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Christian Church

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GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON

Disturbing Scripture Passages!

For this month's newsletter I'd like to begin by acknowledging that what I want to talk about is something I preached on way back on June 21st. Some of you may even remember that this was the very disturbing account of how King David's son Amnon raped his half-sister, Tamar. To be honest with you, this tragic story really got to me and I've been giving it a whole lot of thought lately. I mean, seriously, why does God allow these kinds of stories to be placed in His Holy word? What possible spiritual profit can be gained here? Great questions! So, I'll do my level best to provide the reasons why.

Now, one of the primary reasons behind these types of biblical accounts is that they offer us a cautionary tale. It offers us examples of what to avoid at all costs. For example, Amnon was brought up as prince and probably saw himself as the next King of Israel. You see, this story is warning us against the moral dangers of holding too tightly to positions of power.

In addition, with power there's always a degree of freedom to abuse it or use it wisely and justly. These stories also show us the goodness of God to his people. Had Amnon not been murdered by his brother Absalom he would've become the heir apparent. However, God allowed Amnon to be removed from the line of succession and it was Solomon who God determined to be the next king of Israel.

Another great reason God includes these stories is because we live in a fallen world. It's heartbreaking but there are many godly women, and yes men, who've been physically and sexually violated at some point in their lifetimes. This story is telling us, "You are not alone! Again, what kind of Bible would it be if it didn't address all the mental and emotional pain that so often occurs in people's lives?!?! Clearly, God lays bare all the gory details like some kind of soap opera because in life and in our own families they can sometimes be just like those cheesy TV soap operas.

Now, the book of 1 Samuel begins with a really big problem as found at the end of the Book of Judges. You see, there wasn't a king in Israel. Everyone was doing right in their own eyes. The people were looking for a king who would point them to God. Of course, we're still doing that very thing today! We're desperately looking for someone who can bring us peace and judge us righteously. David was the King the people were waiting for but unfortunately, he sputtered out hard and his crown was almost irreversibly tarnished.

Yes, hopelessness would rule the day as far as 2 Samuel 13 and 14 goes. Thus, we find God showing us the big problem throughout all of human history. You see, human leaders were never meant to be the solution to our problems. Human leaders will never, ever be the solution to any of our problems. Human leaders can't and won't ever save us. Human leaders are incapable of having the heavy yoke of hope placed upon their shoulders. Finally, humanity cannot and should not ever put all of its hope in humanity itself.

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To view the worship service, please go to our website:

iolafcc.org

~~~~~Simply click on 'LIVE VIDEO' if you are tuning in on Sunday morning.



## **GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON**

*Continued from pg. 1...*

What we truly need is a sinless judge who can judge rightly because he's not biased or colored by his own sins. We need someone who can see truth clearly and judge the world accordingly. So, God is showing us why he had to send his Son from heaven. You see, as humans we cannot save ourselves or save anybody else for that matter.

We all desperately need a king who's never sinned and who isn't of this world in order to administer justice for our sins. This is why we must listen to Jesus and his word. Then we must put all of our hope in Jesus Christ who's the only legitimate answer to the world's problems and the savior we all need for what we've done against God and against others.

Blessings, Pastor Kenyon



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### First Christian Church Board Meeting July 14, 2026

#### In Attendance:

Traci Ridge  
Leon Harris  
Helen Uitts  
Steven Uitts  
Otis Babcock  
Bill Hobbs  
Susan Locke

John Scovill  
Cindy Scovill  
Michelle Scovill  
Craig Mentzer  
Denise Mentzer  
Heather Mentzer

Sherrie Riebel  
Joe Riebel  
Tom Sayles  
Matt Powe  
Kenyon Kaehr  
Donna Kaehr

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the June 14, 2026, board meeting were reviewed. John asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Donna Kaehr had a correction on the Christian Education report. The purchase of 60+ lessons for \$98.00 was made last month (May), not last year. John called for a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected. Matt Powe made the motion, Helen Uitts seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John then called for the financial report. Traci Ridge reported that the general fund had an ending balance of \$118,335.39 for June. She paid the quarterly missions payments in June. The checking account had an ending balance of \$152,443.03, and the CD had an ending balance of \$55,636.53, with funds at Community National Bank & Trust totaling \$208,079.56. The building maintenance fund at Edward Jones had an ending balance of \$74,188.97 at the end of June, and the investment account had a total of \$44,288.90, with funds at Edward Jones totaling \$118,447.87. Our total assets at the end of June were \$326,557.43. John called for a motion to approve the financial report. Donna Kaehr made the motion. Craig Mentzer seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John then called for committee reports.

Worship Committee, Heather Mentzer: The new keyboard has been purchased.

Membership Committee, Skylar Starke: nothing to report, per Donna.

Memorial Committee, Denise Mentzer: nothing new to report.

Christian Education Committee, Donna Kaehr: nothing new to report,

Church Attendance, Helen Uitts: Helen reported that we had an average attendance of 27 in Sunday School and 69 in worship services in June.

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*Continued from pg. 3...*

Mission & Outreach Committee, Sherrie Riebel: The July penny dinner proceeds will go to Wings of Warriors, and the August penny dinner proceeds will go to First Christian Church.

Property & Facilities, Bill Hobbs & Dave Donovan: Bill talked to Ace Refrigeration about the air circulation (or lack thereof) in the lobby area in front of the sanctuary, but he hasn't heard back from them yet.

Church Clerk, Judy McGraw: no report available.

John called for unfinished business. Pastor Kenyon reported that he had tweaked the ad for the youth pastor and resubmitted it again to both old and new places.

On the choir room piano replacement, Heather said they purchased a Yamaha electronic piano for \$1,400.00. It came with a portable stand, so it can be moved to other locations in the building as needed. It can also record as it is being played. She asked what to do about the old piano. After some discussion, it was decided to advertise it on the marketplace: as is, for free, you load and you haul.

Pastor Kenyon gave an update on the new youth area. Wade Vogel from Decorator Supply called, and the carpet for the stairs and the upper youth area has been ordered and will be installed around the first part of August. The carpet squares for the lower area will be ordered and installed later.

There being no additional unfinished business, John called for new business. Traci received a notice from Community National Bank and Trust that our CD is coming due in July. With the July interest payment, the CD balance is \$56,097.48. She asked for CD interest rates from Community National and also from Edward Jones. The best rate at Community National was 3.05% for nine months. Edward Jones had a rate of 4.15% for twelve months. After some discussion, Pastor Kenyon made a motion to cash in the CD at Community National and invest \$60,000.00 in the twelve-month CD at Edward Jones. Joe Riebel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Leon Harris proposed adding something new to the end of worship service. He proposed that the candlelighters carry their lighters to the altar, re-light them from the candles, and then snuff out the candles at the end of the service. They then carry the flame to the end of the aisle, representing carrying the spirit of Christ with us as we leave worship service each week. It was decided to adopt this idea beginning next Sunday.

There being no additional new business, John asked for the pastor's report. Pastor Kenyon that he and Donna will be going on vacation July 20 through July 31<sup>st</sup>. He has made arrangements with Darrell Donovan to fill in for him on Sunday, July 26.

*Continued on pg. 5...*



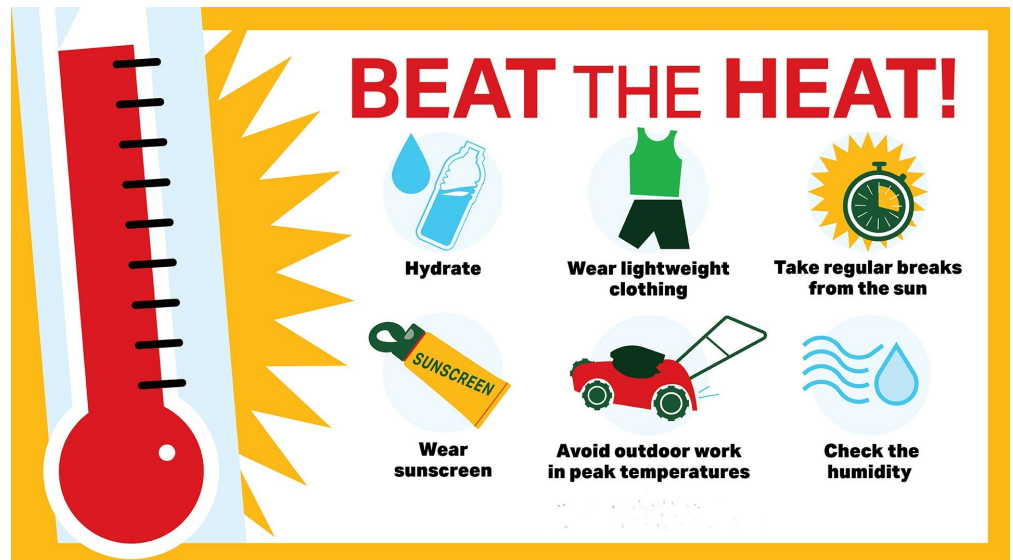
## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*Continued from pg. 4...*

John called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sherrie made the motion, Helen seconded, and the motion carried. Pastor Kenyon gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Locke  
Recording Secretary







## THE POWER OF PRAYER



*If you would like to add or edit a prayer need or praise on the list, please call the church office.*

Join us on Wednesdays; at noon or 6:30 p.m., as we come together for prayer.



Pray for, send cards to, or visit our church family, shut-ins. A list is available at the Welcome Center.

### Our Church Family and Shut-Ins:

L.C. Hill, Janie Henderson, Duane McGraw  
Edna Donovan, Betty Rush, & Suzan Thompson  
First Responders, Police, Fire, etc...  
Unrest in our Nation, Quick end to Iranian Conflict; Elections  
Also, our Military– Annika H., Alex K., & Meaghan I.

### The ministry, outreach and leadership of FCC; Local Needs:

Meals on Wheels, Allen County Ministerial Alliance food pantry ~  
Hope Unlimited domestic violence interventions ~ Pregnancy Resource Center finances and curriculum needs ~  
Spiritual Awakening in our church and community

### Global Needs:

~ Peace in Jerusalem and Israel that they may turn to their Messiah ~ Global Community and the need for God-fearing leaders ~ Christians persecuted throughout the world, Israel– AT WAR; Pray for Rain for wildfires/ fire control in the US

Elder  
Joe Riebel

Diaconates  
Cindy Scovill, Ken Luken,  
Peggy Luken, John Scovill

Power Point

08/02- Bill Hobbs  
08/09- Travis Hermstein  
08/16- Charmanne Sayles  
07/26- Chris Sayles  
07/26- Bill Hobbs

Nursery  
Volunteers  
Gina Powe  
Charlah Green  
Cindy Hill

Greeter  
Charlah Green

# Church

## INFO

### REMEMBER!!!

Save your UPC labels  
For our Missionary Fund

~Thank you!



Ladies  
Lunch

11:30 A.M. @ ROOKIES

3RD MONDAY OF EACH  
MONTH

Women's Ministry  
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m.

2ND MONDAY OF  
EACH MONTH



*We get thirsty in this heat!*

*\*Don't forget to water your tree*

## TITHES & OFFERING

Total Monthly amount needed:

\$16,943.19

July combined giving: \$23,577.00

Budget met for the month 138%!!!!!!

# August

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                   | MONDAY                                                                                                                  | TUESDAY                                      | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                 | THURSDAY                                                                                          | FRIDAY                                                                                                 | SATURDAY                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                         |                                              |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                        | <b>1</b><br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                |
| <b>2</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>3</b><br>Melanie Hermstein<br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                                    | <b>4</b>                                     | <b>5</b><br>                                             | <b>6</b><br>    | <b>7</b>                                                                                               | <b>8</b>                                                       |
| <b>9</b><br>                                           | <b>10</b><br>                        | <b>11</b><br>Carol Wilson                    | <b>12</b><br>Travis Hermstein Jr.<br>Elcie Manbeck<br> | <b>13</b><br> | <b>14</b>                                                                                              | <b>15</b><br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                               |
| <b>16</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>17</b><br><br><i>FH- Reserved</i> | <b>18</b><br><i>Church Library- Reserved</i> | <b>19</b><br>Pam Coons                                                                                                                    | <b>20</b><br> | <b>21</b>                                                                                              | <b>22</b><br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                               |
| <b>23</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>24</b>                                                                                                               | <b>25</b>                                    | <b>26</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>27</b><br> | <b>28</b>                                                                                              | <b>29</b><br>Rick Dougherty<br>Idris Dougherty<br>Annika Hobbs |
| <b>30</b><br><br>Penny Dinner-<br>Following<br>Worship | <b>31</b>                                                                                                               |                                              | <b>Wednesdays</b><br><b><u>Prayer 12:00 &amp; 6:30 p.m.</u></b>                                                                           | Happy<br>Birthday<br>Happy<br>Anniversary                                                         |  = Choir Practice | 8                                                              |