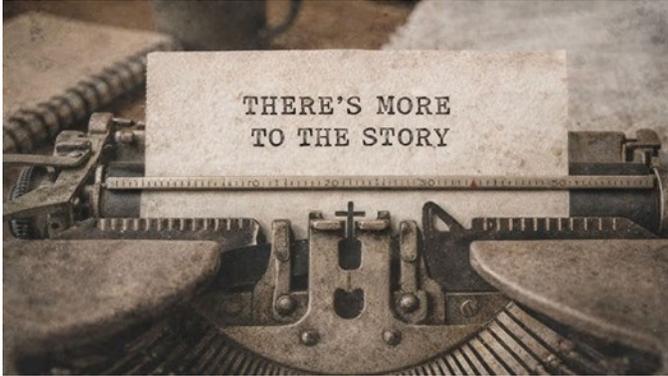


CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

There's More To The Story



Mention the name JONAH and most people think of how he ran from the Lord. How he boarded a ship bound for a destination diametrically opposed to where God had told him to go. How he got on that ship and in the midst of a spectacular storm begged his shipmates to throw him overboard because he was the reason for the storm.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY ... Jonah repented. God gave him a second chance, and he was responsible for a remarkable revival that consumed a city and included a king!

When most people think of PETER they think of a rough, weather-beaten fisherman with salty language and sunburned skin, who had an uncanny ability to say the wrong thing at the wrong time. Even swearing on occasion. People remember how a big, old, tough fisherman flopped like a fish in the presence of a young maiden as he tried to warm himself by the fire and she tried to pin him down as one of Jesus' disciples. Peter turned into a coward by the fire, while a rooster nearby crowed and crowed and crowed.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY ... Peter repented and God relented. Forgiving Peter and giving him the privilege of preaching one of the most powerful sermons ever preached on the Day of Pentecost as the Church was launched.

Bring up the name DAVID and watch what happens. People immediately think of Israel's greatest king. But they also remember Israel's most notorious sinner. Sure, they think of a giant named Goliath and a sling and some stones. But who can forget that rooftop bathtub and a beautiful young woman ironically named Bathsheba? They also remember how David had her all to himself until her husband came home and the chickens came home to roost. An unplanned pregnancy. An unintended complication. A failed attempt at an alibi and a fatal attempt to get rid of his most faithful guy, Bathsheba's husband, Uriah. Who can forget Nathan's finger and forceful pronouncement, "You are the man"?

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY ... David confessed and God addressed his sin with grace and mercy and forgiveness. In fact, God guided his hand to write the majority of the Psalms, the longest and maybe strongest book in the Bible. In Psalm 119, the longest chapter, we get a glimpse of one of the most godly men who ever lived. God's own testimony about David in 1 Kings 3:14 makes it clear David was a changed man.

What about THE SAMARITAN WOMAN in John 4? The woman at the well? People remember where she was sitting when Jesus asked her for a drink. They remember what she must have been thinking and how she must have been shrinking when Jesus pointed out she'd been married five times and was currently living with a man who was NOT her husband.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY ... She gave up and gave in, confessing her sin and giving her life to the One Who had LIVING WATER. Now she would never thirst again. She went back to her city, facing her shame and sharing the Name of Jesus and what He'd done for her. The whole town followed her out into the fields to find Jesus for themselves, and she was responsible for so many being saved.

I love it when there's MORE to the STORY, don't you? The fact is people can and do change. Many times you and I don't know about it or get to see it. But there's more to the story and someone who used to live in sin now lives serving the Savior. Or someone who used to waste their life in selfish, sinful pursuits, makes every moment count for Christ now, in self-sacrificing service. It happens all the time, all over the world, where people aren't content with the current content of their story. They turn their lives over to God, and He turns the page and writes a new chapter.

When JESUS gets involved in our lives, there's ALWAYS MORE to the STORY! It doesn't matter who we are or what we've done, "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Our unchanging God will change us into the image of His Son, Jesus, if we'll just give Him the pen and permission to re-write our story.

As we journey through this season of Lent leading up to Easter, fall in love with Jesus all over again and watch what God does. He'll write a new chapter in your life.

... And it will be the best one yet!

Blessings,

Pastor David



THE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER OF JESUS

After teaching His disciples and preparing them for His departure, and with the prospect of His betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion before Him, Jesus concluded His final Passover meal with a prayer. This prayer, recorded in John 17 and known as the High Priestly Prayer, is the longest recorded prayer of Christ. In it, He prays for Himself, His disciples, and all believers throughout time, right down to today—and what He prays promises to be life-changing for all who listen in.

In this series, Pastor David invites us onto the “holy ground” of John 17, where we are given an unparalleled, intimate look into the heart of our Savior. As the Son prayed to the Father, He left us both a stirring example of prayer itself and a profound testimony to His zeal for God’s glory and His love for His people. Plan to join us each Sunday morning of this 3-week series as we dive into depths of this prayer and discover the riches of what Jesus Himself has prayed on your behalf.

March 1 – “The Glory of Christ” – John 17:1-5
March 8 – “Confidence in Christ” – John 17:6-19
March 15 – “Unity in Christ” – John 17:20-26

EASTER 2026

MARCH 29 - APRIL 5

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

10:00 A.M.

Palm Sunday Worship Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

7:00 P.M.

Good Friday Worship and Communion Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Easter Sunrise Breakfast • 9:00 A.M.

Easter Worship Service • 10:00 A.M.

**No Sunday School





Living Under the **CROSS**

Read Hebrews 11:16

"But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."

Reflect

Read through Hebrews 11 and think about these questions: How is faith defined in this chapter? What does hope have to do with it? What stories told in this chapter have you heard before? Does this chapter shed any additional light on why those men and women did what they did?

How do you go on living when you know the axe is about to fall? How do you get out of bed when you know today could be the day when your spouse or child finally succumbs to their illness? How do you go on when you know things will only get worse?

The same way Abraham did: one step at a time. In Genesis 22, we read that Abraham was instructed by God to sacrifice his only son Isaac. To us, this sounds barbaric. But though it broke his heart, Abraham gathered his things and left.

Each step must have felt like a mile. Was this really happening? What happened to God's promise to make Abraham's offspring as numerous as the sand on the shore? Some people question what Abraham did: if he really loved his son, how could he go so far as to strap him on the altar and raise the knife?

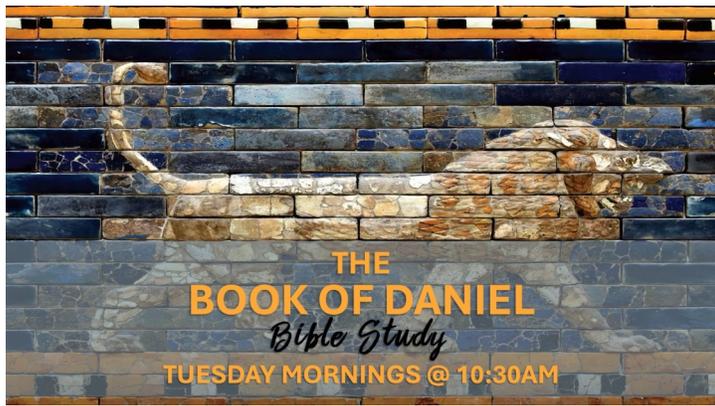
Because, as much as he loved his son, Abraham trusted God all the more.

In Hebrews, we learn a little of what went through Abraham's mind on the way to the sacrifice. Up to that point in his life, Abraham had seen God work in many miraculous ways – his son Isaac (born when Abraham and his wife were approaching 100 years old) – was one of them. He knew that when God made a promise, He would keep it. Hebrews tells us that Abraham "considered that God was able even to raise him [Isaac] from the dead" in order to keep His promise (Hebrews 11:19, ESV).

So, this doesn't necessarily mean that if we believe hard enough everything will turn out the way you want. But we do need to place our hope where it belongs—on God and His ultimate plan for the world and all those who love Him.

Pray

Lord Jesus, thank You for being faithful and unchanging. Please give me the strength I need to get through the troubles of the day. Amen.



How do we faithfully follow the Lord while living in a place and culture opposed to the very things of God?

That's precisely the question Daniel faced. In this Bible study through the 12 chapters in the book of Daniel, you'll discover how Daniel resisted the pressure to comply.

The book of Daniel is a fascinating mix of stories about Daniel in exile and his prophecies about coming kingdoms and the end times. This Bible study explores Daniel's life in Babylon and his prophetic visions in which earthly rulers and heavenly powers collide.

*We meet most **TUESDAY mornings**, at 10:30 a.m. Hope to see YOU there!*



Move your clocks forward 1 hour on **March 7th** when you go to bed.



Chili Cook-off Winners

Congratulations to Kira Klaschen and Grant Croonquist for having the best Chili on February 22nd!

Sermons Ala Carte

Community Lenten Services & Lunches

Wednesdays in Lent at Memorial Presbyterian Church
127 E. Willow Street, Cherokee, Iowa

Service begins at 12:05 p.m.

Meal begins at 12:30 p.m. and costs \$5/person.

This year's theme is "Places of the Passion."

February 18

"The Temple"
Philip Beisswenger
from Memorial Presbyterian

February 25

"The Upper Room"
Pastor Mike Agnew
from St. Paul's United Methodist

March 4

"The Garden of Gethsemane"
David Hall
from First Church of Christ

March 11

"The Courtyard of Caiaphas"
Pastor Brenton Lopez
from Aurelia First United Methodist

March 18

"The Praetorium"
Dan Rupp
from Immaculate Conception

March 25

"Golgotha"
Nelson Jenkins
from Meriden Evangelical Free

Join us! Everyone is welcome!



We will be assisting with the lunch (which will be spaghetti) on March 4th. Thank you for your help.



Living with Loss Grief Support Group

This group is guided by Dr. Alan Wolfelt's *Understanding Your Grief* curriculum which offers a compassionate, research-based approach that helps individuals explore their grief with honesty, gentleness, and hope.



8 WEEK SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAYS 3-4 PM

MARCH 2ND - APRIL 20TH 2026

\$30.00 for 8 sessions, suggested donation



LOCATION

Cherokee Public Library
215 S 2nd St.
Cherokee, IA 51012



Register by calling Cherokee Regional Hospice at 712-225-6459 or scan the QR code.



Easter Lily Time

It is time to order the memorial Easter Lilies. If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily for our sanctuary in memory or honor of a loved one, sign-up on the sheet on the foyer table (or call the church office.)

Cost this year is \$20.

Make checks payable to First Church of Christ.

Order deadline is Sunday, March 15th .



Cherokee County Healthy Aging Conference

Join us to learn more about important topics as we age- featuring local organizations with services for seniors and caregivers.

📅 Thursday, April 23, 2026

🕒 9:00am - 2:00pm

📍 WITCC Cherokee Campus
200 Victory Drive



- 8:30-9am Check-In with Coffee & Rolls
- 9-9:45am Session I: Advance Directives
Carey Ducommun & Melissa Schlenger, CRMC
- 10-10:45am Session II: Planning Your Final Arrangements
Jennifer Boothby-Nixon, Boothby Funeral Home
- 11-11:45am Session III: Healthy Movements & Fall Prevention
Jodi Schlichting & Kayla Koch, CRMC

12pm Lunch

12:30-2pm Vendor Fair open to the public

*Pre-Registration Required. \$15 Fee includes lunch.
Checks made out to Connections Area Agency on Aging. Registration deadline: April 15.



REGISTER & PAY ONLINE: <https://tinyurl.com/CCHealthy>



REGISTER & PAY IN PERSON AT WIT CHEROKEE:

First & Last Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Info: Wendy Iverson, Western Iowa Tech Cherokee Campus Director, 712-225-0238



Meet and Greet Baby Shower—March 29th

Please join us on March 29th before the service to meet and greet Adam & Ashley Phipps and join us in showering them with gifts for the new baby boy they are expecting on April 15th. Big sister Alyssa will be there for you to meet too.

From the Church Secretary:

I'm still 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).

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

Darlene Nelson (#108) 712-434-5311
Delores Wheeler (#402) 712-229-5418

Heartland Care – Marcus

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

Accura – Cherokee

Randy Cox (#206)
Glenn Wallace (#206) 919-815-0334

The Beck

Joanne Nelson (#106) 712-229-9202

Home

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

Time To Celebrate

Birthdays

2nd—Dennis Ducommun & Ralph Kaufman
12th—Owen Rosentrater
14th—Alaina Morgan
18th—Keeleigh Askvig & Owyn Van Voorst
19th—Mark Stephenson
22nd—Danny Salter
24th—Sawyer Stoll
30th—Twyla Schmillen
31st—Angela Hall



Anniversary

8th—Jerry & Joyce Clark (67 years)

If you have a March 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

March 14th

Larry Heschke hosting



Weekly / Monthly Activities

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

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ACCESS A STREAMING LIBRARY WITH +25,000 BIBLICAL VIDEOS ANYTIME, ANYWHERE ALL YEAR LONG FOR FREE.

RightNow Media Summer Promotion (3 x 2 in)

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

March 2026				
1	8	15	22	29 - Palm Sunday
Children's Church				
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	None
Children's Sunday School				
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	None
Shut-In Communion				
Kevin Schmillen	Kirk Nelson	TBD	Kirk Nelson	David Hall
Communion Coordinator				
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Kirk Nelson	Barry Nelson	Kevin Schmillen
Communion Message				
Mike Sparks	David Hall	David Hall	Guy Fishman	Mike Sparks
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	Angela Hall	Larry Heschke	Angela Hall
	Nancy Nelson		Nancy Nelson	
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
Paula Burch				
Pam Cronin				

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS



MONTHLY MEETING

March 8, 2026

Following the Morning Worship Service

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

MARCH 12, 2026

WE MEET AT **9:30 AM** AT THE CHURCH TO
CARPOOL TO VISIT OUR MARCUS SHUT-INS

Date	Offering	Attendance
2/1/26	\$1,723.00	On Campus: 66 Online: 16 Total: 82
2/8/26	\$8,371.00	On Campus: 62 Online: 25 Total: 87
2/15/26	\$NA	On Campus: 69 Online: 23 Total: 92
2/22/26	\$1,910.00	On Campus: 55 Online: 16 Total: 71

BIBLE BUDDIES



WEDNESDAYS
AT 6:30 PM
PreK - 5th Grades

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



MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS



BIBLE BUDDIES Mission

Please continue to collect pull tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. Bring them to the church anytime. Let's see if we can collect **14 pounds** of tabs this Bible Buddies season!

Please have your tabs at the church by March 22nd!

Thankyou!!



We are using your monetary donations to buy treats for the Bible Buddies snack time each week. We have a donation container on the foyer table for your donations.

Thank you for helping making our Bible Buddies program a success.

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

Handbags With Hope

Purses And Toiletries For Women In Need
Accepting Donations Of New Or Gently Used
Purses Or Handbags And Toiletry Items
To Fill Our Handbags With Hope
To Bless Women Who Are Struggling
From Abuse And Addiction

Items Needed

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Deodorant
- Pads
- Tampons
- Lotion
- Body Wash/soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner



For questions contact:
Minister Tamerra Henderson
(309) 231-5216
Items can be delivered to:
First Church of Christ
772 N 2nd St
Cherokee, IA 51012
Pastor David
(712) 225-2667