



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

May Newsletter

2025



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON



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Inside this issue:

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON	1-2
POWER OF PRAYER	3
BOARD MEETING MINUTES	4-5
NEWS/HELPFUL INFO	6
CHURCH CALENDAR	7

Loyalty Above All, 1 Kings 8:61

Every May we celebrate and remember those who served their country loyally and made the ultimate sacrifice on Memorial Day. However, I'm reminded there are actually two sides to this same coin when it comes to being loyal and faithful. As the old saying goes loyalty extends to both "God AND Country". This is exactly what we learn from 1 Kings 8:61, "Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day". So, what does the Bible teach us about the character of loyalty?

Well, I believe loyalty is about remaining committed to those whom God has brought into our lives and has called us to serve, even in times of difficulty. It's developing an allegiance and a respect for one another, and not seeking to manipulate others for our own selfish benefit. Being loyal exhibits our commitment to Christ -- with discernment--to people and righteous causes.

Loyalty is also like faith; it means assurance of another. In ancient times, these two words had the same meaning, and referred to one's loyalty to a person, or trustworthiness to a promise they'd made. The person receiving the promise was acting on faith and trusting in that person, and that's what loyalty is mainly about. But loyalty has another facet to it. It's also a call to involve other personal characteristics such as, forgiveness, mercy, and respect into the equation.

We're to exhibit this with all people, even when it's underserved and unearned. It also acknowledges that people with whom we entrust our loyalty will sometimes disappoint us. However, we can't base our character and self-image in their reaction toward us but only in Christ Jesus. Our outlook on life and reaction to people needs to be rooted in God alone, not on how they respond to us. We're not responsible for how they treat us; we're only responsible for treating them with utmost respect and dignity, just like Jesus would. Hence, the word Christian reflecting our nature to be "Christ like," not "self like."

We must realize that God works through people, including our church and national leaders (Proverbs 21:1; Romans 13). God uses many people to carry out His plans for us and all those around us. Therefore, loyalty is also a demonstration of our obedience to our country, civil leaders, church, teachers, authority figures, and family (unless they give a command that goes against God's Word). It's something we demonstrate both in public and in private. Loyalty is a character that puts a portion of love into action for all the people in our daily lives.

Continued on pg. 2...

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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**2025**  
**GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON**



*Continued from pg. 1...*

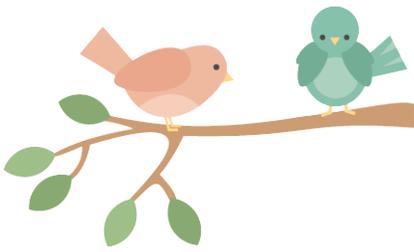
It may seem that “loyalty” is dying out in our culture today as selfishness and narcissistic behaviors are on the rise. However, let us never forget that our God will always remain faithful and loyal to us just as 2 Timothy 2:13 reminds us: "If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself." Amen.

Blessings,



Pastor Kenyon





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**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.**

Frank Fuller, Carol Wilson, Bill Mentzer, Lori Ensminger, Dave Donovan, Pauline Hawk, Jerry Chambers, Brenda Smith, Marsha Coffman, Karen Trester, Dorothy McGhee, Barbara Rush, Janie Henderson, Jaiden Emmons, Terri Nunnery, Jason & Elizabeth Stokes, Robert Fulton, Lara Stevens, & Jeremy Johnston

The ministry, outreach and leadership of FCC  
 Local Needs: Our Church Family including the shut-ins, 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 wild-fires/ fire control in the US





### First Christian Church Board Meeting April 13, 2025

#### In Attendance:

David Donovan  
Edna Donovan  
Collene Ellis  
Kenyon Kaehr  
Donna Kaehr  
Matt Powe

Tom Sayles  
John Scovill  
Cindy Scovill  
Michelle Scovill  
Helen Uitts  
Gina Powe

Joe Riebel  
Sherrie Riebel  
Tom Strickler  
Charmanne Sayles  
Steve Uitts  
Susan Locke

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the March 2025 board meeting were reviewed. John asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. There were no additions or corrections. Sherrie Riebel made a motion to approve the minutes. Cindy Scovill seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John called for the financial reports. Susan Locke, in Traci Ridge's absence, reported that Traci paid the quarterly mission disbursements and the semi-annual disbursement to the Iola Ministerial Alliance. She also paid \$3,749.98 to ACE Refrigeration, \$1,080.44 to Anderson Plumbing, and \$650.00 to Folk for the septic system. The general fund had an ending balance of 92,480.28 in March. We had an ending balance in the checking account of \$123,261.47 and \$51,851.26 in the CD at Community National Bank & Trust. We had \$41,458.47 in the building maintenance fund, which includes dividends of \$252.14, and \$37,511.31 in the investment fund at Edward Jones. We had total assets of \$254,082.51 at the end of March. 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: no report

Membership Committee: no report

Memorial Committee: no report



Christian Education Committee, Donna Kaehr: Donna reported that Sparks will have their last meeting this Wednesday and will celebrate with a pizza party. She purchased approximately \$180 worth of books for the children's library.

Church Attendance, Helen Uitts: Helen reported that we had an average attendance of 31 in Sunday School and 79 in worship services in March.

Mission & Outreach Committee, Sherrie Riebel: Sherrie reminded everyone that the April penny dinner proceeds will go to the Allen County Relay for Life, and that there will not be a penny dinner in May.

*Continued on pg. 5...*

God Bless  
OUR MOTHERS

A mother defends herself with  
a heart filled with love before  
doing so with words.

- Pope Francis

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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*Continued from pg. 4...*

Property & Facilities, Bill Hobbs & Dave Donovan: Dave said that Bill didn't have anything to report, but Dave wondered where we were at on the repairs for the fountain. He asked about contacting KJ Electric to have them come take a look. Pastor Kenyon said that they had done the electrical work on the pavilion and were fast. The board gave approval to have Dave contact them to come check on the fountain.

Church Clerk: no report

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

John brought up some issues that have come to light in recent weeks with usage of the fellowship hall. Examples include tables and chairs not being returned to their usual setup or wiped off after use, the coffee pot being left on, floors not swept, etc. He proposed a usage fee of \$50.00, plus a \$50.00 deposit, for non-member usage of the hall, as well as a sign-up sheet with a checklist. Donna made a motion to approve the fees and sign-up sheet, beginning May 1. John will have his name and email address on the sheet, so that people reserving the hall will contact him, and he will then pass the information on to the church secretary to put it on the calendar and in the bulletin. Tom seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Gina Powe asked permission to purchase some new toys for the nursery. She said that there were several that were broken, so there are not many toys left for the kids to play with. The board gave approval to purchase up to \$500.00 worth of toys, since funds were available in the youth account.

John reported that Traci had received the quarterly bill for the church's property insurance, and the premium has increased approximately \$6,000.00 over last year's premium. Once we receive a copy of this year's policy, he will do some checking with other independent churches in the area to see who their insurance providers are, as well as checking with other insurance companies, to see if we can get a better price for similar coverage. He will report back on his research in a couple of months.

Susan Locke asked if the church would once again participate with a sponsorship to the Relay for Life, which will take place on June 14 this year. The board agreed to a \$300.00 sponsorship, the same amount as in previous years.

John called for the pastor's report. Pastor Kenyon had nothing to report. He reminded the board that he and Donna will be leaving for a two-week vacation after church services on Easter Sunday.

There being no further business to discuss, John called for a motion to adjourn. Helen made the motion, Pastor Kenyon seconded, and the motion passed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Locke  
Board Secretary



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Elder  
Joe Riebel

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

PowerPoint  
05/04– Evan Powe  
05/11– Bill Hobbs  
05/18– Travis Hermstein  
05/25– Charmanne Sayles

Nursery  
Volunteers  
Gina Powe  
Charlah Green  
Cindy Hill

Greeter  
Jeri Waters



TOTAL MONTHLY AMOUNT NEEDED: \$16,943.19

APRIL COMBINED GIVING: \$16,295.00

**4 % SHORTFALL FOR APRIL!!!!!!**



# MAY 2025



| Sunday                                                                                                        | Monday                                                                                                                                              | Tuesday                               | Wednesday                                                                                                                           | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                 | Friday               | Saturday                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                     |                                       |                                                                                                                                     | 1<br><br>NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER Happy May Day!<br>Kenneth Luken<br><i>FH- Reserved</i> | 2<br>Janie Henderson | 3                                                                                                                                              |
| 4                                                                                                             | 5<br><br>CINCO de MAYO<br>Gina Powe<br><i>FH- Reserved</i>         | 6<br>Gina Powe<br><i>FH- Reserved</i> | 7<br>                                              | 8<br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                                                                                                                 | 9                    | 10<br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                                                                                      |
| 11<br><br>HAPPY Mother's day | 12                                                                                                                                                  | 13<br>Glen Singer                     | 14<br>Kenneth & Peggy Luken<br>                  | 15<br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                                                                                                                | 16                   | 17<br><br>THANK YOU TO ALL THAT SERVE.<br>Armed Forces Day |
| 18<br><br>Board Meeting     | 19<br><br>LADIES LUNCHEON<br>Kenyon Kaehr<br><i>FH- Reserved</i> | 20<br>Church Library-Reserved         | 21<br>William & Misty Hobbs<br>Robin Manbeck<br> | 22<br>Lori Ensminger<br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                                                                                              | 23                   | 24                                                                                                                                             |
| 25                                                                                                            | 26<br><br>HAPPY Memorial Day<br>HONORING ALL WHO SERVED          | 27                                    | 28<br>                                           | 29<br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                                                                                                                | 30                   | 31<br>Craig & Denise Mentzer                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                     |                                       | <u>Wednesdays</u><br><u>Prayer 12:00</u><br><u>&amp; 6:30 p.m.</u>                                                                  |  = Choir Practice                                                                    |                      | Happy Birthday<br>Happy Anniversary                                                                                                            |