

The Pittsfield Christian



First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 62 Issue 15

July 14, 2020

Dear Church Family,

2020 continues to be a year that is teaching us to be flexible. Regrettably, we need to inform you of a change in our Sunday Morning routine for July 12th & 19th. Due to the construction in the sanctuary required with the replacement of our HVAC unit and the sudden rise in Covid-19 cases regionally (and in our own county), the Elders made the decision to have virtual-only Sunday morning services for the two Sundays.

We regret having to take this brief step back, but we are very hopeful that this quick pause will allow us to proceed responsibly into the future. We will still have our Sunday Morning Worship service live-streamed at 8 am. We encourage connecting with small groups to view the service together. The live service will still be broadcast on Facebook, YouTube, and at 90.9 FM in the parking lot. For those who do not have internet but would like to gather in smaller numbers, we will be offering the Crossroads Center Gym (for 50 or fewer) and the Fellowship Hall (for 20 or fewer) as venues to stream services at 8 am and at 10:30 am. (The 8 am service will be the only live-streamed service.)

There will be Sunday School, Nursery, and Small Groups from 9:15-10:15. (Small Group meetings are at the discretion of the Small Group leaders.) An attendant will be on duty in the Nursery only during Sunday School.

It was a difficult decision, but after consultation with health care officials and the construction team, we felt that this was the most prudent course of action for the Church Family.

We look forward to responsibly worshipping together again in the sanctuary after these two Sundays. We will continue to give updates as we progress.

In Christ's Loving Service,
FCC Elders and Pastor Michael

Elder Corner

I was trying to decide exactly what I wanted to impart during these trying times and stumbled upon the introduction of 1 Peter in my Ryrie Study Bible—NIV. Peter's letter, date A.D. 63-64, is addressed to "strangers scattered" or literally the sojourners of the dispersion (1:1). These Christians, who like Israel of old, were scattered through the world, though the readers of this epistle were predominantly of Gentile rather than Jewish background (1:14; 2:9-10; 4:3-4).

Their situation was one of suffering and trial (4:12) but not because of the empire-wide ban on Christianity, since that came later. The sufferings referred to are those that often come to Christians as they live faithfully in a pagan and hostile society. Persecution took the forms of slander, riots, local police action, and social ostracism. DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR? It proves that Christians throughout the ages have been persecuted for their belief in God, our Father. The readers are encouraged to rejoice and live above such reproach.

And as the Bible tells us, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 Peter 5:10-11 *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power forever and ever. Amen.*

1 Peter 5:2-4 *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers, not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

Ruth Bennett, Elder

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 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>6/29-7/5</u>	<u>7/6-7/12</u>
Operational	\$6,373.34	\$5,376.94
Property Improvement	103.00	3.00
Outreach-Missionaries	70.00	70.00
DHF	25.00	25.00
Children First	20.00	0.00
Construction/Renovate	186.00	0.00
Unmet Needs	20.00	0.00
Outreach-General	<u>43.00</u>	<u>3.00</u>
Total	\$6,840.34	\$5,477.94

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)
 Received Last 7 Days \$6,373.34 \$5,376.94
 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
- At the Office: 201 N. Mississippi Street

Wishes & Wants

Free: Hand crank hospital bed. Mattress NOT included. Jenny Tate 217.248.1238.

Prayer Concerns: Tereasa Apps, Chip Barber, Tom Barger, Brian Bradshaw, Dora Lee Claus, Andrea Collver, Jeff Cox, Tonya Douglas, Joyce Harrison, Stacey Helms, Donnie Houchins, Wanda Mendenhall, Kevin Tharp, Bobby Bates Allen (Barbara Fosco's brother) 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) Linda Sipes (Larry Howard's sister) Marge Syrcle (Friend of Karl Benjamin) Julie Talley (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law) Eyan Tharp (Kevin Tharp's grandson) Calvin Thiele (Cindy Conner's father)

Hymn Sing
Sunday, August 2
 6-7pm
 YouTube, Facebook
 Plan to watch & listen to Becky & Charlotte play your favorites!

In addition to the Prayer Concern list above, we also have available the Prayer Chain which is a phone tree of individuals called to spread the word of prayers for someone in need. Contact the office if you would like to be added to the list of callers or are on the list and need removed.

Normally in July we ask for volunteers who would like to serve on communion preparation, scripture reading and nursery assist schedules that renew in September. Due to change in our services, we will forgo those schedules for now and reactivate them in the future if/when the need arises.

Rodney and Matt are putting together a fishing outing at Hamer and Jenny Tate's home for the **youth guys in the church 7th grade and up**. Must have your own fishing gear. Meet at Crossroads at 5:45 and be back around 8:00, Sunday, **July 19**.

The Trustees will award the Carol V. Claus Baughman Scholarship to the student pursuing a degree in the education field or in religious studies. **Contact the office by July 26 for an application or for info.**

Words cannot begin to express our appreciation to Michael for such a lovely service. It was special! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Thank you to Bob Clark for all his help with the sound/video and thanks to Rebecca for help with the bulletin insert. Thank you to the CWF ladies for providing a wonderful lunch for us after the service. We really missed our church family due to the covid-19 restrictions but we felt your love through your calls, cards, food, memorials, and prayers. They sustained us through Mom's illness and her passing. She truly loved her church and her church family. -Helen & Donnie & families.

Lectionary
 7/19: Gen 28:10-19; Solomon 12:13-19; Rom 8:12-25; Matt 13:24-43
 7/20: Ps 139:13-18; Gen 32:3-21; Rev 14:12-20
 7/21: Ps 139:13-18; Gen 33:1-17; Galatians 4:21-5:1
 7/22: Ps 139:13-18; Gen 35:16-29; Matt 12:15-21
 7/23: Ps 105:1-11; Gen 29:1-8; 1 Cor 4:14-20
 7/24: Ps 105:1-11; Gen 29:9-14; Acts 7:44-53
 7/25: Ps 105:1-11; Gen 29:31-30:24; Matt 12:38-42
 7/26: Gen 29:15-28; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Rom 8:26-39; Matt 13:31-52
 7/27: Ps 65:8-13; Gen 30:25-36; James 3:13-18
 7/28: Ps 65:8-13; Gen 30:37-43; Ephesians 6:10-18
 7/29: Ps 65:8-13; Gen 46:2-47:12; Mark 4:30-34
 7/30: Ps 17:1-7; Isa 14:1-2; Philippians 4:10-15
 7/31: Ps 17:1-7; Isa 41:8-10; Rom 9:6-13
 8/1: Ps 17:1-7; Gen 31:1-21; Matt 7:7-11

Thank you to the following individuals for providing manpower and/or equipment when we received our semi load of playground covering! Bobby Smith, Michael Smith, Silas Smith, Jimmy Smith, Dave & Ace Freesmeyer, Hamer Tate, Rodney Gordley

Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway with the Dorothy Apps funeral luncheon. Bless you all. CWF Bereavement Ministry.

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.

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