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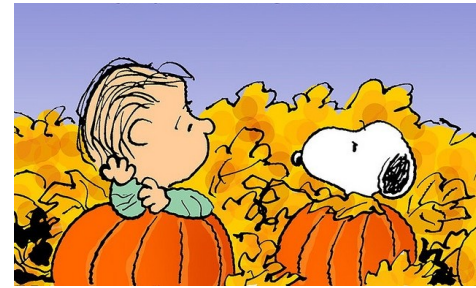
To view the worship service, please go to our website:

[iolafcc.org](http://iolafcc.org)

~~~~~Simply click on  
**'LIVE VIDEO'** if you are  
tuning in on Sunday  
morning.



### GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON



#### *How Should a Christian Vote?*

Once again, we as Americans and Christians have the opportunity to vote in the upcoming mid-term elections for the people, we believe will do the best job representing our personal values and ideals in November. Now, I'm smart enough to know that within our congregation every political party and belief is represented and it's not my intention to ever stand behind the pulpit and say, "Vote for so and so!" Nope, ain't gonna happen. However, I do believe scripture provides a fantastic guideline regarding how we should look at and evaluate various issues and how the Bible can guide us when we enter the voting booth.

With that being said, I'd like to share with you an article that was written back in 2012 by Dr. Erwin Lutzer, President of Moody Bible Institute. I believe what he wrote then is still just as pertinent and applicable for us today as it was 14 years ago. He says: I believe the evangelical church has finally been forced to conclude we cannot depend upon politics to turn this country around, bring us back to biblical principles, or reverse the anti-Christian bigotry developing in the courts, the media, and the wider culture. Only the church, armed with the Gospel, is able to bring lasting change in the hearts and lives of people. God's House—and not the White House—holds the key to the future of our nation.

If there's ever been a time for the church to stand tall, it's today—whether it's with or without support from our political leaders. As you look back at history, you'll see times when God has given nations better leaders than they deserved—at other times, far worse (think of 20<sup>th</sup> century dictators). Still other times, the leader was a perfect fit for the people. But regardless of the leader, the church must remain faithful to its calling.

I refuse to endorse political candidates because (1) no one candidate is right on all the issues or, for that matter, wrong on all the issues, and (2) the Gospel should never be tied to a politician or political party. We should never give the impression that one party or another is the "Christian party." We must be able to say to Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—and everyone in between—that unless you believe in Jesus, you will be eternally separated from God.

I agree with Lyndon Johnson who said in his inaugural address, "Under this covenant of justice we have become a nation—prosperous, great, and mighty. And we have kept our freedom. But we have no promise from God that our greatness will endure. We have been allowed by Him to seek greatness with the sweat of our hands and the strength of our spirit...If we fail now, we shall have forgotten in abundance what we learned in hardship: that democracy rests on faith, that freedom asks more than it gives, and that the judgment of God is harshest on those who are most favored." We must pray not only that our candidates believe in God, but that their belief means something to them and their policies.

*Continued on pg. 2...*



## GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON

*Continued from pg. 1...*

At a minimum, they ought to be convinced our laws are to be derived from God, both through the writings of Scripture and natural law.

How will I vote? In the center of this newsletter, I list seven biblical issues. Amid the welter of negative ads and campaign hype, I will vote for the candidate who best represents these issues. Run your candidate through this grid, and you will be given guidance as you cast your ballot. And let us pray for whoever wins!

**How Should a Christian Vote?** Whether we are enthusiastic about our political candidates or disappointed with our choices, we should not shirk our duty as good citizens. In my opinion, we should vote for the person who best represents our convictions on the following issues, which I list without further comment and in no particular order.

**Character and integrity:** “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people mourn...The king by judgment establishes the land but he that receives gifts overthrows it...If a ruler listens to lies, all his servants are wicked” (Proverbs 29:2, 4, 12).

**Sanctity of human life—abortion, stem cell research using human embryos:** “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:13).

**Same-sex marriage or civil unions among same-sex couples:** “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination” (Leviticus 18:22).

**Freedom for religious speech:** “So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard’” (Acts 4:18-20).

**Racial equality:** “And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth” (Acts 17:26). “...and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God” (Revelation 5:9-10).

**National Security:** “And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night” (Nehemiah 4:8-9).

**Taxation and government spending:** “We have borrowed money for the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards...we are forcing our sons and daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards” (Nehemiah 5:4-5).

Whether our preferred candidate wins or loses, we have a God-given responsibility to pray for our leaders and support them in whatever way we can. Paul, addressing the Romans when Nero was on the throne, wrote, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1). Be assured I will vote with prayer, seeking wisdom from God. And I hope you will vote with the same values in mind.

Blessings, Pastor Kenyon



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### First Christian Church Board Meeting September 13, 2026

#### In Attendance:

Bill Hobbs  
David Donovan  
Edna Donovan  
Skylar Starke  
Tom Sayles  
Matt Powe  
Judy McGraw

Craig Mentzer  
Denise Mentzer  
John Scovill  
Cindy Scovill  
Michelle Scovill  
Tom Strickler  
Susan Locke

Randy Bunnell  
Betsy Bunnell  
Helen Uitts  
Steven Uitts  
Joe Riebel  
Sherrie Riebel

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the August 9, 2026, board meeting were reviewed. John asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. There being no corrections or additions, John then called for a motion to approve the minutes. Skylar Starke made the motion, Matt Powe 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 \$120,724.60 for August. The disbursement from the Youth fund of \$5,184.38 was for the new carpeting installed in the youth area and the stairwell. We had an ending balance in the checking account at Community National Bank and Trust of \$152,901.21, including interest, for August. We had dividends of \$224.10 for the building fund and \$54.60 in interest for the CD at Edward Jones in August. We had a total ending balance of \$182,966.02 at Edward Jones for August, bringing our total assets to \$335,867.23.

John then called for committee reports.

Worship Committee, Heather Mentzer: no report.

Membership Committee, Skylar Starke: nothing new to report.

Memorial Committee, Denise Mentzer: nothing new to report.

Christian Education Committee, Donna Kaehr: no report.

Church Attendance, Helen Uitts: Helen reported that we had an average attendance of 30 in Sunday School and 76 in worship services in August.

*Continued on pg. 4...*



*Continued from pg. 3...*

Mission & Outreach Committee, Sherrie Riebel: The September penny dinner will be a baked potato bar, and the proceeds will go to Freedom Ministries. The October penny dinner proceeds will be to the Food Pantry

Property & Facilities, Bill Hobbs & Dave Donovan: nothing new to report. Bill said that a plumber had come out to repair the toilet in the ladies' restroom but was waiting on parts to complete the job.

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 is now finished except for some trim on the stairs, which has been ordered.

There being no additional unfinished business, John called for new business. Matt reported that the fountain is now working again. He wasn't sure if a timer had been installed, so he will check on that. For now, there is a switch to turn it on and off.

Tom Strickler said that he had been approached about the chimes on the organ. They used to chime the hour through a speaker system at the old church. The chimes need repair, which would cost approximately \$1,700.00. Tom will check to see if there is a speaker system here and will gather more information about the chimes. Craig Mentzer made a motion to move forward with the repair for a cost of up to \$2,000.00. If more than that, it would require further discussion by the board. Randy Bunnel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

There being no additional new business, John asked for the pastor's report. Pastor Kenyon said that he and Donna will be making a trip to Scotts Bluff at the end of the month and will be gone on Sunday, September 27. Bill Elliott, who has attended seminar, will fill in for Pastor Kenyon.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Locke  
Recording Secretary

**OCTOBER**  
**Is Pastor Appreciation Month!**



# OCTOBER

2026 Newsletter



## 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, & Helen Uttis  
First Responders, Police, Fire, etc...  
Unrest in our Nation, Quick end/Resolution to Iranian Conflict  
Also, our Military– Annika H. & Meaghan I;  
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, Israel–  
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.



# CHURCH NEWS

## Elder

Matt Powe

## Diaconates

Denise Mentzer, Idris Dougherty,  
Rick Dougherty, Nathan Mentzer

## Power Point

10/04- Travis Hermstein

10/04- Elijah Mentzer

10/04- Chris Sayles

10/04- Bill Hobbs

## Nursery

## Volunteers

Gina Powe  
Charlah Green  
Cindy Hill

## Greeter

Charlah Green

...and the  
leaves  
fell from  
the trees  
without  
regret.

## Women's Ministry

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of  
Each Month

# October



This Month's Penny Dinner will benefit the local  
**Food Pantry**



### REMEMBER!!!

Save your UPC labels  
For our Missionary Fund

~Thank you!



Wednesday Morning  
Women's Bible  
Studies

@ 9:00 a.m.

## Ladies Lunch

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month  
11:30 a.m. @ Rookies

## Tithes &

# Offerings

Total Monthly amount needed: \$16,943.19

September combined giving: \$15,148.00

11% SHORTFALL for the month!!!

# Sparks

(K-5th)

&

# Embers

(2-5yr)

First Christian Church  
1608 Oregon Rd  
Iola

Always starts the  
Wednesday after  
Labor Day  
6-7pm

# Operation Christmas Child

Dear Pastor Kenyon,

I am a member of the Prayer Team for Southeast Kansas Area for Operation Christmas Child. First, I want to thank you for your church's participation in this very effective ministry. Samaritan's Purse estimates that every shoebox gift reaches 8 to 10 people with the Gospel message. Our records show that your church sent 168 boxes in 2025. So, your gift of 168 shoeboxes reached up to 1,680 people with the Gospel. How exciting! Thank you!

I also want you to know that our Southeast Kansas Area team prays for the churches that have participated in the ministry, and I personally prayed for First Christian Church and for you, that God will continue to meet the needs of your congregation.

If you have any questions about the ministry or need any assistance, please contact me and I will either give you the information or pass the request to someone who can help you with it.

Have a Blessed Day!

Mary Wyrick

Operation Christmas Child Prayer Team

Jeffwyrick7@gmail.com



Thank you for the 168 shoeboxes!

*May you be proud of  
the work you do,  
the person you are,  
and the difference you make!*

*Thank You  
For All You Do!*

*Way  
to go!*

# OCTOBER

| SUNDAY                         | MONDAY                             | TUESDAY                        | WEDNESDAY                                  | THURSDAY                                                                              | FRIDAY                | SATURDAY                      |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                |                                    |                                |                                            | 1                                                                                     | 2                     | 3<br>Nathan & Heather Mentzer |
| 4                              | 5<br>FH- Reserved                  | 6                              | 7<br>*Sparks*                              | 8<br>Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm  | 9<br>Matt & Gina Powe | 10                            |
| 11<br>MONTHLY<br>Beard Meeting | 12<br>HAPPY<br>Columbus Day        | 13                             | 14<br>*Sparks*<br>🎵                        | 15<br>Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm | 16                    | 17                            |
| 18                             | 19<br>FH- Reserved<br>Ladies Lunch | 20<br>Church Library- Reserved | 21<br>Dave & Edna Donovan<br>*Sparks*<br>🎵 | 22<br>Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm | 23                    | 24<br>Tina Donovan            |
| 25<br>Penny Dinner             | 26<br>Aaron Mendoza                | 27<br>Dennis Kershner          | 28<br>*Sparks*<br>🎵                        | 29<br>Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm | 30                    | 31<br>HAPPY HALLOWEEN         |
|                                |                                    |                                | Wednesdays<br>Prayer 12:00<br>& 6:30 p.m.  | Happy Birthday<br>Happy Anniversary                                                   | 🎵 = Choir Practice    | 8                             |