/21</u>	<u>11/28</u>
Worship Service		
8:00	68	66
10:30	<u>95</u>	<u>107</u>
Total	163	173
Christian Education		
Age 3-PK	4	5
K-2nd	9	12
3rd-5th	5	8
6th-8th	11	11
Jr/Sr High	6	6
Disciples	15	13
Sermon Study	10	13
Select to Connect	0	3
C.O.F.F.E.E.	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>
Total	67	83