

The Pittsfield Christian



First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 61 Issue 26

December 17, 2019

Coming Events

12/22 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
5:00 pm Christmas Cantata

12/24 8:30 am Bible Study
9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

12/27 8:00 am Sullivan Auction
4:00 pm Basketball Practice
6:00 pm Pike County Youth League

12/28 9:00 am Pike County Youth League

12/29 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School

12/31 8:30 am Bible Study
5:00 pm Youth Group
9:00 pm New Year's Celebration

1/2 5:00 pm Basketball Practice

1/3 6:00 pm Pike County Youth League

1/4 7:00 am Men's Breakfast & Study
9:00 am Pike County Youth League

1/5 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
5:00 pm Elder Retreat

Elder Retreat will be Sunday evening, **Jan 5**, at Pastor Michael's home.

Newly elected officers will be **installed** Sunday, **Jan 5**, during 10:30 service. This includes

Moderator: Gary Mendenhall
Vice-Moderator: Bobby Smith
Treasurer: Bethany Dunham
Recording Secretary: Betty Hayden
Trustee: Dan Speckhart
Elders: Wayne Chamberlain, Larry Wigington
Deacons: Shari Clark, C.J. Hayes, Danielle Hayes, Amber Poor, Justin Poor, Emma Saxe, Ellie Ten Eyck

The next **Men's Breakfast and Study** will be Sat morning, **Jan 4**, 7-8:30 at Crossroads.

Contact Zack Boren for more info.

Circle IV will meet Thurs morning, **Jan 9**, 9:30 at Cardinal Inn.

The **94th Annual Christmas Cantata, "Tell Me the Story"**, will be Sunday, **Dec 22**, 5:00. Doors open at 4:00. The nursery will be available and staffed.

Christmas Eve Service will begin at 9:00 p.m. Invite your friends and family to celebrate with us the birth of our Savior.

Youth Group

Dec 22: No meeting due to Cantata.

Dec 29: No meeting.

Dec 31: "Holiday Mayhem" Escape Room Mystery Night and Meal for Youth Group will be Tuesday evening, December 31, starting at 5:00 p.m. They will be dismissed right after midnight. Youth are welcome to bring a guest. We will provide transportation home for those who live within city limits. We will only take the guest to the home of our youth group member who invited them. Please RSVP Kayla Boren, Katie McDevitt or Katie Sidwell **ASAP** if you plan to attend and let us know if you will bring a guest so we know how many to prepare for. **Permission forms are near the coffee table and admin bldg.** High schoolers will not be permitted to drive themselves home after the lock-in! We don't want them out on the roads after curfew. We are happy to transport them home to Pittsfield residences. Please call Pastor Michael before the lock-in for any special arrangement considerations. 217.285.4129.

The **Thursday noon Bible Study** will resume **Jan 9** with Chapter 5.

Kids Connection will resume Wed, **Feb 5**.

Happy New Year's Eve Celebration

Who: Everyone & their kiddos.

What: Family New Year's Eve Party.

When: 9:00pm December 31.

Where: Church Fellowship Hall.

Why: Fellowship & to pray the new year in.

Bring finger food to share, board and card games to play. At 11:55pm we will begin praying in the 2020 New Year.

Celebration will conclude shortly after midnight.

RSVP Brenda Kramer if you would like to attend so we know how many to prepare for. 217.742.7539

We have a few extra copies of the book "A Walk One Winter Night" that Pastor Michael read at Christmas Eve Service last year. Let the office know if you would like one. Cost is \$5.

Crossroads Center will be open for **walking** Monday through Thursday, 8-10a.m. **starting Jan 6**. Special events may alter the schedule and will be posted.

Thank you EVERYONE who helped with your time and/or financial contribution to the Adopt a Family program. Your generosity has helped make Christmas brighter for individuals and families in Pike County.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries: 1 Kirk Speckhart; 2 Shanna Tharp, Landon Poor, Lucas Poor, Roger & Charlotte Dunham; 5 Ruth Poyner, Kurtis Johnson, Sami Johnson; 6 Don & Barbara Fosco; 7 Mary Wombles; 8 Jack & Kathy Hull, John Birch; 9 Hamer Tate; 10 Gary Jones; 11 Shari Clark, Missy Borrowman; 12 Burdette & Becky Irwin, Matt Sealock, Laura Chamberlain; 13 Thomas Hull; 14 Hilda Dunham; 15 Cameron Herring; 16 Mary Lou Chamberlain; 17 Evert & Ruth Poyner; 19 Charles Gates; 20 Harold Loyd; 21 Bryn Fine; 23 Tyler Grimsley; 24 Bobby & Chris Smith, Kaden Ferguson; 26 Jeanne Howard, David & Julie Myers; 27 Katie McDevitt; 28 Keith Elledge, D.J. Wintjen; 30 Deana Jones; 31 Dave & Sandy Herring.

Prayer Concerns: Chip Barber, Dora Lee Claus, Carole Elledge, Joan Hagerbaumer, Amanda Haskins, Stacey Helms, Shirley Loyd, Kit Mefford, Aidan Poor, Baylor Fencik (Brad & Judy Losch's granddaughter), Michael Guillory (Carolyn Barber's nephew), Debbie Preston (Judy Losch's sister), Peter Roccaforte (Chuck Barber's nephew), Julie Talley (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), Jim Thompson (Brenda Kramer's father),
We express our sympathy to Vivian Cloninger and family with the passing of her nephew, Rick Cloninger. We also express our sympathy to the family and friends of Landon Davenport who passed away.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Betty Hoover memorial luncheon. It was greatly appreciated. Also, a special thanks to Pastor Michael and Rebecca for their assistance. -Carolyn Capps.

Good morning kind friends. I just want to THANK YOU again for the Christmas Basket you so graciously provided. I have not opened the gift boxes yet... I thought I would wait until at least Christmas Eve, but I did look at the County Market gift certificate. Thank you all very much for the certificate. It will be VERY useful. I am so grateful for your kindness. May our wonderful God bless you all richly. -Adopt a Family recipient.

Christian Women's Fellowship - Christmas Bazaar Report

What a wonderful Bazaar we had Friday, Dec 6. Every area in the gym was filled with a joyful Christmas spirit.

The Treasure Chest was overflowing with items for the whole family. The Country Store was filled with delicious cookies, cinnamon rolls, yeast rolls, fabulous candy, breads and cakes. On to the gift room which had a special treat - Terra Schoenherr was making and sharing her unique Christmas ornaments. There were beautiful handmade pillows, stockings, table runners and many other special gifts. You could sit down in the cozy Tea Room for a visit and enjoy cinnamon rolls and cranberry orange coffee cake. Then it's time for lunch. The cooks and dining room workers did an outstanding job in serving their delicious lunch. Thank you cashiers and "ticket tally" helpers who did a great job.

This special event could never have happened without all the tireless hours of time and talents from our many, many volunteers.

Thank you thank you to everyone who helped set up and spend time throughout the week - all of you who brought your "treasurers" to share, all the bakers, gift makers, cooks, dish washers, our wonderful staff who were always "on call." Thank you all who came to shop and enjoy the special lunch. And a special thank you to the "pack up crew" who swooped in to clean up. Blessed Christmas you all!

Love Raffle Winners: Quilt—Sue Speckhart. Bench—Karla Smith. Picture—Charlie Gates. Collector Dolls—Carolyn Myers, Sheila Slight.

Proceeds after expenses were over \$3,100. Proceeds from the Love Raffle were \$1,078.

Side Note: Our Crossroads kitchen was inspected by the Health Department on the morning of the Bazaar and passed with a perfect score. Thank you volunteers for your diligent care of the facility!

Poinsettias In Loving Memory and/or Honor of ...

Don Apps from Dorothy Apps and Family.

The Barber Family and Roberts Family from the Barber and Fine Families.

Loved Ones from Carolyn Casteel.

Bonnie Chamberlain, Mary Chamberlain, A.L. & June Chamberlain from their Family.

Leo Dwight Dunham from Hilda Dunham.

Don & Dorothy Apps and Forrest & Gladys Earls from Bill & Helen Earls.

All First Christian Church Volunteers from Keith & Carole Elledge.

Kathleen Kindle & Peg McComber from Edith Gant.

Winfred & Dorothy Gleckler and Charles & Neitha Dickerson from Larry & Charlene Gleckler Family.

John & Darlene Irwin from their Family.

Richard Kindle & Doug Kindle from Kathy Kindle.

Family and Friends from Brenda Kramer.

Bill & Virginia Combest from Mary Pfyl.

Kenna Poor from Justin & Amber Poor Family.

Eleanor Barber, K.C. Barber, Joann Sealock, Steve Sealock from Dr. Ron & Carolyn Sealock.

Excerpts from December 10 Board Meeting Minutes

Quorum of 9 met. Call to Order at 6:00 pm by Moderator Gary Mendenhall. Helen Earls opened with devotion and talked about encouraging others and to remind others of the good things they have accomplished instead of mistakes that have been made. We all need encouragement.

Minister's Report: Michael has been busy with administrative duties such as staff meetings, radio/video edits for the website and WBBA, meeting with Dave Upchurch about continuing to go through applications for Youth Minister. All lettering detail and inspections are finished on the new van. Pastoral Duties include continue small groups, fill-in for Youth Minister, planning Advent, and completed the 2020 sermon schedule. Personal and Community duties included mock trials, college visits, basketball and Saukette season is in full swing. There are families in our church that need prayers for physical/medical reasons. **Continued to next page.....**

Treasurer: Checking/Savings = \$617,249.04. Unrestricted Operating Checking = \$95,722.28. Budgeted Receipts = \$437,176.50. Budgeted Disbursements = \$340,399.57. Average Attendance YTD = 281. Excess Unrestricted Operating checking moved towards church construction / renovation = \$0 plus \$1,873.10 offering designated toward construction/renovation. Net Non-budgeted Activity = \$27,038.36. Total funds available for church construction/renovation are \$347,040.89. Budgeted receipts below \$9,000. Budgeted disbursements below \$108,000. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Bob Clark and seconded by Roger Brokaw. Motion carried.

Christian Education: Helen reported Kids Connection is moving along nicely. Helen encourages everyone to attend Kids Connection Christmas Program and promises it will be an amazing performance.

Children's First: Received an email from Doris that there will be an overhaul of the fire code and how it will affect our facility. It will not go into effect until November of 2022 when the relicensing is due.

Michael also reported that the boiler in the education building has malfunctioned. Donnie Bradburn has been called to assess the problem and ordered a part.

Balsman Property: Bobby Smith reported. The buyer of property is in default of contract. A written notice will be sent to inform the buyer of the default and noncompliance of the contract, asking the buyer to respond to our written request within 10 days. A motion was made by N.D. Harrison to send the written notification and seconded by Zack Boren. Motion carried.

New Business: Hamer Tate represented the committee formed to compile information for the renovation and construction of our education building. He gave a presentation on information gathered from staff from Children's First, Administrative Staff, Sunday School teachers and classes, and Christian Education Committee asking what their dreams, desires, needs and expectations would be in a new renovation/construction of our education building. Hamer then presented a rough draft of what a potential building could look like. After a question and answer time, Hamer went on to explain that the plans would need to go to an architect to see if all this is possible and the cost. A motion was made by Zack Boren to approve the committee to move forward to receive a cost estimate on the design. It was seconded by Tim Belford. Motion carried.

Michael also pointed out that a plan needs to be developed on how to share this information with the congregation and keep them updated on the progress of the building.

There was discussion about Christmas bonuses.

With no other business to report, Judy Ferguson made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Bobby Smith. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 7:20 PM. Michael closed with prayer.

While putting up our outdoor Christmas decorations last week, I noticed that the Joseph in our Nativity was not lighting up. It didn't bother me too much. I thought, "Well, he only has a supporting role in the scene anyway. The important ones are illuminated." With it being such an incredibly busy time of year, and since I was already late in setting up the Nativity, I didn't think anything more about it.

The next two nights as I drove up to the house and beheld the unbalanced scene, it began to bother me more and more. Certainly, Christ is the central figure and I am not disputing that, but I began to reconsider the part of Joseph in the Christmas story.

Perhaps it was fitting that his light was dim. In scripture, we only learn a few facts about him.

Matt 1:18-25 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. -ESV

Perhaps it is what we don't read that is meaningful. Joseph allowed his entire life and world to be "interrupted" by God's plan. He took the counsel of God's messenger and protected and raised God's son as his own, even when this meant uprooting his entire life.

We may infer that he did not seek the limelight, but was one of the quiet, strong, stable (pardon the pun) figures that Jesus not only came to save, but that Jesus submitted to as His earthly caregiver. (Luke 2:50) Let that sink in...

I drove to the store and bought a new bulb for my Joseph...now, ironically, he is the brightest in our Nativity Set, and I kind of like it that way. After all, God shines a spotlight on the meek and humble.

Have a blessed Christmas!

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: 9:00am–4:00pm M-TH, 9:00am–12:00pm F

Worship Times: Every Sunday 8:00am, 10:30am

Sunday School: 9:15am

Stewardship (Offering Only)	<u>12/8</u>	<u>12/15</u>
Operational	\$6,066.89	\$5,908.67
Property Improvement	3.00	43.00
Outreach-Missionaries	270.00	70.00
DHF	25.00	25.00
Outreach-General	586.05	3.00
Church Construction/Renovate	500.00	0.00
Adopt A Family	0.00	900.00
Unmet Needs	250.00	50.00
Children First	<u>100.00</u>	<u>110.00</u>
Total	\$7,800.94	\$7,109.67

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$5,996.42 \$7,681.16
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,494

Lectionary

12/22: Isa 7:10-16; Ps 80:1-19; Rom 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25
 12/23: Luke 1:46-55; 2 Sam 7:18-29; Gal 3:6-14
 12/24: Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
 12/25: Isa 62:6-12; Ps 97; Titus 3:4-7; John 1:1-14
 12/26: Ps 148; Acts 7:59-8:8
 12/27: Ps 148; Prov 8:22-31; 1 John 5:1-12
 12/28: Ps 148; Isa 49:13-23; Matt 18:1-14
 12/29: Isa 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb 2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23
 12/30: Ps 20; Isa 26:1-9; 2 Cor 4:16-18
 12/31: Ps 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19
 1/1: Eccl 3:1-13; Ps 8; Rev 21:1-6; Matt 25:31-46
 1/2: Ps 20; Gen 12:1-7; Heb 11:1-12
 1/3: Ps 72; Gen 28:10-22; Heb 11:13-22
 1/4: Ps 72; Exodus 3:1-5; Heb 11:23-31

Serving Schedule**December 22, 2019**

Elder: Matt Saxe, Judy Ferguson
Diaconate: Ann Ferguson, Tammi Koltveit, Kacie Lipcaman, Kevin Tharp, Steve Tharp, Vickie Tharp
8:00 Communion: Steve & Vickie Tharp
10:30 Communion: Wayne & Cindy Chamberlain
Scripture: Faith Saxe
10:30 Nursery: Ava Douglas
Shut-ins: Julie Myers

December 29, 2019

Elder: Jeremy Schoenherr, Brad Willman
Diaconate: Charlie Hull, Jessica Hull, Billy Fitzmaurice, Becky Fitzmaurice
8:00 Communion: Carolyn Casteel, Kathy Willman
10:30 Communion: Glen & Carol Cooley
Scripture: Lauren Saxe
10:30 Nursery: Lexie Lipcaman
Shut-ins: Matt & Faith Saxe

Wishes & Wants

None at this time.

There is a collection box at the church outside Rebecca's old office for used reading glasses or greeting card fronts. Lion's Club distributes the glasses to those in need and CWF sends card fronts to a youth home for recycling. Items may also be brought to the admin building.

	<u>12/8</u>	<u>12/15</u>
Worship Attendance		
8:00 AM	116	93
10:30 AM	<u>163</u>	<u>195</u>
Total	279	288
Christian Education		
Age 3-PK	7	7
K-1st	8	8
2nd-3rd	6	5
4th-5th	14	14
Jr/Sr High	16	18
Disciples	12	10
New Beginnings	7	7
Sermon Study	9	5
C.O.F.F.E.E.	10	8
Select to Connect	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	95	88