

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 59 Issue 25

December 13, 2017



Coming Events

- 12/17 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
5:00 pm Christmas Cantata
- 12/18 4:00 pm Basketball Practices
8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
- 12/19 9:00 am Bible Study
5:00 pm Basketball Practices
- 12/20 3:45 pm Kids Connection
5:30 pm Family Meal
6:30 pm Kids Conn. Christmas Prg
- 12/21 4:00 pm Basketball Practices
6:30 pm Children First Christmas
7:00 pm Elder Dinner
- 12/24 9:00 am Worship
9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- 12/26 5:00 pm Basketball Practices
- 12/27 8:30 am Pike County Unmet Needs
- 12/28 4:00 pm Basketball Practices
- 12/29 6:00 pm Pike County Youth League
- 12/30 10:00 am Pike County Youth League
- 12/31 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School

The 92nd annual **Christmas Cantata** will be this coming Sunday evening, **Dec 17**, at 5:00 in the sanctuary. Doors will open at 4:00. A staffed nursery will be available in the education wing. We hope you will be able to join us but if you need to be out of town, we will live stream the cantata at the link on our website.

Next Wednesday, **Dec 20** we will have **Kids Connection** after school until 5:15. **Family Meal** will be served at 5:30. The **Kids Connection Christmas Program "All About That Baby"** will be in the gym at 6:30. Everyone is encouraged to come for an evening of great food and fellowship at 5:30 then celebrate the birth of Jesus with our youth.

The **Children First Christmas Program** will be in the sanctuary on Thursday, **Dec 21**, at 6:30.

On Sunday, **Dec 24**, we will have one morning Worship Service at 9:00am with no Sunday School. The **Christmas Eve Service** will begin at 9:00pm.

Last Sunday, Dec 10, Gary and Deana Jones declared their faith in Jesus Christ and placed their membership in FCC during 8:00 service. We are excited to worship with Gary and Deana and welcome them to the church family!

The **Elder Dinner** will be at 7:00 on Thursday, **Dec 21**.

The **handbell choir** will practice on Sunday, **Dec 17** at 9:00 and **Dec 24** at 8:00 a.m.

We will be opening Crossroads for walking on Jan 8. We will be open on Mon - Thurs from 8-10 a.m. We still need a volunteer or volunteers to be in the office for Wed Jan 17, 24, & 31 and Wed Feb 7, 14, 21, & 28 and Mar 14 & 21. If you could help with any of these dates, please call the church office or see Helen.

We appreciate so much everyone who worked so hard to make the 2017 CWF Bazaar a success. Each "shop" had it's unique flavor and surprises. It certainly takes many helping hands and many hours to get it all together. Thank you Mr. Don Houchins for the special oak porch swing you donated. Thank you Linda Belford, Ruth Anne Goodin and Jenny Tate for making the lovely quilt that Joyce Lemons donated. We thank everyone who came to eat, shop and enjoy the Christmas spirit. Charlene Gleckler won the quilt and Amy Slight won the porch swing.



Prayer Concerns: Wesley Haskins, Stacey Helms, Carrol & Evelyn Hoover, Burdette & Becky Irwin, Cathy McDaniel (Ada Hanback's daughter), Bill Perkins (Terry Reel family)

We want to thank everyone who came for caroling last Sunday evening to share the Christmas message in the community. We also want to give a shout out of thank you to our cooks for preparing the delicious meal served afterwards.

The sanctuary is decorated with poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to purchase one in memory/honor of loved ones then please let the office know by Dec 18. Cost is \$10.

We will complete the 2017 year end report as soon as possible in January. Ministry area reports are due to the office as soon as possible.

A few 2018 predated offering envelopes still need picked up in the overflow room. Contact the office if you would like to have your own designated box for next year.

It has come to our attention that several members of our church family struggle with gluten allergies. We will have a communion tray in the overflow room during 8:00 service and on the back mantel during 10:30 service.

CWF collects used greeting cards and sends them to a youth home for recycling. Also, the Lion's Club distributes used reading glasses to those in need. Both can be brought to the admin building or placed in the collection boxes at the church building outside the office.

Once again your church family is amazing! Every tag was taken from the Adopt a Family tree and the food donations were tremendous. Thank you everyone for participating in the Adopt a Family program and showing your compassion to those in our local area.

Thank you everybody for your prayers, thoughts and concerns at the passing of Bob. I especially would like to thank the ladies for the luncheon. It was very good and appreciated. - Melba Foster

Installation of our 2018 officers and other elected officials will be during worship service on Sunday, **Jan 7**. This includes Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee, Elders, Deacons.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Bob Foster funeral luncheon. -CWF Bereavement Committee.

Stressed out with the holiday spending pinching your budget?

Wouldn't it be nice if this time next year, you didn't have to worry about the extra expenses that the holidays bring and you could enjoy the real reason for the season, the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

We are pleased to announce that Tammi Koltveit will be offering Financial Peace University (FPU). This is a 9-class program, each class lasting 45 minutes. The first class will begin January 3rd. There will be both a lunch time class and an evening class.

With the FPU class, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future. Sign up today and start the new year out right. Please contact Tammi if you have questions, would like additional information and to sign up. She can be reached at tjkolt@gmail.com or 217-370-6194.

Carl's Cardinal Inn will serve lunch on Christmas day. Contact the restaurant to make your reservation or to help serve the meal.

I am going to do something I don't usually do. I am going to repeat an excerpt from an article I wrote in December of 2011. It is very relevant to where we are now so I think it bears repeating.

I recently read a devotion on the story of the healing of the paralytic in Luke 5: 17-26 and Mark 2:1-12 (Also told in Matt 9:1-8), that really made me think. I have been thinking about it a lot and I thought I would share some of my thoughts with you.

Most studies deal with the faith of the paralyzed man or the faith of his friends who went to such lengths to get him to Jesus. Then there is the discussion about Jesus authority to forgive sins and why he did that before he healed him. But what has been nagging at me is the story of the homeowner.

I had never dwelt on this much before, but in Mark it says they dug through the tiles of the ceiling to lower the man into the room in front of Jesus. Now mind you, the entrance was blocked by people, the house was full, and the streets were full of people trying to see this man so many were talking about. It took a lot of determination to get through to get on the roof, let alone get a paralyzed man on a cot up there, and then they had to cut through the tiles of the roof.

Have you ever thought what a mess that must have made?? What about the costs and efforts of repairing the damage to the roof?? The fact that Jesus chose to go to this man's house probably tells us all we need to know about this homeowner. **But, what about us? What about me?**

How do I respond when the roof caves in on my plans and God drops an opportunity to do His ministry on me?? Do I use the opportunity as God wants me to or do I worry about the mess, the inconvenience, how far behind I will get, what it will cost, etc.?

I think back on my initial response the day, that busy Christmas season in 2002, when a member of our congregation came to us and said they were going to auction the grocery store across the street and that might be a great opportunity. Now we were already in the middle of plans that would have included a complete renovation and expansion of our existing buildings after the purchase of the lot where our playground now sits. **And it was Christmas!! This was our busiest time of year.** Well, you know the rest of the story. We took it to the board and then the congregation and a dollar amount was established for the bid which was low and nobody really thought we would get the bid. But, we did and the rest is history. It was not an easy process. It was messy, very messy at times. We dealt with decisions, finances, personality differences, doubts, controversy, and three different pastors. In spite of everything, God was faithful!

Now that is a big example, but if we all think about it, there are many times in our lives that we think we have a plan, a job, a house, a life, and then the roof caves in and we are faced with someone or something that needs us to respond. How will we respond?

God is still faithful! Since I wrote that six years ago, we have acquired the admin building also home to Children First. We have paid the mortgage off. We have been given several pieces of property which we are going to be blessings.

I think we are ready to move forward again on the "building project". I have no idea what that will look like and God might intervene again with another plan that will drop in on us. I personally wonder if maybe we weren't quite ready for God's plan for our church in 2002 and again in 2011 and He wants us to get it right. I think when we come together with the right plan that will be the church for the next 100 years or more, everything will move forward. That will require much prayer, many conversations, much love, occasionally forgiveness, and an open mind.

I can guarantee you that occasionally God will break through the tiles of our roofs and we must be willing to alter our plans to yield to His. I am excited about what God is doing here and I look forward to what is ahead!

As we look to Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus, I wish for all of you, a very Blessed Christmas season and a blessed and exciting 2018! God bless you all!

Love,

Helen

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

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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, 10:30am

Sunday School: 9:15am

Stewardship (Offering Only)	12/3	12/10
Operational	\$8,554.00	\$9,421.50
Property Improvement	3.00	3.00
Outreach-Missionaries	295.00	510.00
DHF	80.00	80.00
Outreach-General	23.00	157.00
Snack Pack	0.00	265.00
Adopt a Family	395.00	200.00
Unmet Needs	300.00	255.00
Children First	<u>320.00</u>	<u>170.00</u>
Total	\$9,970.00	\$11,061.50

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)

Received Last 7 Days \$7,926.52 \$10,370.10
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,004

Serving Schedule**December 17, 2017**

Elder: Hamer Tate, Jeremy Schoenherr
Diaconate: Faith Saxe, Barbara Fosco, Lauren Saxe, Rokettia Brokaw, Glen Cooley, Betty Hayden
8:00 Communion: Hamer & Jenny Tate
10:30 Communion: Wayne & Cindy Chamberlain
Scripture: Donnie Apps
10:30 Nursery: Emma Saxe
10:30 Sound System: Matt Sealock
Shut-ins: Julie Myers, Mike & Julie Boren
Sunday School Superintendent: Cindy Chamberlain
Kids Connection Treats 12/20: Cheryl Birch, Joyce Lemons

December 24, 2017

Elder: Larry Wigington, Helen Earls
Diaconate: Debbie Robinson, Tom Robinson, Taylor Sweeting, Christie Mendenhall, Gary Mendenhall, Noah Mendenhall
Communion: Richard & Rebecca Rhodes
Nursery: Ellie Ten Eyck
Sound System: Matt Sealock
Shut-ins: Spencer & Kayla Boren

The next newsletter will be printed the week of **December 20.**

Lectionary

12/17: Isa 61:1-11; Ps 126; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-28
 12/18: Ps 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Eph 6:10-17
 12/19: Ps 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4
 12/20: Ps 125; Malachi 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13
 12/21: Ps 89:1-26; 2 Sam 6:1-11; Heb 1:1-4
 12/22: Ps 89:1-26; 2 Sam 6:12-19; Heb 1:5-14
 12/23: Ps 89:1-26; Judges 13:2-24; John 7:40-525
 12/24: 2 Sam 7:1-16; Luke 1:46-55; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
 12/25: Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
 12/26: Ps 148; Jer 26:1-15; Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
 12/27: Ps 148; Exodus 33:18-23; 1 John 1:1-9
 12/28: Ps 148; Jer 31:15-17; Matt 2:13-18
 12/29: Ps 148; Isa 49:5-15; Matt 12:46-50
 12/30: Ps 148; Prov 9:1-12; 2 Peter 3:8-13

	12/3	12/10
Worship Attendance		
8:00 AM	89	101
10:30 AM	<u>157</u>	<u>143</u>
Total	246	244

Christian Education

Age 3-PK	5	4
K-1st	3	4
2nd-3rd	3	3
4th-5th	6	4
6th-8th	4	0
Sr High	6	6
Disciples	9	11
New Beginnings	0	0
Sermon Study	9	10
Misc Adult Grps	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	65	57