



First Christian Church

AUGUST 2023

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON



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We're THIRSTY!!
*****PLEASE REMEMBER
***** to water your tree!!!!



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.

#### The God Who Never Changes, 1 Samuel 15:29

Every summer I thoroughly enjoy preaching from the Old Testament! Over the past several weeks we've been in the book of 1 Samuel. This past week as I was working on the message, I came across a verse in 1 Samuel 15:29 that was an incredible reminder to me that God never changes. It says, "He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind."

Unfortunately, our modern-day culture runs contrary to this Biblical principle. This is called Process Theology. This is the belief the God is changeable, that he's not all-powerful, and he must respond to whatever humanity does. Culture, after all, is constantly changing, and it so very desperately wants a god that changes with it and places its stamp of approval upon the times. But thankfully our God *is* immutable (unchanging). He cannot change for better or for worse, because He is perfect. His character will not change, and so we can always rely upon Him. We can place all of our hope, faith and trust in an unchangeable God, and that hope will never be shaken. Only He can sustain our longings, and only He can fulfill His every promise. As followers of Christ, we won't always fit into the world in which we live. In fact, we'll often find ourselves going against the flow of popular culture in most areas of life. So, it's extremely necessary and important for us to have a solid biblical foundation to stand on in the midst of our rapidly shifting cultural landscape.

We must understand how the eternal Word of God shapes our understanding of current issues and how we can share the gospel compassionately and courageously with the people around us. Here are four possible responses to our changing culture.

1. We can conform; We start compromising what we believe and the way we act in order to appeal to and appease the surrounding culture. We may even genuinely believe that doing so is both loving and strategic, hoping somehow people will be attracted to Jesus through a less offensive form of Christianity and will ultimately be saved. However, we have to realize that our goal isn't to make following Jesus easier. The message of the gospel is necessarily countercultural and offensive to the human heart.
2. We can check out; The opposite extreme is to secede from culture, distancing ourselves so completely that we never have any interaction with the world around us. Again, the intent may seem honorable and sincere because we want to remove even an appearance of evil and the temptation of sin. But Jesus specifically prayed that His Father wouldn't take His followers out of the world but protect them while they were sent into it ([John 17:15-16](#)).
3. We can fight against it; This approach is antagonistic and defensive. While the intent begins moving in the right direction, refusing to give in to or give up on the world around us, it misses the heart of Jesus. This response sees culture as an enemy to be defeated instead of people to be saved. Our desire must not be to prove ourselves right or to force our way on the world around us. Instead, our goal is to show Christ to be true and worthy. Just as wrong as running away from our culture is driving people away from the church. Countering culture doesn't mean attacking it.

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# First Christian Church

## AUGUST 2023

### GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON



*Continued from pg. 1*

4. We can counter it; Countering culture means engaging culture with conviction and compassion. We stand firmly on the truth of God, empowered by the Spirit, to extend the love of Christ to the world. Our desire isn't to conquer but to redeem. It matters what we do, how we do it, and why we do it.

The heart of every Christian should burn with an overwhelming desire for God's glory. We can't sit back and remain silent while God isn't glorified and people are on a path that ultimately leads to self-destruction. We must ask God to cause His name to be known and loved in today's culture. That desire should drive not only our personal prayers but also our public lives on a daily basis. As Christians we should never forget that a wrong response to culture is more than unhealthy or unhelpful. Engaging our culture is literally a matter of life or death.

Blessings, Pastor Kenyon

### Donations Are Needed For The Allen County Food Pantry!



#### Items in need:

- . Corn
- . Green Beans
- . Rice
- . Pasta Sauce
- . Kids drinks (Hugs)
- . Peas
- . Fruit

WE'RE DOING  
MORE WITH YOUR  
SUPPORT

*Thank you*

..... FOR YOUR .....  
DONATION

**Thank you to all who donated,  
our spaghetti and spaghetti sauce drive  
was a success!!**



# First Christian Church

## AUGUST 2023



### 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.*

#### PRAY FOR RAIN

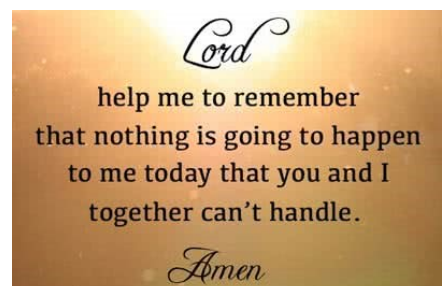
Kathryn Herder, Dee Singer, Lori Ensminger, Julie Strickler, Edna Donovan, Dave Donovan, Peggy Luken, Terri Nunnery, Lawrence Hill, Gloria Thurman's daughter Julie, Helen, Jaxxon, Brenda Smith, Marsha Coffman, Adalena Holloway, Ruby Davis, Mary Ellen Stanley, Jason & Elizabeth Stokes, Barbara Rush, & **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



PRAY FOR, SEND CARDS TO,  
OR VISIT OUR CHURCH FAMILY,  
SHUT-INS. A LIST IS AVAILABLE AT THE  
WELCOME CENTER.





# First Christian Church

AUGUST 2023

## FCC Board Meeting Minutes



### First Christian Church Board Meeting July 09, 2023

#### In attendance:

Tom Sayles  
Charmanne Sayles  
Matt Powe  
Donna Curry  
Judy McGraw  
Duane McGraw  
John Scovill  
Cindy Scovill

Michelle Scovill  
Donna Kaehr  
Kenyon Kaehr  
Helen Uitts  
Craig Mentzer  
Denise Mentzer  
Tom Strickler

Sharon Whitworth  
Bill Hobbs  
Heather Mentzer  
Joe Riebel  
Sherrie Riebel  
Susan Locke  
Skylar Starke

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the June board meeting were distributed and reviewed. John asked for additions or corrections. Bill Hobbs made a motion to approve the minutes. Skylar Starke seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The June financial reports were reviewed by Traci. We had total receipts of \$15,478.31, including \$61.31 in interest, for the month of June. We have an ending balance of \$94,866.26. The quarterly mission payments were made. A payment of \$925.00 was made for the new church directory. Traci said we received a dividend payment of \$325.00 from Edward Jones on the investment account. Matt Powe made a motion to approve the financial report, Skylar seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John called for committee reports.

Skylar Starke & Heather Mentzer, membership/worship committee: Skylar reported that the church directory is in process. Heather asked for prayers as students and teachers are preparing to go back to school.

Donna Kaehr, Christian education: Sparks will start back up on the Wednesday after Labor Day, Sept. 6. Postcards are being prepared to pass out again this year. She is hoping to have enough participants to start Embers back up again as well. Donna will need help on Wednesdays, so anyone interested should contact her. The lessons will be covering the beatitudes in September. There will be a kickoff celebration on Sunday, Sept. 3. Plans are still being developed and may include a barbecue, inflatables, games, etc.

*Continued on pg. 5*



BOARD MINUTES

# First Christian Church

## AUGUST 2023

### *FCC Board Meeting Minutes*

Worship Service  
is now on

**ROKU**

Search for  
First Christian Iola, KS—  
Then add to [TV Menu](#)

***Continued from pg. 4...***

Helen Uitts reported that we had an average attendance in June of 33 for Sunday school and 88 for worship services.

Judy McGraw, church clerk, had no changes to report this month.

Bill Hobbs, property committee co-chair, had nothing to report.

Sherrie Riebel, mission & outreach committee, reminded everyone that the July penny dinner proceeds will go to Wings of Warriors and the August penny dinner proceeds will go to Ozark Christian College. The July penny dinner will be pulled pork.

Denise Mentzer, memorial committee, said she had been asked about the digital sign that was proposed for the use of Jerry Whitworth's memorial. It had been brought before the board about the time that COVID hit and was basically tabled. Pastor Kenyon reminded the board that bid requests had been sent out at the time, and we only received one response with a cost of \$40,000.00. He said that we need to do more research to see what else might be available, as that was too much to spend. He will call Tony Godfrey, pastor at Harvest Baptist, to see if their new sign is going to be digital and then get information on where they got it and what the pricing was like. Tom Strickler was going to see who the bank used for their sign and what the pricing ran.

#### **Unfinished business:**

Traci reported that the signers on the investment account at Edward Jones have been updated.

It had been decided at the last board meeting to pursue setting up automatic payments through Community National Bank & Trust. Traci met with Karma Wright to find out what was needed in order to set this up. The online services require separate documents to authorize persons to act on behalf of the church to create and approve files. They do not have to be signers on the checking account. The bank recommended that we have one person create the file and a second person approve the file as a method of dual control. Traci and Susan Locke asked that a third person be designated, in the event that one of them would be unavailable to create or approve a file. Judy McGraw volunteered to serve as another authorized person. Craig Mentzer made a motion to approve Judy McGraw as the third authorized person, Sherrie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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# First Christian Church

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### *FCC Board Meeting Minutes*



*Continued from pg. 5...*

**New business:**

Traci asked if the church wanted to consider transferring some of the funds in the checking account to a CD, now that the building is paid off and interest rates are more attractive. There was some discussion about that option and also about investing in a money market account instead for more liquidity. The question arose about the possibility of doing both. Craig made a motion to transfer \$50,000.00 to a CD at Community National Bank & Trust. Sherrie seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Pastor Kenyon suggested transferring \$2,000.00 a month into a money market account at Edward Jones. Matt made the motion to transfer \$2,000.00 monthly into a money market account, starting in August. Helen second the motion, and the motion carried. Traci was asked to find out what needed to be done to set up these new accounts.

Donna K. said that Zane will be bringing his youth group back to Joplin in June of next year. We will host them again, like we did this year. Donna will have details when it gets closer to that time.

There being no other new business, John called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Helen made the motion to adjourn, Donna K. seconded, and the motion carried. Pastor Kenyon gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Locke, Board Secretary



# First Christian Church

AUGUST 2023

## *FCC Board Meeting Minutes*



### **ADDENDUM TO THE JUNE MINUTES**

A special board meeting was held on Sunday, June 16, after worship service in the sanctuary to vote on the details of setting up the new CD and money market accounts. John Scovill opened with prayer and turned the floor over to Traci Ridge. Traci talked to Bill Wolf at Edward Jones about the money market account and CD investment options. He suggested that the church split the CD investment into two \$25,000.00 CDs with a three-month and six-month term. Traci had information about the CD rates currently being offered at Edward Jones. After some discussion about the potential cost of fees for transferring funds to a CD at Edward Jones, it was decided to stick with the decision to open the CD at Community National Bank & Trust for nine months at a rate of 4.95%. Pastor Kenyon made the motion, Skylar seconded, and the motion carried.

Discussion then followed about who should be the authorized signers to transfer funds to a money market account at Edward Jones. Since the current signers on the checking account are David Donovan, Traci Ridge, John Scovill, and Susan Locke, it was decided that Dave, Traci, and Susan should be signers on the money market account since all three live and work in Iola. Matt made the motion, Skylar seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned, and Pastor Kenyon closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Locke, Board Secretary

Our Missionaries~ The Hodges will be joining us  
Sunday, August 20th



### Elder

Tom Strickler

### Diaconates

Peggy Luken, Evan Powe,  
Carol Wilson, Ken Luken

### Power Point

08/06 ~ Evan Powe  
08/13 ~ Bill Hobbs  
08/20 ~ Travis Hermstein  
08/27 ~ Charmanne Sayles

### Nursery Volunteers

Gina Powe  
Beulah Green  
Michelle Scovill

### Greeter

Duane McGraw

Sign-up sheet to buy book- on Sound Booth

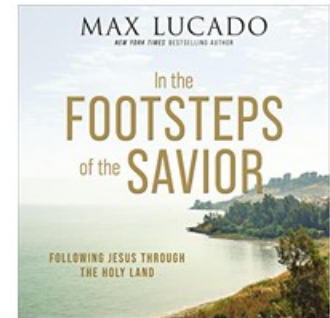


Sunday Evenings: 6:00p.m.

September 10<sup>th</sup> - October 15<sup>th</sup>

Please join us!

\$15.00 Per Book



Goodbye, July.  
Hello, August.



Total Monthly amount needed: \$16,943.18.

**July combined giving: \$18, 682.00**  
**WE MET BUDGET FOR JULY 110%!!**





## Culp Prayer Calendar – August 2023

- August 6<sup>th</sup> – Preaching at Alton Bible Church on our way back from Georgia.
- I'm making this calendar super early because I know I'm going to be out of town and have trouble doing it in a few weeks. Because of that, I don't have much on the calendar for August yet!
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Kids' first day back at school

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                | Monday                                                                                                                                                         | Tuesday                                                                                                                 | Wednesday                                                                                              | Thursday                                                                                                         | Friday                                                                                                       | Saturday                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Support can be sent to:</b><br><br><b>Pioneers</b><br><b>c/o Justin Culp #111886</b><br><b>10123 William Carey Dr.</b><br><b>Orlando, FL 32832</b> |                                                                                                                                                                | <b>1</b>                                                                                                                | <b>2</b>                                                                                               | <b>3</b>                                                                                                         | <b>4</b>                                                                                                     | <b>5</b>                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                | Pray that God would cause Ezekiel to grow in faith and obedience to God's word, even in the deep issues of his heart.   | Pray that Caleb would grow in joy, trust and faith instead of fear, anger and deceit.                  | Pray that God would provide us with another \$1100 in monthly donors to cover our budget gap.                    | Pray that God would give Teresa perseverance and joy in school and parenting.                                | Pray that God would provide for Amy's education and professional goals and development.                        |
| <b>6</b>                                                                                                                                              | <b>7</b>                                                                                                                                                       | <b>8</b>                                                                                                                | <b>9</b>                                                                                               | <b>10</b>                                                                                                        | <b>11</b>                                                                                                    | <b>12</b>                                                                                                      |
| Speaking today at Alton Bible Church in Alton, IL.                                                                                                    | Pray for Justin's continued learning and development in the area of programming and Salesforce so that he can continue to be a valuable member of the EWI team | Pray that God would give us wisdom in shepherding Ezekiel and discipling him and not provoking him to anger.            | Pray that Caleb would grow in handling his big feelings in productive and healthy ways.                | Pray that God provides more opportunities to speak in churches for EWI partnerships and fundraising.             | Pray that our vehicles would be free from further mechanical issues and failure.                             | Pray that Amy would grow in joy, patience, peace, and other Spiritual fruit as she draws closer to Jesus.      |
| <b>13</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>14</b>                                                                                                                                                      | <b>15</b>                                                                                                               | <b>16</b>                                                                                              | <b>17</b>                                                                                                        | <b>18</b>                                                                                                    | <b>19</b>                                                                                                      |
| Pray for the Lopit church in South Sudan to grow in number through gospel proclamation.                                                               | Pray that as summer vacation draws to a close, Justin would balance family time and rest with being a responsible steward of time and ministry.                | Pray that Ezekiel would persevere in summer reading and other work that will help make the school year easier to start. | Pray that the Lord would draw Caleb to Himself and give him faith, repentance and joy.                 | Pray that God would give us new monthly partners this week and that our goals would get met.                     | Pray for wisdom about an upcoming travel and ministry opportunity for Justin.                                | Pray that God would provide a good balance of rest, school and work for Amy as she approaches the school year. |
| <b>20</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>21</b>                                                                                                                                                      | <b>22</b>                                                                                                               | <b>26</b>                                                                                              | <b>24</b>                                                                                                        | <b>25</b>                                                                                                    | <b>26</b>                                                                                                      |
| I don't have anything scheduled for this week but I'd like to! Pray that someone would sign up...let me know if it's you!                             | Pray that God would give Justin wisdom about an upcoming ministry and travel opportunity.                                                                      | The kids start school today...that went fast! Pray for a good school year with friends, homework, learning, etc.        | Pray that Caleb would have a strong start to second grade, and keep succeeding in his school work!     | Pray that God would make it possible for Justin to spend LESS time on fundraising activity and more on ministry. | Pray that God would protect our house and vehicles from needing major repairs while we shore up our support. | Pray that God would provide advancement opportunities for Amy as she perseveres in a difficult field.          |
| <b>27</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>28</b>                                                                                                                                                      | <b>29</b>                                                                                                               | <b>30</b>                                                                                              | <b>31</b>                                                                                                        |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                |
| Pray that God would move churches in this area to see, love and reach the nations who have been brought to our doorstep!                              | Pray that God would give Justin patience and joy and kindness and wisdom to lead in ministry, family and other areas of leadership and life.                   | Pray that Ezekiel settles well into the new school year routines, and can persevere in homework and social development. | Pray that the Lord would give us grace and wisdom in shepherding Caleb and not provoking him to anger. | Pray that God would provide for our financial needs through new financial partnerships with churches and people. |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                |

# AUGUST 2023

| Sunday                                                                                   | Monday                                                                                    | Tuesday                                                 | Wednesday                                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                                              | Friday                 | Saturday                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                          |                                                                                           | 1                                                       | 2<br>                     | 3<br>Melanie Hermstein                                                                                | 4<br>Charlie Thurman   | 5                                           |
| 6                                                                                        | 7                                                                                         | 8                                                       | 9<br>Mother's Day  Out    | 10                                                                                                    | 11<br>Carol Wilson     | 12<br>Elcie Manbeck<br>Travis Hermstein Jr. |
| 13<br> | 14                                                                                        | 15<br>Linda Wiley                                       | 16<br>                  | 17                                                                                                    | 18                     | 19<br>Pam Coons                             |
| 20<br> | 21<br> | 22                                                      | 23<br>Mother's Day  Out | 24<br>Marjorie Mentzer                                                                                | 25<br>David Cunningham | 26                                          |
| 27                                                                                       | 28                                                                                        | 29<br>Idris Dougherty<br>Rick Dougherty<br>Annika Hobbs | 30                                                                                                         | 31                                                                                                    |                        |                                             |
|       |                                                                                           |                                                         | <u>Wednesdays</u><br><u>Prayer 12:00</u><br><u>&amp; 6:30 p.m.</u>                                         |  = Choir Practice |                        | Happy Birthday<br>Happy Anniversary         |