



The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 58 Issue 2

January 27, 2016

Coming Events

Date	Event
1/27	7:00pm Choir Practice
	7:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental
	6:30pm Connection Group
1/28	7:00pm Connection Group
	6:30pm VBS Committee Meeting
1/30	10:00am Gym Rental
1/31	8:00, 9:15 Sunday School
	8:00, 9:15, 10:30 Worship
	12:00pm Gym Rental
2/1	8:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental
	1:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental
2/2	6:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental
2/3	7:00pm Choir Practice
	6:30pm Connection Group
2/4	7:00pm Connection Group
2/5	Dining Room Rental
	6:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental
2/6	Dining Room Rental
2/7	Congregational Meeting
	Family Meal
	8:40am Sunday School
	10:00am Worship
2/8	8:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental
	6:30pm Circle I Meeting

Date	Event
2/9	6:00pm Church Board Meeting
2/10	Dining Room Rental
	7:00pm Choir Practice
	6:30pm Connection Group
2/11	7:00pm Connection Group
	9:30am Circle IV Meeting
2/13	Dining Room Rental
2/14	8:00, 9:15 Sunday School
	8:00, 9:15, 10:30 Worship
	6:00pm Valentine Dinner

Lectionary Scriptures

January 27 **John 20:24-29**
 January 28 **John 20:30-31**
 January 29 **John 21:1-14**
 January 30 **John 21:15-19**
 January 31 **John 21:20-23**
 February 1 **John 21:24-25**
 February 2 **2 Corinthians 11:30-33**
 February 3 **2 Corinthians 12:1-10**
 February 4 **2 Corinthians 12:11-18**
 February 5 **2 Corinthians 12:19-21**
 February 6 **2 Corinthians 13:1-4**
 February 7 **2 Corinthians 13:5-10**
 February 8 **2 Corinthians 13:11-14**
 February 9 **Luke 1:1-25**

Congregational Meeting, Etc.

On Sunday, Feb 7, we will have Celebration Sunday, February Congregational Meeting, Family Meal, and Volunteer Ministry Fair. Sunday School will begin at 8:45. We will have one worship service in the gym at 10:00. Immediately after the

service we will have the Congregational Meeting in the gym to review year 2015. After the meeting everyone is encouraged to stay for Family Meal. Several of our ministry areas will have tables set up where you can learn more info about the ministry and how to get involved.

Several individuals involved with Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp will travel to Sonlight Academy, Port de Paix, Haiti (through sonlightministries.org) on a mission trip March 4-11, 2016. They will work alongside staff at the school and assist students in the classroom. Wayne Chamberlain and Pastor Chaz plan to make the trip. Proceeds from Feb 7 Family Meal will go towards supplies for the school.

That evening, youth@first will be hosting a Super Bowl Party in the Crossroads gym beginning at 5:00pm. This is open to youth@first students and their families. The game will be shown on the big screen, but there will be games and entertainment throughout the night for those who are less interested in the game and more interested in fellowship. Food will be provided, and a suggested donation of \$2 per attendee would be appreciated but not required.

Youth Group Fundraiser

The annual Youth Group

Valentine Dinner fundraiser will be Sunday, **Feb 14**. We hope to have everyone seated by **6:00**. Chicken breast will be \$14 and steak will be \$18. Both plates include baked potato, green beans, lettuce salad and dessert. Carryout will also be available for pick up at 5:30. Call the church office with your reservations. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A TIME CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEARS.

Youth Parents: Due to a rental in the dining room on Feb 13, most of the set up and decorating will be done on Sunday. More details will be given through youth group.

Cookies!

Due to Celebration Sunday, we have moved Cookie Sunday to **Jan 31**.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

The Western IL Fellowship of Christian Athletes Banquet/Meal will be **Feb 2** at the Oakley Lindsay Center. Speaker will be Mike Matheny, Manager of the St. Louis Cardinals. Registration begins at 5:30, event at 6:15. For more info on FCA, go to their website. Contact Pastor Michael ASAP if you would like a seat reserved for this free event.

With Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of the following who recently passed away - Lucille Knapp, Carolyn Dunham (Roger Dunham's mother).

February Family Meal

The Crossroads kitchen and our

volunteers will be very busy in February due to church and community events. For that reason, we have decided to cancel the Wednesday, **Feb 3**, Family Meal.

IF: Gathering

IF:Gathering is a global movement to gather, equip, and unleash women to live out God's calling in their lives. The story began in 2007 with one woman wishing to disciple to a generation and has now become an organized movement. A local gathering will be at Crossroads Center **Feb 5** from 2-10pm and **Feb 6** from 9-5pm. For more detailed info go to ifgathering.com or contact Rokettia Brokaw (nanakettia@hotmail.com) or Heather Sandifer (hsandifer@hotmail.com). You can register at ifgathering.com/gather/local/attend/.

Church Board Meeting

The church board meeting will be **Feb 9**, 6pm. Due to Celebration Sunday, the packets will be at Crossroads for your convenience. The specific location will be in the Feb 7 bulletin.

Thank You

Thank you for the food and gifts at Christmas. I really appreciate it. -Adopt a Family recipient.

Hard At Work

The weather has brought us some snow recently, especially on Saturday night/Sunday morning. Thank you everyone who has donated their time and equipment to clear the parking

lots and sidewalks. We greatly appreciate it!

Praying in the Name of Jesus

Submitted by Mike Boren per a discussion with his high school Sunday School class.

We are told to pray in the name of Jesus:

John 15:16 "Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."

John 13: 13,14 "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Eph. 5:20 "always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Jesus is our mediator with the Father:

1 Tim. 2: 5,6 "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men."

Heb. 9:15 "Christ is the mediator of a new covenant."

Rom. 8:34 "Christ Jesus who died-more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

Heb. 7:24,25 "Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

Eph. 3:12 "In him and through

faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."

Praying in Jesus' name is also a testimony to those who hear us pray aloud.

John 11:41, 42 "So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.'"

"As we pray, Jesus invites us to do it "in his name." In love, he shares his name, his authority with us, inviting us to use these as our very own.

Our sins make us totally unworthy to enter heaven's precincts, let alone to ask for anything there. If we presented our own personal credentials, the Throne Room would be inaccessible. Heaven's suburbs and even the exurbs would be off limits.

But we come in Jesus' name, not our own. We come, forgiven at the cross and alive in his great Easter victory. And because of it, our prayers are truly heard and accepted.

Then our Savior invites us to serve-also "In his name," carrying the credentials he has provided: 'Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.' Luke 9:48. Just think! Our hands, feet and voices become the channels through which Christ's love flows."

-Jane L. Fryar.

CWF Meetings

Feb 8, Circle I, 6:30. **Feb 11**, Circle IV, 9:30.

Kitchen Crew Needed

Our first banquet of the season will be **Feb 16** serving the meal at the Republican meeting at Crossroads. We will serve parmesan chicken and all the trimmings. Please sign up at the fellowship table if you are able to help or call Joyce, 285.4862.

Newsletter Schedule

A newsletter will be printed the following weeks: Feb 8, Feb 22.

Blood Drive

Save the date. CWF (Christian Women's Fellowship) will host an American Red Cross blood drive at Crossroads **Feb 22**. Sign up at the fellowship table if you can prepare cookies or help in other areas. Contact Barbara Fosco for more info.

Board Meeting Excerpts from Jan 12

Opening devotion and prayer was led by Jim Dain.

The December minutes were approved by general consensus.

Pastor Michael stated we had 5 baptisms January 3 with more to come in the near future. The connection groups have resumed on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Lorren Newingham has been hired as Nursery Attendant and may be able to help in other areas. Celebration Sunday, February 7, will also include the Congregational Meeting, Family Meal, and volunteer ministry fair in areas of ministry and service.

Rebecca reported unrestricted checking is \$78,607.74. We received \$50,000 the last week of December designated for sanctuary renovation.

Pastor Michael made a motion to payoff the administration building mortgage. Jim Dain seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was approved by general consensus.

Gretchen from United Community Bank said the bank will now waive our yearly safe deposit box fee of \$25.

The church garage sale will be April 1 & 2 this year.

Helen reported Children First needed the \$10,000 donation from the church granted in December. Their next board meeting will be January 21 with plans to discuss the summer program. All is going well with children, families, and staff.

Bobby stated discussion continues regarding an easement to the George Balsman property.

N.D. moved to declare the fair rental value portion of the Youth/Associate Minister's parsonage allowance at \$250 per month for 2016. Joyce seconded which carried unanimously.

The Feb 7 Family Meal proceeds will go towards the mission trip to Haiti.

Helen said the Orange Conference will be April 27-29. Conference fees for 4 were prepaid in 2015. She will need to know soon who is going and make travel arrangements.

Board members were asked to sign the consent form indicating they have read, understand, and approve the church policies provided in the board packet.

Vesper Choir Event

The Vesper Choir plans to have a Soup and Sandwich Dinner with the proceeds going to Emmett Boren's medical

expenses. The event will be **February 24**, 2016 from 4:30-7:00 at the Crossroads Center and will be served on a donation basis. Plans are under way to have musical entertainment by various musicians periodically throughout the evening. There may be games for all ages in the gym with no additional charge.

A Bake Sale will also be set-up so we encourage you to purchase goodies to take home. If you would like to donate items (pies, cakes, candy, cookies, etc.) please get them to Crossroads between noon and 4:00 on the 24th.

Soups to be served are chicken noodle, chili, and Brown Jug. Sandwiches are to include baked ham, pimento cheese and p.b.&j. as well as a relish tray, cookies/brownies and tea/water.

The choir hopes you will come to help them help the Borens.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 John Hull, Lisa Wombles, Keaton Hittner; **2** Madison Palmer; **3** Jessica Dain; **4** Kaitlyn Apps, Sydnee Cox; **6** Megan Hittner, Roger Brokaw; **8** Kathy Lehr, Allison Fox; **9** Spencer Miller; **10** Patty Ruble; **12** Alice Ghrist, Jeff Lacey, Jamie Sweeting, Emma Wombles; **14** Ricky & Christina Collins; **16** Christine Gorton; **17** Richard Rhodes, Marjorie Zimmerman, Jill Kunzeman; **20** Amy Casto, Jill Moss; **21** Joshua Gordley; **22** Jennifer Miller, Chelsea Hayden, Chad Sealock, Jessica Hull, Rick Wombles, Ron Phipps; **23** Karly Losch, Luke & Michelle Hart; **24** Vickie Tharp, Justin Pennock; **25** Jake

McNulty, Loyd Casto; **26** Peyton Apps, Glen Cooley; **27** Kelly Masters; **28** Walter Lamb, Virginia Tice, Ron & Teresa Bauer, Howard Staffy, Ruth Bennett, Dale Black.

POP TAB Collection

We are very happy that Emmett Boren has joined his family at home after an extended stay at St. John's NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) in Springfield. His parents, Spencer and Kayla, wanted to be with him during his time there and were able to stay at the Ronald McDonald House which is across the street from the hospital. This facility is run on donations from various groups and individuals.

One way FCC can show appreciation to the RMH for helping those in our church family is to collect pop tabs found on soda cans, soup cans, pineapple cans, etc. We are told that the pop tab collection at Springfield results in about \$10,000 annually after the tabs have been redeemed.

Collection buckets have been placed at the doorways in each of the three FCC buildings. We encourage everyone to remember to save the tabs and check with others (extended family, fellow employees, friends) who might like to contribute to this worthy cause also. It just takes some effort on our part to make a huge difference in the lives of many families. Thank you in advance in doing whatever you can to help.

Connection Groups

The Thursday evening Connection Group meets at 7pm

at the admin building. Contact is Phil Sandidge. The Wednesday Women's Connection Group meets at 6:30pm at the church. Childcare is provided. Contact is Michelle Hart.

Church Garage Sale

Does the winter weather have you homebound looking for something to do? Then start your spring cleaning early in search of treasures for the church garage sale set for **April 1 & 2**. We will start collecting items at Crossroads the week of March 28.

Intentional Church Conference

Lincoln Christian University will host the 9th annual Intentional Church Conference on **April 23** from 9am-3:30pm at First Christian Church in Decatur. For more info go to intentionalchurchconference.com.

Women's Conference

Lincoln Christian University will host "Soul Support", a Christian Women's Conference on **April 27**. Guest speakers will be Michele Cushatt and Dr. Dinelle Frankland. Registration is \$35 before April 20. Lunch is included. For more info or to register go to lincolnchristian.edu/cwc. If you think you might go, let the church office know and we can help arrange a carpool.

Pastor's Message: Elder Corner

Recently a figure in the news said he had never asked God for forgiveness. It seems he believes

he's a good guy who doesn't like to have to ask for pardon so he just never does anything wrong. An understandable position, and a lofty goal to be sure. The problem is; it's also impossible.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Matthew 5:27-28

You read that right. Jesus just compared lustful intent with adulterous betrayal of your wedding vows.

The Bible doubles down on this truth.

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8

By now you might be saying...

"Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" Romans 7:24

I know I am!

I'm so glad God made a way for us to be reconciled to Him and to pay the price for my sin! Trying to live in order to escape the need to ask God for forgiveness is missing the point.

However, shrugging our sin off because "we are all sinners anyway" isn't any better!

"How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the

covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?" Hebrews 10:29

The price God has paid is precious. Let us treat the salvation we have been GIVEN FREELY, as the special world changing present it is.

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" Romans 6:1-3

Thank God there is a remedy for Sin and His name is Jesus Christ!

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." 1 John 1:7-10

Jim Dain, Elder

Prayer Concerns

Emmett Boren
Mary Chamberlain
Creola Fields
Merle Howard (*Larry Howard's brother*)
David Jones
Maria Owens
Vera Staffy

Serving Schedule for January 31, 2016

Elders: Roger Brokaw, Hamer Tate
Diaconate: Judy Ferguson, Mary Gates, Georgia Sandidge, TBA, Michael Smith, Yvonne Stauffer
Preparation of Communion-8:00AM: Richard & Rebecca Rhodes
Preparation of Communion-9:15AM: Tom & Debbie Robinson
9:15AM Greeter: Steve & Kathy Lehr
Preparation of Communion-10:30AM: Wayne & Cindy Chamberlain
Coffee Host: NA
Sound System: Lauren Saxe
Candle Lighters: Kadin Hittner, Eli Mendenhall
Scripture Reader: Ruth Bennett
Nursery Helper-10:30AM: Emma Saxe
Communion to Shut-ins: Jim & Kay McKinney, Mike & Julie Boren
Fellowship Treats: Marjorie Zimmerman, Vickie Tharp, Kathy Hull, Cindy Chamberlain, Amy Casto
Family Meal Date: Feb 3, 2016
Family Meal Crew: Judy Ferguson, Ann Ferguson & Crew
Driver: Call the church--285-4129

Serving Schedule for February 7, 2016

Elders: Wayne Chamberlain, Larry Wigington
Diaconate: Jamie Sweeting, Sarah Sweeting, Michele Westmaas, Donnie Apps, Julie Boren, Mike Boren
Preparation of Communion-8:00AM: Dan & Sue Speckhart
Preparation of Communion-9:15AM: Phil & Georgia Sandidge
9:15AM Greeter: Ray & Robin Carr
Preparation of Communion-10:30AM: Don & Mary Lou Chamberlain
Coffee Host: NA
Sound System: Cherise Anderson
Candle Lighters: Emma Saxe, Eli Mendenhall
Scripture Reader: Tucker Kunzeman
Nursery Helper-10:30AM: Lauren Saxe
Communion to Shut-ins: Julie Myers, Spencer & Kayla Boren
Fellowship Treats: NA

*Family Meal Date:*NA

*Family Meal Crew:*NA

Driver: Call the church--285-4129

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
PITTSFIELD, ILLINOIS

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Pittsfield, IL 62363 Crossroads: (217) 285-6171
E-mail: info@fccpittsfield.org

Staff: Michael Ten Eyck, Pastor
Chaz Waterman, Associate/Youth Pastor
Helen Earls, Music & Christian Education
Rebecca Rhodes, Administrative Secretary
Gina Bryant, Custodian

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M-Th
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. F

Worship times every Sunday:

8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Church School: 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Wishes and Wants

Free: A baby walker. Clean with musical toys embedded on tray. Adjustable height levels. Carole Elledge 285-4929.

Stewardship

	01/17	01/24
Operational	\$8,474.00	\$7,033.00
Property Improvement	\$3.00	\$33.00
Outreach--Missionaries	\$110.00	\$70.00
DHF	\$80.00	\$80.00
Children First	\$340.00	\$0.00
Outreach-General	\$53.00	\$33.00
Outreach - Unmet Needs	\$5.00	\$0.00
Total	\$9,065.00	\$7,249.00

Christian Education Attendance

	01/17	01/24
Three - K	7	7
First-Third	10	7
Fourth-Fifth	11	8
Sixth-Eighth	12	10
High School	6	5
Disciples	11	14
New Beginnings	5	0
Young Adult	0	0
Select to Connect	7	7
Total	69	58

Worship Attendance

	01/17	01/24
8AM Worship	64	57
9:15AM Oasis	105	90

10:30AM Worship	120	100
Total	289	247

Operating Fund Receipts

	01/17	01/24
Received Last 7 Days	\$9,360.72	\$7,804.89
Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget	\$9,634.00	\$9,634.00