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GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KENYON



Let's Be Friends!

Last month I was blessed with the opportunity to attend a national church conference in Indianapolis. While there we were able to hear from Karl Vaters who is the subject matter expert on small church ministry. Now, I won't bore you with everything he said, but I do want to share with you just one thing I immediately thought would greatly benefit us as a small church right here in Iola. It's called the friendliness factor. Karl emphatically believes that friendliness is more important for smaller churches than big churches.

He says that people behave differently in a large crowd than when they're in a small group. That's because when we're in a crowd of hundreds or even thousands we expect to be an audience member, so we become one. This causes us to slip into the role of being a passive observer instead of being an active participant. You see, in a much smaller group we expect people to say hello, we hope for a personal connection, we actually want to be part of the conversation. You see, large churches allow people to be anonymous, not in smaller churches like ours.

For the first time guest or visitor walking into a small church it's actually a great act of vulnerability. You see, there isn't anywhere to hide within the crowd! New people come to our church because they're really hoping for a personal connection. If they feel ignored or left out it can be very devastating and scar their heart and spirit for a very long time.

Now, I say this because even though I firmly believe we're the friendliest church in town, it's uber important to understand that friendliness, sincere warmth and personal connections are never, ever an automatic in any church! Friendliness must be intentional, a skill we must develop and deploy each and every time we gather together as the body of Christ. So, with that being said, Karl shared with us a very simple guideline that can help every church to be even more intentionally friendly. He calls it the G.I.F.T. plan.

G – Greet someone you've never met before

I – Introduce people to each other

F – Follow up with someone you met recently

T - Thank Someone who did something you appreciate

That's it! I don't think it can get any simpler than this! So, I'd like for all of us to give this simple guideline the ol' college try! Afterall, we've got nothing to lose but everything to gain!

Blessings, Pastor Kenyon



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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.



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### First Christian Church Board Meeting August 9, 2026

#### In Attendance:

Bill Hobbs  
Matt Powe  
Aaron Mendoza  
Julie Strickler  
Tom Strickler  
Steven Uitts  
Helen Uitts

Kenyon Kaehr  
Donna Kaehr  
Tom Sayles  
Sherrie Riebel  
Joe Riebel  
Craig Mentzer  
Denise Mentzer

John Scovill  
Cindy Scovill  
Michelle Scovill  
Betsy Bunnell  
Randy Bunnell  
Traci Ridge  
Susan Locke

John Scovill called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The minutes of the July 14, 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. Pastor Kenyon made the motion, Donna Kaehr seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John then called for the financial report. Traci Ridge reported that the general fund had an ending balance of \$120,818.59 for July. She closed the CD at Community National and transferred \$60,000.00 for the new CD at Edward Jones. The checking account had an ending balance of \$156,872.43 for July. The building maintenance fund at Edward Jones had an ending balance of \$76,398.42, the investment account had a total of \$44,288.90, and the new CD had a total of \$60,000.00 at the end of July. Our funds at Edward Jones totaled \$180,687.32. Our total assets at the end of July were \$337,559.75. John called for a motion to approve the financial report. Matt Powe made the motion. Sherrie Riebel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

John then called for committee reports.

Worship Committee, Heather Mentzer: nothing to report.

Membership Committee, Skylar Starke: nothing to 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 27 in Sunday School and 79 in worship services in July.

Mission & Outreach Committee, Sherrie Riebel: The August penny dinner proceeds will go to First Christian Church. Chris Sayles has joined the Mission & Outreach Committee, replacing Dorothy McGhee.

*Continued on pg. 3.*



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*Continued from pg. 2...*

Property & Facilities, Bill Hobbs & Dave Donovan: nothing new to report.

Church Clerk, Judy McGraw: We lost one member, Bill Mentzer.

John called for unfinished business. Pastor Kenyon, reporting for the Youth Minister Committee, said that an applicant responded to our new ad. He said that he looks like a really good candidate, on paper. He is a graduate of Houston Christian College and, to quote Pastor Kenyon, "he is a brainiac." He currently resides in New Hampshire, is single, 26 years old, and teaches high school algebra. There is an interview, via Zoom, scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Monday evening, with the Youth Minister Committee. Pastor Kenyon asked the board what we wanted to offer, in the way of a financial package, if the interview goes well. He is not ordained, so he would be considered an employee, whose title would be Youth Director. Pastor Kenyon suggested \$45,000.00, as we would not be offering any insurance or housing as part of the financial package. He also pointed out that the applicant could also take a job as a teacher or substitute teacher, to help imbed himself in the youth community in the area as well as supplement his income. After some discussion, Craig Mentzer made a motion to offer a range of up to \$45,000.00 in salary. Tom Strickler seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Pastor Kenyon also reported that the carpet has been installed upstairs in the new youth area, and it looks good. The carpet squares for the stairs and lower floor are on order.

There being no additional unfinished business, John called for new business. While trying to locate our Community National Bank & Trust CD document, Traci remembered that we have an automatic annual payment for a safe deposit box at the bank. After talking to the bank, she was told that Duane McGraw and David Donovan are the two signers on the safe deposit box contract. The safe deposit box was last opened sixteen years ago. An attempt was made to locate the keys but was unsuccessful. No one remembers what, if anything, is in the safe deposit box.

Traci asked the board what should be done about the box. After some discussion, there was a motion to add Traci as a signer on the safe deposit box contract made by Julie Strickler. The motion was seconded by Donna, and the motion carried. Since there are no keys for the safe deposit box, it was then decided to have the box drilled open to find out if there is anything in it and then cancel the safe deposit box contract. We will have to pay the bank for the expense of having it drilled, estimated to be approximately \$100. Pastor Kenyon made the motion to have the box drilled and canceled, Donna seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

*Continued on pg. 4...*



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*Continued from pg. 3...*

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, Traci seconded, and the motion carried. Pastor Kenyon gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Locke

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

✦  
**Sparks**  
(K-5th)  
&  
**Embers**  
(2-5yr)

First Christian Church  
1608 Oregon Rd  
Iola

Always starts the  
Wednesday after  
Labor Day  
6-7pm





## 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, & Betty Cunningham  
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.

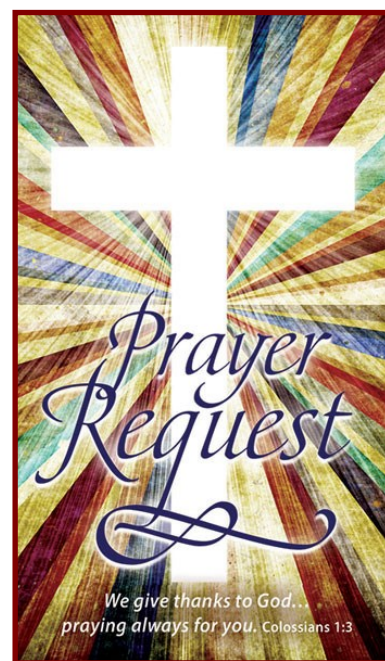
### The ministry, outreach and leadership of FCC; Local Needs:

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.





*Elder*  
Craig Mentzer

*Diaconates*  
Sherrie Riebel, Carrie Gant,  
David Gant, Dennis Kershner

*Power Point*  
09/06- Travis Hermstein  
09/13- Charmanne Sayles  
09/20- Chris Sayles  
09/27- Bill Hobbs

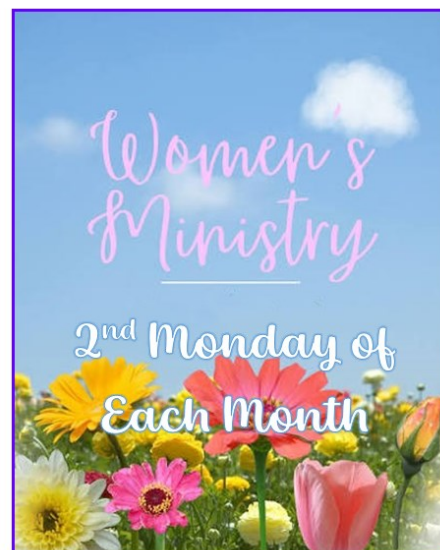
*Nursery*  
*Volunteers*  
Gina Powe  
Charlah Green  
Cindy Hill

*Groeters*  
Joe & Sherrie Riebel



All of **SEPTEMBER** we will be  
collecting instant **POTATOES**  
and **CHICKEN BROTH** for the  
Food Pantry- Thank you!!

**LADIES  
LUNCH**  
3rd Monday of Each Month



**REMEMBER!!!**

Save your UPC labels  
For our Missionary Fund

~Thank you!



Total Monthly amount needed:  
**\$16,943.19**

August combined giving: **\$15,272.13**

**10% SHORTFALL for the month!!!**

# Operation Christmas Child



Discover how God used an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in my life ...



Nissi

*Talking about the Gospel* where Nissi grew up was highly sensitive. Her family quietly but wholeheartedly loved Jesus. Her father, a pastor of a small church and ministry partner with Operation Christmas Child, emphasized the importance of having faith despite facing challenges. When Nissi was 6 years old, she received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The gift made her feel seen by God. Nissi was sensing God's love and the prayers of the person who sent the gift. Even though Nissi grew up hearing the Gospel, the love of Jesus became personal to her. Today, Nissi encourages others with her story about how a simple shoebox gift led her to embrace God's love.

## SE KS Project Leader Event

**Date:** Saturday, September 19th, 2026

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Place:** Westside Christian Church  
5100 Main Street Parsons, KS 67357

Join us for an afternoon of encouragement and fun! For more information visit:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/southeastksocc](https://www.facebook.com/groups/southeastksocc)

OB-31-2198

 **Samaritan's Purse®**  
Helping in Jesus' Name®

Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®.  
Franklin Graham, President | 1-800-353-5949 | [samaritanspurse.org](https://www.samaritanspurse.org)  
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# SEPTEMBER

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                            | MONDAY                                                                                                           | TUESDAY                                                                                                                      | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                 | THURSDAY                                                                                                    | FRIDAY                                                                                                    | SATURDAY               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                  | 1                                                                                                                            | 2                                                                                                         | 3                                                                                                           | 4                                                                                                         | 5                      |
| 6<br><br>Betty Cunningham                                                                                                                                                         | 7<br><br><i>FH- Reserved</i>    | 8<br><br>Duane & Judy McGraw                                                                                                 | 9<br><br>*Sparks*<br>    | 10<br><br>Donna Kaehr<br> | 11                                                                                                        | 12                     |
| 13<br><br><br> | 14<br>                         | 15                                                                                                                           | 16<br><br>*Sparks*<br> | 17<br><br>              | 18                                                                                                        | 19                     |
| 20                                                                                                                                                                                | 21<br><br><i>FH- Reserved</i> | 22<br><br><i>Church Library- Reserved</i> | 23<br><br>*Sparks*<br> | 24<br><br>              | 25                                                                                                        | 26<br><br>Otis Babcock |
| 27<br><br>Penny Dinner-<br>Following<br>Worship                                                 | 28                                                                                                               | 29                                                                                                                           | 30<br><br>*Sparks*<br> |                         |                                                                                                           |                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                              | <u>Wednesdays</u><br><u>Prayer 12:00</u><br><u>&amp; 6:30 p.m.</u>                                        | Happy<br>Birthday<br>Happy<br>Anniversary                                                                   |  = Choir<br>Practice |                        |