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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

JANUARY

NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON

A New Name for a New Year! Ephesians 1:1-14

There once was a minister who wrote in the church newsletter that he was setting goals for the New Year. One of his goals was to clean up his desk. Another of his goals was to find last year's goals. I'm pretty sure most of us can relate to that. Now, New Year's is traditionally a time for reflection. We look back over the year and assess our successes and failures. We gain some satisfaction over our successes, and we experience some grief and guilt over our failures. Each time we face a new beginning. We have hopes that things will be different and hopefully better. That may be why some of us come to church in the hopes that the Holy Spirit will fall afresh on us and our future will be full of exciting new possibilities, positive change and new growth.

You see, we've grown tired of dealing with the "same old, same old." Thankfully, from Ephesians 1:5 we learn it doesn't have to be that way. It says, "God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." What great good news! We are God's chosen ones, his elect. God doesn't want our lives to be hum-drum, meaningless, depressing routines. God wants something better for us than that.

That's why there are some things we need to recognize as we begin this New Year. First of all, we need to see that God loves doing a new thing. He says in Revelation 21:5: "See I am making everything new." He said practically the same thing through Isaiah the prophet, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:18-19). That's the exciting thing about knowing God. God loves doing a new thing.

Sadly, most of us are fairly afraid of change. We long to be able to cling to the status quo. Someone once said that status quo is Latin for "the mess we're in." It's dangerous to stick to the status quo. God loves change, especially changed lives. Now, resolutions are hard to keep, wouldn't you agree? How many of you have ever been determined to drop an old habit and begin a new one? How many of you have seen a resolution shattered the very day you made it? Turning over a new leaf is pretty difficult.

What we need isn't inspiration, but rather transformation. Not a resolution, but a revolution. We may need a change in our lives that can only come from God. What every person needs is something that will permanently affect their life situation. What we need is something that will truly satisfy our longings, something that will bring true and lasting change. What we need is for God to do a new thing within us. And that can happen because God loves doing a new thing!

What a marvelous and transforming imagination God has. How full of love God's heart is. How powerful is His Spirit to take our failures and give us a future. How marvelous of God to take people who were headed nowhere and use them to fulfill his perfect plan for the world. When people talk about other people, they sometimes say: "That person will always be that way. People never change. They're simply hopeless." But God knows better. One of the benefits of being in the ministry is the opportunity to see people change, often quite dramatically. Never underestimate the power of God in your life or anyone else's.



Continued on pg. 2...

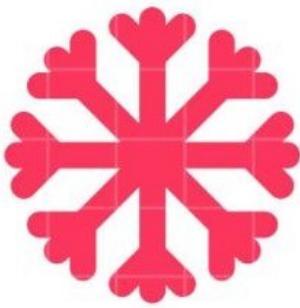


Inside This Issue

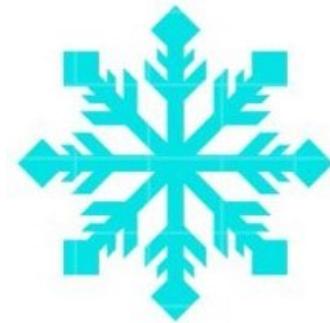
GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON	1-2
POWER OF PRAYER	3
NEWS/HELPFUL INFO	4
CHURCH CALENDAR	5

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

iolafcc.org
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'LIVE VIDEO' if you are  
tuning in on Sunday  
morning.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER



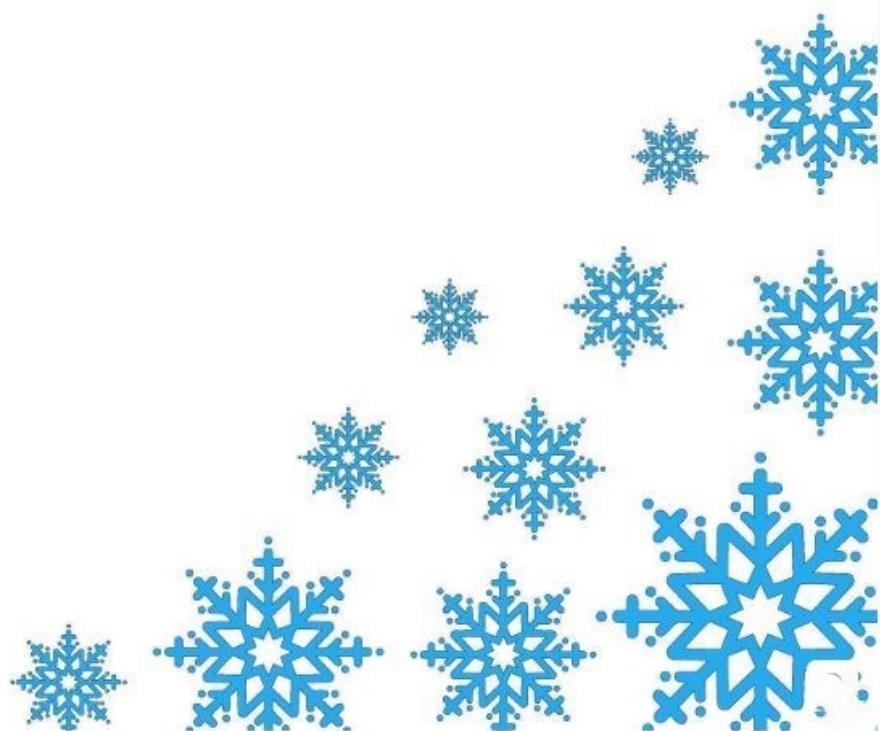
GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON

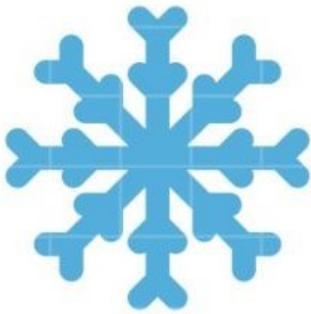
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Never forget that those the world called tax collectors; Jesus called disciples. Those called sinners, Jesus called companions. Those scorned as immoral, he called forgiven. Those called common fishermen, he called fishers of men. A crucified thief he called an heir of paradise. What names have you been called? What names have you called yourself? Jesus Christ offers you a new lease on life. A new chance in this New Year, a brand-new name. God wants something better for us in this New Year than we've ever experienced in the past.

Now, take a quick moment and just think about the names God has called us; blessed, chosen, holy, blameless, adopted sons and daughters of God. Are you still carrying around an old name like, failure, loser or sinner? Listen, as God gives you a new name for this New Year, and then go out and live as blessed, chosen, holy, blameless, adopted sons and daughters of God.

Happy New Year!  
Pastor Kenyon





# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## JANUARY

### NEWSLETTER

#### THE POWER OF PRAYER



'Hope' is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul  
And sings the tune without the words  
And never stops  
At all

- Emily Dickinson

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:

Sharon Whitworth, Lola Weber, L.C. Hill, Dorothy McGhee, Annette Ratlief, Carol Wilson, Kathy Donovan, and Janie Henderson. First Responders, Police, Fire, etc... 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



# January

**ELDER**  
Tom Sayles

## **DIACONATES**

Charmanne Sayles, Micah Johnston,  
Jeremy Johnston, Chris Sayles

## **POWERPOINT**

01/04 - Charmanne Sayles  
01/11 - Chris Sayles  
01/18 - Bill Hobbs  
01/25 - Travis Hermstein

## **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

Gina Powe  
Charlah Green  
Cindy Hill

## **GREETER**

Charlah Green



### **REMEMBER!!!**

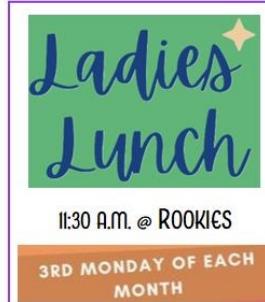
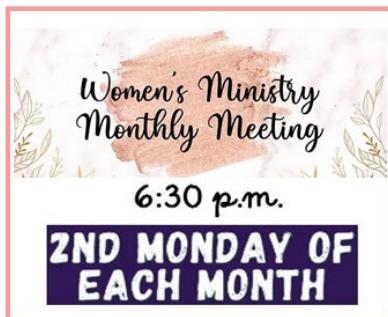
Save your UPC labels  
For our Missionary Fund



~Thank you!



Happy New Year  
**2026**



Total Monthly amount needed:

\$16,943.19

December combined giving: \$12,836.52

**SHORTFALL FOR THE MONTH: 24%!!!!!!**



# January

| SUNDAY            | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                        | TUESDAY                                                      | WEDNESDAY                                                                              | THURSDAY                                                                                                 | FRIDAY                                                                                                     | SATURDAY                            |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                   |                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                              |                                                                                        | 1 <br>Elijah Mentzer   | 2                                                                                                          | 3                                   |
| 4                 | 5<br><i>FH- Reserved</i><br>Patricia Heinz                                                                                                                                    | 6                                                            | 7     | 8                      | 9 Duane McGraw                                                                                             | 10                                  |
| 11<br>Jarrod Powe | 12                                                                                         | 13                                                           | 14  | 15 Case Mentzer<br>  | 16                                                                                                         | 17                                  |
| 18                | 19 <br> | 20<br><i>Church Library- Reserved</i><br><i>FH- Reserved</i> | 21  | 22                                                                                                       | 23                                                                                                         | 24                                  |
| 25                | 26<br><i>Church Library- Reserved</i>                                                                                                                                         | 27                                                           | 28  | 29                  | 30                                                                                                         | 31                                  |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                              | <u>Wednesdays</u><br><u>Prayer 12:00 &amp; 6:30 p.m.</u>                               | <br>= Choir Practice | <br>= Sparks & Embers | Happy Birthday<br>Happy Anniversary |