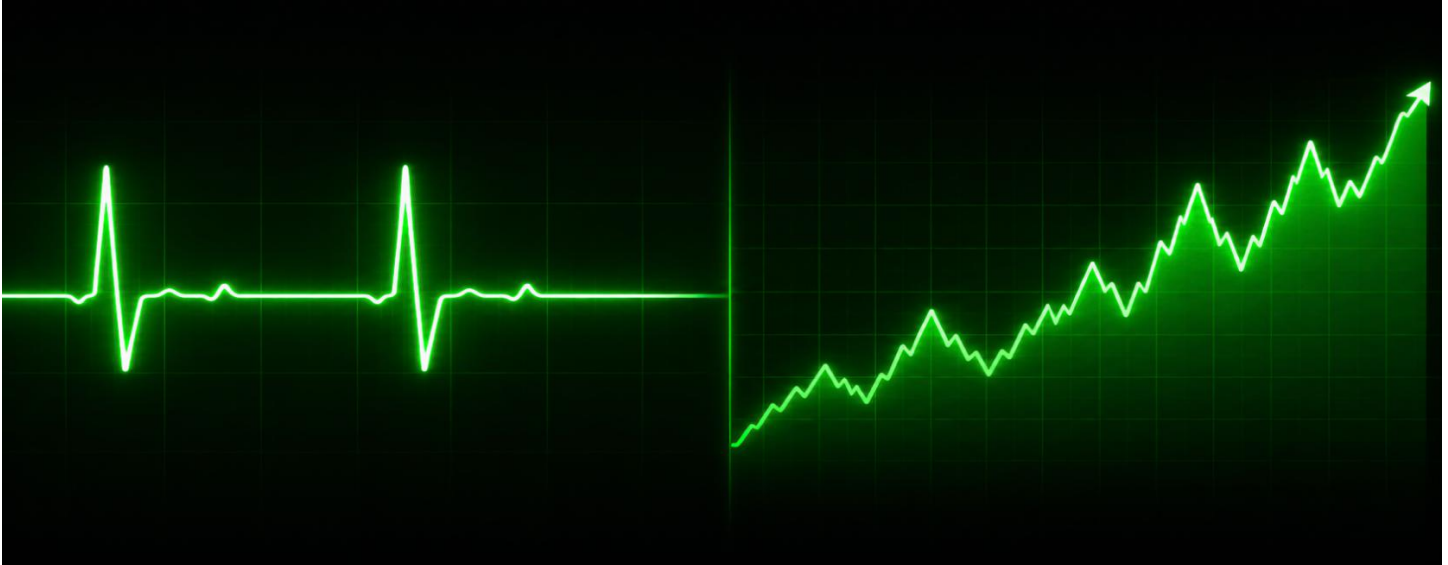




CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST



From Strength to Strength

A graph of our life would include some ups and downs, incredible mountaintop experiences and some deep valleys in between. The valleys represent the seasons when we feel far from God. They may be times of testing, seasons when His voice seems silent, or valleys of our own making because we have drifted from Him.

For some of us, our spiritual progress resembles a heart monitor graph—the image on the left above. There are moments of excitement and commitment that spike upward, but **we quickly settle back down to the same baseline.**

The troubling part is that the highs never seem to get higher, and the valleys feel just as low as they have always been before.

But what if our spiritual growth looked more like the stock chart of a company steadily trending upward? It still has valleys. There are difficult seasons and setbacks. Yet each valley does not take us as low as the one before, and every new peak rises higher than the last.

Psalms 84:7 says:

“They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.”

This is the promise for those who seek God. It does not mean we will never face trials or experience seasons when God feels distant. It means that **those who pursue Him move from strength to strength.** Each new mountaintop builds upon the previous one. God continues to deepen and stretch us.

Take the First Step

You may be reading this and thinking, If I could just reach the first mountaintop, maybe that could happen. But I don't even know where to begin.

That is why I love the story of Gideon. When God called him to deliver Israel, Gideon was hiding in fear. He told God that he came from the weakest family in the weakest clan. In essence he was saying, I don't even know where to start.

God replied in Judges 6:14:

“Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

In other words, take the first step of faith.

You do not have to have everything figured out. You may not know where the resources will come from. You may wonder who will fight with you. You may even feel as though your spiritual fuel tank is nearly empty.

We find that dilemma in the story of the feeding of the 5,000. The people were hungry and needed to eat. Jesus tells the disciples, *“You give them something to eat.”* All they had was a boy's lunch. Once it was surrendered to Christ and prayed over, the leftovers were vastly more than what the boy had to offer.

God simply says to take the first step with what you already possess.

Commit Your Next Steps to God

If God is calling you to take that first step toward your new mountaintop, He will provide what you need for the next step. As we keep moving forward, we discover strength like we have never known.

Second Chronicles 16:9 says:

"The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

God is looking for people who seek Him and His will. When he finds them, he gives them more strength to fulfill His purpose in their life.

It is almost like God carries them on eagles' wings. His strength powers them through the valleys and leads us to higher ground.

So let us seek Him with all of our being and **trust Him to lead us from strength to strength.**

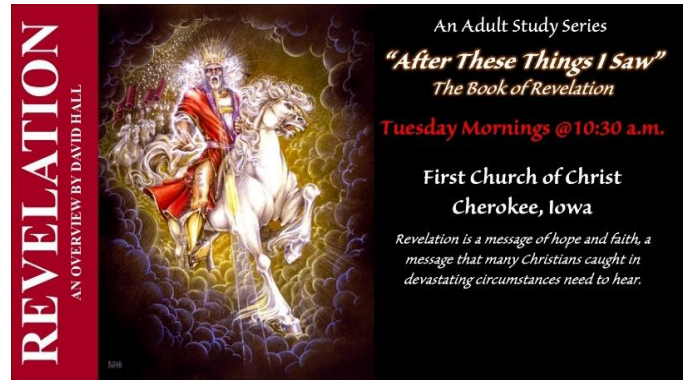
Blessings,

Pastor David



Hosea: A Divine Love Story

What does relentless love look like when it's met with betrayal again and again? In this powerful 8-week sermon series through the book of Hosea, we'll journey into the heart-wrenching, beautiful story of a prophet called to love an unfaithful wife—and discover how it mirrors God's own unbreakable love for His wayward people. Through themes of judgment and mercy, brokenness and restoration, Hosea reveals a God who pursues us even in our deepest unfaithfulness, refusing to let us go. Whether you're walking through your own season of struggle or longing to understand the depth of God's grace, this series will challenge you to see love—both human and divine—in a whole new light. Join each Sunday morning as we explore one of Scripture's most raw and redemptive love stories, and rediscover just how far God will go to win back the hearts of those He loves.



Weekly / Monthly Activities

- ❑ **Bible Study** - Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
Book of Revelation
- ❑ **Scout Troop 107** - Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- ❑ **Bible Buddies** - Fall Kick-Off on Sept. 2,
6:30 pm
- ❑ **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.
August 18
- ❑ **Quilt Batts Connections (Sewing Days)** -
First Weekend after the Tuesday Meeting
Aug. 21 & 22 (Friday @ 9:30 a.m. & Saturday all day)

From the Church Secretary:

I will be out August 26th to the 29th for a quilt retreat. If you need me to do anything for you during that week, please get it to me by the 25th so I can get it done before I go. I plan to be back in the office on Tuesday, September 1st.

Julie

Keep Your Cool



Read [Proverbs 17:27](#) (ESV)

“Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.”

Reflect

Can you think of a time when you’ve blown it by blowing up instead of keeping your cool? How might the situation have been improved if you had “restrained your words” at that moment?

Have you ever heard the idiom “cooler heads prevail”? Merriam-Webster gives this explanation: “calmer or less angry people have a dominant influence.” Sometimes, during tense and potentially volatile situations, we hear the saying used more like a prayer: “May cooler heads prevail!” We want the party with an even-temper to win out. You see, we all know that hot heads usually make bad decisions. We see this play out in the world of politics all the time! We are much more likely to listen and follow the lead of an even-tempered person speaking rationally than an angry person raging like a lunatic. Because of this, people who can keep their cool in tense and frustrating situations can have a powerful influence on others.

Today, we are reading a proverb of King Solomon, a man known for his great wisdom. In this proverb, he states that people who are wise and understanding are able to control their tempers. They don’t spout off in anger but rather they hold back and watch their mouths. Refraining from speaking in a moment of anger can be considered wise for many reasons.

On the one hand, restraining our words keeps us from saying something in the heat of the moment that we later regret. No doubt we’ve all blown it at some point in our lives and flung angry, nasty words that we later regret in someone’s face causing pain and division. But words can’t be unsaid, and careless words can cause big problems.

Maybe you’ve seen the toothpaste illustration floating around social media. You take a tube of toothpaste and squirt

all of it out of the tube. Then, your challenge is to try to put the toothpaste back in the tube. It can’t be done. Likewise, we can’t put our words back in our mouths once they leave our lips. The wise know this and give themselves time to calm down and think before they speak.

But another benefit to keeping a cool spirit in the heat of the moment is that you often gain understanding that helps solve the issue peacefully. Again, here is the wisdom James was talking about when he stressed the importance of being “quick to listen and slow to speak” ([James 1:19](#)). When we restrain our words and react calmly, it gives us the opportunity to listen to the point of view of others. We can collect information from the other parties involved and gain a better understanding of the situation. Maybe we can even facilitate rational discussions about how to come to agreements over hot-button issues.

Friends, none of us are perfect. We have all lost our cool and blown it. But the regret that follows those moments has likely proven the wisdom in this proverb. It isn’t wise to let whatever words are on the tip of your tongue fly out of our mouths when we are angry. But if you are feeling discouraged in this area, take heart. As believers in Christ, we have the help of the Holy Spirit. [Galatians 5:16](#) says, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” Walking by the Spirit means daily asking the Spirit to guide you and submitting to His control. When the Spirit is in control of your life, you’ll grow in godliness and righteousness. Remember, patience and self-control are fruits of the Spirit’s work in our lives ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)). So, if you are struggling with lashing out in anger, seek the Lord. Ask Him to help you control your anger so it doesn’t control you.

Respond

Lord, I confess that sometimes my anger controls me rather than the other way around. Please forgive me for sinning against You and others when I speak harshly out of anger. I need Your help learning to restrain my words. Please cultivate the fruit of Your Holy Spirit in my life and help me to be wise, self-controlled, and patient. Amen.

Reveal

The next time you’re tempted to respond in anger, pause and pray before speaking. Later, share with a trusted friend how God helped you respond with patience, and encourage each other to grow in the Spirit’s fruit of self-control.

Fall GriefShare Support Group Forming

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

GriefShare will be held **Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm beginning September 1st** and running for 13 weeks. The weekly seminars will meet in the Chapel of First Church of Christ.

Cost: \$25 (includes workbook)

Childcare: No

Any questions, call Pastor David at 641-638-4762

Registration: online is preferred and highly recommended by **CLICKING HERE**. You can also call the church office at 712-225-2667. **Please register by August 25th.**

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
— Cherokee, Iowa —

GriefShare®

Join Our GriefShare
Support Group

A friendly, caring group of people who will
walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult times.

MEETING TUESDAY EVENINGS
FROM 6:30-8:00PM
SEPTEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 24


SCAN TO REGISTER!

<https://find.griefshare.org/groups/300535>

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST**
772 N. 2nd St.
Cherokee, IA 51012
(712) 225-2667
www.cherokeefcc.com

*"The Lord is close to the
brokenhearted and saves those
who are crushed in spirit."*
PSALM 34:18



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

Let's Party

Birthdays

2nd—Joyce Clark
3rd—Emarie Morgan
7th—Penny Lundell
9th—Linda Vannatta
10th—Sylvia Kerns
14th—Keith Ludvigson
17th—Mike Cronin
20th—Della Rupp & Cale Curtin
22nd—Charlotte Barnes
24th—Adaline Johnson

Anniversaries

4th—Guy & Polly Fishman (47 yrs)
5th—Mark & Marcia Casey (38 yrs)
15th—Mike & Pam Cronin (28 yrs)



If you have an August 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

August 8

The host is Larry Heschke.



It's that time of year again. Schools will be starting at the end of August. Buses will be running and students will be going to and from school.

Be careful when you are out and about in the morning and afternoon, so everyone stays safe.

Please be praying for the teachers, administrators, students and parents as the school year starts. Pray personally for the teachers and students you know, that the year might be productive and learning might happen. Thank you.

Iowa's Sales Tax Holiday Is August 7-8. Buy clothing and footwear with no sales tax.

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

August 2026				
2	9	16	23	30
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Angela Hall	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Polly Fishman	None
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Angela Hall	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Polly Fishman	None
Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion
Larry Heschke	Tom Mortenson	David Hall	Kevin Schmillen	David Hall
Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	Barry Nelson	Larry Heschke
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Mike Sparks	Guy Fishman	David Hall	Kirk Nelson	Mike Sparks
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
David Hall	Sharon Henkel	David Hall	Sharon Henkel	David Hall
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
N/A	N/A	Eleanor Johnston	N/A	N/A
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Angela Hall	Larry Heschke		Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall
	Nancy Nelson		Larry Heschke	
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial
Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman
Guy Fishman	Guy Fishman	Guy Fishman	Guy Fishman	Guy Fishman

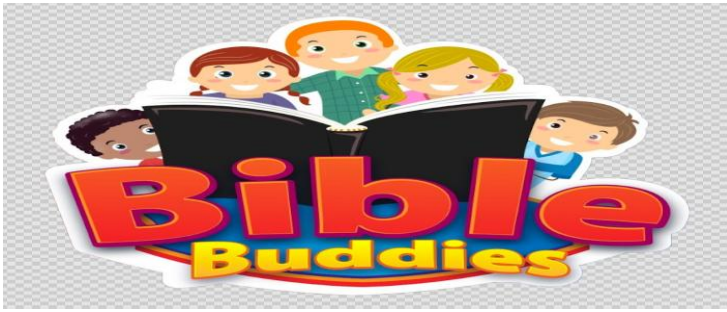
BOARD OF ELDERS AND DEACONS MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13TH
MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 9:30 AM
We will be visiting our Marcus Shut-Ins

Date	Offering	Attendance
6/28/26	\$6,134.00	On Campus: 51 Online: 28 Total: 79
7/5/26	\$1,368.00	On Campus: 57 Online: 14 Total: 71
7/12/26	\$1,083.00	On Campus: 51 Online: 16 Total: 67
7/19/26	\$2,483.00	On Campus: 56 Online: 20 Total: 76
7/26/26	\$7,334.00	On Campus: 72 Online: 28 Total: 100



Our Kick-Off Cookout is Tuesday, Sept. 2nd at 6:30. (See the announcement on Page 2.)

Are you willing to serve our youth for the 2026-27 Bible Buddies season. Angela will be checking with last year's volunteers soon to confirm if you will join us again this year. If you haven't helped before, but would like to, please let Angela know.

You are needed and appreciated!



MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS



Please pray for the Bible Buddies program, both for the students and the volunteers.

Please pray for those involved in each of the ministries we support. Prayers can make the difference in their ministry.

Please pray for the leaders of our country, state, county and cities.

Please pray for the minister, his family and the leaders of our church.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16

