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GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON



To Love Like God! John 15

As we all know, May 10th is the day we “officially” honor our mothers for being there for us. Now, I realize not everybody can be a mom, but everyone at some point in time has had a mom, and I’m pretty sure we can all agree that our moms are pretty special people. Without a doubt some of us had moms who made great sacrifices for us and perfectly modeled the love of God through her very words and actions.

Now, I know it’s not easy being a mom and if we could travel back in time here are a few recently discovered quotes from the mothers of some famous historical characters. Can you just imagine what they said to their own kids? For example, Mona Lisa’s mother; “After all that money your father and I spent on braces, Mona, that’s the biggest smile you can give us?” Or Humpty Dumpty’s mother “Humpty, if I’ve told you once, I’ve told you a hundred times not to sit on that wall. But would you listen to me? Noooo!” Then there are the mothers we find in the Bible. For example, Jonah’s mother. “That’s a nice story, but tell me where you’ve really been for the last three days!”

Clearly, it’s not easy being a mom. However, as we read from John 15, we can hear Jesus saying, “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you...”

So, let’s begin here: We love because God first loved us. That’s the message for us yesterday, today and tomorrow. In this passage, Jesus goes way beyond the Golden Rule. Which says what? “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. However, Jesus’s interpretation of the Golden Rule says, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Now we’re not simply to love our neighbor as we love our self; actually, we’re expected to love our neighbor just like Jesus loves us. Now, that’s a pretty tall order and a much greater standard to meet.

Of course, a great example of this kind of love is the love we as parents have for our very own children and grandchildren. I’m willing to bet that most of us love those kiddos far more than we love ourselves! In this case the Golden Rule isn’t sufficient enough when it comes to the relationship between a parent/grandparent and child. However, with that being said, I also believe that our love will never fully measure up to the agape love of God, because of the mere fact we’re human! We’re prone to mistakes and sometimes we just simply fall short of the goal.

But here is the real test of Christian love: can we love all of God’s children with a love that approximates the very same kind of love we have for our own kids? You know, that’s exactly what Christ is asking us to do. Love others, just as he does. Wow! Now, that’s not an easy thing to do. However, it is within the realm of possibility.

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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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Take for example, bus driver Kris Doubledee of Winnipeg, Manitoba who made an unscheduled stop on a busy street corner one morning. His passengers watched him get off the bus and approach a man on the sidewalk who was barefoot. Doubledee asked the man if he had any shoes; the man said no. so, the bus driver removed his own shoes and handed them to the man. "Here," he said. "You need these more than I do." Then Doubledee returned to his seat wearing no shoes and continued on his route. A passenger asked him why he did that. Doubledee explained that he's seen the man standing there before and just couldn't bear the thought of the man not having any shoes.

Gee, we say, that's the exact sort of thing Jesus would do. Very true and that's the exact sort of thing a follower of Jesus should do as well. However, in my opinion after 2000 years of Christian history, that really shouldn't be such a radical concept to us, but unfortunately it is. We claim to follow Jesus, but sadly we fall terribly short of his expectations to love others just like he does. So, let us all endeavor to always go that extra mile, and love everyone, just as Jesus and our very own mothers would expect us to do.

Blessings, Pastor Kenyon





**First Christian Church Board Meeting  
April 12, 2026**

**In Attendance:**

David Donovan  
Edna Donovan  
Kenyon Kaehr  
Donna Kaehr  
Duane McGraw  
Judy McGraw  
Joe Riebel

Tom Sayles  
John Scovill  
Cindy Scovill  
Michelle Scovill  
Helen Uitts  
Steven Uitts

Heather Menzer  
Pat Heinz  
Gina Powe  
Matt Powe  
Traci Ridge  
Susan Locke

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the March 08, 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. Judy McGraw made the motion, Donna Kaehr seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John called for the financial reports. Traci reported that she had paid the quarterly mission payments, the bill for the new lawn mower, and the bill for the new TV. She said that we had a balance of \$111,713.83 in the general fund as of March 31. Traci said we have a building maintenance fund that is included in the funds on deposit at Community National Bank. That fund is no longer needed, since we deposit \$2,000.00 each month into the building maintenance account at Edward Jones. She asked if we could use those funds to pay for the lift that was rented to install the new TV and change the light bulbs in the sanctuary and then transfer the remaining balance to the general fund. Joe Riebel made the motion, Pastor Kenyon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

We had a total of \$150,505.02 in the checking account and \$55,636.53 in the CD at Community National Bank & Trust. We had \$67,505.67 in the building maintenance fund and \$44,068.46 in the investment fund at Edward Jones. At the end of March, we had total assets of \$317,715.68. John asked for a motion to approve the financial report. Matt Powe made the motion. Helen Uitts seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John then called for committee reports.

Worship Committee, Heather Mentzer: Heather reported that they are still working on replacing the piano in the choir room. The committee will meet again before the end of school.

Membership Committee, Skylar Starke: no report available.

Memorial Committee, Denise Mentzer: Denise reported that she is still waiting on a bid for work on the prayer garden.



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Christian Education Committee, Donna Kaehr: Donna reported that April 22 will be the pizza party for the last Sparks meeting this spring. She also reported that there are several kids who will be going to church camp at Hidden Haven this year, and that Jarred Powe will be working there this summer. There are enough funds available for the church to cover the fee for those attending camp this year.

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

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

Property & Facilities, Bill Hobbs & Dave Donovan: Dave had nothing new to report, other than that one of the down spouts has developed a leak.

Church Clerk, Judy McGraw: Judy had no changes to report.

John called for unfinished business. Pastor Kenyon had nothing new to report on behalf of the Youth Minister Committee.

Matt gave an update on the purchase of the new mower. He purchased the Country Clipper and has used it once already. He said that it worked very well. We now have two mowers for those who have volunteered to mow the church grounds.

There being no additional unfinished business, John called for new business. Someone who watches the church service remotely expressed concern about the center aisle having so much traffic as the candlelighters are walking up that aisle to light the candles. Pastor Kenyon asked that we keep the center aisle open as the candles are being lit, just as a safety precaution.

There being no additional new business, John called for the pastor's report. Pastor Kenyon reported he would like to create a youth area on the landing above the baptistry in preparation for the youth pastor, whenever we find one. He'd like to install carpeting, get some bean bags chairs, set up a TV, and maybe get a foosball table. We already have a TV, that is not currently being used, that could be moved and installed in the youth area. He also mentioned that there is a motorized scooter being stored in that area that he would like to get rid of, since it doesn't work. Edna Donovan mentioned that Garnett has a center that takes donations of things like that and repairs them. Pastor Kenyon asked her to contact them to see if they would be interested in the scooter. John called for a motion to approve the new youth area and removal/disposal of the scooter. Judy made the motion, Helen seconded, and the motion carried.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Locke



**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.

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

L.C. Hill, Annette Ratlief, Janie Henderson, Phyllis Lueker & Lori Ensminger, Joe & Sherrie Riebel, 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, Israel–



# MAY 2026

Elder  
Matt Powe

Diaconates  
Sherrie Riebel, David Gant,  
Carrie Gant, Glen Cunningham

Power Point  
05/03 - Chris Sayles  
05/10 - Bill Hobbs  
05/17 - Travis Hermstein  
05/24 - Charmanne Sayles  
05/31 - Chris Sayles

Nursery  
Volunteers  
Gina Powe  
Charlah Green  
Cindy Hill

Greeter  
Kenny Luken



Women's Ministry  
Monthly Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
**2ND MONDAY OF  
EACH MONTH**

Ladies  
Lunch  
11:30 A.M. @ ROOKIES  
**3RD MONDAY OF EACH  
MONTH**

Women's  
Bible Study  
Wed. mornings @ 9:00 a.m.

Total Monthly amount needed:

\$16,943.19

April combined giving: \$16,796.00

1% Shortfall for the month!!!

**TITHES &  
OFFERINGS**  
*Giving back to God*


















FCC  
First Christian Church

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



# MAY 2026



| SUNDAY                                                                                         | MONDAY                                                                                                                      | TUESDAY                                                                                 | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                              | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                  | SATURDAY                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>1</b><br><br><br>Kenneth Luken | <b>2</b><br><br>Janie Henderson     |
| <b>3</b>                                                                                       | <b>4</b><br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                                                             | <b>5</b><br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                         | <b>6</b><br>Gina Powe<br><br>                                                                           | <b>7</b><br><br><br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                                                  | <b>8</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>9</b>                            |
| <b>10</b><br> | <b>11</b><br>                             | <b>12</b>                                                                               | <b>13</b><br><br>  | <b>14</b><br><br><br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                                               | <b>15</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>16</b>                           |
| <b>17</b>                                                                                      | <b>18</b><br><i>FH- Reserved</i><br><br> | <b>19</b><br>Kenyon Kaehr<br><br><i>FH- Reserved</i><br><i>Church Library- Reserved</i> | <b>20</b><br><br>  | <b>21</b><br>Robin Manbeck<br><br>William & Misty Hobbs<br><br><br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm | <b>22</b><br><br>Lori Ensminger                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>23</b>                           |
| <b>24</b>                                                                                      | <b>25</b><br>                            | <b>26</b>                                                                               | <b>27</b><br><br>  | <b>28</b><br><br><br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                                               | <b>29</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>30</b>                           |
| <b>31</b><br><br>Craig & Denise Mentzer                                                        |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                         | <b>Wednesdays</b><br><u><b>Prayer 12:00 &amp; 6:30 p.m.</b></u>                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  = Choir Practice                                                                                                  | Happy Birthday<br>Happy Anniversary |