

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 59 Issue 3

February 15, 2017



Coming Events

- 2/19 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 am Worship
8:00, 9:15 am Sunday School
5:00 pm youth@first
- 2/20 1:00 pm Blood Drive
7:15 pm Open Gym
8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
- 2/22 8:30 am Unmet Needs Meeting
5:30 pm Wellness Class
6:30 pm Storm Chaser Training
6:30 pm Women's Book Study
7:00 pm Choir Practice
- 2/23 6:00 pm Republican Dinner
Noon Women's Book Study
7:00 pm Sermon Study
- 2/25 12:30 pm Birthday Party
- 2/26 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 am Worship
8:00, 9:15 am Sunday School
5:00 pm youth@first
- 2/27 7:15 pm Open Gym
8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
- 2/28 6:30 pm Elder Meeting
- 3/1 5:30 pm Wellness Class
7:00 pm Choir Practice
- 3/2 Noon Women's Book Study
2:00 pm Circle V Meeting
7:00 pm Sermon Study
- 3/3 1:00 pm World Day of Prayer
6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting
youth@first at "Believe"

The Monday night **Volleyball League** will start **March 6** with a cost of \$20 per person. Contact Matt Sealock to register you or your team.

Our **Church Yard Sale** will be **March 31 & April 1**. Watch for future info as to when you can bring your items.

Blood Drive at Crossroads-Monday, February 20th

Please mark your calendars to come donate blood on Monday, **February 20th**, at Crossroads 1pm to 6pm. Due to a shortage of donations this winter, your blood donation is critically needed now. If you wish, you may contact the Red Cross at redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or to use RapidPass which allows you to help save lives in less time. The web site is: redcrossblood.org/RapidPass. Just read the information, answer the questions and print your pass or email it to yourself. You may only use RapidPass **on the day of the blood drive**, but it will save time. Don't forget to bring your RapidPass with you or have it on your mobile device. We hope many of you will come donate and help save lives.

Blood Drive Volunteers & Cookies Request

Help is needed on Monday, **February 20th**, to greet donors, serve cookies & drinks and to escort donors. The volunteer times are 1:00 to 3:30 and 3:30 to 6:00. Your homemade cookies would also be appreciated and can be dropped off at Crossroads any time after 12Noon. Please contact Barbara Fosco at 285-2608 if you can volunteer time or bake cookies. We look forward to your participation and many thanks to everyone!

Wednesday Wellness/Workout Group

Join Brianne Gerecke and Kathy Curfman on Wednesday's from 5:30 - 6:30 for a time of fellowship and wellness awareness! The first meeting, **Feb 15th**, was used as a time to discuss the purpose of the group and items of interest. Our meetings may include dance, stand/sit exercise and stretching, recipes, health awareness information along with guest speakers/instructors. Just dress comfortably because we may start with some fun dance moves to get our hearts pumping! If you have questions, please contact Kathy at [217-248-5214](tel:217-248-5214).

The Pike County Health Dept will offer a **Food Service Sanitation Manager's 8 Hour Certification Course** on **Monday, Feb 27 & Monday, Mar 6** at Findley Place Apartments. Class sessions will be from 1-5:00 each day and attendees must be present for the entire 7 hours of instruction to be eligible to take the exam scheduled for the last hour of class. Early registration is recommended with a **deadline of Feb 22**. Contact Helen or the church office if you are interested in helping with Crossroads events and want to get certified. The church will pay the various fees for our people.

The Sunday **8:00 am Select to Connect connection group** has started a new study "The End of Me" by Kyle Idleman at Crossroads. We have books available or you can download your own. Everyone is welcome.

We need your help to **serve** the Republican Dinner on Thursday, **Feb 23**. Sign up at the fellowship table if you are available or contact Karen Goodwin or Judy Ferguson.

The next newsletter will be printed the week of **Feb 27**.

Prayer Concerns

Mary Chamberlain
John Cloninger
Kenny Ewers (Friend of Wayne Chamberlain)
Matt Gates (Charlie Gates' brother)
Bill Hammitt
Don Sheeley
Richard Stauffer
Andrew Westmaas

We express our sympathy to Don Chamberlain and family with the passing of his sister, Margaret Carlton.

On **March 3 and 4**, YOUTH@FIRST Middle School will be attending **CIY: Believe** in Springfield, IL! This is an awesome time filled with worship, messages, and fun designed specifically for middle school students at the Prairie Capital Convention Center! This is a Friday-Saturday overnight event, and we will be staying in the Days Inn on Toronto Road just like last year. The price of the event is \$45 per student, or \$65 per family! This is an excellent time of discipleship and worship, and we can't wait!

We want you to be aware of a correction on the **2016 Year End Report**. On page 10, the Elders with term ending 12/31/18 should have been David Bishop, Phil Sandidge, Hamer Tate, Larry Wigington. The four that were incorrectly listed in that term are the newly elected Elders with term ending 12/31/19. Sorry for any confusion.

We thank everyone for their cards, calls and prayers during this sad time. Family of Connie Bradburn. -Don, Sue & Barb.

I wish to thank you for your caring and the gifts at Christmas. They were much appreciated. -Adopt a Family recipient.

I want to say thanks to everyone who thought of me at Christmas time. I appreciate it and enjoyed everything. -Karl Benjamin.

The **World Day of Prayer service** will be Friday, **March 3** at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 1:00 pm. All are invited to gather together and observe a common day of prayer which is shared by people around the world.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

3 Joan Hagerbaumer; **4** Bentli Christianer; **5** Bill & Carol Schwartz; **7** Wayne Chamberlain, Eddie White, Chris Rule; **8** Brad & Judy Losch, Angie Phillips; **10** Bonnie Dain; **11** Walter & Marge Lamb, Kevin & Kelly Masters; **12** Richard Decker, Wendy Smith, Ezra Boren; **13** Darlene Smith, Jacob Hull; **14** John & Jane Calaway; **16** Christie Mendenhall, John Schoenherr, Rokettia Brokaw, Ashlyn Havens; **18** Haley Smith; **20** Jack Korte; **21** Carolyn Barber, Dustin Borrowman, Adam & Allison Korte; **22** Larry & Jeannie Howard, Joseph Pursley, Ethan Palmer; **24** Roger Yaeger; **25** Abigail Cox; **26** Spencer Boren, John Havens, Carol Cooley, Burdette Irwin, Lisa Pennock, Natilee Grimes; **31** Bill Earls, Hannah Roig.

Excerpts from Congregational Meeting February 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 am by Moderator David Koltveit. Administrative Secretary Rebecca Rhodes confirmed the quorum of 16 was met. Elder Chairman Larry Wigington offered the opening prayer.

Recording Secretary Libby Boren read the minutes from the November 6, 2016 Congregational Meeting. Moderator Koltveit approved the minutes as read by general consensus.

Pastor Michael Ten Eyck summarized Sunday attendance trends for 2016, noting an average attendance decrease of 30 over the course of the year. He proposed possible reasons for this downward trend including the loss of families to relocation for work and family reasons. Further, he explained that the availability of the Livestream service may influence attendance on a week-to-week basis, though it also allows members to stay connected when sick, home-bound, or out of town. He also encouraged the congregation to focus on moving forward by looking for ways to get new people involved at FCC.

Treasurer Bethany Dunham presented the financial report from 2016. First, she noted the Administration Building was paid off in January of 2016. Budgeted Receipts for 2016 from events totaled \$466,116. The 2017 budgeted expenditures total \$477,229, with a weekly need of \$9,004.

Moderator Koltveit highlighted the Executive Committee's report and first thanked Bobby Smith for his work as out-going Board Moderator. He highlighted the Property Committee's work with roof repair and paint work done at Crossroads Center, the new storage pod next to the Crossroads Center, and the ongoing negotiations regarding an easement for the Balsman property.

The 2017 Elder Chair Larry Wigington noted that two first-time elders were nominated for 2017: Jeremy Schoenherr and Judy Ferguson. He mentioned that some elders will be reassigned to new ministry departments for 2017. He encouraged the congregation to pray for the elders of the church.

Pastor Michael Ten Eyck thanked the Outreach Ministry for their work in 2016, noting that requests from those in need in the community are up. Additionally, the response to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry was low this year, but the Outreach Ministry stepped up to serve as many people as possible.

Pastor Michael Ten Eyck also summarized the church goals for 2017. These included:

1. Tighten Up Ministry Areas, with the goal of getting more people involved in ministry
2. Orange Curriculum Progress: This year, the Orange Conference will be streamed online, which will allow Sunday school teachers and others to view sessions even if they are unable to attend the Orange Conference in Atlanta.
3. Kids Connection Revival: Kids Connection will re-launch in fall 2107. Pastor Chaz Waterman will coordinate this ministry.
4. Right Now Media: Use of this online resource will allow individuals and small groups to stream teaching and training material from speakers and authors, and access financial and budgeting resources.
5. Research Missions: Pastor Michael stated that the church is beginning to research potential mission trips for members to serve on.
6. Service Schedule: Church leadership is in the beginning stages of exploring possible changes to service schedule, with the goal of possibly moving to two services. The goal will be to find the best way to engage the congregation on Sunday mornings and support attendance.
7. Renovations: Though there is no specific plan at this time, several current structural and space issues necessitate the need to develop a plan for renovations. Pastor Michael explained that there are several options for repair and renovation work, and that he hopes to have a plan for moving forward in 2017. Pastor Michael displayed one possible plan for renovating the current sanctuary and education wing, but reminded the congregation that this was only one option and that no specific plan was developed at this time. He emphasized that through the renovation process, the vision of sharing Jesus will come first, and he called for unity within the congregation as the process moves forward. Discussion needs to be had regarding renovation vs replacement.

David Bishop moved to approve all reports for 2016, including all ministry areas and the financial report. Gary Mendenhall seconded the motion and all approved.

N.D. Harrison moved to approve all actions of FCC's officers in 2016. David Bishop seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

At 12:29 pm, Gary Mendenhall moved to adjourn the meeting, David Bishop seconded the motion and all approved. Pastor Michael Ten Eyck closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Libby Boren
Recording Secretary

Valentine Dinner Reports

Thank you to all who helped make the Valentine dinner another huge success! It was a wonderful evening with great food and even greater fellowship! It is a wonderful opportunity for the youth to serve the congregation and to work with each other in the set up and the serving. There were 24 youth who participated. They all looked so sharp and we are very proud of them.

A special thank you to Alayna Scranton and all those who provided musical entertainment during the evening. We are blessed to have so many talented people who are so willing to give of their talents for their church family!

A special thank you goes to Betty Hayden who headed up this project in the kitchen with Judy Ferguson's assistance. Betty has done this for the youth for many years. She truly loves the kids and they love her! She does an amazing job!! We are also extremely grateful for Judy Ferguson's participation. She truly has a servant's heart! Thank you, ladies!!

We want to thank the parents who came one or both days or stayed to clean up for their support of the kids and this ministry. Proverbs 22: 6 says *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."* Thank you, parents, for seeing the importance of Christian Education in your children's lives and providing transportation to get them here every week! We value the trust you place in us.

Also, a big thank you to Michael Ten Eyck for cutting the steaks, Joyce Lemons and Mary Gates for washing table cloths, the Dad's that stood out in the cold for hours cooking the meat – Michael Ten Eyck, Gary Mendenhall, and Scott Palmer, Katie Hull for heading up the decorating, and Chaz and Kate Waterman, Matt Sealock, Wayne and Cindy Chamberlain, Matt Saxe, Libby Boren, Rodney Gordley, Kayla Boren, and Luke and Autumn Fesler for their leadership with the kids and their assistance with the dinner. We have great youth leaders and we are grateful for all of them!! We could not have done it without all of you!

I would also like to thank the congregation for always supporting the youth in all they do. You are the best! We are grateful to have such a loving and supporting church family. God Bless you all!!

Helen and the youth@first

Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who was a part of this week's YOUTH@FIRST Valentine Dinner! The cooks and grillers were amazing, the youth leaders did an awesome job, the entertainment was perfect, the students served humbly, the parents were gracious in staying behind to help clean up, and the guests were wonderful! A lot goes into an event like this, and I'm honored to be a part of a team that can make something like this happen and happen well! Now, while this is an event that helps to highlight the service of our students, it's also a fundraiser. With your generosity, we were able to raise a little over \$1,500! On behalf of our students, thank you for making our events possible! We literally couldn't do what we do without you.

-Pastor Chaz

This week many observed Valentine's Day by purchasing flowers, giving candy, or expressing their fondness for another. Growing up, I recall rushing out on the evening of February 13 to hurriedly purchase Valentines to be given to classmates the next day. I also remember sorting through the Valentines and finding a few special ones that ended up being given to best friends or even the subject of a childhood crush.

After the big exchange, the real moment of truth came when you would excitedly go through your container of cards and see what you had received. Your hope was that a particular someone, to whom you may have given an extra special Valentine, had given you one as well.

Should that not happen, you were usually downcast and sad, but if it should happen, you were elated and felt a tingly rush of adrenaline-laden excitement.

You can tell so much about a relationship by the gift given...

What I find so ironic about our modern observance of Valentine's Day is that it has very little to do with the figures from which it is named. There were several St. Valentines, at least two of which were martyred between 269 and 273. The facts about their lives are far harder to find than the legends. (One such legend was that they performed marriages to soldiers who were forbidden to marry; however, no such Roman edict is verifiable.) Suffice to say that they served the church with such devotion that they were willing to lay down their lives in ministry to Christ, not in romantic love.

Romantic love is wonderful! God formed us to experience emotions and romantic love, but like so many things in this world, the eternal love of God is often relegated secondary to it.

Advertisers attempt to sell goods based on the idea that you can equate the amount of love, affection, or interest for another in the greatness of the gift given. If there is any merit in that thought at all, then consider John's words:

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ESV

1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. ESV

I sincerely hope that your Valentine's Day was wonderful, but never let us lose sight of the greatest love gift ever given to mankind. I hope that even the wonderful, magical feeling of romantic love will cause us to focus on the creator and giver of life and love, rather than what we experience in life and love itself.

Remember, God is, in fact, love.

Loving you all,
Michael

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Staff:

Michael Ten Eyck, Pastor
 Chaz Waterman, Associate/Youth Pastor
 Helen Earls, Programs & Christian Ed
 Kayla Boren, Music
 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

	<u>2/5</u>	<u>2/12</u>
Operational	\$6,408.10	\$13,221.10
Property Improvement	158.00	63.00
Outreach-Missionaries	70.00	70.00
DHF	80.00	80.00
Outreach-General	256.00	25.00
Snack Pack Program	50.00	0.00
Unmet Needs	50.00	0.00
youth@first	0.00	80.00
New Building Construction	0.00	150.00
Children First	<u>250.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$7,322.10	\$13,789.10

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$7,864.22 \$13,164.98
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,004

Serving Schedule

February 19, 2017

Elder: Roger Brokaw, David Bishop
Diaconate: Kate Waterman, Ciera Anderson, Sonya Bishop, Karen Goodwin, Michelle Hart, Kevin Hittner
8:00 Communion: N.D. & Joyce Harrison
9:15 Communion: Larry & Sandy Wigington
9:15 Greeter: Larry & Sandy Wigington
9:15 Nursery: Ellie Ten Eyck
10:30 Communion: Ann Ferguson, Joyce Lemons
10:30 Scripture: Cindi Schoenherr
10:30 Nursery: Ellie Ten Eyck
10:30 Sound System: Michelle Gates
Shut-ins: John & Cindi Schoenherr, Wayne & Cindy Chamberlain

February 26, 2017

Elder: Judy Ferguson, Joyce Lemons
Diaconate: Ciera Anderson, Taylor Sweeting, Rokettia Brokaw, Michelle Hart, Kevin Hittner, Kate Waterman
8:00 Communion: Richard & Rebecca Rhodes
9:15 Communion: Judy Ferguson
9:15 Greeter: Jack & Kathy Hull
9:15 Nursery: Lainey Ten Eyck
10:30 Communion: Jamie & Sarah Sweeting
10:30 Scripture: Kay Sealock
10:30 Nursery: Shelby Bauer
10:30 Sound System: Matt Saxe
Shut-ins: Kay Sealock, Brenda Kramer & Ann Ferguson

Lectionary

2/19: Lev 19:1-2, 9-18; Ps 119:33-40; 1 Cor 3:10-11, 16-23; Matt 5:38-48
 2/20: Ps 119:57-64; Prov 25:11-22, Romans 12:9-21
 2/21: Ps 119:57-64; Gen 31:1-3, 17-50; Heb 12:14-16
 2/22: Ps 119:57-64; Prov 3:27-35; Luke 18:18-30
 2/23: Ps 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Heb 8:1-7
 2/24: Ps 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Heb 11:23-28
 2/25: Ps 2; 1 Kings 21:20-29; Mark 9:9-13
 2/26: Exodus 24:12-18; Ps 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt 17:1-9
 2/27: Ps 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34
 2/28: Acts 7:30-34; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6
 3/1: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Ps 51:1-17; 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10; Matt 6:1-6, 16-21
 3/2: Ps 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7
 3/3: Ps 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17
 3/4: Ps 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matt 18:1-7

	<u>2/5</u>	<u>2/12</u>
Worship Attendance		
Celebration		
Sunday 225		
8:00 AM		78
9:15 AM		92
10:30 AM		<u>109</u>
Total	225	279
Christian Education		
Age 3-PK	FX	5
K-1st	FX	2
2nd-3rd	FX	6
4th-5th	FX	11
6th-8th	FX	0
Sr High	FX	4
Disciples	11	13
New Beginnings	0	7
Select to Connect	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	18	55