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Christian Church

Pastor Kenyon-

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Tricia Goebel-

Church Secretary

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON

Can I be a Christian Patriot and a Devout Christian at the same time?

I love America! However, in some Christian circles there's a debate taking place whether a person can be a Christian Patriot and a devout Christian at the same time. The fear is that nationalism has crept into the church and many evangelical Christians have become fixated on a gospel that is too Pro-American. To which I say, "Popycock!" The following is an article from New Horizons Magazine, 1999 and written by one Mr. Winstead. In my opinion his take on the subject absolutely nails it. Give it a read and let me know what you think!

It is insightful to see the reactions of John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and the apostle Paul, when confronted by the military or the rulers of their day, as well as their comments concerning authority and the state. When soldiers asked John the Baptist, "What shall we do?" he answered in Luke 3:14 that they should neither abuse their position nor resign (and they represented the bloody and corrupt King Herod).

When Christ responded in Matthew 8: 5–13 to the Roman centurion's request that he heal his servant, he was astonished at the faith of the soldier, whose commander-in-chief was King Herod, who thought of himself as a god. Jesus did not call upon the centurion to flee the corrupt, occupying government that the soldier represented.

When Paul was being persecuted by the crowds in Jerusalem, and being prepared for a flogging, he appealed to the Roman commander, based on his rights as a Roman citizen (Acts 22:22–29). Paul used his citizenship to protect himself from the mob and gain access to Roman rulers, and he never openly called for an end to the Roman government.

We know that governments are established by God (John 19:11; Ps. 2; Rom. 13:1–5). Governments are necessary because of man's sinful nature. Government officials are God's servants, called to do good by bringing punishment on wrongdoers (Rom. 13:4). We are to submit to governmental authority, show proper respect for every legitimate institution of government, and honor the king (I Pet. 2:13–17). Even though ancient Rome was unjust and cruel, it established a time of peace and stability that fostered the spread of Christianity throughout the empire.

The question for many of us today is, "How can I obey a government and honor the ruler, and at the same time love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and body?" The answer to that question is actually built on our own source of respect for and obedience to our government. However, as Christians, we sometimes misuse Acts 5:29 ("We must obey God rather than men!") when we disagree with a judgment made by a higher authority (whether it be our spouse, our employer, or the civil government). I maintain we must be very careful in using that verse. We must clearly demonstrate that a clear ordinance of God is being violated, forcing us to disobey our legal authorities. Are we indeed obeying Christ when we disobey men? We must be certain of it!



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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.

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**GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON**



*Continued from pg. 1...*

I do believe it is possible to be a “Christian patriot,” even when one’s country is guided by a less than honorable policy. Daniel served the pagan Babylonian and Persian kings of his day until the ordinances of the land clearly violated the teachings of the Lord God (Dan. 6). In his disobedience of King Darius’s law to worship only the king, Daniel put himself in danger of incurring the wrath of the king but brought great glory to God. Indeed, after Daniel survived the lion's den, Darius declared that “in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel” (Daniel 6:26–27).

The Christian patriot can love his country with devotion, and respect its authority and rulers, but always with a clear caveat: to King Jesus, the highest ruler, we owe our first loyalty. Everything is under His authority and control. Our secondary devotion to and respect for men and institutions must always be in the shadow of God Almighty. We may find ourselves in direct opposition to our government, even to the point of disobedience, when the Holy Spirit has convicted us that we must obey God rather than man.

To desire the best for the country of which God has made you a citizen is to want that country to be righteous and just (sin is a reproach to any people). Christians are the best kind of citizens, for they should be able to see what is best for the country (to turn from its wicked ways and to embrace the lordship of Christ). Christian citizens in high places can be a force for good.

God places us in positions (sometimes not to our liking) and wants us to serve Him faithfully in them. This requires courage. For example, Queen Esther was in a high position when the decree went out to destroy the Jews, and God used her for good in that position, even though her royal husband was arbitrary and cruel. Her godly uncle Mordecai became prime minister as a result of the whole incident, serving the same king and becoming “second in rank to King Xerxes, pre-eminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews” (Est. 10:3). Was Mordecai a “Christian patriot”? He could have shirked his civic duty because of the obvious discrimination against his people, but instead he (and Esther) rose to the occasion. Their first loyalty was always to the Lord God, but they honored the king — Mordecai even saved his life!

There will never be a perfect government on this side of heaven, but God has placed Christians in every organization to be instruments of good and mercy. It is very easy today to give up on our government due to its overwhelming dysfunction and adopt a hermit's approach. But a Christian patriot may not be a light hidden under a bushel. Rather, they should be a herald of the gospel and a force for good in a dying age. The consequences for speaking God's truth in America could eventually be persecution and the charge that one is not a “loyal American.” Someday Christians may find themselves prisoners of war because of their beliefs. But may they even there, as did Daniel and Paul, show their Christian patriotic colors.

Blessings! Pastor Kenyon





**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**First Christian Church Board Meeting  
June 14, 2026**

**In Attendance:**

Kenyon Kaehr  
Donna Kaehr  
Skylar Starke  
Bill Hobbs  
Craig Mentzer  
Denise Mentzer  
Tom Sayles

John Scovill  
Cindy Scovill  
Michelle Scovill  
Matt Powe  
Betsy Bunnell  
Randy Bunnell

Helen Uitts  
David Donovan  
Edna Donovan  
Bill Hobs  
Traci Ridge  
Susan Locke

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the May 17, 2026, board meeting were reviewed. John asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. There being no additions or corrections, John called for a motion to approve the minutes. Pastor Kenyon made the motion, Donna Kaehr seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John then called for the financial report. Traci Ridge reported that the bill for the new LED lights in the parking lot was paid out of the old building fund account, which brought it to a zero balance. The fees for attendance at Hidden Haven for summer camp were paid, along with some items for the new youth area, out of the youth account. The quarterly mission payments will be made in June. She also moved some dividend funds at Edward Jones that were not earning much interest into the building maintenance fund which earns approximately 4% interest.

The general fund had a balance of \$119,248.91, and the checking account had an ending balance of \$154,521.55 at the end of May. The CD balance remained the same, leaving a total balance of \$210,158.08 at Community National Bank & Trust. We had \$71,979.54 in the building maintenance fund and \$44,099.89 in the investment fund at Edward Jones, leaving a total balance of \$116,079.43 at the end of May. We had total assets of \$326,237.51. John called for any questions or discussion on the financial report. There being none, he called for a motion to approve the report. Craig Mentzer made a motion to approve the financial report. Skylar Starke seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John then called for committee reports.

Worship Committee, Heather Mentzer: no report available.

Membership Committee, Skylar Starke: nothing new to report.

Memorial Committee, Denise Mentzer: Denise spoke with Ryan Larkey about the memorial garden, and he will make a presentation to the board of his proposal.

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Christian Education Committee, Donna Kaehr: Donna reported that with the purchase she made last year of 60+ lessons for \$98.00, we are in good shape for several years on the lesson plans. She said the kids seemed to like the new lessons that have been used so far.

Church Attendance, Helen Uitts: Helen reported that we had an average attendance of 26 in Sunday School and 70 in worship services in May.

Mission & Outreach Committee, Sherrie Riebel: no report available.

Property & Facilities, Bill Hobbs & Dave Donovan: Dave and Bill had nothing new to report. Matt said that the handicap button on the outside was not working again this morning, so it will need another new battery. Pastor Kenyon said that he had noticed a lot of water coming from the air conditioning unit, so he called Ace Refrigeration. They came out and found that the drain line was plugged up. They were able to successfully unplug it, so it was an easy fix.

Church Clerk, Judy McGraw: Pastor Kenyon noted that we lost one member, Lori Ensminger.

John called for unfinished business. Pastor Kenyon reported there was nothing new for the youth minister position.

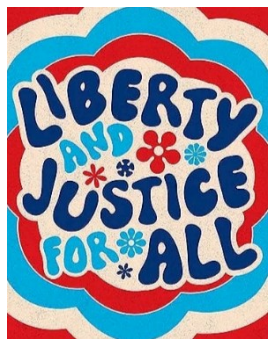
On the choir room piano replacement, John said that Heather told him she is still awaiting a response from a vendor.

Pastor Kenyon gave an update on the new youth area. The carpet installation is still pending. He purchased a couple of arcade games, which will be installed as soon as the carpet has been laid.

There being no additional unfinished business, John called for new business. Donna brought up the complaints raised about the heat in the foyer area at Lori Ensminger's funeral service. She asked about the possibility of installing some dropped ceiling fans in that area. Since that would involve additional electrical wiring, we would need to get a bid on that as well. There was some discussion about contacting Ace Refrigeration, also, to see if there is some way to improve the air flow from the HVAC system. Skylar made a motion to get a bid on the installation of two ceiling fans, one at each end of the foyer area, and to contact Ace Refrigeration about possible improvement of the air flow in that area. Pastor Kenyon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Betsy Bunnell said that she had read about the decision to move funds designated for the entrance awning to the building maintenance fund in the monthly newsletter. She wanted to revisit that decision, as she noticed when people get dropped off at the front entrance in inclement weather they still have to walk through the rain, etc. to get inside.

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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*Continued from pg. 4...*

She was not aware that plans for such an entrance existed and thought it would make the church more welcoming. There was some additional discussion with Bill and Dave, regarding contacting the original contractor and/or construction company of the church, about the plans for that entrance awning. Betsy made a motion to get an estimate on how much the project would cost. Donna seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Matt Powe introduced Jarred and Ryan Larkey of All-in-One. They presented their proposal for refreshing and refurbishing the prayer garden area. What they found was that the water flow for the fountain was not installed in the right place, which may account for the reason water has to be added frequently. They would not know, until they removed the rocks, if the basin itself is cracked or not. The fountain also has the wrong size rocks in it. The small rocks impede water flow, so they would replace that with larger river rock. They proposed removing and replacing the old lights, pressure washing the patio area, reshaping the flower beds for better traffic flow, new edging, new plants, and new river rock in the flower beds. They would also put new mulch in the flower beds out front. Their proposed estimate is \$4,600.00, unless the basin is cracked and needs to be replaced. That would be a separate issue they would have to bring to the board.

There was some additional discussion from board members concerning the trees that the church has planted that either die or don't seem to grow. Jarred said that they would be willing to come up with a proposal for replacing the trees. Craig made a motion to accept their proposal on the prayer garden, Randy Bunnell seconded and the motion carried. Donna made a second motion on getting their bid to replace the trees. Bill seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Traci let the board know that she will be gone in September and October, to babysit her granddaughter while her daughter has internships in Chicago, IL, and Rochester, MN, respectively. Susan Locke will fill in for her treasurer's duties while she is gone.

There being no additional new business, John asked for the pastor's report. Pastor Kenyon said all was good in the hood, he had nothing new to report.

John called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Helen made the motion, Skylar 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.

*pray.*



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, Janie Henderson, Bill Mentzer, Duane McGraw  
 Edna Donovan, & Cindy Hill  
 First Responders, Police, Fire, etc...  
 Unrest in our Nation, Quick end to Iranian Conflict;  
 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–



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



## Elder

Tom Strickler

## Diaconates

Pam Coons, Micah Johnston,  
Jeremy Johnston, L.C. Hill

## Power Point

07/05- Bill Hobbs  
07/12- Travis Hermstein  
07/19- Charmanne Sayles  
07/26- Chris Sayles

## Nursery Volunteers

Gina Powe  
Charlah Green  
Cindy Hill

## Greeter

Otis Babcock

Women's Ministry  
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m.

**2ND MONDAY OF  
EACH MONTH**

### REMEMBER!!!

Save your UPC labels  
For our Missionary Fund

~Thank you!



# FCC

First Christian Church

## Ladies Lunch

11:30 A.M. @ ROOKIES

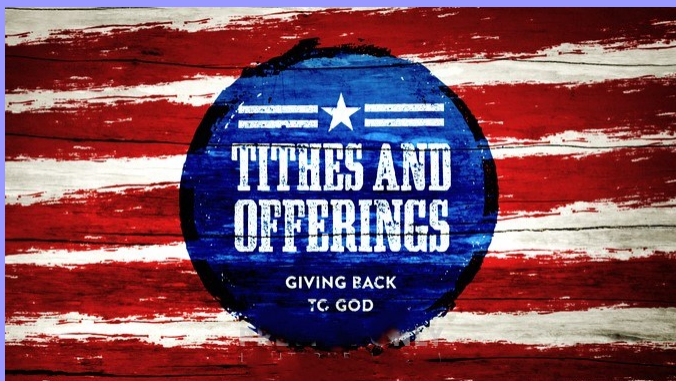
**3RD MONDAY OF EACH  
MONTH**

Total Monthly amount needed:

\$16,943.19

June combined giving: \$12,648.00

*25% Shortfall for the month!!!*



**~Don't forget we're still  
growing and need water!**



# Church News

LATEST UPDATES

WE'VE GOT  
MAIL

TERRI NUNNERY  
106 BURGUNDY LN  
HAYS, KS 67601

05.17.2026

My Dearest Church Family,  
I have settled into my new place well. I'm still in search of a "new normal" but I have 2 good church families to help me along.

I want to thank every single one of you for your guidance and acceptance for so many years. You helped me so much in my walk with the Lord! Love & Prayers, Jerry

Join the Celebration!

# DONNA MAYS CURRY

will celebrate her

# 90TH BIRTHDAY

SUNDAY, 2PM-  
JULY 19TH 4PM

Iola First Christian Church  
1608 Oregon Road, Iola, KS

Here's the mail, it never fails, it makes me wanna wag my tail. When it comes I wanna wail MAAAAIL.



your e cards  
someecards.com



# July 2026

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                             | MONDAY                                                                                                                            | TUESDAY                                                                     | WEDNESDAY                                                | THURSDAY                                                                             | FRIDAY                                                                                                 | SATURDAY                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                             | 1                                                        | 2                                                                                    | 3                                                                                                      | 4<br> |
|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                             |                                                          |    |                                                                                                        |                                                                                          |
| 5                                                                                                                                  | 6                                                                                                                                 | 7                                                                           | 8                                                        | 9                                                                                    | 10                                                                                                     | 11<br>Pam & Vince Coons                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                             |                                                          |    |                                                                                                        |                                                                                          |
| 12<br>                                            | 13<br>Kenyon & Donna Kaehr<br>John Scovill<br> | 14<br>Lissa Manbeck<br>Connor Powe                                          | 15                                                       | 16                                                                                   | 17                                                                                                     | 18<br>Jaiden Emmons                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                             |                                                          |  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                          |
| 19<br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                                                                          | 20<br><br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                  | 21<br><i>FH- Reserved</i><br><i>Church Library- Reserved</i><br>Donna Curry | 22                                                       | 23                                                                                   | 24                                                                                                     | 25<br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                             |                                                          |  |                                                                                                        |                                                                                          |
| 26<br><br>Penny Dinner-<br>Following<br>Worship | 27                                                                                                                                | 28<br>Corbin & Lissa Manbeck                                                | 29                                                       | 30                                                                                   | 31                                                                                                     |                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                             | <b>Wednesdays</b><br><b>Prayer 12:00 &amp; 6:30 p.m.</b> | Happy Birthday<br>Happy Anniversary                                                  |  = Choir Practice |                                                                                          |