

That's Just Your Interpretation



It's all too common for someone to point out something the Bible says and have somebody respond, "Well, that's just your interpretation," as if when it comes to what the Bible says there's nothing more than personal opinion. But is that true? Is interpreting the Bible just the reader's opinion, completely subjective, so that when it comes to the Bible it's a free-for-all? Believe what you want, read it how you wish, because it doesn't say anything definitive?

I'm afraid that's a cultural myth. There's an actual field of study for interpretation called *hermeneutics* defined as "the science of interpretation." And it is a science—a series of steps, practices, disciplines, and rules that apply to interpretation.

But make no mistake—99% of the Bible doesn't take any heavy lifting in regard to interpretation. Here's some quick reading. In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy it says, "*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one*" (6:4, NIV). So is there one God or two? One! In the Old Testament book of Exodus it says, "*You shall not steal*" (20:15, NIV). Is it okay to steal or not? It's not! In the New Testament book of I Thessalonians it says, "*... Jesus died and rose again*" (4:14, NIV). Did Jesus die and rise again or not? The Bible says that He did. So is the Bible obscure in its meaning? No.

So why do so many claim that the Bible is difficult to understand? For some, it's not in trying to grasp the most obvious reading, but in accepting the *implications* of that reading. It's interesting how when you don't like something you read, you can suddenly find yourself having a hard time understanding.

Lee Strobel says to pretend that your daughter and her boyfriend are going out for a Coke on a school night. You say to her, "You must be home before 11." Now suppose it gets to be 10:45 and the two of them are still having a great time. They don't want the evening to end, so suddenly they begin to have difficulty interpreting your

instructions. They say: "What did he really mean when he said, 'You must be home before 11?' Did he literally mean us or was he talking about *you* in a general sense, like people in general? Was he saying, in effect, 'As a general rule, people must be home before 11?' Or was he just making the observation that generally, people are in their homes before 11? I mean, he wasn't very clear, was he?"

"And what did he mean by, 'You *must* be home before 11?' Would a loving father be so adamant and inflexible? He probably meant it as a suggestion. I know he loves me, so isn't it implicit that he wants me to have a good time? And I am having fun, so he wouldn't want me to end the evening so soon.

"And what did he mean by, 'You must be *home* before 11?' He didn't specify *whose* home. It could be anybody's home. Maybe he meant it figuratively. Remember the old saying, 'Home is where the heart is?' My heart is right here, out having a Coke, so doesn't that mean I'm already home?"

"And what did he really mean when he said, 'You must be home before 11?' Did he mean that in an exact, literal sense? Besides, he never specified 11 p.m. or 11 a.m. And he wasn't really clear on whether he was talking about Central Standard Time or Eastern Standard Time. I mean, it's still only quarter to seven in Honolulu. And as a matter of fact, when you think about it, it's *always* before 11. Whatever time it is, it's always before the next 11. So with all of these ambiguities, we can't really be sure what he meant at all. If he can't make himself clearer, we certainly can't be held responsible."

There's no doubt that some parts of the Bible are hard to understand. It reflects the places, histories, cultures, and languages of places long ago and far away. Sometimes it helps to have some background information on those issues to get the best sense of it, and there are some passages that people might disagree about. But on the essential teachings and issues, the Bible leaves little room for confusion.

As Mark Twain was known to have quipped, "It's not the parts of the Bible I don't understand that disturb me, rather it's the parts of the Bible that I *do* understand that disturb me."

Blessings,

Pastor David

Get Ready

Read

Mark 13:32-33 (NLT)

No one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!

Reflect

Have you ever heard anyone claiming they knew when Jesus would return? Based on today's verses, what would be your response to that?

People have been predicting the return of Jesus for centuries. But guess what? They have never been correct. The past couple of years, the chatter on the internet has been: Is the Covid-19 pandemic the end of the world? Is this part of the tribulation? It seems like every time a catastrophe occurs, people wonder if this is the end. Some people are definitely preoccupied with finding out when He'll be back. According to a Washington Post article from March 17, 2020, the Pew Research Center conducted a survey in 2010 that said 41% of Americans believed that Jesus would return by 2050 but it was unclear what they based that prediction on.

But can we really predict Jesus's return? Should Christians, or anybody for that matter, put any stock in doomsday claims? According to Jesus in today's verses, no! Jesus clearly stated that no one knows when Jesus would return. In fact, He said that He didn't even know when He would return. Only God the Father knows.

When Jesus came to earth as a man, He took on aspects of humanity but remained fully God. Understanding the dual natures of Christ (fully God/fully man) can be difficult. Just as it is difficult for us to wrap our minds around the Trinity. God has revealed so much to us about Himself, and yet, some things remain a mystery to us and beyond our human capacities to comprehend. How Jesus could be fully human and thus, have a limited knowledge of His own return, but at the same time be fully God and therefore have infinite knowledge is difficult to grasp. But the Bible records that Christ emptied Himself and took on human form in [Philippians 2:7](#). When Jesus walked the earth, He explained that He didn't know the day or hour of

His own return and the created beings in heaven do not know either. Only God the Father knows the day and time that He has set.

So, rather than jumping on the next doomsday prediction bandwagon, what does Jesus say we should do? He warns that we should always be prepared. We can't predict His return, but we can live in expectation of it. We should always "be on guard" and "stay alert." We know for sure that He is coming back, and we know for sure that every day is one day closer than the day before.

In [Matthew 24:42-51](#), Jesus repeated His statement that no one knows when the Lord is coming so we should be ready and watchful. He compared it to being on night watch. We don't know when threats are coming and we don't know when a thief may break into the house, so we should always be ready. Jesus also used an illustration of two servants that were left in charge while the master was away. One of them used his time wisely and completed his tasks efficiently and purposefully because he wanted to be found faithful if the master should suddenly return. The other servant was lazy and did not steward his time well. He spent his days mistreating those in his charge and carousing instead of working. Jesus said that when the master returned to find the servant mismanaging his time and his tasks, that servant was punished in hell.

We cannot know when Jesus will return. But we do know that He will. And when He does, will He find us faithfully stewarding our time, our gifts, and our resources? Will He find us believing His Word and expecting His return in faith? In Luke 18:8, Jesus asked a similar question: "...when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?" Let's always be ready, friends.

Pray

Lord, I long for Your return but I admit that I often get caught up in the cares of this world and all my worldly tasks. Help me to diligently anticipate Your return and wisely steward the gifts that You have given. Help me live more expectantly. I want to be found faithful, Lord. Amen.

Let's Get Techy

It is time for us to get more use out of our First Church of Christ App. Did you know you can get notifications from your favorite church ministries and groups? It's a pretty cool feature and relatively easy to set up. Follow the steps below. If you haven't already please download our First Church of Christ app from Google Play (Android) or Apple Store (iPhone).

Download our FREE App
from Google Play or Apple Store



Search for **FCC Cherokee**
and look for the logo above

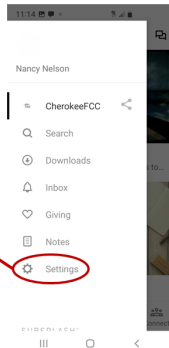
Step 1

- Select the **three bars** in the top left corner of your app to open the side menu.



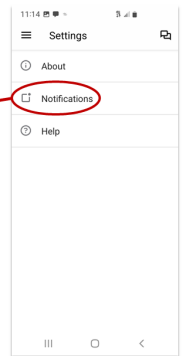
Step 2

- Select **Settings** inside the side menu.



Step 3

- Select **Notifications** in the Settings section.

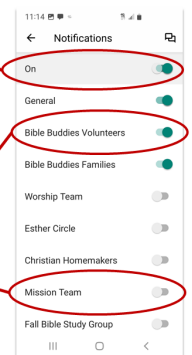


Step 4

- Make sure you have **Notifications toggled On**

- Select the toggle options to the right of each notification group to subscribe or unsubscribe for a notification group.

Toggle on any group you want to get notifications from.



The current list of notification groups include the following:

- General
- Bible Buddies Volunteers
- Bible Buddies Families
- Worship Team
- Esther Circle
- Christian Homemakers
- Mission Team
- Fall Bible Study Group
- Men's Monthly Breakfast
- Ladies Sunday School Class
- Men's Sunday School Class
- Standard Adult Sunday School Class
- Prayer Warriors
- Thanksgiving Meal Team

More will be added as needed.

rightnow MEDIA

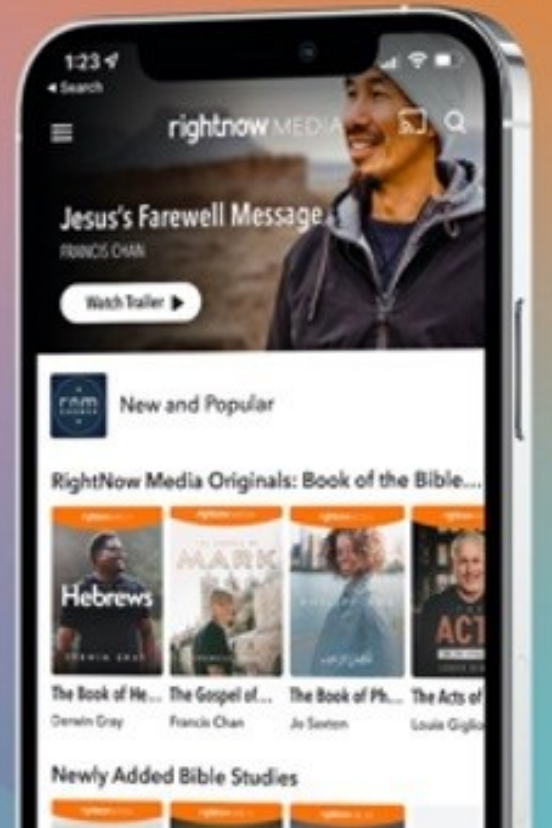
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Free Access to +20,000 Bible
Study Videos—Anytime, Anywhere,
From Any Device



Scan the QR Code to Create Your
Free Account and Start Browsing

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Free Bible Study Videos & Resources!

Church Family,

I'm excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources (it's been called the **"Netflix of video Bible studies"**). This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** from leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, Matt Chandler, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. These Bible study videos can be used as part of a group study or for personal devotions, and many series include **free discussion guides and handouts**.

Our church believes that RightNow Media is a tool that can help you live out your faith in every area of your life—at home, at work, and in your community. In addition to series on books of the Bible, RightNow Media has videos for everyone in your family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There's even a **library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos**. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime.

You should have already received an email invitation for FREE access to RightNow Media. (If you haven't received it yet, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder.)

To get started, simply click the link in the email (or scan the QR code above with your phone), create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing to you and your family!



MINISTRY UPDATES

Men's Breakfast

October 1 @ 8:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Christian Homemakers Meeting

October 13 @ 9:30 a.m.
Eleanor Johnston, Hostess & Devotions

Esther Circle

October @ 1:30 p.m.
Jan Hanson, Devotions & Missions
Joyce Clark, Hostess

Midweek Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 10:30 a.m.
Chapel
Current Study: Gospel of Mark

Bible Buddies

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Potluck Fellowship

October 23

following Bible Classes

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

October 3

Paula Burch

October 4

Harold & Connie Johnson
Bob & Eleanor Johnston

October 7

Jayda Curtis (BB)

October 11

Mike & Lorraine Duvall

October 14

Jean Heschke

October 16

Merry Farlee

October 20

Eleanor Johnston

October 27

David Hall

October 29

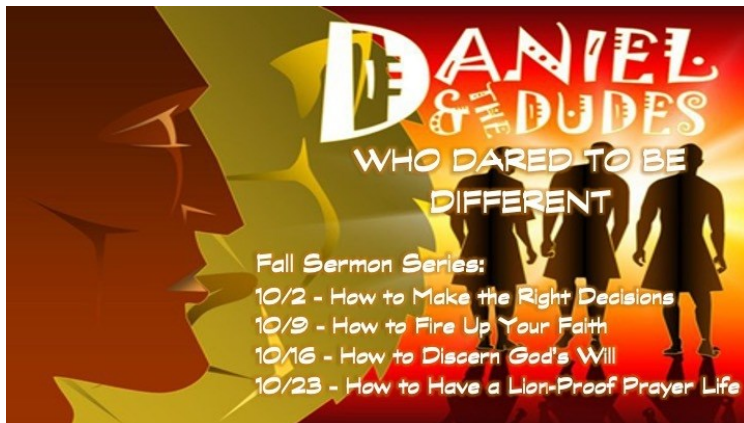
Aubree Curtis (BB)
Sharon Henkel
Joshua C. (MCS Staff)

October 30

Randy Cox
Sherri Ludvigson
Keith & Sherri Ludvigson

October 31

Bev Heschke



Daniel & Dudes Fall Sermon Series

The Book of Daniel deals with the issue of sin, judgment, and prophecy. But more importantly, it unveils the uncompromising life that Daniel and a few of his friends chose to live. A young captive from Judah, who had a "made up mind" that he would not be defiled by the culture of the Chaldeans. There are many lessons for us to learn and to emulate from Daniel, so that each of us can "dare to be different" and live an uncompromising life that will honor and glorify God, our Heavenly Father.

Join us at 9:30am each Sunday morning throughout October for this captivating and engaging sermon series. Invite a friend!



Food ~ Fellowship ~ Devotions

Join us for the first of our monthly

Men's Breakfast

gatherings on

Saturday, October 1, at 8:00am

in the church Fellowship Hall.

The plan going forward will be to meet the first Saturday morning of each month. This is an awesome time to get to know other men, be encouraged and challenged through God's word, and enjoy a meal together! Invite a friend and plan to join us! A sign-up sheet is located in the church foyer.

NEVER ALONE

Remembering God is With Me Bible Reading Plan

1. Genesis 28:13-19
2. Matthew 28:16-20
3. Isaiah 41:1-10
4. Joshua 1:1-9
5. Psalm 23:1-6
6. Jeremiah 23:23-30
7. Matthew 18:15-20
8. Deuteronomy 31:1-8
9. Matthew 1:20-25
10. Exodus 33:11-23
11. 1 Chronicles 17:1-8
12. Psalm 73:21-28
13. Deuteronomy 2:1-7
14. Judges 6:6-16
15. Psalm 139:1-12
16. Psalm 139:13-24
17. Jeremiah 1:1-8
18. Jeremiah 1:9-19
19. Deuteronomy 20:1-4
20. Psalm 36:1-12
21. Isaiah 43:1-7
22. 2 Kings 6:8-18
23. Psalm 46:1-11
24. 2 Chronicles 32:1-8
25. Deuteronomy 4:29-40
26. 1 Kings 8:54-61
27. Psalm 16:1-11
28. Zephaniah 3:14-20
29. 1 John 3:18-24
30. Psalm 72:12-20
31. Psalm 27:1-10

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

2-Oct	9-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angie Hall
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angie Hall
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Dennis Smith	Guy Fishman	Mike Sparks	TBD
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
Wren Smith	Wren Smith	David Hall	Wren Smith
Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard
Wren Smith	Wren Smith	-	Wren Smith
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
-	-	-	Eleanor Johnston
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Dennis Smith	Sharon Henkel	Sharon Henkel	Dennis Smith
Mark and Marcia Casey	Angela Hall	Nancy Nelson	David Hall
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks
Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors
Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson
Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen

Miracles of Jesus

JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat.

Luke 8:54-55

JAIRUS	DEAD	PUT THEM
RULER	DO NOT TROUBLE	OUTSIDE
SYNAGOGUE	TEACHER	TOOK HER HAND
FELL DOWN	ANSWERED	LITTLE GIRL
BEGGED	DO NOT BE AFRAID	ARISE
DAUGHTER	ONLY BELIEVE	SPIRIT
TWELVE YEARS	MADE WELL	RETURNED
DYING	ALL WEPT	AROSE
SPEAKING	MOURNED	ASTONISHED
SOMEONE	SLEEPING	
CAME	RIDICULED	

Fall Adult Bible Study
First Church of Christ
Tuesday Mornings @ 10:30am
Beginning September 13, 2022

Everyone is welcome!

THE GOSPEL OF
MARK

D H T I R I P S D O N O T B E A F R A I D R W K M Z O B
U Q G F D K Q V F O Z O B W K K T Q I N C N E G N M C R
U D D K W T A L Y J D K N D U W T F D R E T U R N E D U
L D V F W H L D V D B E G L M M Q D J R K A R H T R B D
E N U P H L L K B I L M L N Y P V A E Y Q C X U V T Y N
A A Q U G N W X Y I Y S R U I B Q E Y A U D K P L I R T
L H D T F T E K Q L M Z E Q C K E S P Z D D X G N E Q S
W R A T Y Y P L B C P S N R K I A L U T V G L G S B R H
H E U H G V T P J D Q R O W G Z D E I G Q G R V J M Q L
I H G E I K D N R X A Z E E O J M I P E M D C B P X K I
W K H M H Q V Q J U M E M D M D Q E R S V Q X L S U T T
Q O T T E A C H E R U W O I D C L E Q G U E L W D T Y T
T O E D Z P S L M G F Z S S B Q I L H Q F W V E D D K L
W T R I S H Q I O R N V F T R Q G M E F L B N N O V L E
E N W C A M E G A J Z I M U Q R C V U F K R X N T L N G
L M O A Q T A L S W Y C P O Z E S I R A U I O T F L N I
V G D A V N K L T I V X I E G N P G V O Y T X S W T H R
E F W N Y B L V O B F P X J E E X C M T T D P H S G C L
Y I D S X E B F N S U R I A J L T D K R Q E B K H B Q E
E Y J W W F Q E I G G F Z Q O D S H O M N G P N J Q Q S
A Z Q E J D Q H S S D C N X E D V U B V K G Q K Y U C O
R L D R P M C L H P W K N P N J B C R N C E Y V M D P R
S A D E K K Y B E L Q C V X Q L Z L M T Q B O V D G T A
M A H D Q S D S D I I Q N L E R B H F C C L E S F Q Q V

Board Nominations Due November 6, 2022

It is time once again to consider your nominations for our Board of Elders and Deacons for the upcoming year. Included in this newsletter is a nomination form. The form gives a description of the type of person who is eligible to be nominated to our board. We ask that you read these carefully and refer to the scriptures cited in the description. Consider your nominations through thoughtful prayer.

We also ask that you do not nominate someone whose current term has not yet expired. The term expiration dates are listed next to each of the current board members names. If their term does not expire at the end of 2022 please do not nominate them as they will continue to serve until their term has expired.

Nominating someone doesn't mean the person will accept the nomination or that they are eligible. The current board members will contact your nominees to find out if they are both eligible and whether or not they will accept your nominations.

Nominations are due no later than November 6, 2022.

They can be mailed in to the office or brought in and put in the nomination box located on the table in the lobby. The election of board members will take place on December 6, 2022. Election ballots will be available on that day in the lobby and in the bulletins. We ask that you attend worship that day to turn in your ballots.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will then take place following worship services on Sunday January 8, 2023. We highly encourage you to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting. If you have something you want to address at that meeting please contact the office to be placed on the agenda.

Those of you who lead small groups or ministries please begin thinking about and submitting your annual report for publication in the First Church of Christ 2022 Annual Report. Please have your reports typed in a Word document and attach it to an email to be sent the office at office@cherokeefcc.com.



Total Attendance and Offerings

Date	Attendance	Offerings
08/21	106	\$2,690.00
08/28	110	\$1,916.00
09/04	79	\$1,781.00
09/11	82	\$3,027.00

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

A sign-up sheet to order your Memorial Poinsettia will be on the table in the lobby beginning October 1, 2022. The cost per plant is \$15.00 each. Please make your check payable to First Church of Christ with 'Poinsettia' on the memo line. You can also mail or drop off your payment to the church office.

Orders for the plants will be taken until October 30. The plants will be delivered to the church later in November and used to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.



Harvest Offering Scheduled

At the September meeting of the Board of Elders and Deacons it was decided that the 2022 Harvest Offering will be put towards the purchase of a newer mini van for the church. The current mini van is getting rusted out and has over 200K miles on it. The board has researched options for newer mini vans. Prices for lower mileage vehicles run between \$25,000 and \$35,000.

The goal of the 2022 Harvest Offering is to raise at least \$30,000 for a newer lower mileage mini-van.

The date of Harvest Offering will on

Sunday, November 20, 2022.

We ask that you prayerfully consider and prepare your giving for the Harvest Offering.



First Church of Christ
772 N. 2nd Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

Nomination Form

Nominate as few or many as you are lead.

Elders:

Qualifications -To be elected a man must be a member of the congregation for at least one year and meet the qualifications in the New Testament including those in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

The duties will be to serve the needs of the congregation as outlined in the New Testament. The duties will also be to serve as a voting member of the board, serve on the nominations committee, serve on the pulpit committee, and serve on the board of education. The term will be subject to continued qualification for the office and run for three calendar years.

Deacons:

Qualifications - To be elected a man must be a member of the congregation for at least one year and meet the qualifications in the New Testament including those in 1 Timothy 3:8-12.

The duties will be to serve the needs of the congregation as outlined in the New Testament. The duties will also be to serve as a voting member of the board and assist in carrying out the decisions of the board. The term will be subject to continued qualification for the office and run for one calendar year.

Trustee:

Qualifications - To be elected the candidate must be an active and faithful member of the congregation for at least one year. The duties will be to act under the direction of the board and assume the responsibilities required by law.

Membership Defined:

A member is anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as his/her personal savior and who has been immersed in baptism for the remission of sins or those who have transferred his/her membership from another recognized (restoration movement) church.

A Voting Member: One who is at least 16 years of age.

First Church of Christ
772 N. 2nd Street
Cherokee, IA 51012

2023 Nomination Form

Current Elders

Mike Sparks - Chairman
Kirk Nelson - Co-Chair
Larry Heschke - Secretary

Your Nominations:

Term Expires

12/31/2023
12/31/2023
12/31/2022

Current Deacons

Barry Nelson
Mark Patten
Tom Mortenson

Your Nominations:

Term Expires

12/31/2022
12/31/2022
12/31/2022

Current Trustees

Larry Heschke
Guy Fishman
Curt Wiese
Joe Draper

Your Nominations:

Term Expires

12/31/2024
12/31/2022
12/31/2023
12/31/2023

NOTE:
It is not necessary to nominate someone whose term has not yet expired.

BIBLE CLASSES

10:40 a.m.

Christian Standard Curriculum

Chapel

Ladies Class

Room 7 - Downstairs

Men's Class

Room 8 - Downstairs

Children's Class

Downstairs

MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

Nebowa Christian Camp

Midwest Christian Services

Deaf Missions

International Disaster Emergency Services

Rapha International

Voice of the Martyrs

CHURCH INFO

Worship

Sunday Mornings
9:30 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Leadership

Pastor David Hall (641) 638-4762
Mike Sparks, Elder (712) 261-4730
Kirk Nelson, Elder (712) 540-9591
Larry Heschke, Elder (712) 221-7592
Mark Patten, Deacon
Barry Nelson, Deacon
Tom Mortenson, Deacon

Website

www.cherokeefcc.com
FB: @firstchurchcherokee

Phone: (712) 225-2667

Email: office@cherokeefcc.com



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