

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 58 Issue 26

November 16, 2016



Coming Events

- 11/20 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 Worship
8:00, 9:15 Sunday School
5:00 pm youth first
- 11/21 4:00 pm Basketball Practice
6:00 pm Diaconate Meeting
8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
- 11/22 4:00 pm Basketball Practice
6:00 pm Elder Meeting
7:00 pm Community Service at UMC
- 11/23 8:30 am Unmet Needs Meeting
- 11/27 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 Worship
8:00, 9:15 Sunday School
5:00 pm youth first
- 11/28 4:00 pm Basketball Practice
8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
- 11/29 4:00 pm Basketball Practice
- 11/30 6:30 pm Choir Practice
- 12/1 7:00 pm Sermon Study
- 12/2 7:00 am CWF Christmas Bazaar
6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting
6:00 pm Pike County Youth League
- 12/3 10:00 pm Pike County Youth Leag.
- 12/4 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 Worship
8:00, 9:15 Sunday School
5:00 pm youth first
- 12/5 4:00 pm Basketball Practice
1:00 pm Fellowship Hall Rental
8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
- 12/6 4:00 pm Basketball Practice
6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting
- 12/7 6:30 pm Choir Practice
- 12/8 9:30 am Circle IV Meeting
TBA CWF Executive Comm. Meeting
4:00 pm Basketball Practice
7:00 pm Sermon Study

The church offers boxes of predated/prenumbered offering envelopes so you can prepare your offering at home before coming to church. The 2017 boxes will be available soon for pick up in the overflow room for everyone who had a set for 2016. If you have not been using these but would like to start then give the office a call and we'll assign a box to you.

The youth first Basket Auction is right around the corner!

On December 14, you and your family are invited to enjoy a Family Meal and a chance to support youth first—our middle school and high school ministry—while bidding on some pretty awesome baskets! This has always been a blessing for our ministry, allowing our students to attend conferences, fun events, and host events of their own. A portion of the money raised is also used by the students to do outreach and service events like youth first Gives, where twenty families in the community are given turkey dinners in times where they would not otherwise be able to afford one.

Please mark your calendar and prepare to enjoy fellowship and a fun evening of auctioning! Special guest auctioneer Rick Curfman will be gracing us with his incredibly quick words!

If you would like to donate a basket to the auction, that would be awesome! Themed baskets are always a hit, such as Chocolate Baskets, Spa Baskets, and Car Wash Baskets! Any baskets to be donated should be brought to the church office no later than Dec 9.

Thank you so much for supporting youth first!

Pastor Michael will lead a very important Diaconate Meeting in the sanctuary on Monday, Nov 21, at 6:00 for approx. 45 minutes. Please let the office know whether or not you can attend. This is for all newly elected Deacons and those who will continue to serve as Deacon in 2017.

We will decorate the sanctuary and Oasis service with poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory/honor of loved ones then please contact the church office by **Dec 16**. Cost is \$10. Feel free to take your flower(s) home after the service on Christmas day.

Practices for **children singing in the cantata** will be during the 10:30 service time in the education wing on Sunday **Nov 20, Dec 4 & Dec 11**. There will also be one brief practice with the choir on Wednesday, **Dec 14 at 6:30** in the sanctuary. This is for children in 2nd grade through 6th. If your child is interested in singing please let Helen or Renita know asap.

The youth first Turkey Dinner distribution will be Sunday, **Nov 20**.

The **Elders** will meet at 6:00 on **Nov 22**.

The **Dec 13** Church Board Meeting will begin at **5:30**.

The church office will be closed **Nov 24 & 25** for Thanksgiving.

The next newsletter will be printed the week of **Nov 28**.

The Pike County Ministerial Alliance will hold the **Community Thanksgiving Service** on **Nov 22**, 7pm, at the Pittsfield United Methodist Church.

CWF recycles all-occasion card fronts by mailing them to St. Jude's Ranch in Nevada where the children attach new card stock. The cards are then sold in bundles to support St. Jude's' programs and services. The children receive payment for their work and learn about basic job skills and the importance of recycling.

The Lions Club also recycles reading glasses for distribution to those in need locally and around the world.

You can bring your cards and glasses to the collection boxes in the church building just outside the office on top of the coat rack in the hallway or simply bring to the admin building.

Children First is seeking a qualified teacher for their School-Age Summer Program. Qualifications for this position include at least 30 semester hours from an accredited college or university with 6 hours related to school-age child care, child development, elementary education, physical education or recreation. Contact Jennifer at 285-4129 for more info.

Prayer Concerns

Ann Bagent
Mary Chamberlain
Mary Gates
Judy Green (Sharon Houchins' sister)
Amanda Haskins
Elaine Hoaglin
Brenda Kramer
Angela Stover (Friend of Lothridge family)
Andrew Westmaas
We express our sympathy to Bill Earls and family with the passing of his brother-in-law, Philip Phillips from New Canton.

Our Outreach Ministry is beginning plans for the Adopt-A-Family program. Watch your bulletin, email and next newsletter for more info.

Our Christian Women's Fellowship will host the Christmas Bazaar on Friday, Dec 2, from 7:00 am until 1:30 pm.

Yum...cookies—cakes—candies—breads—and all those wonderful homemade goodies! It's time to start baking for the Bazaar! It takes a lot of goodies to fill our Country Store tables and your special items are needed. At least we have time to get through Thanksgiving...but not too much time...all goodies need to be at Crossroads on **Thursday morning, Dec 1**. Please contact Barbara Fosco if you have questions about our Country Store. Thank you and happy baking ladies!

If you have handmade gifts and treasures for the Gift Room, please bring them to Crossroads on **Wednesday, Nov 30 and Thursday, Dec 1, until noon**. Gifts can include handmade items like blankets, ornaments, cross-stitch pictures and jewelry. If you have any questions, please call Jill Kunzeman at 309.264.3785.

Are you doing your fall house cleaning? Please remember items would be appreciated for the **Treasure Chest Room**. Items can include (but not limited to) knick knacks, jewelry, handbags, household items, small appliances, furniture, electronics in working order, puzzles, books, toys, etc. No clothing please. Contact Ruth Ann Goodin 285.2705 or Linda Decker 285.4042 if you have questions. **Items can be brought to Crossroads Monday, Nov 28, through Wednesday, Nov 30, between 8am and 3pm and on Thursday, Dec 1, until noon.**

During the Bazaar on Dec 2, the Tea Room will be serving coffee cakes, rolls, and drinks until 10:30. Get rested and revived so you can do more shopping. A delicious lunch with soup, sandwich, pie, and drinks will be served from 11-1:30. The drawing for the Love Raffle will be held at 1:30. We hope you will have the opportunity to stop by and see what we have to offer.

On Tuesday, Nov 29, at 7:15 we need strong backs to help set up tables in the gym for the Bazaar and to move everything that's been brought for the Treasure Chest to the gym.

Love Raffle tickets for our lovely quilt will be available after 8:00 and 10:30 services until the Bazaar.

December Happenings

Sunday, Dec 11 - Christmas Caroling and Supper. Be at Crossroads by 4:45 so we can divide into groups and leave by 5:00 to visit the nursing homes and our shut-ins. Upon return to Crossroads a light meal will be served.

Wednesday, Dec 14 - Family Meal and Youth Basket Auction Fundraiser at 5:30.

Thursday, Dec 15 - Children First Christmas Program at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

Sunday, Dec 18 - Christmas Cantata at 5:00. Staffed nursery will be available.

Saturday, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 9:00p.m. The nursery will not be open.

Sunday, Dec 25 - We will have one worship service in the sanctuary at 9:00a.m. with no Sunday School and no nursery.

Excerpts from November 6, 2016 Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting was **called to order** by Moderator Bobby Smith at 11:58 A.M. Rebecca Rhodes, FCC Administrative Secretary, confirmed the quorum of fifteen members was met.

Moderator Smith asked Church Elder Roger Brokaw to lead in the **opening prayer**.

The **minutes** of the February 7, 2016 Congregational Meeting were read by Recording Secretary Judy Ferguson. Jenny Tate moved to approve the minutes as read. Charles Gates seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The 2016 Nominating Committee chairperson, Roger Brokaw, presented the slate of officers for 2017. Charlie Gates made the motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. Glen Cooley seconded the motion and all approved.

The Stewardship Committee chairperson, N.D. Harrison, presented the Proposed 2017 Budget and explained the Increase/Decrease from 2016, Percentage of Increase/Decrease, and Percentage of the Budget of each line item. At the October 11, 2016 FCC Board meeting, the Board moved to add an additional \$25,000 to the Christian Education line item to include "Children First" in the proposed budget and it was approved by the Church Board. At the Congregational Meeting, David Bishop made the motion to approve the 2017 Stewardship Budget, including the Christian Education addendum. Seconded by Gaylord Rhodes and all approved.

Children First Board Director, Helen Earls, presented the history of Children First, from inception to the present, focusing on the mission of providing a Christian Daycare and Preschool for this community. Program obstacles have included regulations by the DCFS, limited space, seeking qualified staff, and personal finances. Opportunities for program growth include opening a new classroom and an on-site staff training program within Children First. In July, 2016 the FCC Board gave Children First 18 months to be more fiscally sustainable. Helen read two letters from parents with children attending Children First, praising the many attributes and conveniences they appreciated as parents. Cathy Lacey gave a personal testament to the many reasons she seeks for her children to stay in this loving, educational environment.

Christie Mendenhall made the motion to forgive the Children First debt of \$115,000. Seconded by Jenny Tate and all approved.

David Bishop made the motion to ratify all actions of the FCC Board in relation to Children First for the past two years. Seconded by Joyce Lemons and all approved.

Moderator Smith presented an update on the Balsman property, including information on the receipts and disbursements for 2016. Discussion on easement possibilities are continuing.

Pastor Michael closed the meeting with a **prayer**.

David Bishop moved to **adjourn** the meeting and Gary Mendenhall seconded the motion, which carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 P.M.

Excerpts from November 8, 2016 Church Board Meeting

Call to Order at 5:56P.M. by the Moderator Bobby Smith.

Elder Devotions & Opening Prayer: Opening devotion and prayer was led by N.D. Harrison.

The October minutes were approved by general consensus.

Minister's Report: Report attached. Well attended Congregational Meeting on November 6. Advent planning.

Youth/Associate Minister: Report attached.

Treasurer's Report: Bethany reported that as of October 31, 2016: Total Checking/Savings Assets =\$434,799.48. Total General Checking Assets =\$202,276.98. Total Current Assets =\$521,843.84. Total Budgeted Receipts =\$392,360.41. Statement of Cash Flow on Nonbudgeted Receipts Total =\$78,547.15 and Nonbudgeted Disbursements =\$48,743.14. Difference of \$29,804.01. Worship Attendance average for January thru October =268 individuals. 83.33% through the fiscal year. Fiscal year Total Budgeted Disbursements =\$299,991.46 (66.83%). The Treasurer's report was approved by general consensus.

N.D. Harrison made the motion to write-off the Children First loan to be in agreement with the Nov 6, 2016 Congregational Meeting membership forgiving the Children First debt. Seconded by David Bishop and all approved.

Balsman Property: Continuing discussion on driveway access.

New Business: Christmas Eve Service 9pm. Christmas Day Service 9am. Elder Dinner, December 21, 5:30pm.

Roger Dunham moved to adjourn at 6:23P.M. Phil Sandidge seconded the motion and Pastor Michael closed us in prayer.

Immerse Yourself

I believe that some of a person's best times of life are when he totally immerses himself in an activity. Those activities have included, at various times in my life, blowing up things with firecrackers, working on equipment at my Dad's farm machinery dealership, computer programming, skiing, biking, designing things to make with Tyvek, arguing politics, playing chess and computer games, teaching and explaining things to people at my office. (I know, some of these might not be considered "worthwhile" or even "desirable" activities. And some might not even be considered "normal" activities.)

More relevant to what is expected in this column, activities I have immersed myself in have included participating in Bible discussions at Sunday School and paying close attention in worship services, learning more about and reinforcing my Christian faith.

Another activity I have participated in is helping lead weekly Bible studies at the jail with Wayne Chamberlain and, more recently, David Bryant. I have found I can use the on-line sermons posted on FCC's website with other reference materials available to gain a deeper understanding of the Bible's teachings. I can pause when I need to catch up on reading or making notes, and replay sections I may not have understood the first time through. I'm so happy I devoted some time to trying something different like this.

I'm also happy other members of FCC have devoted some of their time to immersing themselves in developing their skills and sharing them with others.

I'm so happy for the music we have at FCC. That took people devoting serious time studying music, rehearsing and sharing with the rest of us. It took music directors, singers, pianists and organists. In 2nd service it also takes people who devoted time learning and rehearsing percussion, stringed instruments, wind instruments and the keyboard. All the services require the help of someone who devoted time learning and operating the sound system and the computer for our graphics.

I'm so happy for our sermons delivered by someone who immersed himself for years studying scripture and music so he can share with us. I'm so happy we have someone who immersed himself in studying scripture and how to deal with youth so our youth can grow up strong in their Christian faith. I'm so happy there are Sunday School teachers who devoted time learning how to teach the Bible to others. I'm so happy there are people who devoted time learning about food preparation and preparing delicious meals for us.

There are so many more who immersed themselves in other activities around FCC to help us reach out to the community. We have all benefitted by how others have devoted time in worthwhile activities at FCC. Perhaps some people who have been on the sidelines benefitting from others' dedication in 2016 can step forward and offer their skills to make worship more fulfilling for all at FCC in 2017. If there are some people reading this who think I am talking to them . . . well, I am. But don't pay attention to me. If God is calling you to do more at FCC in 2017, you need to begin now. The congregation has already passed our 2017 budget and elected people to new positions in 2017, The Elders and church leaders will be organizing for 2017 in the next few weeks. Pay attention to God's calling. Talk to Pastor Michael or one of the Elders. If you have been too much on the sidelines, find an area of ministry at FCC you are interested in and immerse yourself in it. You will be rewarded.

-In Christ's service,
N.D. Harrison, Elder

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
 Chaz Waterman, Associate/Youth Pastor
 Helen Earls, Music & Christian Ed
 Rebecca Rhodes, Administrative Secretary
 Gina Bryant, Custodian

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

Worship Times: Every Sunday 8:00am, 9:15am, 10:30am

Sunday School: 8:00am, 9:15am

Stewardship (Offering Only)	11/6	11/13
Operational	\$9,045.00	\$7,188.40
Property Improvement	28.00	28.00
Outreach-Missionaries	320.00	70.00
DHF	80.00	80.00
Outreach-General	43.00	31.00
Outreach-Unmet Needs	25.00	0.00
Operation Christmas Child	27.00	0.00
Children First	<u>215.00</u>	<u>170.00</u>
Total	\$9,783.00	\$7,567.40

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$9,820.36 \$10,232.09
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,634

	11/6	11/13
Worship Attendance		
8:00 AM	82	74
9:15 AM	119	92
10:30 AM	<u>111</u>	<u>87</u>
Total	312	253

Christian Education

Age 3-PK	4	3
K-1st	6	5
2nd-3rd	11	6
4th-5th	10	9
6th-8th	0	2
Sr High	3	0
Disciples	17	17
New Beginnings	0	0
Select to Connect	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	58	49

Lectionary

11/20: Jer 23:1-6; Col 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
 11/21: Ps 24; Jer 46:18-28; Rev 21:5-27
 11/22: Ps 24; Isa 33:17-22; Rev 22:8-21
 11/23: Ps 24; Isa 60:8-16; Luke 1:1-4
 11/24: Ps 122; Dan 9:15-19; James 4:1-10
 11/25: Ps 122; Gen 6:1-10; Heb 11:1-7
 11/26: Ps 122; Gen 6:11-22; Matt 24:1-22
 11/27: Isa 2:1-5; Ps 122; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:36-44
 11/28: Ps 124; Gen 8:1-19; Rom 6:1-11
 11/29: Ps 124; Gen 9:1-17; Heb 11:32-40
 11/30: Ps 124; Isa 54:1-10; Matt 24:23-35
 12/1: Ps 72: 1-7, 18-19; Isa 4:2-6; Acts 1:12-17, 21-26
 12/2: Ps 72:1-7, 18-19; Isa 30:19-26; Acts 13:16-25
 12/3: Ps 72:1-7, 18-19; Isa 40:1-11; John 1:19-28

Serving Schedule

November 20, 2016

Elder: David Bishop, Hamer Tate
Diaconate: Christie Mendenhall, Gary Mendenhall
8:00 Communion: Richard & Rebecca Rhodes
9:15 Communion: Judy Ferguson
9:15 Greeter: Bev & Eddie White
9:15 Nursery: Katie Cox
10:30 Communion: Keith & Carole Elledge
10:30 Scripture Reader: Sydney Bauer
10:30 Nursery: Kadence Haskins
10:30 Sound System: Matt Saxe
Shut-ins: Wayne & Cindy Chamberlain, Matt & Faith Saxe

November 27, 2016

Elder: Phil Sandidge, Larry Wigington
Diaconate: Carole Elledge, Keith Elledge, Rokettia Brokaw, Glen Cooley, Betty Hayden, Kathy Curfman
8:00 Communion: Dan & Sue Speckhart
9:15 Communion: Dave & Sandy Herring
9:15 Greeter: Steve & Kathy Lehr
9:15 Nursery: Ellie Ten Eyck
10:30 Communion: Ann Ferguson, Joyce Lemons
10:30 Scripture Reader: Cameron Sweeting
10:30 Nursery: Emma Saxe
10:30 Sound System: Cherise Anderson
Shut-ins: Ann Ferguson, John & Cindi Schoenherr

Wishes & Wants

For Sale: 19" Samsung wide screen TV and Kenmore up-right vacuum with bags. Jim Belford 217.209.2707
For Sale: Proform Crosswalk 395 Treadmill, 3 years old, lightly used, \$250, Burdette & Becky Irwin 285.4842
Needed: Good used wheelchair. Phil & Georgia Sandidge 618.946.7530