

The Pittsfield Christian



First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 62 Issue 17

August 11, 2020

On Sunday, August 16, at 8:00 we will live stream the service and offer viewing at Crossroads. At 10:30 we will worship outside like we did August 9. Bring your lawn chairs and sit on the south side of the church. Do not park on the east side of the grassy worship area if possible unless you plan to stay in your vehicle and watch/listen on 90.9 FM radio. **If the weather does not cooperate then we will worship in the sanctuary with social distancing.** We ask for any available Deacons to help clean the sanctuary after 8:00 service / before 10:30 service in case we need to move the 10:30 service indoors. We also encourage everyone to bring your own communion supplies as we will have only a limited supply available.

The nursery will be staffed starting at 9:00 through the end of the 10:30 service. Youth Sunday School classes will meet.

Youth Group will meet Sunday, **August 16**, at Crossroads. Middle School will meet 5-6:30. High School will meet 6-7:30. We are trying to reschedule the fishing trip to Hamer and Jenny Tate's farm on Saturday, August 22 so watch for more info.

Pastor Michael will host **Coffee Talk** on **Tuesdays** at 10:30 on Facebook and YouTube. You can also park on the east side of the church and listen on 90.9 FM radio. Once finished around 11:00, he will come outside to your vehicle for anyone who needs prayers or to talk.

Elders will meet Tues, Aug 25, 6pm.

Dear First Christian Church Family,

These past few months have been a roller coaster for us all. Just about the time, we sense that some semblance of normalcy will be restored, we find the rug pulled out from underneath our feet and feel the need to adjust our course of action. This leads to disappointment when events are canceled, uncertainty about future events, and hesitancy in commitment.

I want you to know that I realize that this is very frustrating for you. I certainly wish that this was not the case for us. I can only give you the assurance that every decision that we have made about scheduling, closing, and reopening has been done by carefully considering our congregation, the best available data at the time, advice from our local health officials, and weighing this information with our responsibilities with the vulnerable in our Church Family and community.

I fully realize that virtual worship services are no replacement for in-person worship services. It is important for us to physically gather together when responsible for us to do so. I long for things to be "back to normal..." but that may take some time to get there, if ever. Here are some things we can strive to do:

- **Be honest with your feelings about the situation while trying to be understanding with the reason some decisions are made.** The Psalmist says "*Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation, and my God.*" Psalm 42:5-6 ESV
- **Strive to keep the unity of the faith in the midst of less than ideal circumstances.** Paul encouraged the early church to do just that. Eph 4:1-3 "*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* ESV
- Be gracious to those whom you may disagree with. Phil 2:4 "*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*" ESV
- Remember that the Church has gone through many times of trials. The Church actually thrives in tough times. These times should push us towards Christ, not away from Him. Rom 5:2-5 "*Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*" ESV
- Pray for your church leaders. We need it!

As we all look to bear the image of Christ to one another and the world, we will see God's purpose fulfilled, even in the strange days in which we live.

Loving you all,
Michael

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

Prayer Concerns: Tereasa Apps, Chip Barber, Tom Barger, Karl Benjamin, Dora Lee Claus, Cindy Conner, Joyce Harrison, Stacey Helms, Wanda Mendenhall, Michael Guillory (Carolyn Barber's nephew) Peggy Quincy (Sharron Houchins' sister-in-law) 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) Calvin Thiele (Cindy Conner's father)

Serving schedules for communion preparation, scripture reading and nursery assistant will be reactivated if/when the need arises.

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.

Stewardship (Offering Only) 7/27-8/2	8/3-9	
Operational	\$9,973.05	\$9,163.90
Property Improvement	3.00	3.00
Outreach-Missionaries	70.00	470.00
DHF	25.00	25.00
Children First	20.00	124.00
Unmet Needs	6.00	0.00
Construction/Renovation	0.00	124.00
Outreach-General	<u>43.00</u>	<u>43.00</u>
Total	\$10,140.05	\$9,952.90

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$9,954.05 \$9,163.90
 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
- We still have expenses even with adjusted operations. Thank you for your continued prayers and support during this unprecedented time. New black metal offering boxes are secured on the sanctuary mantels, gym and fellowship hall for your convenience.

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

Thank you!

Thank you for the graduation gifts as I'll put them to use. I couldn't ask for a better church family. -Kurtis Johnson.

Lectionary

8/16: Gen 45:1-15; Isa 56:1-8; Rom 11:1-2, 29-32; Matt 15:21-28
 8/17: Ps 130; Gen 43: 1-34; Acts 15:1-21
 8/18: Ps 130; Gen 44:1-34; Rom 11:13-29
 8/19: Ps 130; Gen 45:16-28; Matt 8:1-13
 8/20: Ps 124; Gen 49:1-33; 1 Cor 6:1-11
 8/21: Ps 124; Gen 49:29-50:14; 2 Cor 10:12-18
 8/22: Ps 124; Gen 50:15-26; Matt 16:5-12
 8/23: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Isa 51:1-6; Rom 12:1-8; Matt 16:13-20
 8/24: Ps 8; Exodus 1:1-7; Rom 2:1-11
 8/25: Ps 8; Exodus 2:11-15; Rom 11:33-36
 8/26: Ps 8; Exodus 2:15-22; Matt 26:6-13
 8/27: Ps 105:1-6, 23-26; Exodus 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:1-6
 8/28: Ps 105:1-6, 23-26; Exodus 3:16-22; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12
 8/29: Ps 105:1-6, 23-26; Exodus 4:1-9; Matt 8:14-17

Isaiah 40:31

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.