

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 58 Issue 27

November 30, 2016



Coming Events

12/4	8:00, 9:15, 10:30 Worship 8:00, 9:15 Sunday School 5:00 pm youth first
12/5	1:00 pm Fellowship Hall Rental 4:00 pm Basketball Practice 8:00 pm Al 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 4:00 pm Basketball Practices 7:00 pm Sermon Study
12/9	6:00 pm Pike County Youth League
12/10	9:00 am Outreach Sorts Gifts 10:00 am Pike County Youth League
12/11	8:00, 9:15, 10:30 Worship 8:00, 9:15 Sunday School 4:45 pm Caroling and Meal
12/12	4:00 pm Basketball Practice 6:30 pm Circle I Meeting 8:00 pm Al Anon Meeting
12/13	4:00 pm Basketball Practice 5:30 pm Church Board Meeting
12/14	8:30 am Unmet Needs Meeting 5:30 pm youth@first Basket Auction 5:30 pm Family Meal 6:30 pm Choir Practice
12/15	4:00 pm Basketball Practice 6:30 pm Children 1st Christmas Prog 7:00 pm Sermon Study
12/16	6:00 pm Pike County Youth League
12/17	10:00 am Outreach Distributes Gifts 10:00 am Pike County Youth League 10:00 am Fellowship Hall Rental

The **Dec 13** Church Board Meeting will begin at **5:30**. Packets will be available on Dec 11.

The 2017 offering envelopes are available for pick up in the overflow room. If you have not used them before but would like to start then let the office know and we'll assign you a set.

Our Christian Women's Fellowship will host the 2017 Christmas Bazaar on Friday, Dec 2, from 7:00 am until 1:30 pm.

Cookies—cakes—candies—breads—and all those wonderful homemade goodies will be offered in our Country Store but items sell quick so don't be late!

Handmade gifts and treasures such as blankets, ornaments, cross-stitch pictures and jewelry will fill the Gift Room.

Knick knacks, handbags, household items, small appliances, furniture, electronics, toys, etc will be in the Treasure Chest Room.

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- 1:15.

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.

Proceeds from the event will support the various ministries of CWF.

Adopt-A-Family

- **All gifts along with any food donations are due back this coming Sunday, Dec 4.** Gifts should be wrapped with the tag attached.
- On Sat, **Dec 10**, gifts and food donations will be sorted at 9:00. This is a big job and we need lots of volunteers to help accomplish this. Feel free to come if you are available as many hands will make light work.
- On Sat, **Dec 17**, the families are coming to the church from 10:00-12:00 to pick up their gifts and food baskets. We are in need of a few volunteers to help carry boxes to cars that day.
- Contact one of the Outreach Ministry members if you would like to shop for any of the remaining tags - Michelle Gates, Angie Hittner, Carolyn Barber, Gina Bryant, Spencer Boren or Jim Dain.
- Monetary donations will continue to be accepted. Mark your offering Adopt-A-Family and funds will be directed accordingly.

The youth@first Basket Auction will be December 14. Enjoy Family Meal and a chance to support youth@first while bidding on some pretty awesome baskets! This event allows our students to attend conferences, fun events, and host events of their own. If you would like to donate a basket to the auction, that would be awesome! Themed baskets are always a hit. Any baskets to be donated should be brought to the church office no later than Dec 9.

Children First will have two fundraisers in the near future. On **Dec 6**, Gianni's will donate 15% of their proceeds to Children First. Also, on **Dec 13**, Free Press will donate a portion of their proceeds as well. Come out and support the wonderful programs that Children First provides!

This coming Sunday we will begin our Advent Series in the book of Isaiah focusing on the titles given to the Messiah.

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. A staffed nursery will be available. We will live stream the event for those who are unable to attend.

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

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

Sunday, Jan 1 - We will have one Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:00am led by our youth. There will be no youth Sunday School classes. Also per our bylaws, we will have installation of our officers and other elected officials during the service for everyone elected to positions at the November Congregational Meeting. Those who will be installed include David Koltveit, Gary Mendenhall, Libby Boren, Bethany Dunham, Tim Belford, Helen Earls, Judy Ferguson, Matt Saxe, Jeremy Schoenherr, Sonya Bishop, Zack Boren, Michelle Hart, Kevin Hittner, Burdette Irwin, Brenda Kramer, Debbie Robinson, Tom Robinson, Taylor Sweeting, Kate Waterman, Cherise Anderson, Lauren Saxe and Lainey Ten Eyck.

I am blessed by God above and by His angels too. Those angels appear when needed without thought to weather or task. Usually they show up and I haven't had to ask. They seek no gifts or notice. They simply want to be thanked so thanks to all my angels and for all the prayers and cards too. I'm glad I'm part of this family. God bless you. -Brenda Kramer.

The discussion at the Diaconate meeting last week revolved around the 2017 serving schedule and making it more convenient. Please call or email the office at info@fccpittsfield.org by **Dec 16** to let us know if you would rather serve one month at a time or be randomly scheduled. Also let us know if you would be willing to serve at 8:00 and/or 9:15 too.

The new officers of CMF for 2017 are Matt Sealock, President; Zachary Boren, Vice President; Kevin Hittner, Treasurer; and Michael Boren, Secretary. All male members of the congregation are welcome to join us in the fellowship of Christian men at our meeting in January.

This coming Sunday, **Dec 4**, is Cookie Sunday! Be sure to stay after worship service for continued fellowship with your church family and enjoy the trays of sweets provided by our volunteer bakers!

Practices for **children singing in the cantata** will be during the 10:30 service time in the education wing on Sunday **Dec 4 & Dec 11** and on Wednesday, **Dec 14** at **6:30** in the sanctuary.

We will decorate the sanctuary and Oasis 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.

The Elder Dinner Meeting will be **Dec 21** at 5:30.

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.

CWF Meetings: Dec 8, 9:30, Circle IV; **Dec 12**, 6:30, Circle I; The CWF Executive Board will arrange to meet at a designated time on **Dec 8** to followup on the Christmas Bazaar.

Prayer Concerns

Ann Bagent
Mary Chamberlain
Karen Dworzynski (Mary Wombles' sister)
Lynn Flure (Mary Wombles' sister)
Mary Gates
Judy Green (Sharon Houchins' sister)
JoAnn Greenwood (Bev White's sister)
Bill Hammitt
Amanda Haskins
Elaine Hoaglin
Brenda Kramer
Kierstin Patterson (Kevin Tharp's daughter)
Angela Stover (Friend of Lothridge family)
Andrew Westmaas
We express our sympathy to Robin Carr and family with the passing of her mother, Pearlle Ruth Ann Snyder of Barry.

It has always been ironic to me how around the time of Thanksgiving our society has created an enormous push to shop and spend money. Sure, it is in the guise of saving money, but I have observed that, for many, the shopping and spending is not only for gifts, but for self as well.

Don't get me wrong, I am all in favor of spending as little money as possible, but with the abundance that we as an American society have in comparison to the rest of the world, I doubt that most of us understand real need.

Generations before us, need was much more of a real thing than most of us currently understand. This lack of understanding can often cause us to become quite skewed in areas of appreciation for the blessings we have.

When I consider the entire concept of a "sale" it seems to actually fly in the face of what God has done for us. What I mean is that the entire "Black Friday/Cyber Monday" experience is marketed to purchase gifts for people that cost you as little as possible. Sure, that may allow us to be more generous in terms of getting more gifts for our friends and loved ones, but is that really what we need?

In contrast to this, we see a loving Heavenly Father. He did not look for a way to gift us something of little cost, but rather he seemed to go the opposite way. The extravagance of His gift is without measure.

Even on the cross Jesus refused to lessen the cost.

God gives priceless gifts... no sales... no gimmicks... just unfathomable love.

As Emerson wrote in his essay "Gifts":

But our tokens of compliment and love are, for the most part, barbarous. Rings and other jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only gift is a portion of thyself. Thou must bleed for me. Therefore the poet brings his poem; the shepherd, his lamb; the farmer, corn; the miner, a gem; the sailor, coral and shells; the painter, his picture; the girl, a handkerchief of her own sewing. This is right and pleasing, for it restores society in so far to the primary basis, when a man's biography is conveyed in his gift, and every man's wealth is an index of his merit. But it is a cold, lifeless business when you go to the shops to buy me something, which does not represent your life and talent, but a goldsmith's.

Perhaps a little consideration of God's method of gift giving may transform our view of giving as well.

Loving you all,
Michael

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: 2 Rhonda Vinyard, Alayna Justice; **3** Eryn Lipcaman, Gena Londrie; **4** Rebecca Rhodes; **5** Marc James, Yvonne Stauffer, Ike Martin; **6** Jessica Speckhart Smith, Scott & Jennifer Palmer; **9** Sandy Wigington, Mardell Bryant, Larry Lind; **10** Steve Hayden, Renita Ten Eyck, Georgia Sandidge; **11** Marci Speckhart, Caitlin Leonard, Dylan Leonard, Schae Leonard; **12** Alyssa Casto; **13** Jack Hull; **14** Matt James; **15** TJ Reel; **16** Tim Belford, Dave Bryant; **17** Barbara Fosco, Cara McNulty, Connor Wombles, Arabella McNulty; **18** Jim Belford, Brody Tomhave; **20** Bill & Ann Ferguson, Kenny & Lexie Manson; **21** Taylor Sweeting; **22** Donnie & Tereasa Apps, Harold & Shirley Loyd, Matthew Dain, Emmett Boren; **23** David Koltveit, Laynie Hart; **24** Cheryl Birch, Adam Maxwell, David Bishop; **25** Dorothy Apps, Betty Hayden; **26** Timothy Hull, Katie Cox; **27** Matt Saxe, Brad Tomhave; **29** Thomas Hoaglin; **31** Braxton Boren, Don & Deloras Martin.

The family of LaDon Johnson wishes to express their thankfulness for all the love this community has shown us during the time of the loss of our very loved family member. The cards, visits, hugs, food prepared, memorials, your thought and prayers have helped us to make it through this great loss to this point and your friendship will help to fill the void, even though we know that void will always be with us.

A special note of thanks to the church for the use of the Crossroads Center for the funeral meal and to the wonderful and patient members who helped with that meal in gathering and preparing food. Also, thanks to those in the background who helped with the setup of the Crossroads Center and making it work for us in a very busy week. You were blessings to us.

God bless you all.

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)	11/20	11/27
Operational	\$6,710.00	\$9,006.00
Property Improvement	103.00	53.00
Outreach-Missionaries	70.00	270.00
DHF	80.00	80.00
Outreach-General	187.00	20.00
Adopt-A-Family	0.00	350.00
CWF	25.00	0.00
Children First	<u>95.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Total	\$7,270.00	\$10,029.00

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$8,146.15 \$9,875.75
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,634

	11/20	11/27
Worship Attendance		
8:00 AM	78	74
9:15 AM	92	78
10:30 AM	<u>80</u>	<u>82</u>
Total	250	234

Christian Education

Age 3-PK	8	6
K-1st	6	4
2nd-3rd	12	10
4th-5th	14	11
6th-8th	0	0
Sr High	4	4
Disciples	17	15
New Beginnings	8	9
Select to Connect	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	76	66

The next newsletter will be printed the week of **Dec 12.**

Lectionary

12/4: Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12
 12/5: Ps 21; Isa 24:1-16a; 1 Thess 4:1-12
 12/6: Ps 21; Isa 41:14-20; Rom 15:14-21
 12/7: Ps 21; Gen 15:1-18; Matt 12:33-37
 12/8: Ps 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10
 12/9: Ps 146: 5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18
 12/10: PS 146:5-10; 1 Sam 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18
 12/11: Isa 35:1-10; Ps 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11
 12/12: Ps 42; Isa 29:17-24; Acts 5:12-16
 12/13: Ps 42; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Jude 17-25
 12/14: Ps 42; Zech 8:1-17; Matt 8:14-17, 28-34
 12/15: Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Sam 7:1-17; Gal 3:23-29
 12/16: Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Sam 7:18-22; Gal 4:1-7
 12/17: Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Sam 7:23-29; John 3:31-36

Serving Schedule

December 4, 2016

Elder: Spencer Boren, Roger Brokaw
Diaconate: Michael Smith, Judy Ferguson, Mary Gates, Georgia Sandidge
8:00 Communion: Hamer & Jenny Tate
9:15 Communion: Tom & Debbie Robinson
9:15 Greeter: TBA
9:15 Nursery: Lainey Ten Eyck
10:30 Communion: Jamie & Sarah Sweeting
10:30 Scripture Reader: Barbara Fosco
10:30 Nursery: Claire Tate
10:30 Sound System: Chaz Waterman
Shut-ins: Jim & Brittany Dain, Kay Sealock
Fellowship Treats: Helen Earls, Sandy Wigington, Bev White, Lori Johnson, Karen Goodwin

December 11, 2016

Elder: Roger Dunham, Wayne Chamberlain
Diaconate: Sarah Sweeting, Michele Westmaas, Jamie Sweeting, Barbara Fosco, Karen Goodwin, Donnie Apps
8:00 Communion: Steve & Vickie Tharp
9:15 Communion: Phil & Georgia Sandidge
9:15 Greeter: Bill & Laura Grimsley
9:15 Nursery: Lauren Saxe
10:30 Communion: Donnie & Tereasa Apps
10:30 Scripture Reader: Nic Daniel
10:30 Nursery: Ellie Ten Eyck
10:30 Sound System: Matt Sealock
Shut-ins: Roger & Charlotte Dunham, Hamer & Jenny Tate

Wishes & Wants

For Sale: 19" Samsung wide screen TV and Kenmore upright vacuum with bags. Jim Belford 217.209.2707
Needed: Good used wheelchair. Phil & Georgia Sandidge 618.946.7530
For Sale: King size Sleep Number bed. With headboard & storage under. Bedding goes with it. Judy Dunham 285.2738