

The Pittsfield Christian

First Christian Church of Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 60 Issue 28

December 19, 2018



Coming Events

- 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 Practice
- 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
- 12/30 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
9:15 am Diaconate Meeting
- 12/31 8:00 pm AI Anon Meeting
- 1/3 5:00 pm Basketball Practices
- 1/4 6:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting
6:00 pm Crossroads Rental
6:00 pm Pike County Youth League
- 1/5 10:00 am Pike County Youth League

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



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

Youth Group News

Youth Group will not meet Dec 23 & 30 so everyone can spend time with family during school break.

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.

Kids Connection will resume after school on Wed, **Jan 9**.

On Sat evening, **Jan 12**, we will serve nearly 200 individuals at the CEO Banquet at Crossroads. Contact Joyce Lemons if you are available to help in any way.

In January we will prepare the 2018 Year-End Report. Feel free to email Rebecca your ministry area report as soon as possible.

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.

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.

How Do We Count The Ways . . .

A simple Thank You doesn't seem to be enough to say for each and every person who stepped up to help make the CWF Bazaar so successful. So many donated to the Treasure Chest, made baked goodies, crafted special gift items, cooked, made sandwiches, soup and pie; had breakfast in our Tea Room; served as greeters and Love Raffle ticket sellers; and cashiers. It was a beehive of activity all week culminating in a very successful Bazaar day. The unofficial total earned at the Bazaar is over \$3,900+ and the Love Raffle earned \$800+. CWF will meet this month to donate the proceeds and we'll report on those later. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way and to all who came to shop, enjoy tea and have lunch! We are so grateful and blessed.

We want to thank everyone who was able to attend the Christmas Cantata last Sunday evening. The music was fantastic! We also want to thank our choir members and sound board techs investing so many hours to provide the annual program for the community.

If you were not able to attend, you can find the recording of the Cantata on our website. On the Resources tab, go to Sermons and you will see it listed.

Choir Practice will resume on Wed, **Jan 9**, at 6:30.

Prayer Concerns: Barb Bradburn, Dora Lee Claus, Judy Ferguson, Karen Goodwin, Stacey Helms, Shirley Loyd, Vera Staffy, Kathy Wainman, 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 Amber Apps and family with the passing of her grandfather, Jim Real, from Quincy.

Thank you so much for allowing us to use your park area for people to gather before and after our "Ugly Sweater 5K Run". What a great area!! Thank you from the staff at Illini Fitness.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the Evelyn Ransom funeral luncheon. -CWF Bereavement Comm.

There are a few **2019 offering envelopes** remaining to be picked up. Let the office know if you would like to start using your own box set.

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.

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.

Board Meeting Excerpts from December 11, 2018

Call to Order at 6:30pm by Moderator David Koltveit. The minutes were approved by general consensus.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Hart reported that as of November 30, 2018: Total Checking/Savings Assets = \$455,744.63. Total Unrestricted Checking = \$100,000. Total Budgeted Receipts = \$449,824.79. Total Budgeted Disbursements = \$328,422.47. Statement of Cash Flow on Nonbudgeted Receipts Total = \$91,054.57 and Nonbudgeted Disbursements = \$36,665.37 for a difference of \$54,389.20. Year-to-date worship attendance averaged 287 per week through November 30. David Bishop moved to approve the Treasurer's report; Hamer Tate seconded, and the motion carried.

Outreach: Adopt a Family will be completed this week.

Crossroads Center: Helen reported that there is a busy winter schedule and there will be help needed for all the events.

Balsman Property: Pastor Michael stated that the office received a check for the stolen logs for \$1,090.80

Task Force: The Sanctuary Subcommittee is working on plans for improvements such as carpet, paint and worship platform.

Lovell Town Lot Sale to adjacent landowner is proceeding slowly. We hope to have done by year end.

New Business

The Executive Committee has placed Bob Clark on the December payroll as audio/video tech. David Bishop moved to ratify this action; ND Harrison seconded, and the Board approved this action.

Staff Christmas bonuses were decided and approved by the Board. Ruth Bennett moved to approve the bonus amounts; Jeremy Schoenherr seconded, and the motion carried.

ND Harrison moved to adjourn at 7:05pm; Gary Mendenhall seconded, and the meeting was closed in prayer. Next board meeting will be Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6:30.

It was quite odd for me to watch a Christmas Nativity story being played out while sitting in a an 88 degree room in the tropics. There were no Christmas sweaters or Christmas dresses and the evergreens were replaced with a potted palm trees.

These were not the only thing that stood out to me, however. The most impactful difference I observed was watching a crowded room view the Christmas story with fresh eyes.

In Cuba, the celebration of Christmas was banned for quite some time. Only recently was the practice of celebrating Christmas allowed again. Because of this hiatus, limited communication and the oppressed nature of the Cuban people many are viewing the Christmas story with fresh eyes.

Imagine what a gift that would be...

I watched little eyes in wonder and amazement at the procession of the star taking its place over the manger. Each little part of the story that we have become so familiar with was presented with pageantry and received in awe.

Children pointed to the various characters and parents whispered in their ears explanations of what they was being played out before their enchanted gaze. Jesus words to His disciples stirred in my heart.

Luke 18:15-17 Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 17 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."
ESV

I wonder if in our familiarity with the story of Christ's birth we can sometimes fail to share it with the amazement and excitement that this event deserves.

Has Christmastime become "old hat" to you? I believe it can to all of us from time to time. If so, may I invite you to take a step back this year. Pause and consider the impossible and miraculous events that unfolded changing the course of history. The very nature of these long foretold promises were so magnificent that all heaven and nature sang out at the Advent of Christ. The story of Christ's birth impacts all of us.

The songwriter put it like this... it was the dawn of redeeming grace... let that sink in for a moment.

I believe such a pause will re-energize our approach to Christmas, and perhaps bring to us all a perspective of childlike amazement and wonder.

God bless you on your journey to come and behold the One born to save.

Loving you all,

Michael

January Birthdays & Anniversaries 1 Kirk Speckhart; 2 Becky Maxwell, Shanna Tharp, Roger & Charlotte Dunham; 5 Ruth Poyner, Kurtis Johnson, Sami Johnson; 6 Don & Barbara Fosco; 7 Mary Wombles; 8 Jack & Kathy Hull, John Birch; 9 Hamer Tate; 10 Gary Jones; 11 Shari Clark, Missy Borrowman; 12 Burdette & Becky Irwin, Matt Sealock, Laura Chamberlain; 13 Thomas Hull; 14 Hilda Dunham; 15 Cameron Herring; 16 Mary Lou Chamberlain; 17 Evert & Ruth Poyner; 19 Charles Gates; 20 Harold Loyd; 21 Bryn Fine; 23 Tyler Grimsley; 24 Bobby & Chris Smith, Kaden Ferguson; 26 Jeanne Howard, David & Julie Myers; 28 Keith Elledge, D.J. Wintjen; 30 Deana Jones; 31 Dave & Sandy Herring.

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

Stewardship (Offering Only)	12/16	12/9
Operational	\$6,823.30	\$8,052.06
Property Improvement	3.00	13.00
Outreach-Missionaries	70.00	160.00
DHF	25.00	25.00
Outreach-General	30.00	6.00
Unmet Needs	50.00	0.00
Adopt a Family	0.00	150.00
Snack Pack	20.00	0.00
Youth Group	20.00	0.00
Children First	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$7,041.30	\$8,456.06

Operating Receipts (Offering, Rentals, etc.)
 Received Last 7 Days \$7,380.15 \$8,834.39
 Estimate Needed Each Week to Meet Budget \$9,328

Lectionary
 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: Isa 11:1-9, Micah 4:8-13; Luke 7:31-35
 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
 12/30: 1 Sam 2:18-26; Ps 148; Col 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52
 12/31: Ps 147:12-20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19
 1/1: Eccl 3:1-13; Ps 8; Rev 21:1-6a; Matt 25:31-46
 1/2: Ps 147:12-20; Prov 1:1-7; James 3:13-18
 1/3: Ps 72; Job 42:10-17; Luke 8:16-21
 1/4: Ps 72; Isa 6:1-5; Acts 7:44-53
 1/5: Ps 72; Jer 31:7-14; John 1:10-18

Serving Schedule

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
Children's Church: 8:00 Michelle 10:30 Matt
Shut-ins: Spencer & Kayla Boren

December 30, 2018
Elder: Larry Wigington, Jeremy Schoenherr
Diaconate: Ann Ferguson, Keith Elledge, Carole Elledge, Burdette Irwin, Vickie Tharp, Steve Tharp
8:00 Communion: Hamer & Jenny Tate
10:30 Communion: Zack & Libby Boren
Scripture: Barbara Fosco
10:30 Nursery: Emma Saxe
Children's Church: 8:00 Michelle 10:30 Matt
Shut-ins: Roger & Rokettia Brokaw

Wishes & Wants
 None at this time.

	12/16	12/9
Worship Attendance		
8:00 AM	133	109
10:30 AM	<u>190</u>	<u>199</u>
Total	323	308
Christian Education		
Age 3-PK	7	6
K-1st	6	3
2nd-3rd	3	7
4th-5th	9	10
6th-8th	10	10
Sr High	6	0
Disciples	11	11
New Beginnings	5	7
Sermon Study	4	7
Misc Adult Grps	<u>20</u>	<u>14</u>
Total	81	75