

# The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 59 Issue 4

March 1, 2017



## Coming Events

- 3/5 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 am Worship  
8:00, 9:15 am Sunday School  
5:00 pm youth@first
- 3/6 1:00 pm Interagency Meeting  
6:00 pm Volleyball League  
8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
- 3/7 6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting
- 3/8 8:30 am Unmet Needs Meeting  
5:30 pm Wellness Class  
6:30 pm Women's Book Study  
7:00 pm Choir Practice
- 3/9 9:30 am Circle IV Meeting  
Noon Women's Book Study  
7:00 pm Sermon Study
- 3/10 9:00 am Gym Rental
- 3/12 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 am Worship  
8:00, 9:15 am Sunday School  
5:00 pm youth@first
- 3/13 6:00 pm Volleyball League  
6:30 pm Circle I Meeting  
8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
- 3/14 6:30 pm Church Board Meeting
- 3/15 5:30 pm Wellness Class  
6:30 pm Women's Book Study  
7:00 pm Choir Practice
- 3/16 Noon Women's Book Study  
5:30 pm Children First Board Meeting  
7:00 pm Sermon Study
- 3/17 11:00 am Curfman Auction

All men are invited to the **CMF Dinner Meeting** to be held Tuesday, **March 21**, at 6pm. Circle IV will serve the meal. Sign up at the fellowship table if you plan to attend.

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**. Donations can be brought to Crossroads March 27 - March 30.

As we approach Easter, it is good to follow in obedience to scripture and consider baptism. Contact Pastor Michael or Pastor Chaz.

Calling all singers! We would love you to join us for our choir Holy Week celebrations! We will be singing several numbers over Holy Week April 9-16, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter morning, and would love to have your voice. Choir is on Wednesdays at 7pm. Contact Kayla Boren 217-370-2166 if you have any questions or are interested.

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at playing a unique instrument? We are inviting all ages, veteran bell players and aspiring ones to come learn some songs for Easter morning. We will practice Saturday, April 8th and Saturday, April 15th at the church at 9am. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Curfman or Kayla Boren ASAP!

If you still have the cantata music and folder, please return them at the next choir practice or bring to the church office.

**Circle IV** will meet at 9:30 on **March 9** at the Cardinal Inn. **Circle I** will meet at 6:30 on **March 13** at Crossroads. CWF Executive Committee will soon meet to discuss Spring Fling.

The next **Church Board** meeting will be at 6:30 on **March 14**. Packets will be available on Sunday, March 12.

The next **Children First Board** meeting will be at 5:30 on **March 16**.

**Children First is currently accepting enrollment for the Summer Program.** The tentative dates are Monday through Friday, May 30 through August 18. The range of ages are Kindergarten through age 12. Contact Jennifer at 285-4129 for more info or to add your child (ren) to the list.

The **Wednesday Wellness/Workout Group** meets in the fellowship hall from 5:30-6:30 each week. Contact Kathy Curfman for more info 217-248-5214.

The **Wednesday book study** is studying the book of Psalms during March. The ladies meet at the church from 6:30-7:30. Childcare is provided. Contact Michelle Hart or Bethany Dunham for more info.

Contact Charlotte Dunham at 833-2725 if you missed the **Prayer Shawl Group** informational meeting. Sewing projects will include both knitting and crocheting.

The **World Day of Prayer service** will be Friday, **March 3** at St. Mary's Hall 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.

Our library in the church Long Room has a wide variety of books available for you to check out for reading at home. Topics include inspirational, Bible study, marriage and family, finances, etc. Feel free on Sunday mornings to see what we have. Also, let us know if you would be interested in doing some organizing of the books.

On Wednesday, **March 8**, we will host a meeting and serve a luncheon to agriculture related gathering. Help will be needed starting at 10:30. Please contact Joyce Lemons if you have time to lend a hand in the kitchen.

**Blood Drive Report:** We had 29 people come to our drive and 24 of those were able to donate. Thank you to everyone who came to donate! We were over goal and that's terrific! Several people used the RapidPass program and were able to walk in and immediately get interviewed. Others, unfortunately, had to wait. Next year we will really encourage donors to use RapidPass and to make appointments so their experience donating is easier and faster. People kept coming in to donate all afternoon. Thanks to Carol Schwartze, Cheryl Birch, Carole Elledge, for bringing cookies and volunteering and to Don Fosco, Matt Sealock and Chaz for volunteering their time to set-up and take-down. Our donors save lives . . . what a great feeling that is for each donor. If you were unable to come to our drive, please watch for blood drive announcements and donate whenever you can. The need for donors is critical and your help is always appreciated.

Please notify the office if we have neglected to list your birthday or anniversary in the newsletter or Sunday announcements. We certainly want to acknowledge your big day and celebrate with you!

Our Outreach Ministry continues to support the Pikeland Snack Pack Program which provides food for children and their family on weekends. If you would like to contribute financially, mark your offering envelope "Snack Pack" and funds will be directed accordingly. Contact Pastor Chaz for more info on the program.

### Prayer Concerns

Mary Chamberlain  
John Cloninger  
Kenny Ewers (Friend of Wayne Chamberlain)  
Bill Hammitt  
Shirley Loyd  
Michelle Smith (Friend of Brenda Kramer)  
Kathy Young (Friend of Bev White)  
Joyce Zumwalt

*We express our sympathy to Nathan Painter and family with the passing of his brother-in-law, Kurtis Taylor. We also express our sincere sympathy to the family of Linda Lovell who passed away.*

*First Christian Church,  
Thanks so much for remembering me with the Valentine gift of fruits and candy. It is greatly appreciated and it will not last long as I love fruits and candy.  
In Christian Love,  
Dora Lee Claus*

Wally Lamb celebrated his 90th birthday on February 28. Marge and Wally will then celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary on March 11. If you would like to send a card, their address is 31 Executive Park Drive, Apt 212, Hendersonville, TN 37075.

*Congratulations Henry and Amy Speckhart on the birth of their son. William Dan Speckhart was born February 21 and has been welcomed home by siblings Ronan and Clara. Proud grandparents are Dr. Dan and Sue Speckhart.*

The next newsletter will be printed the week of **March 13**.

Plan to stay after worship service on March 5 for Cookie Sunday! Sweet treats provided by our volunteers will be available along with continued fellowship.

### **Fellowship of Christian Athletes Fundraising Banquet**

April 3  
Oakley Lindsay Center-Quincy  
tsweatman@fca.org

### **Gathering to Connect & Intentional Church Conference**

April 21 & 22  
First Christian Church - Decatur  
intentionalchurchconference.com

### **Christian Women's Conference**

Liz Curtis Higgs & Susie Larson  
April 26  
Lincoln Christian University  
lincolnchristian.edu/cwc

## **Excerpts of Church Board Meeting Minutes February 14, 2017**

Call to Order at 6:32pm by Moderator David Koltveit. Opening devotion and prayer were led by Jim Dain starting from Job 42: 10. The scripture reminds us to live by Biblical standards. The January minutes were approved by consensus.

Minister's Report \*The office is busy in January preparing year-end contribution statements, payroll forms, year-end report, etc. \*February 5 Celebration Sunday in the sanctuary was well attended. \*General discussion about changing from 3 to 2 Sunday services seems to be accepted but there are various ideas on times. \*Pastor Michael distributed his sabbatical proposal for 2017 that included goals, schedule, budget, desired impact on congregation, and plan to cover pastoral duties. The document had already been approved by the Elders and Executive Committee. His salary and benefits would continue during this time but there would be no travel reimbursement. Traditionally, a sabbatical is granted after the first 7 years then every 5 years after. His last one was during 2012. Gary moved to approve the proposed sabbatical, Judy seconded, and all approved.

Youth/ Associate Minister's Report \*The February 2017 FX was attended considerably less than the first one in October 2016 so Pastor Chaz is working on ways to turn that around. Our youth will not attend CIY MOVE this year. The Valentine Dinner had great youth and parent support and attendance with net proceeds over \$1,500.

Treasurer's Report Bethany Dunham reported that as of January 31, 2017: Total Checking/Savings Assets = \$453,735.53. Total Unrestricted Checking = \$123,502.80. Total Budgeted Receipts = \$42,508.74. Total Budgeted Disbursements = \$27,769.20. Statement of Cash Flow on Nonbudgeted Receipts Total = \$5,035.25 and Nonbudgeted Disbursements = \$4,843.79 for a difference of \$191.46. 2017 weekly worship attendance average for January was 227 individuals. Even though January had 5 Sundays, we contended with bad weather and New Year's Day on Sunday. The January 31 General Unrestricted Checking Account fund balance was \$123,502.80. Joyce Lemons made the motion that at the end of each month, the excess balance over \$100,000 in this fund be allocated towards New Building Construction Renovation fund. Gary seconded, all approved except one. Rebecca will ask Joyce Harrison to discuss with Trustees the option of safely investing New Building Construction Renovation funds.

The Trustees will meet Feb 18 to review the 2017-2018 insurance policy.

Christian Education Helen said we are hoping to reimplement Kids Connection this fall to get more young families involved and we already have volunteers for the program. Cindy said a VBS planning meeting will be soon.

Balsman Property A permanent easement still has not been attained and the committee is gathering more options and alternatives. The Doug Harter family will continue cash rent for 2017.

Pastor Michael said Property is in the planning process of installing the LED sign. So far, the most logical yet most difficult installation location is the north Crossroads parking lot. The board will continue to be updated and a plan will be submitted asap.

Pastor Michael discussed RightNow Media, an online Bible study resource for small groups, families, students, leadership development, etc. with an enormous database of material. He showed the Board our trial purchase that had already been reviewed and approved. Everyone in the church family would have their own login and instructions for the site that can be accessed via computer, mobile device, and Roku. Helen said the \$130 monthly fee can be paid through the 2017 Christian Ed budget then we can budget accordingly for 2018. Phil made the motion to proceed with the RightNow Media subscription, Bethany seconded and all approved.

Judy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm. Phil seconded the motion. Pastor Michael Ten Eyck closed the meeting in prayer.

Dear Church Family,

Solomon wrote that there is a time and season for every activity under heaven. Throughout creation there are seasons and cycles. There are times of production and times of rest. In the Creation Story, the Almighty concluded with a season of rest.

Unfortunately, I, like most, often view rest as weakness. There are many reasons for this perception, some of which have merit and some of which have little merit. Regardless of my perception, though, the fact is that rest is critical and essential. Rest is both *of and from the Lord*.

In ministry, essential rest is often overlooked. For this reason, and with counsel, the church Elders and Board adopted a Sabbatical Policy about eight years ago. Within its guidelines were that Pastoral Staff were to be offered a Sabbatical after 7 years of service, and every 5 years thereafter.

In our research we found the following thoughts:

*A ministry sabbatical is not an extended vacation nor is it an academic sabbatical that normally involves extensive study. A ministry sabbatical is a release from the routine of the call for the physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of the ministry leader.*

#### **A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON SABBATICALS:**

*The word sabbatical is drawn from Sabbath. The Hebrew word for Sabbath means to “close or rest” and is connected with the last day of Creation when God rested. (Genesis 2:3) God both models and commands rest for his people. “Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.” (Exodus 20:8-11)*

*Jesus affirmed the importance of rest saying, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” (Mark 2:27-28) The Biblical example of Jesus’ own frequent withdrawal to a quiet place to meditate, pray, and be renewed is a model. In His ministry, the constant demands of people led Jesus to step away on a regular basis.*

*See also: Genesis 1 and 2; Exodus 20:8-11, 23:10-12; Leviticus 25:1-7 (Sabbatical Year), 24:8-25 (Year of Jubilee); Psalm 23; and Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.*

#### **WHY IS A SABBATICAL IMPORTANT?**

*Roy Oswald, Alban Institute, suggests that the rapid change and complexity of congregational life and ministry raises the need for sabbatical rest and renewal every four to seven years. He believes that 20% to 30% of ministry leaders he speaks to are in a state of severe burnout. Another 20% of the same audience is on the way to severe burnout.*

*Richard Bullock and Richard Bruesehoff in Clergy Renewal: The Alban Guide to Sabbatical Planning suggest the following motivations for considering a ministry sabbatical.*

*Continual spiritual growth facilitated by periods of rest and renewal is vital toward being an effective minister.*

*Pastoral responsibilities are not contained within normal office hours and regularly involve weekends.*

*Rapid changes in parish ministry can increase the likelihood of burnout without periods of rest and renewal.*

*Burnout makes ministry and the minister, dull, hollow, and uninteresting.*

*Provides the opportunity for congregations to examine their dependency on the ministry leader and consider expanding the roles of lay leaders.*

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As you recall, I took a Sabbatical in 2012. It was a very unique and needful journey, in which I learned quite a lot about myself and church structure. It is hard to believe that five years have nearly passed. Since 2012, much has happened within our church family and community. With the counsel of our outside church advisor, my spiritual accountability partners, and friends, I have been encouraged to request a Sabbatical in 2017.

This does not mean that I am burned out, but it does mean that I do not wish to do so. I have formally requested the Sabbatical to the Eldership and the Church Board, who have graciously and lovingly agreed to grant my request. We have discussed several options as to the best timing of the Sabbatical as well as to the some of the specifics of the time of intentional spiritual refreshing. It was agreed upon that July was the most appropriate time.

I am currently making plans both for my time of refreshing, as well as for the church in my absence. I trust that this will be a wonderful time of growth for us all. It will be wonderful for the church to have other voices speak into our lives during this time.

I wanted to share this information with the congregation as early as possible. If you have any questions, I invite you to feel free to share them with myself, an Elder, or a member of the Church Board.

I am grateful for the commitment of the entire First Christian Church of Pittsfield to make every effort to care for the health and well-being of the staff. I request your prayers for the planning of this time as well as the Sabbatical itself.

I am looking forward to this journey, as well as its impact on our Church Family. It is a wonderful thing to “work from our rest” rather than to constantly have to “rest from our work.”

Loving you all,  
Michael

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# rightnow MEDIA

Church family-

I'm excited to share that our church now has access to an extensive, new video library called RightNow Media! It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want—on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV.

As a church staff, we're always looking for ways to help you develop and strengthen your faith. We believe that RightNow Media will be a tool to serve you as you live out your faith at home, at work and in your neighborhood. RightNow Media has videos for everyone—kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals—all aimed at helping you grow.

You should have already received an official invitation email to give you FREE access to RightNow Media. If you haven't received it yet, check your mail filter (because it came from RightNow's system, it may have gotten caught there).

Once you find the email, simply click the link, sign up for an account, and you're all set to explore more than 12,000 videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing for you and your family!

-Pastor 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  
 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

<b>Stewardship (Offering Only)</b>	<b><u>2/19</u></b>	<b><u>2/26</u></b>
Operational	\$8,149.00	\$8,142.37
Property Improvement	28.00	3.00
Outreach-Missionaries	70.00	270.00
DHF	80.00	80.00
Outreach-General	98.00	7.00
Snack Pack Program	50.00	0.00
Unmet Needs	50.00	0.00
Children First	<u>150.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$8,675.00	\$8,702.37
<b>Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)</b>		
Received Last 7 Days	\$8,551.00	\$8,922.27
Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget	\$9,004	

**Serving Schedule**

**March 5, 2017**

**Elder:** Matt Saxe, Jim Dain

**Diaconate:** Julie Boren, Mike Boren, Jill Kunzeman, Karen

Goodwin, Eric Kunzeman, Donnie Apps

**8:00 Communion:** Dan & Sue Speckhart

**9:15 Communion:** Judy Ferguson

**9:15 Greeter:** Roger & Rokettia Brokaw

**9:15 Nursery:** Lauren Saxe

**10:30 Communion:** Donnie & Tereasa Apps

**10:30 Scripture:** Lauren Saxe

**10:30 Nursery:** Kadence Haskins

**10:30 Sound System:** Cherise Anderson

**Shut-ins:** Dan & Sue Speckhart, Jim & Brittany Dain

Fellowship Treats: Carolyn Casteel, Cheryl Birch, Jessica Hull, Rebecca Rhodes, Barbara Bradburn

**March 12, 2017**

**Elder:** Helen Earls, Wayne Chamberlain

**Diaconate:** Glen Cooley, Betty Hayden, Faith Saxe, Barbara Fosco, Lauren Saxe, Rokettia Brokaw

**8:00 Communion:** Hamer & Jenny Tate

**9:15 Communion:** Tom & Debbie Robinson

**9:15 Greeter:** Bev & Eddie White

**9:15 Nursery:** Emma Saxe

**10:30 Communion:** Ruth Bennett, Kay Sealock

**10:30 Scripture:** Michele Westmaas

**10:30 Nursery:** Emma Saxe

**10:30 Sound System:** Chaz Waterman

**Shut-ins:** Howard & Vera Staffy, Roger & Charlotte Dunham

**Lectionary**

3/5: Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalms 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11  
 3/6: Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18  
 3/7: Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10  
 3/8: Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14  
 3/9: Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7  
 3/10: Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31  
 3/11: Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10  
 3/12: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17  
 3/13: Psalm 128; Numbers 21:4-9; Hebrews 3:1-6  
 3/14: Psalm 128; Isaiah 65:17-25; Romans 4:6-13  
 3/15: Psalm 128; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 7:53-8:11  
 3/16: Psalm 95; Exodus 16:1-8; Colossians 1:15-23  
 3/17: Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22  
 3/18: Psalm 95; Exodus 16:27-35; John 4:1-6

	<b><u>2/19</u></b>	<b><u>2/26</u></b>
<b>Worship Attendance</b>		
8:00 AM	87	76
9:15 AM	78	87
10:30 AM	<u>99</u>	<u>81</u>
Total	264	244

**Christian Education**

Age 3-PK	2	4
K-1st	6	5
2nd-3rd	8	13
4th-5th	0	11
6th-8th	0	0
Sr High	3	4
Disciples	9	15
New Beginnings	7	3
Select to Connect	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	42	62