



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2024

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON



First Christian Church
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Christian Church

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Tricia Goebel-

Church Secretary

913-702-5706

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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.

"I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity". C. S. Lewis, *God in the Dock*



A few weeks ago, in Sunday School Rick Warren said something that really rung my bell. Something along the lines of "God created us to love him, not to make us comfortable". Well, this got me to thinking and digging. So, I came across this really good but brief snippet on the internet and thought I'd share it with all of you.

From the above quote we find Lewis clearly hitting on one of the very significant mistakes that people make when it comes to religion in general and Christianity in particular. (He had a knack for that sort of thing.) Since the rise of theological liberalism in the 19th century, there's been an over-emphasis on the comforting aspects of the faith to the detriment of Christianity as a whole. This results in the idea of religion being a "crutch" to help us limp through a hard world we all fear to face. This has been reinforced in recent years by the wave of affluence we've experienced in the western world since the end of World War II. Today, no one wants to accept a religion that has difficult/hard things to say about them or the way they live their lives.

Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending on your position), the Truth of Christianity is far harder than the world around us. It shows us things about ourselves that no one wants to admit—after all, a real relationship with Christ begins with a knowledge of our own sin and with the admission that "we're not all OK, myself least of all. This is precisely the opposite message being broadcast by the modern world. In reality, religion, i.e. Christianity—isn't an easy and expedient method only adopted by the weak to protect themselves from the harsh realities of life. It's the acceptance of an even harder path that leads the weak to become even stronger through Christ alone.

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March  
is in the  
air

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GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON



*Continued from pg. 1*

Christianity isn't a warm, fuzzy blanket that we wrap ourselves in when we feel the cold of the universe. It's far more than a get-out-of-Hell-free card. It's the Universal Sovereign's attempt to set us back to rights after we've so thoroughly damaged ourselves and His creation that He'd be overwhelmingly justified in simply doing away with it all. The Truth of Christianity restores us to proper balance with Himself and with His creation as a whole. That affects our entire life in different ways, some comforting, some hard, but all good always.

Blessings, Pastor Kenyon



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## MARCH 2024

### POWER OF PRAYER

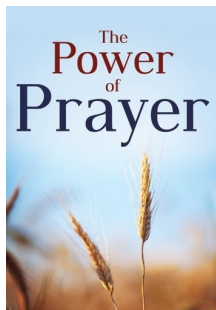
HE IS Risen

HELLO SPRING



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

There is such strength and power *when we pray together.*

### **PRAISE FOR RAIN, PRAY FOR MORE**

Kathryn Herder, Lori Ensminger, Dave Donovan, Helen Uitts, Pauline Hawk, Jerry Chambers, Brenda Smith, Marsha Coffman, Wilma Krokstrum, Charlie Thurman, Karen Trester, Betty Rush, Dorothy McGee, Megan— Charlotte's Granddaughter., Mary Ellen Stanley, Jason & Elizabeth Stokes, Barbara Rush & Jim Roush  
**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

God is good all the time

**PRAYER IS POWER**





# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## MARCH 2024

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting

notes

First Christian Church Board Meeting  
February 11, 2024

#### In Attendance:

Kenyon Kaehr  
Donna Kaehr  
Donna Curry  
Skylar Starke  
Judy McGraw  
Duane McGraw  
Tom Sayles  
John Scovill

Michelle Scovill  
Denise Mentzer  
Craig Mentzer  
Helen Uitts  
Steven Uitts  
Bill Hobbs  
David Donovan  
Cindy Scovill

Edna Donovan  
Sherrie Riebel  
Joe Riebel  
Heather Mentzer  
Sharon Whitworth  
Betty Cunningham  
Susan Locke

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the January 2024 board meeting were reviewed. John called for a motion to approve the minutes. Traci Ridge made the motion, Matt Powe seconded, and the motion carried.

Traci reviewed the January 2024 financial reports. We had total receipts of \$14,139.81, including \$83.81 in interest. The checking account at Community National Bank has a balance of \$85,184.97, and the CD has a balance of \$50,000.00. The Edward Jones investment account has a balance of \$35,389.01, and the building maintenance account has a balance of \$12,104.99. We have total assets of \$182,678.97. John called for a motion to approve the financial report. Sherrie Riebel made the motion, Skylar Starke seconded, and the motion carried.

John then called for committee reports.

Heather Mentzer, worship committee, asked if the church would again act as a drop off location for Operation Shoebox. This was approved unanimously.

Skylar Starke, membership committee, had nothing new to report.

Denise Mentzer, memorial committee, asked about the concrete sidewalk from the building to the pavilion. Joe Riebel will check with Otis Babcock about contacting someone to do this.

Donna Kaehr, Christian education committee, had nothing new to report.

Helen Uitts, church school super, reported that we had average attendance in January 2024 of 31 for Sunday school and 79 for worship services.

Dave Donovan and Bill Hobbs, property & facilities committee, reported that the leak in the mechanical room has been fixed for the moment. There is a pipe that was installed vertically that should have been installed horizontally during construction of the building, according to Jim Valentine who came out to do the repair. It was suggested that we find out how much it would cost to reinstall the pipe in question correctly. Bill also reported that the kitchen drawer has been repaired. It was reported that a baseboard has come off in the kitchen, so Bill will take a look at it.

**Continued on pg. 5**





# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## MARCH 2024

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES



*Continued from pg. 4*

Judy McGraw, church clerk, had no changes in church membership to report.

#### Unfinished Business:

John Scovill said that replacing the church secretary's computer is on hold for the moment. He is waiting on information about the various programs currently installed on the existing computer to determine the specs for the replacement computer.

Pastor Kenyon reported that the new playground equipment was purchased and has been delivered. We are just waiting on the weather to improve before starting to take out the old equipment and set up the new equipment.

Pastor Kenyon also reported that the installation of the spray insulation at the parsonage has been postponed due to cracks in the foundation drawing moisture. The cracks will have to be sealed first, as the spray installation will not stick unless the foundation walls are dry.

#### New Business:

Pastor Kenyon reported that the downstairs toilet in the parsonage developed a leak. It has been replaced with a new toilet. In the meantime, the City of Iola utility office called inquiring about a possible leak, as they noticed a huge increase in the water usage which would amount to about a \$1,700.00 water bill. Craig Mentzer made a motion to approve paying the expenses for the new toilet and the increased water bill. Helen seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Pastor asked Traci to contact the city to find out how much we owed on the water bill, so we could get that paid.

Matt reported that the double entry doors on the west side were still having issues. There was some discussion on possible solutions.

Betty Cunningham brought to the board's attention that the piano in the sanctuary has some issues that are becoming more problematic and will only worsen with time. She said that Dr. Jeffery Anderson came recommended by the gentleman who tunes the piano as someone who was qualified to make the necessary repairs. He is available for approximately two weeks in March. The estimated cost of the repairs is \$1,500.00. Traci made a motion to have the repairs made, Donna K. seconded, and the motion carried.

Pastor Kenyon reported that the church secretary, Tricia Goebel, lost her other job and was requesting to work more hours at the church. He recommended a maximum of 20 hours per week. There was some discussion by various members present that at least three fourths of that time be spent in the office during normal business hours throughout the work week. Pastor Kenyon will speak with Tricia and a schedule will be determined.

There being no other new business to discuss, John called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Helen made the motion, and Skylar seconded. Pastor Kenyon led the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Locke  
Board Secretary



## Elder

Craig Mentzer

## Diaconates

Carol Wilson, Idris Dougherty,  
Rick Dougherty, Nathan Mentzer

## Power Point

03/03 ~ Charmanne Sayles

03/10 ~ Evan Powe

03/17 ~ Bill Hobbs

03/24 ~ Travis Hermstein

03/31 ~ Charmanne Sayles

## Nursery Volunteers

Gina Powe

Beulah Green

## Greeter

Carol Wilson



Total Monthly amount needed:

***\$16,943.18***

***February combined giving:***

***\$23,178.00***

***BUDGET MET FOR FEBRUARY***

***137%!!!!***



When: Wednesday, March 20th @ 7:00AM

Where: Fellowship Hall- FCC

We will be serving:

- Biscuits & Gravy
- Scrambled Eggs
- Sausage
- Donuts/ Coffee Cake
- Juice/ Coffee

~Donations are needed and greatly appreciated as we will be providing the above items~

If you have questions please call 620-365-0327~ Thanks- Donna Curry



≈ February 14th—1st Presbyterian Church

≈ February 21st—First Christian Church

≈ February 27th—Wesley United Methodist Church

≈ March 6th—1st Presbyterian Church

≈ March 13th—St. John's Catholic Church

≈ March 20th—First Christian Church

≈ March 27th—Wesley United Methodist Church

**Begins @7:00a.m.**





# March 2024

WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH  
MARCH 2024



| Sunday                                                                                                           | Monday                                                                                 | Tuesday                                                                                                        | Wednesday                                                                                                                      | Thursday                                                                                                 | Friday                                                                                      | Saturday                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                  |                                                                                        |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                          | 1                                                                                           | 2                                                  |
| 3                                                                                                                | 4<br>FH- Reserved                                                                      | 5                                                                                                              | 6<br><br><br>SPARKS                           | 7<br>Joe & Sherrie<br>Riebel                                                                             | 8                                                                                           | 9                                                  |
| 10<br>BOARD<br>MEETING<br><br> | 11<br>FH- Reserved<br>Tom &<br>Charmanne<br>Sayles<br><br><i>Women's</i><br>-MINISTRY- | 12<br>FH- Reserved                                                                                             | 13<br><br>MDO<br>MOTHER'S DAY OUT<br>SPARKS  | 14                                                                                                       | 15                                                                                          | 16                                                 |
| 17<br><br>                     | 18<br>FH- Reserved                                                                     | 19<br><br><br>Spring begins | 20<br><br><br>SPARKS                        | 21<br>Joe Riebel<br>Helen Uitts                                                                          | 22<br>Sherrie Riebel                                                                        | 23                                                 |
| 24                                                                                                               | 25                                                                                     | 26                                                                                                             | 27<br><br>MDO<br>MOTHER'S DAY OUT<br>SPARKS | 28                                                                                                       | 29<br> | 30                                                 |
| 31<br><br>                     |                                                                                        |                                                                                                                | <b>Wednesdays</b><br><b><u>Prayer 12:00</u></b><br><b><u>&amp; 6:30 p.m.</u></b>                                               |  = Choir<br>Practice |                                                                                             | Happy<br>Birthday<br>Happy<br>Anniversary<br><br>7 |