



**GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON**

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To view the worship service, please go to our website: [iolafcc.org](http://iolafcc.org)  
~~~~~Simply click on **'LIVE VIDEO'** if you are tuning in on Sunday morning.

*A Lenten Journey*

Once again, we find ourselves in the season of Lent. As followers of Christ, we should take this 40-day period to do some serious spiritual reflection. As believers we need to recognize the depth of our sins and cry out to God about the brokenness of the world around us and yes, even the brokenness within our very own lives.

So, with that thought in mind I'd like to share with you a story about King David as found in 2 Samuel 12 that I sincerely believe strikes at the very core of what Lent is really all about. Now, as the curtain rises on this particular passage of scripture we find, King David wrestling with an issue that struck absolute terror in his heart. That's because the prophet Nathan approached him with a rather disturbing story.

He began, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor." The rich man had an immense herd of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one small lamb. The poor man raised the lamb as a pet. It grew up with his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

Now a traveler came to visit the rich man. The rich man was obligated to provide a meal for his visitor. However, instead taking one of his own sheep or cattle to sacrifice for the meal, he took the small lamb that belonged to the poor man, slaughtered it and had it prepared for his visitor.

When Nathan finished his story, David was filled with righteous indignation toward the rich man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity." Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! . . . You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own." (2 Samuel 12: 1-9)

For me, this has to be one of the most powerful scenes in all of scripture. "You are that man!" Clearly, David had sinned. He knew it. The entire nation knew it. The prophet Nathan was forced to confront him with it. Adulterer. Murderer. Sadly, David had abused his power as the divinely appointed ruler of his nation. Keep in mind, this was the man after God's own heart, but he failed God big time and he had failed the nation of Israel. Ultimately, he had failed himself.

Then, in the quiet of the night, all of that guilt and shame simply overwhelmed him, so he began to pray. And believe it or not, that very prayer can be found in Psalm 51, Here, we hear David crying out, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight . . ."

Now, I'm willing to bet that none of us have ever felt the true weight of our sin like David did that night. Now, that isn't because we've never sinned. It's just that as a culture we've developed a highly effective ability to rationalize and justify our behavior.

*Continued on pg. 2...*



## GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON

*Continued from pg. 1...*

We hardly use the word sin anymore. Instead, we “make mistakes.” We “mess up.” We shrug our shoulders and declare, “Oh, well, nobody’s perfect” as if somehow that’s an acceptable excuse for our misdeeds. Somewhere along the line we as a people have developed the ability to simply shrug off any responsibility for doing wrong.

Thankfully, David wasn’t only sorry for his sins, but determined to change. Now, notice when David prays, he asks God not to only forgive him, but to also make him a new person. He says, “Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow . . . Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.”

Then he adds some of the most beautiful words in scripture: “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

David knew that he couldn’t achieve the kind of change he needed on his own. Only by the grace and love of God could he really become the kind of man his family and his nation needed, the kind of man God intended him to be. David was heartsick over his sin and he wanted to change. “Create in me a pure heart, O God . . .” He knew that his only hope was God’s grace. Fortunately, David was a recipient of God’s grace.

Now, this doesn’t mean David managed to escape the consequences of his misdoing. David’s family life is one tragedy after another following his sin with Bathsheba. He paid for his sin for the rest of his life. But there’s also forgiveness and the opportunity to make a new beginning. Thankfully, God’s grace doesn’t depend on our actions, but rather His action in and thru his son Jesus Christ who died a sacrificial death that we might live. You see, God’s grace grows out of His unconditional love for each and every one of us. Thankfully, King David experienced that very same grace and so too can we.

Blessings, Pastor Kenyon





**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**First Christian Church Board Meeting  
February 08, 2025**

In Attendance:  
David Donovan  
Edna Donovan  
Janet Rhoads  
Kenyon Kaehr  
Donna Kaehr  
Tom Sayles  
Helen Uitts

Matt Powe  
Craig Mentzer  
Denise Mentzer  
Emmett Manbeck  
Joe Riebel  
Sherrie Riebel  
Traci Ridge

John Scovill  
Cindy Scovill  
Michelle Scovill  
Judy McGraw  
Duane McGrw  
Steven Uitts  
Susan Locke

*Dear God:*  
*Enlighten* what's dark in me...  
*Strengthen* what's weak in me...  
*Mend* what's broken in me...  
*Bind* what's bruised in me...  
*Heal* what's sick in me...  
and lastly,  
*Revive* whatever peace and love  
has died in me...

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the January 11, 2026, board meeting were reviewed. John asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. There being no corrections or additions, John called for a motion to approve the minutes. Judy McGraw made the motion, Cindy Scovill seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

John called for the financial reports. Traci Ridge reported that we had a balance of \$138,789.19 in the checking account and \$55,636.53 in the CD at Community National Bank & Trust. We had \$62,959.53 in the building maintenance fund and \$43,880.47 in the investment fund at Edward Jones. At the end of January, we had total assets of \$301,265.72. Traci mentioned that the monthly payment to the cleaning service is increasing by \$25.00 per month. John asked for a motion to approve the financial report. Sherrie Riebel made the motion. Craig Mentzer seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

John then called for committee reports.

Worship Committee: no report.

Membership Committee, Skylar Starke: no report.

Memorial Committee, Denise Mentzer: Ricky Larkin is submitting a bid for redoing the prayer garden.

Christian Education Committee, Donna Kaehr: Donna ordered ten new studies for \$87.00, which represents a 90% discount off the regular price.

Church Attendance, Helen Uitts: We had an average attendance of 32 in Sunday School and 73 in worship services in January.

*Continued on pg. 4...*



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*Continued from pg. 3...*

Mission & Outreach Committee, Sherrie Riebel: The February penny dinner proceeds will go to the Pregnancy Resource Center. Since the January penny dinner was canceled, Sherrie suggested sending a \$500.00 donation to Hidden Heaven. Craig made the motion, Joe Riebel seconded, and the motion carried. Sherrie said she is also looking for a replacement for Dorothy McGhee on the committee. If anyone is interested, please contact Sherrie.

Property & Facilities, Bill Hobbs & Dave Donovan: The fabric came in to repair the damaged pew cushion. Peggy Luken will do the repair work.

Church Clerk, Judy McGraw: One less member to report -Terri Nunnery has moved to Hays.

John called for unfinished business. Pastor Kenyon reported that the prospect for Youth Pastor decided to withdraw, so there was no interview scheduled with the committee. Pastor Kenyon will do some further checking on the Crossroads option.

Installation of the new video screen/TV on the back wall is waiting on a part, which Dan Damron expected to receive next week. Matt Powe and Bill Hobbs are planning to rent a lift to change out the bulbs in the sanctuary and will coordinate with Dan on installing the video screen/TV at the same time.

Matt took the lawn mower to Hecks for service and repair. He is still gathering pricing information to purchase a second lawn mower.

There being no additional unfinished business, John called for new business.

There being none, he then asked for the pastor's report. Pastor Kenyon said that some type of activity for all age groups will be planned for the Spring. He is coming up with ideas.

Helen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Locke  
Board Secretary



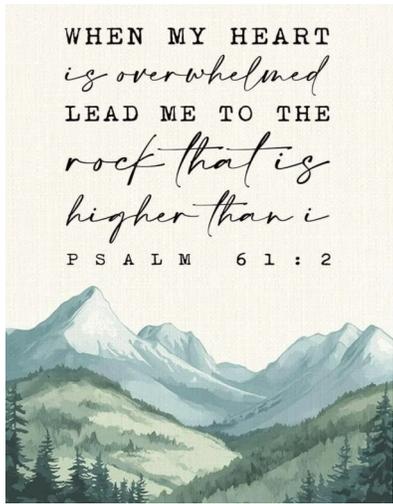
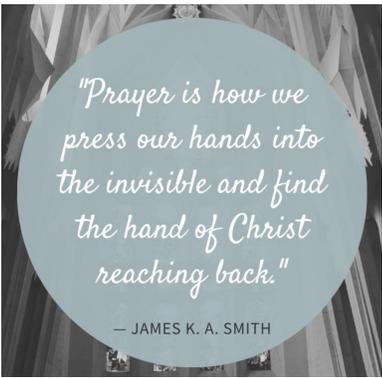


**THE POWER OF PRAYER**

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

We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.  
ACTS 6:4

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, Phyllis Lueker & Lori Ensminger, First Responders, Police, Fire, etc...  
Unrest in our Nation, Fire Victims in KS, OK & TX  
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



# MARCH

## ELDER

Joe Riebel

## DIACONATES

Skylar Starke, Idris Dougherty,  
Rick Dougherty, Dennis Kershner

## POWERPOINT

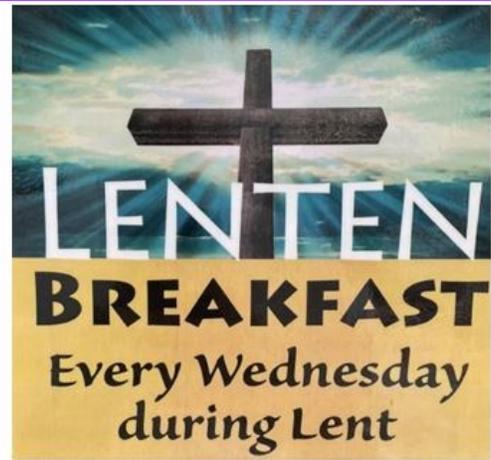
03/01 - Charmanne Sayles  
03/08 - Chris Sayles  
03/15 - Bill Hobbs  
03/22 - Travis Hemstein  
03/28 - Charmanne Sayles

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Gina Powe  
Charlah Green  
Cindy Hill

## GREETER(S)

Joe & Sherrie Riebel



- \* 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> - Wesley 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

*Begin @ 7:00 a.m.*

**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**

Total Monthly amount needed:

\$16,943.19

February combined giving: \$17,181.00

**BUDGET MET FOR THE MONTH: +1%!!**



**REMEMBER!!!**  
Save your UPC labels  
For our Missionary Fund  
~Thank you!

**Daylight Saving Time Starts**  
**March 8, 2026**  
Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour Saturday night or Sunday morning the weekend of March 9.

# MARCH



| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | MONDAY                                                                                    | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                            | FRIDAY                                                                                                  | SATURDAY                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2                                                                                         | 3                                                                                                                                                      | 4<br><i>Lenten Breakfast–<br/>St. John's</i><br>                                               | 5<br><i>FH– Reserved</i><br><br>Support Groups for All<br>Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm | 6                                                                                                       | 7<br><i>Joe &amp; Sherrie<br/>Riebel</i><br><br><i>FH– Reserved</i> |
| 8<br><br>                                                    | 9<br>    | 10                                                                                                                                                     | 11<br><i>Lenten Breakfast–<br/>Wesley United</i><br><i>Tom &amp; Charmanne<br/>Sayles</i><br>  | 12<br><br>Support Groups for All<br>Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                       | 13                                                                                                      | 14<br><i>FH– Reserved</i>                                           |
| 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 16<br> | 17<br><br><i>Church Library–<br/>Reserved</i><br><i>FH– Reserved</i> | 18<br><i>Lenten Breakfast–<br/>Calvary United</i><br>                                      | 19<br><br>Support Groups for All<br>Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                     | 20<br>             | 21<br><i>FH– Reserved</i><br><br><i>Joe Riebel<br/>Helen Uitts</i>  |
| 22                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 23                                                                                        | 24                                                                                                                                                     | 25<br><i>Lenten Breakfast–<br/>First Presbyterian</i><br><br><i>Sherrie Riebel</i><br>     | 26<br><br>Support Groups for All<br>Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                     | 27                                                                                                      | 28                                                                  |
| 29<br><br><br><i>Penny Dinner–<br/>Following Worship</i> | 30                                                                                        | 31                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Wednesdays</b><br><b><u>Prayer 12:00 &amp;<br/>6:30 p.m.</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                              |  = Choir Practice                                                                               |  = Sparks & Embers | <i>Happy<br/>Birthday<br/>Happy<br/>Anniversary</i>                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                         |                                                                     |