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



## GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON



### The Demons Within, Luke 8:26-39

Well, here we are again in the month of October. Fall is in full swing with all it's beautiful colors, football games and much cooler temperatures. I love it! However, it's also the month where people go cuckoo over Halloween, which as most of you know, I absolutely detest. The fascination with the macabre, morbid, satanic and demonic things of this fallen world blows my mind and even breaks my heart.

Now, a few weeks ago I preached about Jesus's interaction with a demon possessed man. Within him lived over 6000 demons, thus his name, Legion. So, Jesus took mercy upon this man and expelled those demons into a nearby heard of pigs. Of course, the shock of suddenly being occupied by those demon spirits, caused the pigs to blindly charge down the hillside and into a lake to rid themselves of their unwanted guests. Clearly, these pigs preferred suicide to demon possession!

Now you see, the problem we have with this story is that we get caught up with the demons that appear in it. We start conjuring up all sorts of possibilities to explain the demons. Maybe they're these little supernatural creatures that look like gargoyles on the tops of medieval buildings. Maybe the man was suffering from seizures from some sort of medical issue. Maybe the man was prone to manic-depressive episodes that needed to be treated with medication. Maybe ... Maybe ... Maybe.

You see, we get caught up in the story and perhaps miss the point. Jesus has the power to overcome the demons that infest our age. That's what Luke hoped to suggest in his repeating of this story. You'd think someone who'd been healed of demon possession would've been the center of joy and celebration, and the one who was responsible for that healing would be treated with much respect and admiration. Instead, Jesus is run out of town. Healing someone with demons may not have been the way to get praise and adoration after all.

Now, when we hear the words "demon possession," many of us go back to the movie, "The Exorcist". We think of the sleepless nights and unspoken fears that were created by that film. Youth leaders back in the early '70s were deluged with teens who were terrified by nightmares filled with possessions and exorcisms. And when filmgoers discovered that the movie was based on a real situation, their fears became even greater.

You see, demons were the supernatural creatures that took control of an individual when they weren't expecting it. They made individuals act in ways that weren't acceptable. The individual was lost, and the demon became central in all the individual did. That's why Jesus was able to speak with the demons that possessed this man. It was as though the individual wasn't even there. The man was an observer who couldn't participate in the world because the demon was in charge.

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## GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON

*Continued from pg. 1...*

The demon was different than sin. You see, sin was what an individual did. It was disobedience to the will of God. A demon took control and, in many ways, the individual was beyond the arena of sin. When you had a demon, you weren't yourself. The demon and the self were in a constant struggle for control. In the case of the man Jesus dealt with, the demon had already won. By chaining him up, his friends were actually doing him a favor. They were keeping the demon at bay.

But then, Jesus stepped in and ended the demon's control. Perhaps that's why the local townsfolk were so afraid. Jesus was showing a power that was far greater than the human world, greater than even the spiritual world. More than once, people asked, "Who is this that can even control demons?" They were pondering the possibility that Jesus might be more than human.

One of the things we need to deal with is that there are many kinds of demons in our world. We speak of them all the time. Drug addiction, power and control and mental illness just to mention a few. As scripture reminds us, demons are legion. They enslave the individual, destroy the valuable, and release the very worst in us. The only way we can hope to cope with them is to come face to face with the One who can drive the demons out and make us willing to sit at his feet, clothed and in our right minds.

And when that happens, we also need to be aware of the fact that many of those around us won't be able to cope with our healing, for their fears are often as powerful as the demons that inhabit our world. For the demons are legion and the fears that we have about them are often just as powerful. They infest our world. But our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ. With his presence and strength, we will always be able to drive them from our lives and our world and thankfully abide in the Kingdom of Heaven, now and forever more. Amen."

Blessings, Pastor Kenyon





# First Christian Church October 2025 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.

Then God said,  
"I heard your prayers."  
Now trust My timing.



Frank Fuller, Bill Mentzer, Dave Donovan,  
Jerry Chambers, Brenda Smith, Marsha Coffman,  
Karen Trester, Dorothy McGhee, Janie Henderson,  
Jaiden Emmons, Terri Nunnery, L.C. Hill,  
Jeremy Johnston, Jason & Elizabeth Stokes, Robert Fulton,  
LeRoy Jackson, Larry Robertson, & Patty Griffith  
Also, our Military– Annika H., Alex K., & Meaghan I.

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



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### First Christian Church Board Meeting September 14, 2025

#### In Attendance:

Bill Hobbs  
David Donovan  
Edna Donovan  
Kenyon Kaehr  
Donna Kaehr  
Skylar Starke  
Tom Sayles  
Matt Powe

Heather Mentzer  
Joe Riebel  
Sherrie Riebel  
Craig Mentzer  
Denise Mentzer  
John Scoville  
Cindy Scovill  
Susan Locke

Michelle Scovill  
Duane McGraw  
Judy McGraw  
Pat Heinz  
Helen Uitts  
Steve Uitts  
Tom Strickler

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the August 10, 2025, board meeting were reviewed. John asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. There being no corrections or additions, John called for a motion to approve the minutes. Skylar Starke made a motion to approve the minutes. Matt Powe seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John called for the financial reports. Susan Locke, in Traci Ridge's absence, reported that the quarterly mission payments will be made this month. We had total receipts of \$21,458.03, including \$70.03 in interest, and disbursements of \$9,062.29. We have a balance of \$105,324.01 in the general fund. We have a total of \$139,624.55 in the checking account and a balance of \$51,851.26 in the CD, which gives us a total of \$191,475.81 on deposit at Community National Bank & Trust. We have \$52,235.78 in the building maintenance fund, which includes interest for August of \$171.95, and \$37,511.31 in the investment fund, which gives us a total of \$89,747.09 in deposits at Edward Jones. The total of our current assets is now \$281,222.90. John called for a motion to approve the financial report. Judy McGraw made the motion, Craig Mentzer seconded, and the motion carried.

John then called for committee reports.

Worship Committee, Heather Mentzer: Heather asked about a packing party for the Operation Shoe Box donations this year, whether to have the Sparks class do it or have it after a penny dinner for church members to participate like we did last year. After some discussion, it was decided to have the packing party immediately after the October 26 penny dinner for anyone who would like to help.

Membership Committee, Skylar Starke: Skylar had nothing new to report, just a reminder of the Fall Kickoff event on October 3.

Memorial Committee, Denise Mentzer: Denise reported that the Powe family requested that Glynda Powe's memorial funds be used to refresh the plantings around the fountain in the prayer garden. Some suggestions were made to contact TLC Garden Center and Bob Henry, who has the Eager Beaver landscaping business, to get ideas and bids.

*Continued on pg. 5...*



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*Continued from pg. 4...*

Christian Education Committee, Donna Kaehr: Donna reported that Sparks started the new year on September 10. They have a new motto this year: Sparks Kids on Fire for Jesus Christ. She announced that the Sparks Christmas program will be held on December 14 this year and would include participation of the church choir. She is looking for a volunteer, preferably a male, to teach a 6<sup>th</sup> grade boy on Wednesday evenings.

Church Attendance, Helen Uitts: Helen reported that we had an average attendance of 29 in Sunday School and 77 in worship services for the month of August.

Mission & Outreach Committee, Sherrie Riebel: Proceeds for the September penny dinner will be donated to the prison ministry. The penny dinner will be a taco bar. Other Mexican main dishes and fixings for tacos, etc. will be needed. The October penny dinner proceeds will go to FCC.

Property & Facilities, Bill Hobbs & Dave Donovan: Bill reported that the two new dishwashers will be installed on Tuesday. Jim Valentine came out to check the door locks and determined that they just needed to be lubricated, which he did while he was here. Bill asked if anyone notices any issues with the door locks to please let him know.

Church Clerk, Judy McGraw: Judy had no changes to report.

John called for unfinished business. Craig Mentzer got all the parking curbs removed and hauled off. There being no other unfinished business to report, John then called for new business.

Heather reported that the church does now have an active PayPal account set up on the church's website. It didn't work correctly for credit/debit card payments when it was first set up, so we canceled the account. It turns out that it was actually still open, and we had a couple of donations that had been made through PayPal and were pending settlement. She and Traci worked through getting the funds transferred to the church's bank account. Since it is now working properly, she asked if the church wanted to keep the PayPal account open or close it out. It was decided to keep the account open.

Pastor Kenyon reported that all was well. He reminded us that he and Donna will be gone on the last Sunday in September. Matt will present the sermon that Sunday.

John then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Helen made the motion, Joe Riebel 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

Denise Mentzer, Rick Dougherty,  
Idris Dougherty, Nathan Mentzer

## PowerPoint

10/05 – Travis Hermstein  
10/12 – Charmanne Sayles  
10/19 – Chris Sayles  
10/26 – Bill Hobbs

## Nursery

## Volunteers

Gina Powe  
Charlah Green  
Cindy Hill

## Greeter

Jeri Waters

## Confirmation Class

Some Bible, a little bit of  
prayer, a dash of faith  
and a WHOLE LOT OF  
JESUS!

Pastor Kenyon will be teaching a Confirmation Class open to anyone who would like a review of basic Christian beliefs and doctrine.

*Hope to see you there!*

\* **When: Wednesday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5:15 p.m.**

\* **Where: Church Library**



**When: Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, @ 5:00 p.m.**

**Where: Church Pavilion**

**What: Wienie Roast/ Picnic**

**Cornhole Competition (All ages)**

**Drive-In Movie @ Dusk**

\*Please bring a picnic type food to share with all.

*We hope to see you there!*



Women's Ministry  
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m.

**2ND MONDAY OF  
EACH MONTH**

Ladies  
Lunch

11:30 A.M. @ ROOKIES

**3RD MONDAY OF EACH  
MONTH**



Total Monthly amount needed: \$16,943.19

September combined giving: \$15,181.00

**Shortfall for the month: 10%!!!!**



# OCTOBER



| SUNDAY                                                                                                           | MONDAY                                                                                           | TUESDAY                                                                                    | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                       | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                                           | FRIDAY                                                                                                  | SATURDAY                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                  |                                                                                            | <b>1</b><br>Bill Mentzer<br>  | <b>2</b><br> Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                     | <b>3</b><br>Nathan & Heather Mentzer                                                                    |                                     |
| <b>5</b>                                                                                                         | <b>6</b>                                                                                         | <b>7</b><br><br><i>FH- Reserved</i>                                                        | <b>8</b><br>                  | <b>9</b><br>Matt & Gina Powe<br> Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm | <b>10</b><br>Alan Ensminger                                                                             | <b>11</b>                           |
| <b>12</b><br>                  | <b>13</b><br> | <b>14</b>                                                                                  | <b>15</b><br>             | <b>16</b><br> Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                  | <b>17</b>                                                                                               | <b>18</b>                           |
| <b>19</b>                                                                                                        | <b>20</b><br> | <b>21</b><br><i>FH- Reserved</i><br><i>Church Library- Reserved</i><br>Dave & Edna Donovan | <b>22</b><br>             | <b>23</b><br> Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                  | <b>24</b><br>Tina Donovan                                                                               | <b>25</b>                           |
| <b>26</b><br><br>Aaron Mendoza | <b>27</b><br>Dennis Kershner                                                                     | <b>28</b>                                                                                  | <b>29</b><br>                                                                                                | <b>30</b><br> Life Recovery<br>Support Groups for All Life's Struggles<br>Thursdays at 6:30pm                  | <b>31</b>                                                                                               |                                     |
|                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                  |                                                                                            | <u><b>Wednesdays</b></u><br><u><b>Prayer 12:00 &amp; 6:30 p.m.</b></u>                                                                                                                          |  = Choir Practice                                                                                              |  = Sparks & Embers | Happy Birthday<br>Happy Anniversary |