

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 60 Issue 9

April 25, 2018



Coming Events	
4/29	8:00 & 10:30 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 5:30 pm youth@first
4/30	5:15 pm Building Task Force 6:00 pm Volleyball League 8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
5/1	Noon N. A. Meeting 6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting 6:30 pm Spring Fling
5/2	9:00 am Bible Study 4:15 pm Kids Connection Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Practice
5/3	2:00 pm Circle V Meeting
5/4	6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting
5/6	8:00 & 10:30 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 5:30 pm youth@first
5/7	1:00 pm Interagency Meeting 6:00 pm Volleyball League 8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
5/8	6:30 pm Church Board Meeting Noon N. A. Meeting
5/9	8:30 am Pike County Unmet Needs 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm PHS Scholars Banquet
5/10	9:30 am Circle IV Meeting
5/13	8:00 & 10:30 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School

Spring Fling will be Tuesday, May 1, 6:30. Menu will be ham loaves, scalloped potatoes, Normandy blend vegetables, salad, sherbet/cookie, roll and drinks. Call the office with your reservations. Cost \$8 adult, \$5 age 11 and under. This is a fundraising event for the CMF ministry. Isaiah Christian Litig will be the special guest again this year. All men who are available to help should contact CMF president Roger Dunham.

The **Building Task Force** will meet Mon, **April 30, 5:15** at the admin building.

The last **choir practice** for the season will be Wed, **May 2**.

On Wed, **May 2, 4:15** there will be a **Kids Connection** follow up meeting for the **leaders** at Crossroads Center. Let Helen know if you cannot attend.

CWF Meetings
May 3, Thurs, 2:00, Circle V.
May 10, Thurs, 9:30, Circle IV.
May 14, Mon, 6:30, Circle I.

The **Church Board** will meet on Tues, **May 8, 6:30**. Packets will be ready May 6.

All men of the church are encouraged to attend the **CMF Dinner Meeting** on Tues, **May 15, 6:00** at Crossroads. The sign up sheet is on the fellowship table.

Graduation Sunday will be May 20. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have an 8th Grade, High School or College Graduate. Email or bring us a picture of your high school or college graduate so we can display them on the bulletin board.

CWF will host an **American Red Cross Blood Drive** on Monday, **May 21**, from 1-6:00. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: FirstCC to schedule an appointment. Watch for more information or see Barbara Fosco.

The Thursday noon Bible Study will meet April 26 then break for the summer.

Contact Matt Sealock if you are interested in playing on team FCC for **Church League Softball** this summer!

Are you handy with a hammer, shovel, saw, rake? We have a list of miscellaneous repairs and tasks around our properties that could use attention. Contact the office for the detailed list to see what you can do!

We received a 100 score on our Crossroads Center kitchen inspection. Thank you EVERYONE for your hard work and dedication to keeping our facility in tip top shape!

***The Children First Graduation and Fundraiser will be Sunday, May 20, at Crossroads. Brunch will be served 10:30-12:45. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children. Graduation will be in the gym at 1:00 with the silent auction winner announcement to follow. Donated items for the auction will be on display at the church and Crossroads prior to the event. Individual or business sponsors with a monetary donation will have your name or company on the table center piece display. All donations are due by Friday, May 4.**
*Children First will offer a **Summer Program** for ages 6-12 with hours from 7:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Activities will include field trips, science experiments and theme weeks.
*Orders have been coming in for the Children First **gift card fundraiser** through Scrip. If you do not need a gift card for someone, then you can purchase a card and use it for yourself.
*Contact Jennifer Noble for more information 285.4129.



<p>Prayer Concerns: Teresa Bauer, Carol Cooley, Jeff Cox, Mary Gates, Lura Hammitt, Kadence Haskins, Stacey Helms, Katie Hull, Joyce Lemons, Bill Combest (Mary Pfyl's brother), Avery Howland (Jeff Evans's niece), Emma Kaleta (John Calaway's sister), Vera Murr (Karl Benjamin's sister), Sharon Shannon (Friend of Karl Benjamin)</p>	<p><i>Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity to Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp . Your prayers and support are a great encouragement to us. Your donation was a significant help to this ministry, and is very appreciated. Because of you, and others like you, MVCSC can keep our camp rates low and bring as many kids to camp as possible! This means the youth and children of our area can enjoy a Christ centered, fun, positive, life-affirming and leadership building week at Mississippi Valley Christian Service Camp. -Jim Dain.</i></p>
<p><i>Thank you to everyone for all your prayers, cards, calls, concerns and food for the last three and a half months. Thank you to Michael for being there and praying with us. A special thank you to my family, Charlie, Michelle and Charlene, who took turns every night being with me and Calvin, Ciera and Cherise for keeping things going at home. Thank you seems like a small two words, but believe me they come from the core of my heart. I am so blessed! May God bless each and everyone of you. See you soon! In Christian love, Mary Gates.</i></p>	<p><i>First Christian Church friends, We really appreciate you adding Avery to your prayer list with her recent fall and hospitalization. Thank you for your calls, texts, and reaching out to our family members to check on us during this scary time. We most importantly appreciate your prayers for comfort and healing. It is evident and we fully believe God has heard and answered each and every one of them! Our little girl is now resting comfortably at home and feeling better everyday! God Is GREAT! Love, Ryan, Erin, Avery and Adley Howland.</i></p>
	<p><i>Thank you to all who have said prayers and sent cards. This journey is just another "bump" in the course. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful and caring church family. -Teresa Bauer.</i></p>

I have a special furry friend. His name is Ollie. He is a happy, hopping ball of frizzy energy who cannot control his excitement when he sees a person. Ollie spends most good-weathered days in our fenced-in backyard while we are at work and school. This arrangement has worked out until the nasty, wet weather. The soft wet grass was not able to stand up to Ollie's jumping and prancing, and the result was several bare patches where he had dug up the grass.

In an effort to welcome in the spring, I have tried to repair the grass, despite Ollie's insistence that he needs to be in that area. My first effort to keep him out of the new grass growth was to line up all my lawn furniture and build a barrier. As I was putting up the last chair on its side and began to review my work, I noticed something brushing against my leg. Ollie had leapt over the chair and was admiring the work from the inside.

I then got some bright orange plastic construction fencing and some metal rods to keep it in place. This worked for several days till I came home from lunch and found Ollie napping in a new hole he had dug in the new grass. The fence was still up. I can only imagine that he had somehow nuzzled under the bottom of the plastic fence to get in. Why dogs prefer places they are not supposed to be is a mystery. Perhaps akin to why we often are drawn to places we ought not be.

Try as I might, the only way I am able to keep this rascal out of the restricted area is to actually be in the permitted part of the yard with him. If he sees me enter the yard he immediately makes his way out of the "no" area and runs to me as if he had done nothing wrong. Bad Dog! Puppy school is needed, or I need to stay home with him constantly, as the only thing he seems to love more than being in the "no" part of the lawn is to be with his family.

I kind of think we are like that as well. When we discern God's presence we run to Him, amazed at the grace and love that He bestows upon us. It is the times we believe ourselves to be alone and separate that we can drift into the areas that bring trouble. The problem with this thought is that we are really never alone. David puts it like this:

Ps 139:7-12 - 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. - NIV

Comfort and strength come from the understanding that God is always with us. Always. In the light and in the dark, He is near. There is no need to waste time and energy digging holes in the areas of destruction when we can be enjoying fellowship with our Lord and King. Reflect on David's words and remind yourself of the truth of God's closeness.

Loving you all,
Michael

Excerpts from April 10, 2018 Church Board Meeting

Call to Order at 6:33 pm by Moderator David Koltveit. Opening devotion and prayer were led by Matt Saxe. Minutes from last Board meeting were approved by general consensus.

Minister's Report Much of the work done during March centered on preparation for Easter services and the ongoing staffing transition. Other ongoing issues include discussions with Frontier, the pastoral candidate search, and increasing communication with youth and children's leaders. Easter morning saw large attendance: 593 people total at both services. Pastor Michael also encouraged everyone in attendance to consider going to the Intentional Church Conference.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Rhodes reported that as of March 31, 2018: Total Checking/Savings Assets = \$484,145.32. Total Unrestricted Checking = \$100,000.00. Total Budgeted Receipts = \$108,962.90. Total Budgeted Disbursements = \$83,956.59. Statement of Cash Flow Nonbudgeted Receipts Total = \$11,044.70. Nonbudgeted Disbursements = \$8,095.44 for a difference of \$2,949.26. Rebecca stated that all expense areas are below budget at this time in the year, though income is also down (\$108,962.90 actual versus \$111,948.00 budgeted). She also noted that \$12,791.05 was reassigned from the general unrestricted funds to the Church Construction/Renovation fund for the month of March.

Trustees: Interim Trustee Chair Tim Belford stated that the Trustees approved increased general liability limits from \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 to \$1,000,000/\$5,000,000 (\$17 annual premium increase), and the umbrella policy limit from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 (\$538 annual premium increase). The liability policy also now carries a religious freedom rider.

Crossroads Center: A cancellation policy will be added to the event contract. The kitchen workers met and updated the menu items and prices as no changes had been made since 2012.

Children First: Helen stated that in January, Children First used \$8,000 of the \$25,000 in the church budget for Children First and has not used any since that time.

New Business

David Bishop presented a summary of recent meetings held by the Safety Committee (chair: Kay Sealock), and a Price Comparison sub-committee chaired by David Bishop. The subcommittee will present their work and findings to the Building Task Force in the near future.

David Koltveit noted that it would be helpful for church staff to create a punch list of maintenance projects on church property. This could be published to the newsletter so that anyone willing and able to help out in their spare time could volunteer to work on projects.

Pastor Michael said that Rod Gordley is still interested in the possibility of interning at FCC this summer; he is working with Lincoln Christian and Pastor Michael to work out the details.

Judy Ferguson moved to adjourn at 7:17 pm; Jeremy Schoenherr seconded, and Pastor Michael closed the meeting in prayer.

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES: **1** Angie Hittner, David James, Jeremy Schoenherr; **2** Jeff Cox; **3** Shirley Loyd, Sharon Houchins; **4** Buster Mendenhall; **5** Morgan Plattner, Cadience Mendenhall; **6** Beryl Richards, Angie Ruebush; **7** Isaac Hayes; **9** Dora Lee Claus, Paul & Patty Ruble, Brenda Kramer; **10** Julie Lierly; **11** Vera Staffy, Katie Hull, Jack Palmer, Kevin & Megan Hittner; **12** Corinne Pennock, John Plattner; **13** Randy & Marjie Guthrie; **15** Ashli Freesmeyer; **16** Brad Losch, Luke Saxe, Maxwell Bonnett, Wayne & Edna Baughman; **18** Abby Lipcaman, Lainey Ten Eyck; **21** Ralph Piper; **22** Zachary Boren, Benjamin Boren; **23** Mackenzie Lipcaman, Wesley Picone; **24** Jamie & Brandi Pennock, Braxton & Laura Boren, Lia Picone; **25** Phil Shaw, Brian Daniel, Jonathan & Jennifer Schoenherr; **26** Skyler Schoenherr; **27** Delbert Robertson; **28** Rick Curfman, Randy Guthrie; **29** Isabel Smith, Olivia Smith; **30** Seth Daniel; **31** Henry Speckhart.

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
 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)	4/15	4/22
Operational	\$6,026.07	\$7,838.30
Property Improvement	23.00	3.00
Church Construction/Renova	600.00	75.00
Outreach-Missionaries	70.00	270.00
DHF	25.00	25.00
Outreach-General	55.17	57.00
Snack Pack	40.00	15.00
Unmet Needs	8.00	495.00
Children First	<u>175.00</u>	<u>105.00</u>
Total	\$7,022.24	\$8,883.30

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)
 Received Last 7 Days \$6,026.07 \$7,313.04
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,328

Lectionary
 4/29: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
 4/30: Ps 80; Isa 5:1-7; Gal 5:16-26
 5/1: Ps 80; Isa 32:9-20; James 3:17-18
 5/2: Ps 80; Isa 65:17-25; John 14:18-31
 5/3: Ps 98; Isa 49:5-6; Acts 10:1-34
 5/4: Ps 98; Isa 42:5-9; Acts 10:34-43
 5/5: Ps 98; Deut 32:44-47; Mark 10:42-45
 5/6: Acts 10:44-48; Ps 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
 5/7: Ps 93; Deut 7:1-11; 1 Tim 6:11-12
 5/8: Ps 93; Deut 11:1-17; 1 Tim 6:13-16
 5/9: Ps 93; Deut 11:18-21; Mark 16:19-20
 5/10: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47; Eph 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
 5/11: Ps 47; Exod 24:15-18; Rev 1:9-18
 5/12: Ps 47; Deut 34:1-7; John 16:4-11

Serving Schedule

April 29, 2018
Elder: Roger Dunham, Matt Saxe
Diaconate: Zack Boren, Michelle Hart, Kevin Hittner, Ciera Anderson, Burdette Irwin, Sonya Bishop
8:00 Communion: Steve & Vickie Tharp
10:30 Communion: Donnie & Tereasa Apps
Scripture: TBA
10:30 Nursery: Ellie Ten Eyck
Shut-ins: Dave & Sandy Herring, Ruth Bennett, Deloras Martin
Children's Church: 8:00 Renita or Kathy, 10:30 Kacie

May 6, 2018
Elder: Larry Wigington, Brad Willman
Diaconate: Tom Robinson, Eli Ten Eyck, Betty Hayden, Taylor Sweeting, Sonya Bishop, Debbie Robinson
8:00 Communion: Carolyn Casteel, Kathy Willman
10:30 Communion: Ruth Bennett, Kay Sealock
Scripture: Cameron Sweeting
10:30 Nursery: Shelby Bauer
Shut-ins: Joyce Lemons, Greg & Kim Bonnett
Children's Church: 8:00 Michelle, 10:30 Matt & Kathy
Fellowship Treats: Betty Hoover, Carolyn Capps, Bethany Dunham, Kayla Boren

Wishes & Wants
For Sale: Huffy All Terrain Girls 10 Speed. \$30. Karl Benjamin 217.408.6836.
Needed: Small window air conditioner. Rosemary Clark 285.2931

	4/15	4/22
Worship Attendance		
8:00 AM	112	108
10:30 AM	<u>182</u>	<u>171</u>
Total	294	279
Christian Education		
Age 3-PK	6	7
K-1st	6	4
2nd-3rd	9	8
4th-5th	7	5
6th-8th	6	6
Sr High	2	0
Disciples	12	12
New Beginnings	6	7
Sermon Study	10	4
Misc Adult Grps	<u>21</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	85	63