

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 62 Issue 8

April 7, 2020



2020 Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday

Due to the current health restrictions and guidelines, we have been forced to alter our plans for Holy Week this year. Although we will not be able to worship together in the same building, we are hopeful that this year's plan will allow for meaningful times to remember and celebrate what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ.

The Plan: On Thursday and Friday from 6 PM to 7 PM, we will be having a two-day prayer walk/drive for you to do on your own that will culminate in an online devotional of communion and testimony. For those who cannot get out to walk or drive, please pray for the listed topics at home and consider taping one of the First Christian Church logo stickers on your front window. If you are doing a prayer drive and pass a house with our logo sticker displayed in the front window, pray for that household. Thursday's devotional will be a time of communion. Friday's will be a time of prayer and testimony. Here is a list of places to pass by and topics to pray.

- **Courthouse** (Praying for our Nation, Government, and Civil Servants) Rom 13:1-7, 1 Tim 2:1-3
Pray for wisdom in the midst of the pandemic, our nation's direction, the president, the supreme court, congress, the 2020 election, local and state government. Pray for the media in our country, law enforcement, and pray that we as a community and a nation do not reject God. Also, pray for our economy and the economic impact that the pandemic is having on the world. Pray for those in need, those who have lost jobs, those facing financial hardship due to the pandemic.
- **Schools** (Praying for our schools, educators, and students) Eph 1:17. Proverbs 1:7
Pray for teachers, school staff, and administrators; wisdom for how to educate in the midst of the social distancing restrictions; relationships between schools and community; Godly parenting (especially in the midst of the pandemic), FCA, students' ability to stand for Christ in the midst of ungodliness, sexuality/purity; our church youth leaders and volunteers; college students dealing with online learning, Christian Bible colleges, bias against Christian values in our educational system; and 2020 seniors having lost so many events in their last semester of high school.
- **East School/ All Wars Museum** (Praying for our Military) Ps 29:11
Pray for their safety and spiritual strength while serving, peace in the world, and protection while serving during the pandemic; families of those serving and the physical/emotional healing of those wounded while serving.
- **Hospital/Nursing homes** (Praying for God to heal from the pandemic)
Pray for ALL medical staff, support staff, EMTs, and scientists as they give care to the sick and search for a cure. Pray for miraculous healing from God. Pray for the safety of those who are vulnerable to infection.

Consider driving by the homes of some of our shut-ins and elderly.

Please remember our current social distancing guidelines while participating.

- Following your prayer time, go to the church Youtube or Facebook page and watch the video that will be posted at 7 PM Thursday and Friday as we conclude our time together in communion and prayer.
- Please take some pictures of your time to share with the rest of the church family.

Our Easter Sunday plans will be a bit different this year as well. There will be **NO** Sunrise service/fellowship breakfast this year.

- Easter Sunday at 8:00 AM will be an abbreviated Youth Sunday lead by a few of our youth from the Worship Team. One of our high school seniors will be sharing the message! Please show your support for them by streaming the service.
- We will also live stream a Resurrection Celebration service at 10:30 AM. Pastor Michael will be sharing a message at the 10:30 streaming service.

We greatly appreciate your continued support, online attendance, prayers, and financial faithfulness through these strange times. We will get through this together.

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: M 8:00am–4:00pm; T, W, TH 8-12
Worship Times: Every Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Stewardship (Offering Only)	<u>3/30-4/5</u>
Operational	\$8,850.63
Property Improvement	3.00
Outreach-Missionaries	70.00
DHF	25.00
Outreach-General	3.00
Unmet Needs	1,068.18
Children First	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$10,039.81

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$8,823.63
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,494

Ways to Give

- Mail: PO Box 306, Pittsfield, IL 62363
- Online: Website fccpittsfield.org then Resources, Online Giving
- At the Office: 201 N. Mississippi Street

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

Lectionary

4/12: Matt 28:1-10
 4/13: Ps 118:1-24; Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21; Colossians 3:5-11
 4/14: Ps 118:1-24; Exodus 15:1-18; Colossians 3:12-17
 4/15: Ps 118:1-24; Joshua 3:1-17; Matt 28:1-10
 4/16: Ps 16; Song of Solomon 2:8-15; Colossians 4:2-5
 4/17:Ps 16; Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 4/18:Ps 16; Song of Solomon 8:6-7; John 20:11-20
 4/19: Acts 2:14-32; Ps 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
 4/20:Ps 114; Judges 6:36-40; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
 4/21: Ps 114; Jonah 1:1-17; 1 Corinthians 15:19-28
 4/22:Ps 114; Jonah 2:1-10; Matthew 12:38-42
 4/23:Ps 116:1-19; Isaiah 25:1-5; 1 Peter 1:8-12
 4/24:Ps 116:1-19; Isaiah 26:1-4; 1 Peter 1:13-16
 4/25:Ps 116:1-19; Isaiah 25:6-9; Luke 14:12-14

Prayer Concerns: Dorothy Apps Tereasa Apps
 Chip Barber Dora Lee Claus Tonya Douglas
 Joyce Harrison Stacey Helms Linda Irwin
 Wanda Mendenhall Joseph Pursley
 Calvin Grimes (Levi Grimes' father)
 Michael Guillory (Carolyn Barber's nephew)
 Greg Howard (Larry Howard's nephew)
 Debbie Houchins Gouran & Family
 Kolton Leslie (Friend of Joseph Pursley)
 Kay Matthews (Jean Sanderson's sister)
 Ashley Ratliff (Jean Sanderson's granddaughter)
 Mark Reeves (Ashli Freesmeyer's father)
 Peter Roccaforte (Chuck Barber's nephew)
 Julie Talley (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law)

We will only offer online streaming of services on Sundays at 8:00AM and 10:30AM until further notice. Pastor Michael will do a live stream event on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30AM. This will be a time for devotion, prayer, update church business and answer questions.

Ways To Watch/Listen

Website fccpittsfield.org - Ministries, Live Stream or Resources, Sermons.

YouTube - Search First Christian Church of Pittsfield and subscribe.

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

We can email you the audio of sermons or mail CD.

To help with streaming, consider a Bluetooth headphone or speaker.

We have changed office hours to M 8:00-4:00, T-Th 8-12.

Contact the following Elders or Staff should you have a need:

N.D. Harrison 217.370.1451	Brad Willman 217.491.0538
Larry Wigington 217.494.0027	Wayne Chamberlain 217.248.3367
Roger Brokaw 217.430.4369	Zack Boren 217.371.3924
Bob Clark 217.248-5954	Ruth Bennett 217-491-4062
Kathy Hull 217-430-7645	Michael Ten Eyck 217.491.3925
Helen Earls 217.473.1027	Rebecca Rhodes 217.653.9089

The **Disciple Heritage Fellowship Conference** was canceled; however, a free webinar will be presented Fri, **April 24**, noon-2:00. Spots are limited so register at discipleheritage.org. Watch their webpage or Facebook page for the latest info.

Marjorie Gamble will turn 95 years young on April 26. Let's shower her with birthday cards and well wishes!

Desert Flower Assisted Living
 Marjorie Gamble
 9185 East Desert Cove Avenue
 Apt 239

Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Her phone number is 480.398.1284

A friend shared this with me on April 5, 2020 and I thought it was too good not to share. -Pastor Michael

<https://www.thissideofheavenblog.com/blog/how-the-virus-stole-easter>

As Holy Week begins...some thoughts.
How the Virus Stole Easter
By Kristi Bothur
With a nod to Dr. Seuss

Twas late in '19 when the virus began
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full,
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed.
"There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.

"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused on masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year," they proclaimed.
"Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling.
"They're finding out now that no Easter is coming."

"They're just waking up! We know just what they'll do!
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo."

"That noise," said the world, "will be something to hear."
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.

(Continued to next column...)

But the sound wasn't depressed.
Why, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn't be so!
But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
"Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.
"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then?
Well...the story's not done.
What will YOU do?
Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night?
Will you share the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb,
And Jesus is Victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,
As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that -
Let it start a revival.