



CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

WANT TO BE HAPPY? BE GRATEFUL!



Happiness is a choice. It's a feeling, an attitude and a mindset. When we lean into happiness there's a Beauty, Grace and Peace that bubbles.

I like to think that I'm, generally, a happy person even though there are times when I still fall prey to moments and seasons of sadness.

Happiness, after all, is a choice. Just like I can decide what I want to eat, where I want to go and who I want to hang around, I can choose my mood or attitude. I can choose happiness.

What I can't choose are my circumstances. Life happens and sometimes life hurts. Sometimes our days are dark, desperate and dry. Sometimes we lose. Sometimes we stumble. Sometimes we get lost. Any number of events can chip away at our happiness and impede our joy. *Death. Poverty. Illness. Loneliness. Divorce. Failure. Crisis. Injury.*

It's why we can't rely upon people, events and things to make us happy. They won't. People will let you down and leave you alone. Events can fall short of expectation, get cancelled or postponed. Things will rust, break, disappear and get stolen. When we put our faith in such stuff to make us happy, we're simply chasing highs. We're pursuing a feeling. We're running after ghosts.

Solomon called this type of living a "chasing after the wind." Happiness, as he discovered, couldn't be acquired, built or bought. True happiness comes from a JOY that bubbles deep inside a person's soul. Consequently, it's possible to be happy even when life is filled with pain and problems.

David Steindl-Rast, in a TedTalk I watched recently, shared a simple, yet profound, three-prong strategy for being a happier person.

STOP: If you want to be happy, learn to slow down.

Americans love to pack their days and hours with stuff to do and places to go. Our vacations are so busy we often need a vacation from our vacation. Americans currently get 6.8 hours of sleep a night. That's more than an hour less than we used to get 50 years ago. We're so busy performing as human *doings* that we never experience the joy of living as a human *being*. Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is take a nap.

LOOK: A lot of happiness is rooted to a life that's grateful. And that involves looking around to purposely thank God for what He is doing. It's more than just stopping to smell the roses. We need to thank the One who put those roses in our path. In recent years, I've worked hard to be more aware of what's happening around me. I'm finding there's much joy in the little things I used to overlook. *The giggle of a child. The flight of a bird. The sound of wind through my wind chimes. The sweet taste of chocolate. The smell of mint, barbecue or rain. Even the ticking of a clock.* Everything is a reminder that life is short and every moment is pregnant with possibility.

GO: Sometimes the most important thing we can do is move. Children already know this truth, but many adults have somehow forgotten it. In fact, some of the saddest people I know are homebound, either by choice or circumstance. They live inside their homes, imprisoned usually by their health or confined by their fears. All I know is when we no longer go outside "and play," that's the moment we start to grow old.

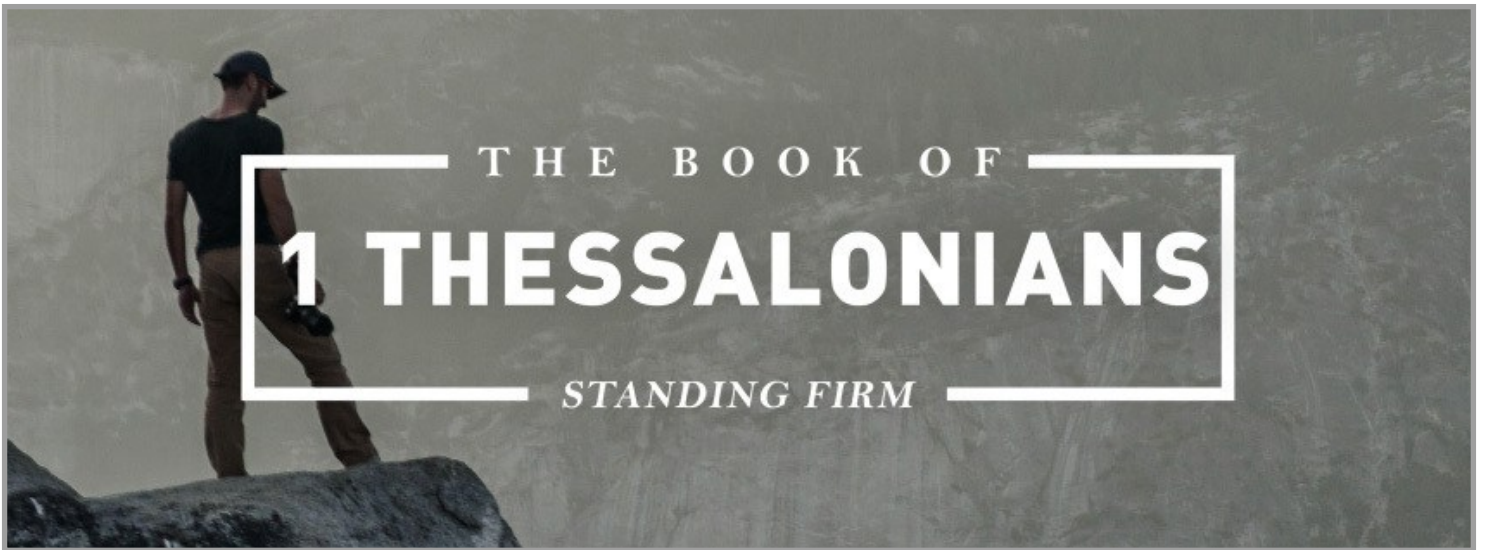
I hope today you'll choose to be happy. I hope you'll intentionally seek Joy and fuel that search with Gratitude. Be thankful for every moment you've got because someday you may wish you had this one back. In case you haven't noticed, you won't be any younger than this moment and this day.

Be HAPPY, my friends, and know that God IS working!

Blessings,

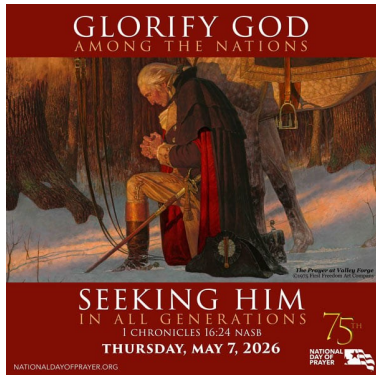
Pastor David





1 Thessalonians: Standing Firm

In a world that constantly pressures us to compromise, conform, and lose heart, how do we hold on to what matters most? Join us as we dive into Paul's powerful letter to the Thessalonians — a young, persecuted church that refused to back down. Written to believers facing real trials and real doubts, 1 Thessalonians is a timeless call to faith, hope, and love that endures. Together, we'll discover what it means to live with purpose, love one another deeply, and fix our eyes on the return of Jesus Christ. Whether you're struggling to stand or simply looking to grow deeper in your faith, this series is for you. Don't miss 1 Thessalonians: Standing Firm — because the world needs a church that won't be moved.



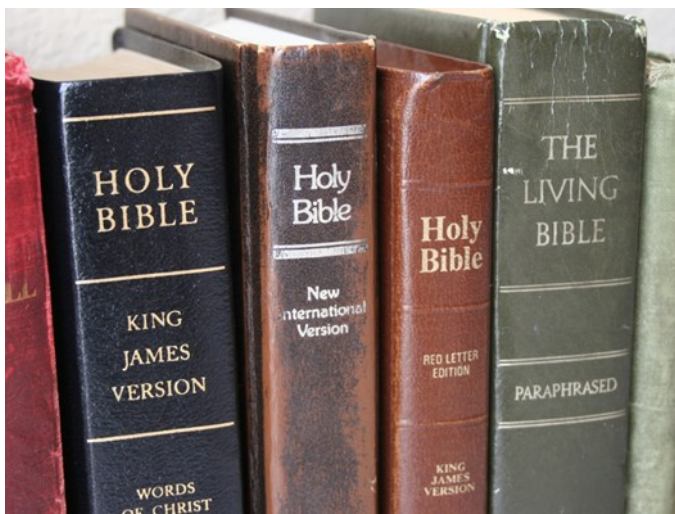
*"Tell of His glory among the nations,
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples."*
I Chronicles 16:24 NASB

The National Day of Prayer exists to mobilize unified public prayer for America.

Join others in prayer for our country on May 7 from noon to 1 pm.

REVELATION
AN OVERVIEW BY DAVID HALL

An Adult Study Series
"After These Things I Saw"
The Book of Revelation
Tuesday Mornings @10:30 a.m.
Beginning
May 12, 2026
First Church of Christ
Cherokee, Iowa
Revelation is a message of hope and faith, a message that many Christians caught in devastating circumstances need to hear.



Surround Yourself With Wisdom

Read Proverbs 13:20

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Reflect

Can you think of a time when you were influenced, either good or bad, by someone you spent a lot of time with? What were the circumstances? What did you learn?

You are who you hang out with. Have you ever heard that? You've probably experienced it firsthand. And if you're a parent, it's probably one of your top concerns regarding your children.

Today's proverb confirms that who we spend time with influences us. People who hang out with wise people become wiser still but people who hang out with fools can expect to suffer the consequences of joining in their foolishness.

Now, it's important to remember that the wisdom literature of the Bible, like the Proverbs, are not promises, they are principals. That means that they are generally true statements. Is it possible to spend time ministering to someone who is not walking with the Lord and not have them drag you down to their level? Of course! But be careful! Still, it is generally true that the people we spend the most time with will shape our attitudes and our character the most.

The psalmist wrote: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:1-2). People who are wise and blessed do not spend their time seeking worldly counsel, they spend their time seeking the counsel of the Lord, found in His Word and through prayer. And they surround themselves with other people who are doing the same thing.

One of my favorite things about the body of Christ is learning from each other. No matter where I've lived, one of the first things I look for is a Bible study community. It is a priority of mine to study Scripture with other people who also love the Lord. In my life, this proverb has proven true: "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). I have been profoundly shaped and sharpened by the wisdom that other godly individuals have shared with me.

If you would be wise, surround yourself with other people who are wise. Find a biblical faithful church and attend it regularly. Seek out a small group Bible study, so that you can be encouraged, held accountable, shaped, and sharpened by other believers. Think about the media content you consume. Are you taking in a steady diet of godly wisdom or worldly wisdom? If you are taking in too much worldly media, make some changes to the songs you listen to, the books you read, the shows you watch, and the social media that you scroll through. Remember, whoever walks with the wise becomes wise. So, surround yourself with wisdom.

Respond

Lord, thank You! We don't have to walk through life all alone. Thank You for the gift of community and the body of Christ. Thank you for those who shape and sharpen me. Help me to be a believer who sharpens others as well. Amen.

Reveal

When you are in community with other believers, do you openly share what God is teaching You through His Word? Remember, iron sharpening iron is a two-way street. You can reveal God's wisdom to those around you, just as they share God's wisdom with you.





Brownies For Camp



We are collecting family size brownie mixes for Camp Nebowa.

Our new goal is **70 family size boxes (makes 9"x13" pan)** of Brownie mix. As of April 26, we need 16 to meet our goal!

A collection box will be in the foyer. **Deadline is May 24.**

Thank you for your generosity in meeting and exceeding our goal!!



CAMPS FOR ALL AGES!

The 2026 church camp season is quickly approaching! If you want to go to Camp Nebowa this summer - **and we would love for you to go** - there are camps for all ages, including adults. First Church of Christ is offering to pay half of your camp fees in 2026. You simply register online for the camp session of your choice at www.nebowa.com and enter the discount code "cherokee50" on the checkout page.

Questions? Contact Pastor David.

Cherokee Regional Hospice

RUN/WALK TO REMEMBER

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND, 2026 AT 10:00AM

300 SIOUX VALLEY DR. CHEROKEE, IA

**THIS YEAR'S EVENT IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF LEANNE HAMMER
FORMER HOSPICE NURSE MANAGER & MASTER GARDENER**

AWARDS GIVEN
1ST PLACE MALE
1ST PLACE FEMALE



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR
CHEROKEE REGIONAL HOSPICE
WHILE RUNNING OR WALKING IN
MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES!

REGISTER FOR A
5K OR 1 MILE
OPTION



T-SHIRT NOT
GUARANTEED
AFTER APRIL 16, 2026

FOLLOW CHEROKEE REGIONAL HOSPICE ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS

Dates	Grades	Fees	
		Before 5/31	After 5/31
June 4-7	Women's Retreat	\$110	\$140
June 11-13	3rd & 4th	\$110	\$140
June 14-18	5th & 6th	\$150	\$180
June 19-20	1st & 2nd	\$80	\$100
June 21-26	7th-9th	\$185	\$215
	12th-College		
June 28-30	Freshman	\$80	\$100
July 5-9	5th & 6th	\$150	\$180
July 9-11	3rd & 4th	\$110	\$140
July 12-17	7th-9th	\$185	\$215
July 19-24	9th-12th	\$185	\$215
July 26-30	6th-8th Sports	\$185	\$215
July 26-30	9th-12th Sports	\$185	\$215
	Women's Crafty		
Sept. 11-13	Camp	\$80	\$80
Sept. 24-26	Man Camp	Donation	Donation
Early Registration Date - By May 31			
Register according to upcoming grade in the fall			

From the Church Secretary:

Generally, I'm in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays about 9 am and will be there until the day's work is done (1-3 hours typically). Occasionally, I will need to adjust that, based on personal needs.

If you need an announcement on the screen or in the bulletin, please get the information to the office by close of business on Wednesday before the you want the announcement to run. And let me know how long you would like it to run.

If you need something and I am not here, just leave a note on the desk. Thanks.

Julie

FCC SHUT-INS

The Gardens

(Enter Door Code – 1610) (Exit Door Code – 1379)
Darlene Nelson (#108) 712-321-3424
Delores Wheeler (#402) 712-229-5418

Heartland Care – Marcus (Door Code-2501)

Charlotte Barnes (#209) 712-229-3244
Della Rupp (#201)
Connie Johnson (#212 – Assisted Living)

Accura – Cherokee (Door Code-3917)

Randy Cox (#201A)
Glenn Wallace (#211A) 919-815-0334

The Beck (Code *350)

Joanne Nelson (#106) 712-229-9202

Home

Bea Carver Claudia Schulke
1123 W. Bluff St. 5503 Gordon Dr., Apt 208
Cherokee Sioux City, IA 51106
712-225-2656 claudiams@midco.net
(She would appreciate a visit if
you get to Sioux City.)

Ruth Dean
(if not at church)
1025 N Roosevelt, Apt 13
Cherokee, IA 51012
712-225-6439



New Leaf in Cherokee is looking for volunteers who can donate time each week to help in the store (i.e. run the cash register, sort donated items, rearrange displays, decorate the store, dust furniture and help customers).

If you have time & are interested call 225-4309 or stop in the store on 2nd Street to get a volunteer application.

Celebrate

Birthdays

3rd—Lydia Connor & Samuel Rosentrater
10th—Marie Anderson
12th—Briggs Schroeder
23rd—David Cougill
24th—Kirk Nelson
25th—Joe Draper & Lane Jones
28th—Addison Huff
29th—Alex Leeds



If you have an May birthday (or anniversary), and I missed getting you on the list, please let me know and I will get our records updated. I apologize if I did miss someone. Thank you. *Julie*



MCS Birthday Party

May 9th

The host is TBD

Weekly / Monthly Activities

- Bible Study** - Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
- Scout Troop 107** - Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- Bible Buddies** - Are on break until September.
- Homemakers** - 2nd Thursday 9:30 a.m.
- Bondage No More** - Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Quilt Batts Meetings** - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.—May 19
- Quilt Batts Connections (*Sewing Days*)** - First Weekend after the Tuesday Meeting—May 22nd & 23 (*Friday @ 9 a.m. & Saturday all day*)



Saturday
May 16th

Monday May 25th



Next Month—Our all church Picnic will be Sunday June 14th (Flag Day) at 5 pm at the Shelter House. Make plans now to join us then.

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

May 2026				
3	10	17	24	31
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	None
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	None
Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion
Larry Heschke	TBD	TBD	TBD	Tom Mortenson
Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	Barry Nelson	Barry Nelson
Communion Meditation	Communion Meditation	Communion Meditation	Communion Meditation	Communion Meditation
Mike Sparks	David Hall	Kirk Nelson	Mike Sparks	Guy Fishman
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
Sharon Henkel	David Hall	David Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
N/A	N/A	Eleanor Johnston	N/A	N/A
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall		Angela Hall	Angela Hall
Larry Heschke	David Hall		David Hall	David Hall
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Nancy Nelson
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial
Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall
Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS



MONTHLY MEETING

May 17, 2026

Following the Morning Worship Service

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

MAY 14, 2026

WE MEET AT **9:30 AM** AT THE CHURCH
ELEANOR IS IN CHARGE OF THE MEETING

Date	Offering	Attendance
4/5/26	\$2,007.00	On Campus: 98 Online: 47 Total: 145
4/12/26	\$8,187.00	On Campus: 66 Online: 20 Total: 86
4/19/26	\$1,992.00	On Campus: 93 Online: 16 Total: 109
4/26/26	\$1,698.00	On Campus: 55 Online: 17 Total: 72

UPDATED INFORMATION

If you aren't sure if your contact information is correct, please call Julie when she is in the office on Tuesday or Thursday morning to check, or take a form from the table in the foyer, complete it and leave it in the office.

Thank you!



Join Our Worship Team!

Do you love to worship and have a heart to lead others in praise? Whether you sing, play an instrument, or love working behind the scenes with tech and media, there's a place for you on our Worship Team!

We're looking for passionate people who want to use their gifts to glorify God and help create a meaningful worship experience for our church family.

Opportunities include:

- Vocals and instruments
- Audio/visual tech
- Slides and media support

Whether you're experienced or just feeling the nudge to get involved, we'd love to connect with you. Training and encouragement provided!

Interested? Let us know!

Talk to Pastor David, call the Church Office, or email us at dhall.fcc@gmail.com.

Let's praise Him—**together**.

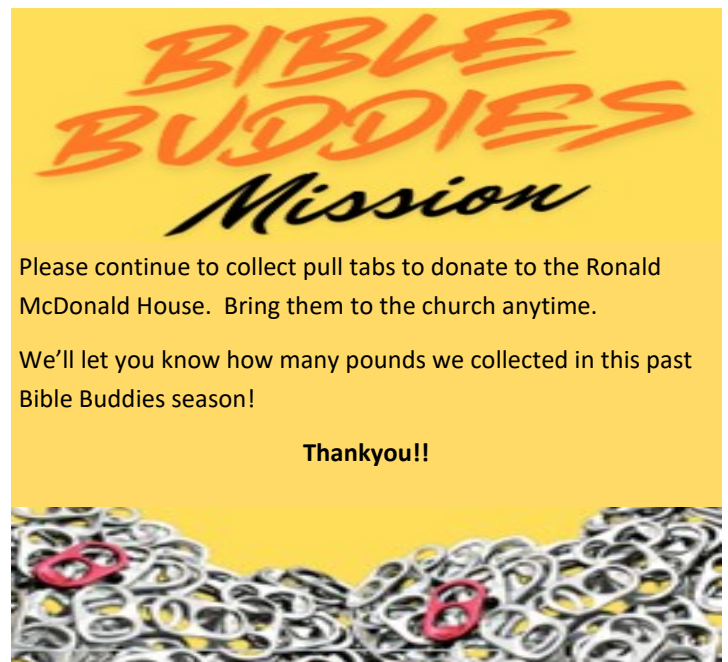
First Church of Christ
772 N. 2nd Street
Cherokee, IA 51012
(712) 225-2667
www.cherokeefcc.com

MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS



Bible Buddies in on break until school starts in the fall.

Thank you to everyone who made this past year's program successful. We can't do it without you.



Please continue to collect pull tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. Bring them to the church anytime.

We'll let you know how many pounds we collected in this past Bible Buddies season!

Thankyou!!