FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
IOLA, KS

1608 Oregon Road
P.O. Box 654
Iola, KS 66749
620-365-3436
www.iolafcc.org
fcc.iola@gmail.com
FB: Iola First Christian Church
Pastor Kenyon- 910-320-2371
Tricia Goebel– Church Secretary



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2025



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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.

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON

Count Your Blessings! 1 Thessalonians 5:18

I'd like to begin this month's article with a big THANK YOU to everyone for the cards, gifts and warm wishes during Pastor Appreciation month! In my mind I should be the one giving everyone cards, gifts and words of thanksgiving for allowing me to be your pastor! I thank God every day He placed me here at First Christian! My family is truly blessed to be part of an amazing and wonderful church family!

Speaking of being blessed and it being the month we celebrate our many blessings on Thanksgiving Day I'm reminded of one of my favorite hymns; Count Your Blessings! Now, this particular song has a really interesting history, and I'd like to share it with you. The author of this song was a man named Johnson Oatman, Jr., who was born on April 21, 1856, in Lumberton, N.J. His dad was a local merchant and just happened to be the best singer in town, with a rich, powerful voice. Young Johnson couldn't sing as well as his father, yet he grew up wanting to make some musical contributions of his own.

For a time, he worked in the family business but soon gave that up and began studying for the ministry. After finishing school and ministering in the Methodist Episcopal denomination for a time, Johnson continued to hope that life held some other kind of plan for him. At 36, he realized he did, without question, have a musical talent after all. He could write songs for other Christians to sing. So, every year some 200 songs flowed from his pen. He eventually wrote over 5,000 songs and was happy that in his musical compositions he had found a way to "preach the Gospel."

Of all the songs Oatman wrote. he seemed to claim as his favorites, "No, Not One" and "Higher Ground." However, people everywhere seemed to adopt another one of his very special songs, "Count Your Blessings," written in 1897. Almost immediately it began its impressive journey. All too often, in this great land of America, we seem to lapse into a state of ingratitude, taking for granted all of the blessings and comforts we enjoy. We lapse into an attitude of self-satisfaction, expecting that peace and bliss will always follow us. During those times we should, with a sincere heart, always count our many, many blessings!

From this story our attention should center around three specific things: the specialness of this wonderful hymn, the celebration and observance of Thanksgiving, which became an official Federal holiday in 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it a National Day of Thanksgiving and finally, the opportunity to praise our heavenly Father who dwells in the heavens above and in the human hear.

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Greetings from Pastor Kenyon

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Oatman died in Norman, Okla. in 1922. Through his many songs he still continues to minister to millions of people around the world today. The following are the words we know so well.

"When upon life billows you are tempest tossed, when you are discouraged thinking, all is lost. Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly, and you will be singing as the days go by. Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done. Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings see what God has done".

Finally, I fully believe 1 Thessalonians 5:18, sums it up best; "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you". So, let's all take the time to always thank the Lord for what He's done in our lives by counting and naming every single blessing one by one!

Blessings! Pastor Kenyon





BOARD MEETING MINUTES

First Christian Church Board Meeting
October 11, 2026

In Attendance:

Bill Hobbs	Craig Mentzer	Tom Strickler
David Donovan	Denise Mentzer	Heather Mentzer
Edna Donovan	John Scovill	Helen Uitts
Kenyon Kaehr	Cindy Scovill	Steven Uitts
Donna Kaehr	Michelle Scovill	Susan Locke
Matt Powe	Tom Sayles	

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the September 13, 2026, board meeting were reviewed. John asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Donna Kaehr noted that Pastor Kenyon's name was not included in the list of attendees. There being no additional corrections or additions, John then called for a motion to approve the minutes. Pastor Kenyon made the motion, Cindy Scovill seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John then called for the financial report. Susan Locke gave the financial report in Traci's absence. She reported that the general fund had an ending balance of $108,408.68 for September. The disbursements included the quarterly mission payments, the semi-annual payment to the Iola Ministerial Alliance, and a $1,453.00 electric bill. We had an ending balance in the checking account at Community National Bank and Trust of $140,975.29, including interest, for September. We had dividends of $231.82, bringing the balance for the building maintenance fund at Edward Jones to $80,854.34. We had a total ending balance of $185,197.84 at Edward Jones for September, which includes our CD, the building maintenance account, and the investment account. Our total assets are $326,173.13.

John then called for committee reports.

Worship Committee, Heather Mentzer: She asked the board if we could have another packing party for the shoe boxes this year. We have done it in conjunction with the October penny dinner, but Heather will be out of town that weekend. She proposed holding it on Sunday, November 1, immediately following worship services and ordering pizzas for those who stay to help. She also has a couple of volunteers from other churches who would like to help. The board agreed, and it will be placed on the schedule.

Membership Committee, Skylar Starke: no report.

Memorial Committee, Denise Mentzer: nothing new to report.

Christian Education Committee, Donna Kaehr: nothing new to report.

Church Attendance, Helen Uitts: Helen reported that we had an average attendance of 33 in Sunday School and 77 in worship services in September.

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Board Meeting Minutes

Continued from pg. 3...

Mission & Outreach Committee, Sherrie Riebel: no report. Donna reminded everyone that the October penny dinner proceeds will go to the Food Pantry

Property & Facilities, Bill Hobbs & Dave Donovan: They had nothing new to report. Bill said that he is still waiting on parts to complete repairing the toilet in the women's restroom but has had no response from the plumber. It was decided to contact Seely Plumbing to see if the repair could be expedited. Pastor Kenyon reported that the light bulb above the east door was burned out. Bill will replace the bulb.

Church Clerk, Judy McGraw: no changes.

John called for unfinished business. Pastor Kenyon, reporting for the Youth Minister Committee, had nothing new to report. The youth area still needs the trim on the stairs finished up. Pastor Kenyon will contact Decorator Supply to see if they received the trim they ordered to finish the job.

Matt Powe said that there is a timer that was installed on the fountain in the prayer garden. It is currently set to operate on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. They will update the plantings in the prayer garden next spring, when more plant stock will be available. Matt will check with them on what needs to be done to winterize the fountain before cold weather hits.

Tom Strickler gave an update on the organ chimes. It is the internal chimes on the organ itself that need repair. The organ repairman is scheduled to come on October 20. Tom was going to contact Jeff Reddy, who purchased the old church building, to see if the box for the external chimes was still at the old church as it did not appear to here at the new building. There was some discussion about possibly installing an electronic external chime system, instead of trying to use the old system. Tom will do some more research and will report his findings at the next board meeting.

There being no additional unfinished business, John called for new business. John reported that the handle on one of the two new dishwashers was broken. He contacted Flynn Appliance, and a replacement part has been ordered.

There being no additional new business, John asked for the pastor's report. Pastor Kenyon had nothing new to report.

John called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Helen made the motion, Bill seconded, and the motion carried. Pastor Kenyon gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Locke
Recording 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 .

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, Janie Henderson, Duane McGraw
Edna Donovan, Betty Rush, Suzan Thompson,
Wilma Krokstrom, & Annette Ratlief
First Responders, Police, Fire, etc...
Unrest in our Nation, Quick end/Resolution to Iranian ConflictAlso, our Military– Annika H. & Meaghan I;, Megan B. Our Deployed: Alex K. & Parker S.

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, Isreal–
AT WAR; Pray for Rain for wildfires/ fire control in the US

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



NEWS & UPDATES *from our church*

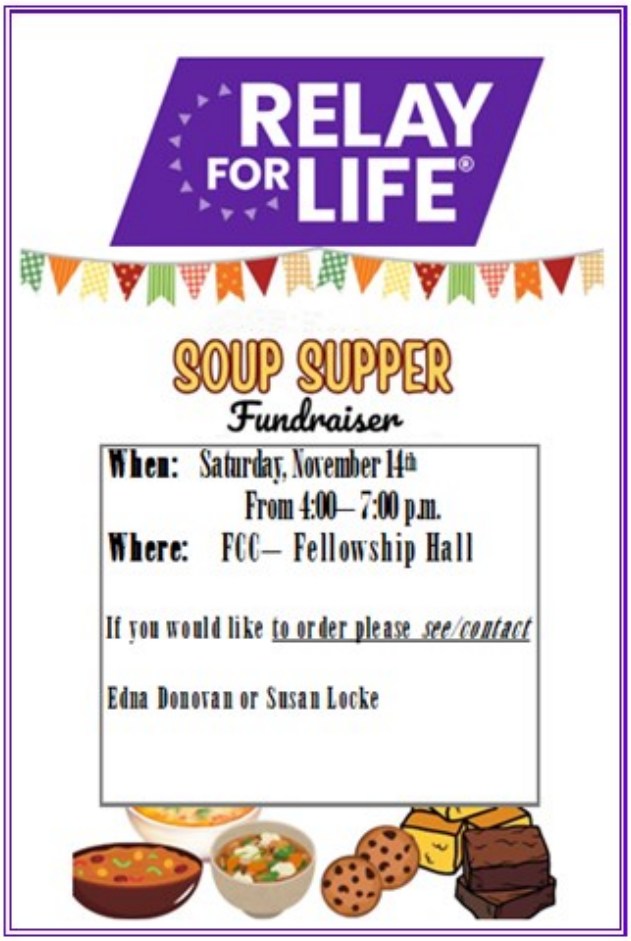
Elder
Tom Sayles

Diaconates
Traci Ridge, Travis Hermstein, Melanie Hermstein, Glen Cunningham

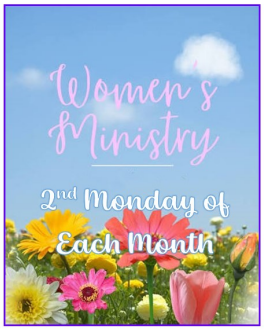
Power Point
11/01– Travis Hermstein
11/08– Elijah Mentzer
11/15– Chris Sayles
11/22– Bill Hobbs
11/29– Travis Hermstein

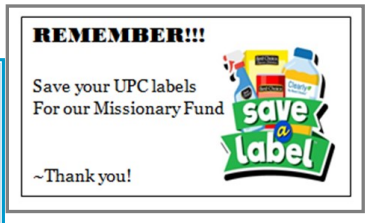
Nursery Volunteers
Gina Powe
Charlah Green
Cindy Hill

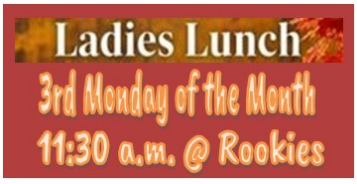
Greeters
Susan Locke & Steve Uitts













Total Monthly amount needed: $16,943.19

October combined giving: $12,052.00

29% SHORTFALL for the month!!!



NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Tom Sayles	**2** *FH– Reserved*	**3** 	**4** 	**5** Carl Robb 	**6** Craig Mentzer Michelle Scovill	**7**
8 	**9**  *FH– Reserved*	**10**	**11**  Dennis & Jan Kershner 	**12** Travis & Melanie Hermstein 	**13**	**14** *Relay for Life Soup Supper* *FH– Reserved* Edna Donovan
15	**16** Susan Locke 	**17** *Church Library– Reserved*	**18** Annette Ratlief 	**19** 	**20**	**21**
22 Dan Damron	**23** *FH– Reserved*	**24** Charlah Green	**25**	**26** 	**27**	**28** Tina Donovan
29	**30**					
			Wednesdays **Prayer 12:00 & 6:30 p.m.**	Happy Birthday Happy Anniversary	= Choir Practice	