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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.

# First Christian Church

## FEBRUARY

newsletter

### GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON

#### Christians and Groundhogs Day

Have you ever had one of those days that you just wish you could do over again? In asking this question, I'm reminded of the movie, *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray who plays Phil, a very self-centered man filled with cynicism and scorn with regard to virtually everyone and everything. He ends up repeating the same day, February 2, 1993, every time he wakes up. Each morning at precisely 6:00 am, he awakes to the same song and same radio declaring, "*It's Groundhog Day!*"

As the movie progresses and as Phil's awareness that he's stuck in some kind of *time-loop* develops, he begins to experiment and attempts to change up the events of the day. At first, he experiments by engaging in highly immoral activities and finds no satisfaction. As he begins to grow more despondent with his situation, he engages in criminal activities, such as a bank robbing, etc.

Finally, in desperation, he kidnaps the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, and drives off a cliff only to wake up once again in his hotel room. After this, he commits suicide in a number of different ways, each time waking up to, "*It's Groundhog Day!*"

Toward the end of the movie, he reveals his situation to one of the other characters, who suggests that he use the repeated day as an opportunity to improve himself. He puts the suggestion into action and throughout the rest of the film uses his knowledge gathered by repeating the same day over and over again to save lives and to befriend most of the townsfolk. He even manages to redeem his reputation as a first-class jerk with his coworkers. At last, when he's accepted as no longer being the arrogant, self-centered man that he once was, he wakes up and finds that it is now February 3rd.

His transformation is now complete and he isn't the same man that he'd been on February 1st. Of course, this movie is highly fictitious and devoid of Christian concepts. Yet there are a number of things about the movie that serve to emphasize the need for self-examination and for the transformation of character needed by the Christian.

Now, some of the events of the movie remind me of Solomon's experimentation to find the secret of true happiness. In Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, Solomon lists quite a number of things he attempted to do in order to find true meaning in his life. He engaged in sexual immorality and folly, materialism and beauty, wealth and women, work and worldly wisdom, but none of it to any avail. And so, he stated, "But as I looked at everything, I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere. Later on, Solomon would reveal the true secret of happiness in 12:13, "Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty".

In the movie, when Phil first begins his journey of self-improvement, he begins by trying to stop doing and saying the awful kinds of things he had been used to, up to that point in his life, yet it still was ineffective.



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GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON

Continued from pg. 1...

But only when he began to replace those bad habits with new knowledge and a better outlook on life, did he begin to feel he was making any progress, until finally these new habits brought about a complete personality makeover. Of course, this reminds me of what the Apostle Paul's says in Colossians 3:8-10,

Now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. From this we learn that it's not enough just to simply stop sinning, but we must replace our sinful works by doing the work of the Lord.

A final attribute of the film, is the concept of second chances. Phil keeps getting the opportunity for a *do-over*. Unfortunately, we can't, as Phil did, go back and undo the things we did yesterday, or escape all of the nasty consequences, but we do have the opportunity every day to repent of our sins. We have the opportunity each and every day to not repeat the mistakes of the previous day. We've got the opportunity each day to decide to live for Christ and to seek first His kingdom.

Thankfully, our God is truly the God of *second-chances*. As the Apostle Peter states in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent". But there's a limit to His longsuffering. When we die, we don't get to wake up to, "*It's Groundhog Day!*" and try again. At death, if we're still wrapped up in our sins, we will have reached the end of God's longsuffering.

While we cannot live the same day over and over again, until we get it right, we do have the opportunity to change and be transformed. Again, as the Apostle Paul says, "That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. So, if you had the opportunity to live yesterday all over again, what would you do differently?

Blessings, Pastor Kenyon

This month we will be collecting the following soups for the Local Food Pantry!

- ♦ Tomato
- ♦ Cream of Mushroom
- ♦ Chicken & Rice
- ♦ Chicken Noodle





**First Christian Church**  
**FEBRUARY**  
newsletter



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**First Christian Church Board Meeting**  
**January 11, 2026**

**In Attendance:**

David Donovan  
Edna Donovan  
Janet Rhoades  
Skylar Starke  
Tom Sayles  
Donna Kaehr  
Kenyon Kaehr

Bill Hobbs  
Matt Powe  
Judy McGraw  
Duane McGraw  
Pat Heinz  
Tom Strickler  
Heather Mentzer

Craig Mentzer  
Denise Mentzer  
John Scovill  
Cindy Scovill  
Michelle Scovill  
Susan Locke

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the November 2025 board meeting were reviewed. John asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. As there no additions or corrections, John asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tom Strickler made a motion to approve the minutes. Skylar Starke seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John called for the financial reports. Traci Ridge was absent but left a message with Susan Locke that the final quarter's mission payments were made in December. We had total deposits of \$12,912.55 and total expenditures of \$16,919.22, leaving an ending balance of \$142,251.95 in the checking account. The CD balance was \$51,851.26, leaving our total deposits at Community National Bank & Trust in December at \$194,103.21. The building fund had a balance of \$60,778.86, and the investment account had a balance of \$38,981.36, leaving a balance of \$99,760.22 at Edward Jones. Our total assets as of the end of December were \$293,863.43. John called for a motion to accept the treasurer's report, if there were no questions. Matt Powe made the motion, Judy McGraw seconded, and the motion carried.

John then called for committee reports.

Worship Committee, Heather Mentzer: Heather has placed a sign-up sheet on the sound booth for volunteers to give the monthly children's message in 2026.

Membership Committee, Skylar Starke: Skylar had nothing new to report.

Memorial Committee, Denise Mentzer: Denise said that Glynda Powe's memorial project has been delayed until spring.

Christian Education Committee, Donna Kaehr: Donna said that they had to cancel the second pizza party due to illness, so there will not be another date scheduled.

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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*Continued from pg. 4...*

**Church Attendance:** We had an average attendance of 34 in Sunday School and 75 in worship services in December.

**Mission & Outreach Committee:** no report.

**Property & Facilities, Dave Donovan and Bill Hobbs:** Dave and Bill had nothing to report.

**Church Clerk, Judy McGraw:** We lost one member, Dorothy McGhee.

Under unfinished business, Pastor Kenyon gave a report on behalf of the Youth Minister Committee. He had an hour and a half interview with an applicant named Zach. The young man has a bachelor's degree from Ozark Christian College. He is married, and his wife has family in this area. A meeting between the applicant and the committee is scheduled for Friday night at 6:00 p.m.

There was no other unfinished business, so John then called for any new business. Pastor Kenyon brought up the need for a video screen/TV on the back wall of the sanctuary for the choir and pastor's benefit. He reported that Dan Damron has now linked everything in the sanctuary together through the ethernet, so everything communicates through Wi-Fi. There would be no need to run wiring or anything of that nature for this additional screen, hence the reason for revisiting this issue. Pastor Kenyon made a motion to have Dan purchase the TV and wall mount. Judy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Matt Powe mentioned that the church lawn mower needs to be serviced before mowing season this year. There was some discussion about the possibility of purchasing a second mower. Matt was asked to gather pricing information from area dealerships. Tom Sayles made the motion, Tom Strickler seconded, and the motion carried.

There was a "flock maintenance" request for \$100.00 presented to the board. Pastor Kenyon made the motion. Bill seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

There being no additional new business, John called for the pastor's report. Pastor Kenyon had nothing new to report this month.

John called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Donna made the motion, Matt seconded, and the motion carried.

Pastor Kenyon led the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Locke



# First Christian Church

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### THE POWER OF PRAYER



Happy Valentine's Day

*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.



#### Our Church Family and Shut-Ins:

L.C. Hill, Annette Ratlief, Janie Henderson, Helen Uitts, & Lori Ensminger, First Responders, Police, Fire, etc...

Unrest in our Nation

Also, our Military— Annika H., Alex K., & Meaghan I.

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

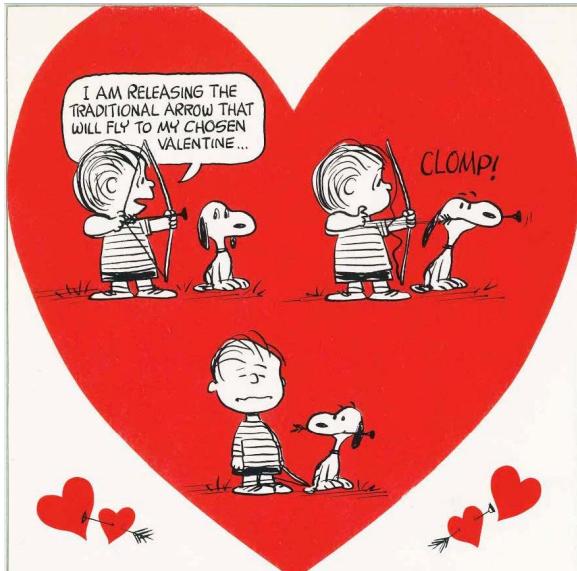
Meals on Wheels, Allen County Ministerial Alliance food pantry ~ Hope Unlimited domestic violence interventions ~ Pregnancy Resource Center finances and curriculum needs ~

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, Isreal—AT WAR; Pray for Rain for wildfires/ fire control in the US





**REMEMBER!!!**

Save your UPC labels  
For our Missionary Fund



~Thank you!

**LENTEN  
BREAKFAST**  
Every Wednesday  
during Lent

- \* Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>– First Presbyterian Church
- \* Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>– First Christian Church
- \* March 4<sup>th</sup>– St. John's Catholic Church
- \* March 11<sup>th</sup>– Wesely United Methodist Church
- \* March 18<sup>th</sup>– Calvary United Methodist Church
- \* March 25<sup>th</sup>– First Presbyterian Church
- \* April 1<sup>st</sup>– First Christian Church

*Begins @ 7:00 a.m.*



**ELDER**  
Tom Strickler

**DIACONATES**  
Peggy Luken, Cindy Scovill,  
John Scovill, Ken Luken

**POWERPOINT**  
02/01 - Charmanne Sayles  
02/08 - Chris Sayles  
02/15 - Bill Hobbs  
02/22 - Travis Hermstein

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**  
Gina Powe  
Charlah Green  
Cindy Hill

**GREETER**  
Donna Kaehr

A graphic with a pink brushstroke background and green foliage. The text "Women's Ministry Monthly Meeting" is written in a cursive font, with "6:30 p.m." below it. At the bottom, it says "2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH".

Total Monthly amount needed:

\$16,943.19

January combined giving: \$10,682.52

**SHORTFALL FOR THE MONTH:**

37%!!!!!!

**Tithes  
&  
Offerings**

*Let us love one another, for love is from God*

*Let us love one another, for love is from God*



Our contributions for **2025** to the  
*Allen County Food Pantry*  
Totaled: **896 lbs. - \$2,404.00!!!!**



# FEBRUARY

| SUNDAY                                                                                   | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                         | TUESDAY                                                  | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                                             | FRIDAY                                                                                                     | SATURDAY                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                        | 2<br><br>William Hobbs                                                                                        | 3<br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                 | 4<br>Glen Cunningham<br><br>                                                                                                                                             | 5<br><i>FH- Reserved</i><br><br>Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All<br>Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm | 6<br>Sharon Whitworth<br>Jeanie Rose Mentzer                                                               | 7<br>Charmanne Sayles<br>Skylar Starke                                                                                               |
| 8<br><b>Board<br/>Meeting</b>                                                            | 9<br><br>Rachel Starke                                                                                        | 10                                                       | 11<br><br>                                                                                                                                                               | 12<br><br>ABRAHAM<br>lincoln's<br>BIRTHDAY                                                                         | 13                                                                                                         | 14<br><br>Jan Kershner<br>Brian & Tina<br>Donovan |
| 15                                                                                       | 16<br><br><br>Misty Hobbs | 17<br>Church Library-<br>Reserved<br><i>FH- Reserved</i> | 18<br><i>Ash Wednesday</i><br><br>Lenten Breakfast-<br>First Presbyterian<br><br> | 19<br><br>Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All<br>Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                     | 20                                                                                                         | 21<br><i>FH- Reserved</i><br>Betty Rush                                                                                              |
| 22<br> | 23                                                                                                                                                                                             | 24                                                       | 25<br>Lenten Breakfast-<br>FCC<br><br>                                                                                                                               | 26<br><br>Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All<br>Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                     | 27                                                                                                         | 28                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                          | <b>Wednesdays</b><br><b>Prayer 12:00 &amp;</b><br><b>6:30 p.m.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  = Choir<br>Practice                                                                                             |  = Sparks &<br>Embers | Happy<br>Birthday<br>Happy<br>Anniversary                                                                                            |
|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                      |