

# The Pittsfield Christian



First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 62 Issue 6

March 24, 2020

Dear Church Family,

The phrase, "May you live in interesting times..." keeps going through my mind of late. Certainly, these are very interesting times, indeed. Ironically, the phrase is often referred to as the "Chinese Curse," even though no Chinese author can be attributed to the adage.

Certainly greater words for the day are found from the prophet Isaiah:

Isa 26:1

*You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. -ESV*

I have been pondering the question as to how we can keep our mind stayed on the Prince of Peace in the midst of the resounding, unrelenting clatter of voices that seem to focus on calling out our doom (hyper sensationalized media and social media).

I believe we must cling to the FACT that the church has thrived in the midst of trials, tribulations, famine, and pestilence. Please know that these days are given to us to thrive in Christ. To borrow lyrics from a recent praise song by Casting Crowns: "It's time for us to more than just survive, we were made to thrive..."

In considering how we as a church can assist in helping us thrive, we will be doing several things during this time of uncertainty:

- I will be doing a live stream event on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 am. It will be posted. I will be entertaining questions I receive in texts, emails, and calls, as well as giving a quick devotion, time of prayer, and update on the church business. Please reach out with any questions you may have or what you would like to hear. I would hope to keep these sessions to around 30 minutes or so.
- We will continue to live stream Sunday's services and post them on our website ASAP. They can also be found on our Youtube page. Please subscribe and you will receive notifications of live events.
- We will continue to publish community services such as food to those in need, and our Christian Education team will try to keep in contact with their kids as best they can.
- I am available by phone for prayer, encouragement, or even if you just need to talk to someone. Please don't hesitate to reach out!

We will get through this, there is no doubt, but I want to do more than get through this time. I want our church family to THRIVE in the midst of tough times.

Loving you all,  
Michael

## Questions about the current building program at First Christian Church?

# Q & A

## We have the answers for you!

### Q. - How is the current Covid-19 pandemic affecting plans for a new FCC education building?

A. - Good question! With our current statewide instructions to stick close to home and concentrate on the essentials, we have decided to put everything involving the project on "hold" for 30 days, including efforts to produce an architectural representation of what the building might look like. God has been guiding us throughout this process, perhaps holding up a stop sign a few times to protect our position in the face of the global uncertainties we are seeing now. We continue to believe that God has a plan for First Christian Church ministries and we will continue our conversations with our church family as new information becomes available.



# Pikeland COVID-19 Response

## Listing of resources available

### Food Resources available for Pikeland Students:

-**Pikeland Snack Pack:** distribution **Wednesday, March 18th** from 4:30-6 PM

\*\*All families are eligible to pick up food bags! You do not need to be a Snack Pack participant to receive them.

Pittsfield: Nazarene Church and the Crossroads Center Baylis: Post Office, Detroit/Florence: Detroit Christian Church, Milton: Christian Church Nebo: Old School, New Hartford/Summer Hill: Ackles New Salem: Post Office, Pearl: Jiffi Stop Rockport: Community Center, Time: Park Square

- Contact Robin Callendar 217-257-1117, Jon Frieden 217-617-0002, or Angie Ruebush 217-491-1517

### Community Food Resources

**Two Rivers Food Pantry-** 120 South Madison St. Pittsfield

Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am - 3 pm

- Contact Rachel Baker 217-285-2054

**The Crossing Food Pantry-** 1071 West Washington Street Pittsfield

Open the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9 am - 11 am

- Contact Betsy or Ann at 217-285-9898 if need arises prior to or after Food Pantry date.

**Nebo Nazarene Food Pantry-** 13172 Co Hwy 7, Nebo

Open 2nd Saturday of the month and by appointment as needed

- Contact Darin Workman 217- 371-2760

### Meal Resources for Seniors

**Meals on Wheels-** delivery every day with option of frozen weekend meals

\$6 for anyone under 60

60 and over any donation accepted

- Contact Connie Lerch for more info or to sign up 217-285-6150

*First Christian Church - Thank you so very much for your generous donation to our program. Sincerely, The Board members of the Pikeland Snack Pack Program.*

**The Indoor Sale / Bake Sale was a success!** God was with us even though the weather was against us! The sale totaled \$1,365.80! Thank you everyone for your wonderful donations of items and baked goods. We had great help setting up, during the sale and in cleaning and packing up afterwards. It's such a blessing to have the work camp crew to help with the heavy work before and after, too. Again, we want to thank Reach Out for allowing us to fill their truck with the leftovers. It was a good day mingling with our shoppers, and working side by side with one another!

**April Birthdays & Anniversaries** 1 Nic Daniel; 3 Julie Plattner, Henry & Amy Speckhart; 4 Buster & Wanda Mendenhall; 5 Charlene Anderson, Kadin Hittner; 8 Howard & Vera Staffy, David Freesmeyer, Juliana Lacey; 9 Joyce Lemons, Austin Long; 10 Gaylord Rhodes, Brian Ruebush, Alicia Tate; 11 Evan Hart, Molly Dain, Rick & Mary Wombles; 13 Josie Pennock; 14 Jack Schoenherr, Don & Mary Lou Chamberlain; 16 Grady Schoenherr; 20 Sandy Herring, N.D. & Joyce Harrison; 21 Wanda Mendenhall; 22 Kadence Haskins, Hazel Jacobs; 23 Pat Apps, Charlotte Dunham; 24 Lena Boren; 25 Colby Tate; 26 Donnie Apps, Marjorie Gamble, Jo Rhodes, Kevin Tharp; 30 Mary Harshman.

**Historical Note: Mar. 13, 1895, 125 years ago:** "The funeral services of our departed brother, Austin Barber, were held at the church Thursday afternoon, and were very impressive. His chair was draped in black, with a cluster of lilies in the center of the head piece. Elder Snively conducted the services." [Note: Please notice that the Church goes on. We members of the Church on this earth pass into the membership for a while, and then we pass on to our reward. Sometimes we wonder how we can get by without some wonderful Christian brothers and sisters, but we do—the Church does.] The same newspaper which described Austin Barber's funeral also contained the following announcement: "There will be an elder elected next Sunday morning to take the place of Brother Austin Barber. A full attendance is desired." [And then, a week later, March 20, 1895] "At an election held Sunday morning, Brother George Barber was elected elder, Clarence Seavers and Clayton Kibler deacons, and H. S. Loyd, trustee." [We didn't know these saints, but they faithfully kept the Church going many years before our time. Let us do the same for our children and grandchildren, and generations yet to come.]

### Excerpts from March 10, 2020 Church Board Meeting

Call to Order at 6:00 pm by Moderator Gary Mendenhall. Wayne Chamberlain's devotion was about the slave Sojourner Truth and how we are all equal in God's eye. He read from Galatians 3:28-29. Minutes from Last Meeting Approved by general consensus.

#### Treasurer:

Checking/Savings = \$655,908.28

Unrestricted Operating Checking = \$100,000.00

Budgeted Receipts = \$75,899.85 (\$60 under budget)

Budgeted Disbursements = \$57,424.22 (\$21,000 under budget)

Nonbudget Receipts = \$11,453.18. Nonbudgeted Disbursements = \$2,685.29

Average Attendance YTD = 287

Excess Unrestricted Operating Checking moved towards Church Construction / Renovation  
= \$9,607.81 + \$3,923 designated offering = \$13,530.81 added during February.

Total Excess moved YTD = \$21,427.

Total funds available for church const/reno \$380,387.46

Motion to accept Treasurers' Report was made by Roger Brokaw, seconded by Bob Clark. Motion carried.

#### Trustees:

Withus distribution has been received in the amount of \$4,492.45. Property / Liability insurance has been switched from Church Asset Management to Midstate Insurance. Brad Losch will be the new Trustee Chair. The Board thanked Tim for his time serving as Trustee Chair.

#### Christian Education:

Roger Brokaw made a motion to allow Helen to purchase up to 4 tickets at the discounted price for the 2021 Orange Conference. N.D. seconded, motion carried.

#### Children's First:

The fundraiser will be Sunday, May 17. The Children First Board has submitted a business plan to the Church Elders. Children First has needed \$1,000 of the \$25,000 in the church budget for 2020. More information will be available next month.

#### Balsman Property:

In November 2019, Purchaser defaulted on the Real Estate Contract to purchase the Balsman Property that would have had payoff in October 2021. Purchaser has expressed desire to pay installments on a different schedule than the contract reads with payoff in October 2022. Executive Committee is aware of others who may be interested in purchasing the property. Purchaser will cash rent the property through the 2020 season due to pay cash rent \$4,320 in April and same amount in October. The Executive Committee feels we should not attempt to adjust the contract. Roger Brokaw made a motion to end negotiations with Purchaser. Tim Belford seconded, motion carried. Zack Boren made a motion to refund the \$10,000 down payment we received that was deposited in the Balsman Property fund, this is the amount the purchaser put down upon signing of the Real Estate Contract. Brad Losch seconded, motion carried. Gary will let Bobby know the motions made so Bobby can inform Purchaser.

#### Building Team:

Hamer met with the architect regarding a new education building. The committee is currently considering a 70'x75' building plan to bring to the congregation. This would have an estimated cost of \$2.4 million, not including furnishings and not including tear down of existing building. The architect could create a representation for the congregation's consideration. The estimate for the services is \$1,200. The building committee and board believes the church would need this info to consider this possible proposal. They also believe this information is also essential to determine the balance between what we can fundraise and what funds would need to be borrowed. Michelle Hart was chosen to chair a fundraising campaign. Once the architect is done, we can have meetings to bring a proposal to the congregation. The architectural fees will be paid from the Construction / Renovation fund.

Balsman Logs - Zack will refile the case in April and the money settlement amount is close. More information next month.

A bid was submitted to strip and wax the admin building tile floor – 3 coats \$1,375 or 6 coats \$1,500. He would not bid on Crossroads due to the equipment and manpower needed to do a good job. Gary Mendenhall asked to table any floor refinishing decision until next month.

Bethany made a motion to adjourn. Ruth seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 6:45pm. Next meeting set for Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Zack closed in prayer.

**First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois**  
 Church Building: 225 N. Memorial Street  
 Crossroads Center: 125 W. Jefferson Street  
 Administrative Building: 201 N. Mississippi, PO Box 306  
 Phone (217) 285-4129  
 Fax (217) 285-9649  
 Crossroads (217) 285-6171  
 E-mail: info@fccpittsfield.org

**Staff:**

Michael Ten Eyck, Pastor  
 Helen Earls, Programs & Christian Ed  
 Kayla Boren, Music  
 Kacie Lipcaman, Christian Ed  
 Rebecca Rhodes, Administrative Secretary  
 Gina Bryant, Custodian  
 Bob Clark, Audio/Video

**Office Hours:** 9:00am–4:00pm M-TH, 9:00am–12:00pm F  
**Worship Times:** Every Sunday 8:00am, 10:30am  
**Sunday School:** 9:15am

<b>Stewardship (Offering Only)</b>	<u>3/15</u>	<u>3/22</u>
Operational	\$3,938.05	\$3,289.39
Property Improvement	3.00	3.00
Outreach-Missionaries	70.00	70.00
DHF	25.00	25.00
Outreach-General	103.00	3.00
Church Construction/Renovate	20.00	0.00
Unmet Needs	3.00	0.00
Children First	<u>70.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,232.05</b>	<b>\$3,390.39</b>
<b>Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)</b>		
Received Last 7 Days	\$6,713.62	\$4,298.89
Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget	\$9,494	

**Prayer Concerns:** Tereasa Apps Chip Barber  
 Dora Lee Claus Tonya Douglas Stacey Helms  
 Linda Irwin Wanda Mendenhall  
 Amanda Allen (Mary Wombles' daughter)  
 Michael Guillory (Carolyn Barber's nephew)  
 Greg Howard (Larry Howard's nephew)  
 Kay Matthews (Jean Sanderson's sister)  
 Ashley Ratliff (Jean Sanderson's granddaughter)  
 Mark Reeves (Ashli Freesmeyer's father)  
 Peter Roccaforte (Chuck Barber's nephew)  
 Renee Sevier (Karl Benjamin's niece)

*We express our sympathy to Bob and Richard Clark and family with the passing of their mother, Rosemary Clark. We also express our sympathy to Bev White and family with the passing of her niece, Shelly Coleman.*

**Ways To Watch/Listen To Worship Services**

**Website fccpittsfield.org**

Ministries, Live Stream

This will link you to our YouTube page where you can subscribe and watch the live stream of our Sunday worship services and special events. Prior services and special events are also available.

Resources, Sermons

Watch archived recordings of prior sermons and other messages.

**YouTube**

Search First Christian Church of Pittsfield and subscribe Watch the live stream of our Sunday worship services and special events. Prior services and special events are also available.

**Sundays, 10:30 a.m., WBBA 97.5, Sermon from prior week.**

**We can email you the audio file of sermons if the above does not work.**

**Lectionary**

3/29: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Ps 130; Rom 8:6-11; John 11:1-45  
 3/30: Ps 143; 1 Kings 17:17-24; Acts 20:7-12  
 3/31: Ps 143; 2 Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10  
 4/1: Ps 143; Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41; Matt 22:23-33  
 4/2: Ps 31:9-16; 1 Sam 16:11-13; Philippians 1:1-11  
 4/3: Ps 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30  
 4/4: Ps 31:9-16; Lamentations 3:55-66; Mark 10:32-34  
 4/5: Ps 118:1-29; Matt 21:1-11  
 4/6: Isa 42:1-9; Ps 36:5-11; Heb 9:11-15; John 12:1-11  
 4/7: Isa 49:1-7; Ps 71:1-14; 1 Cor 1:18-31; John 12:20-36  
 4/8: Isa 50:4-9; Ps 70; Heb 12:1-3; John 13:21-32  
 4/9: Exodus 12:1-14; Ps 116:1-19; 1 Cor 11:23-26; John 13:1-17  
 4/10: Isa 52:13-53:12; Ps 22; Heb 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42  
 4/11: Job 14:1-14; Ps 31:1-16; 1 Pet 4:1-8; Matt 27:57-66

**The church continues to subscribe to RightNow Media, an online Bible study resource that is free to you.** Send us an email at info@fccpittsfield.org if you would like to use this resource. You will then receive an email from RightNow Media inviting you to join their site. There is a large library at your fingertips full of Bible study resources for both adults and children. Subject areas include Easter, Youth, Marriage, Women, Men, Parenting, Books of the Bible, Christian Living, Biblical Finance and much more!

**Intentional Church Conference for April 25 has been canceled.**