

# The Pittsfield Christian



First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 60 Issue 27

December 12, 2018

## Coming Events

- 12/16 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School  
5:00 pm Christmas Cantata
- 12/17 5:30 pm Elder Meeting & Dinner  
6:00 pm Basketball Practices  
8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
- 12/18 8:30 am Bible Study  
5:00 pm Basketball Practice
- 12/19 3:45 pm Kids Connection  
5:30 pm Family Meal  
6:30 pm Kids Connection Program
- 12/20 6:30 pm Children First Program  
4:00 pm Basketball Practices
- 12/21 6:00 pm Pike County Youth League
- 12/22 10:00 am Pike County Youth League  
2:00 pm Ferguson Celebration
- 12/23 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School
- 12/24 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- 12/26 8:30 am Unmet Needs  
6:00 pm Basketball Practices
- 12/27 4:00 pm Basketball Practices
- 12/28 6:00 pm Pike County Youth League
- 12/29 10:00 am Pike County Youth League

The **Elders** will meet at Crossroads on Monday, **Dec 17**. The meeting will begin at 5:30 followed by the meal at 6:00.

## Youth Group News

Youth Group will not meet Dec 16 due to the Cantata and Dec 23 & 30 so everyone can spend time with family.

Pastor Michael will hold a **very important Diaconate meeting** on Sunday, **Dec 30**, at 9:15 in the sanctuary for all deacons who will serve during 2019. Please contact the office if you cannot attend.

The 93rd Annual **Christmas Cantata**, "His Name Shall Be Called", will be Sunday, **Dec 16**. Cantata starts at 5:00. Doors open at 4:00. Childcare will be provided in the nursery.



On Wed, **Dec 19**, **Kids Connection** will meet at 3:45. **Family Meal** for everyone in the church will be served by 5:30. The **Kids Connection Christmas Program** will be in the gym at 6:30.

On Thurs, **Dec 20**, the **Children First Christmas Program** will be in the sanctuary at 6:30.

We hope you will be able to attend both nights and support our youth programs while the children celebrate the birth of Jesus!



Our **Christmas Eve Service** will be Mon, **Dec 24**, at 9:00 p.m. Invite your family and friends to join us!



Joy was had by all who participated in Christmas Caroling last Sunday evening. After we warmed the hearts while caroling, we warmed our appetite by enjoying a delicious meal organized by Sandy Wigington upon our return to Crossroads. Thank you everyone who was able to join us and Sandy for a fulfilling evening!

On Sunday, **Jan 6**, during 10:30 service, we will have **installation** of our officers and other elected officials that were approved at the November Congregational Meeting.

*Patrick and Jordan (Freeman) Lamb are parents of a son, Mason Jeffery Lamb, born Thurs, Nov 29.*  
*Beth Willman is the mother of Leo Thomas Willman and Eleanor Katherine Willman born Mon, Dec 3.*  
*Everyone is home and doing wonderful! Congratulations to all!*

**Prayer Concerns:** Barb Bradburn, Dora Lee Claus, Judy Ferguson, Stacey Helms, Vera Staffy, Mary Wintjen, Florence Clendenny (Laura Grimsley's mother), Johnny Cozad (Wayne & Edna Baughman family), Betty Ragar (Howard Staffy's sister), Julie Talley (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law)

*We express our sympathy to the family and friends of Evelyn Ransom who passed away.*



Contact the office if you would like to defray the cost of **poinsettias** and purchase one in memory/honor of loved ones. Cost is \$10. Deadline Dec 17.

There are a few **2019 offering envelopes** to be picked up on Sunday at the church near the coffee table. Let the office know if you would like to start using your own box so you can prepare offering at the convenience of home.

William and Ann Ferguson will be celebrating 60 years of marriage with an open house reception for family and friends at the Crossroads Center from 2pm until 5pm, Sat, **Dec 22nd**. This will be a time for visiting and catching up with cake and punch being served. No gifts please.

**Children First has enough milk/water jugs to start building the igloo.** Thank you everyone for helping with this project!

**Scip prepaid cards are available for all your shopping needs.** A list of vendors is on the sanctuary mantels. A % of your purchase will benefit Children First. Contact the office to place your order.

*We wish to express our appreciation for your generosity in support of the Pikeland Snack Pack Program. Your contribution was incredibly helpful and has allowed us to continue assisting students in the Pikeland community. Thank you from all of us. Sincerely, The Board of the Pikeland Snack Pack.*

*Thank you for your donation in September to Unmet Needs and your continued support. It is such a help for us to help the need. Requests to us are for larger amounts in our applications we receive. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. Sincerely, Pike County Unmet Needs.*

*Thanks is not enough to all my friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, everyone who remembered and offered prayers for my surgery and healing. You all are so dear to my heart and have my love. Keep remembering me please. -Vera Staffy.*

On Sunday, Dec 30, Pastor Michael's sermon will be Disciple Heritage Fellowship Cuban Discovery Mission Trip.

Last Friday morning the Health Dept did their routine Crossroads kitchen inspection during the Bazaar. Thanks to our fantastic volunteers, the report showed zero faults and gave praise for our cleanliness. We want to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who helps in the kitchen with our church and community events. Your hard work is very much recognized and appreciated!

**Crossroads Center is open for walking.**

Hours are Monday through Thursday mornings from 8:00 until 10:00. The gym office will be staffed during that time. Special events may alter the schedule and will be posted.



CWF collects used greeting card fronts and sends them to a youth home in Nevada that recycles them. If you have some to donate, bring them to the admin building or place them in the box on the coat rack outside Rebecca's old office at the church.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to attend a training session for professionals and volunteers who work with financially disadvantaged families and families in crisis. I was invited to attend because of my involvement with Pike County Unmet Needs. It was life changing for me. It did not solve any of the problems, but it forever changed the way I look at the problems and how I respond to the families.

I had a similar experience this fall when I attended Andy Stanley's "Deep and Wide" conference. He has been one of the key speakers at the Orange Conference each year and I have read several of his books including "Deep and Wide" and I really wanted to experience this conference first hand so I decided to go. This year's conference topic was how to make the church "Irresistible" based on his new book by the same name.

Here is a sampling of my take.

Jesus was irresistible. People came for miles to hear him, to get a glimpse of him, to touch him. He was popular, so popular that they put him to death. He threatened their authority and their power. He was not crucified because he had done anything wrong, quite the contrary. He was turning everything upside down with His preaching on love and reaching the lost. He was healing people and saving people and they couldn't stand it. So they killed him. They embalmed him first century style and put him in the tomb. His disciples didn't understand it and they thought it was over.

But, He did not stay dead. Death could not hold him and his physical body rose from the dead, scars and all. He appeared to the women who loved Him and His disciples and He changed the world!

Christianity was born with the resurrection. The new covenant that Jesus paid for through His physical suffering and crucifixion brought salvation to the world for all who would believe. It was also the culmination of God's promise to Abraham that through him, He would bless the world.

Jesus fulfilled the law and Jesus boiled it down to two. Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. (see Matt 22: 37-40)

But He didn't leave it there. In John 13:34-35 Jesus says, "*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*"

So simple....Or is it?

For the first 300 years or so of the Christian movement, the church (gathering of Christians) was irresistible! It can be again and it is critical for this nation and the future of our world that we get this right! The percentage of "nones" (people who claim to believe in God but are not affiliated with any church and don't want to be) is staggering in this country. I believe we can change this! I BELIEVE WE HAVE TO CHANGE THIS!

I am so excited to be a part of a church that believes this too. We believe the next generation of Christians is worth everything! Everything!

As we move into a new year, we are excited to look forward to building something that will serve God here for decades to come!

We are excited for what we see happening in the lives of our children and their parents and the volunteers who work so diligently in all facets of the ministries of this church!

In closing, I want to leave you with this. I think it bears repeating.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

I think if everything we do and say revolves around this scripture, our church will be irresistible! I think if we stay focused on what Christ did for us and is doing for us, we will be irresistible! I think if we continue to teach our children that they can trust Jesus with everything, they will not walk away from the church when they are grown!

I wish you all a very blessed and holy Christmas season!

Love,  
Helen

**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  
 Kacie Lipcaman, 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, 10:30am  
**Sunday School:** 9:15am

<b>Stewardship (Offering Only)</b>	<b><u>12/2</u></b>	<b><u>12/9</u></b>
Operational	\$17,039.96	\$8,052.06
Property Improvement	13.00	13.00
Church Construction/Renova	50.00	0.00
Outreach-Missionaries	120.00	160.00
DHF	25.00	25.00
Outreach-General	104.17	6.00
Unmet Needs	200.00	0.00
Adopt a Family	45.00	150.00
Congregational Park	10.00	0.00
Children First	<u>590.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,197.13</b>	<b>\$8,456.06</b>

**Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)**  
 Received Last 7 Days \$17,269.12 \$8,834.39  
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,328

**Lectionary**  
 12/16: Zeph 3:14-20; Isa 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18  
 12/17: Isa 11:1-9; Num 16:1-19; Heb 13:7-17  
 12/18: Isa 11:1-9; Num 16:20-35; Acts 28:23-31  
 12/19: Isa 11:1-9, Micah 4:8-13; Luke 7:31-35  
 12/20: Ps 80:1-7; Jer 31:31-34; Heb 10:10-18  
 12/21: Ps 80:1-7; Isa 42:10-18; Heb 10:32-39  
 12/22: Ps 80:1-7; Isa 66:7-11; Luke 13:31-35  
 12/23: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Heb 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45  
 12/24: Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14  
 12/25: Isa 62:6-12; Ps 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:8-20  
 12/26: Ps 148; 2 Chronicles 24:17-24; Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60  
 12/27: Ps 148; Proverbs 8:32-36; John 21:19b-24  
 12/28: Ps 148; Isa 54:1-13; Rev 21:1-7  
 12/29: Ps 147:12-20; 1 Chronicles 28:1-10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-17

**Serving Schedule**

**December 16, 2018**  
**Elder:** Kathy Hull, Ruth Bennett  
**Diaconate:** Debbie Robinson, Tom Robinson, Michelle Hart, Amy Casto, Lauren Saxe  
**8:00 Communion:** Richard & Rebecca Rhodes  
**10:30 Communion:** Ruth Bennett, Kay Sealock  
**Scripture:** Kathy Curfman  
**10:30 Nursery:** Jordyn Apps  
**Shut-ins:** N.D. & Joyce Harrison  
**Children's Church:** 8:00 Michelle 10:30 Matt  
**Kids Connection Treats 12/19:** Ruth Bennett, Eleanor Jenkins

**December 23, 2018**  
**Elder:** Matt Saxe, Helen Earls  
**Diaconate:** Sonya Bishop, Lainey Ten Eyck, Charlie Hull, Jessica Hull  
**8:00 Communion:** Dan & Sue Speckhart  
**10:30 Communion:** Mike & Julie Boren  
**Scripture:** Bryn Fine  
**10:30 Nursery:** Shelby Bauer  
**Shut-ins:** Spencer & Kayla Boren  
**Children's Church:** 8:00 Michelle 10:30 Matt

**Wishes & Wants**  
 None at this time.

	<b><u>12/2</u></b>	<b><u>12/9</u></b>
<b>Worship Attendance</b>		
8:00 AM	102	109
10:30 AM	<u>172</u>	<u>199</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>308</b>
<b>Christian Education</b>		
Age 3-PK	6	6
K-1st	4	3
2nd-3rd	3	7
4th-5th	5	10
6th-8th	4	10
Sr High	4	0
Disciples	9	11
New Beginnings	5	7
Sermon Study	7	7
Misc Adult Grps	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>75</b>