

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

December 1
Tretton Huff

December 5
Rhonda Wiese

December 7
Ozzton Inman

December 9
Claudia Schulke

December 10
Dianne S. (MCS Staff)

December 11
Ulises Placido

December 13
Guy Fishman
Delores Wheeler

December 17
Makenna Gray (BB)

December 19
Ruth Dean

December 20
Sawyer Hilt (BB)

December 23
Tanya W. (MCS Staff)

December 24
Larry & Jean Heschke

December 26
Gloria Anderson



BIBLE BUDDIES FAMILY NIGHT

* Christmas Caroling for the entire family

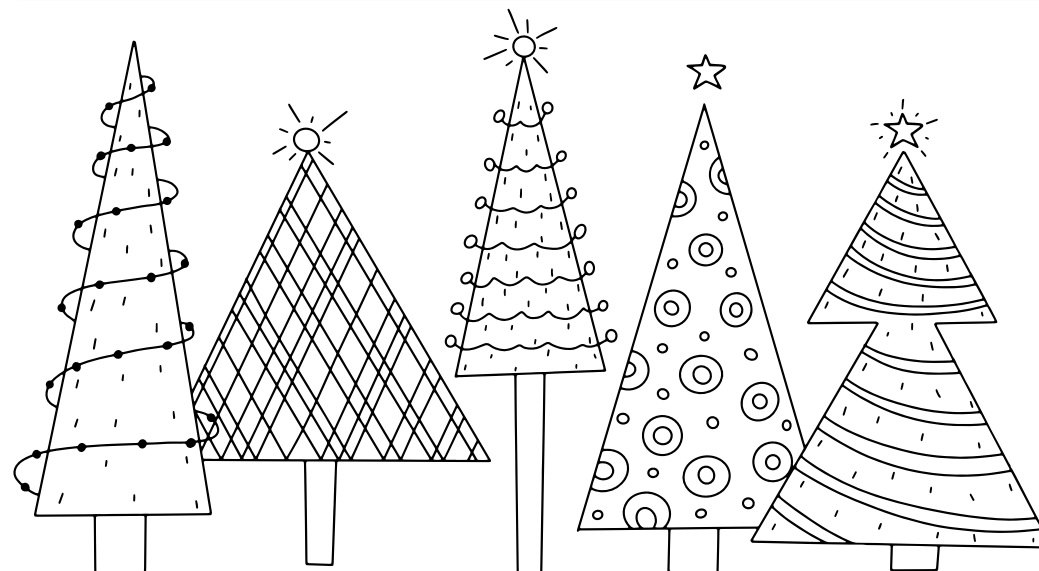
* Cookies

* Hot Chocolate



Please meet at The Gardens Assisted Living at **6:00pm on Wednesday, December 13th**. We would like for parents to transport their own children and stay to carol with the residents. We will enjoy Christmas cookies and hot chocolate afterwards.

**This special fun family event will be our last Bible Buddies meeting for the month of December.*



CONNECTING POINT

December 2023
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

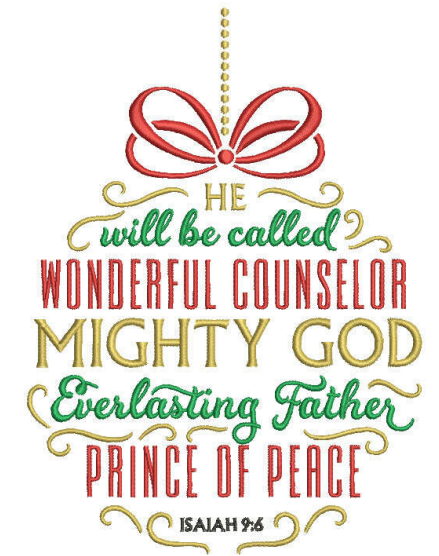
He Will Be Called

If you are like me, you probably had a few nicknames growing up. Some of them were okay, as they picked up a positive feature in your life. But some of them were painful, as they picked up on a negative feature of your life. I was saddled with one nickname I absolutely despised as it highlighted a particularly embarrassing feature of my appearance. And no, I am not going to tell you what it was!

Isaiah provided us with several nicknames for the coming Messiah. Writing over 700 years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah was able to pick up on several features that highlighted the life and ministry of Jesus: “He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6b). Pretty incredible list of nicknames! For today, we will just consider the first one, “Wonderful Counselor.”

Jesus is “wonderful” or better, the one full of wonder. Coming from a root meaning “extraordinary, miraculous, or hard to comprehend,” Isaiah gave us insight into the core nature of Jesus. Being born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23) was certainly an extraordinary and miraculous way to start his life! That Jesus was hard to comprehend was evidenced by the fact that even his cousin John wondered about him (cf. Luke 7:20), and his disciples questioned who he was well into his ministry (cf. Luke 8:25). It shouldn’t come as a surprise when questions about him still arise within us!

Jesus is also the wonderful “counselor.” He is the one who can help make sense of things when everything seems senseless. The Apostle John picked up the theme of “counselor” in his gospel by using the Greek paraclete, the one who comes alongside and walks with you. That Jesus promised “another counselor” (John 14:16) indicates he was the first one while another was on the way. The Holy Spirit continues the work of Jesus to guide us and when necessary, convict us of both sin and righteousness (John 16:7-10). In all he is still Immanuel, choosing to be the “God with us.”



Now to connect the two words. Jesus is the one full of wonder and no matter how long we walk with him, he will still surprise and at times even confuse us. He is the counselor who at times could not feel closer to us yet at times could not feel farther away. But that is when we stand on the promise of His word, that he will never forsake us (Heb. 13:5) and is in the process of working out all things for our good and his glory (Rom. 8:28). Isaiah was correct in calling Jesus the Messiah a “wonderful counselor.”

In this Advent season, spend some time reflecting on how Jesus has been a “wonderful counselor” in your life. Celebrate the marvel of the Word becoming flesh to live among us (cf. John 1:14), of God invading our humanity, as the infinite became an infant. Thank him that in times of clarity or confusion, he has never abandoned nor left you as orphaned (John 14:18). As the “Wonderful Counselor,” Jesus has given you a new nickname: child of the King. That is one of the best nicknames ever and it will last forever. Glory to the newborn King!

Blessings,

Pastor David

The Shepherds at Christmas

“Today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” —Luke 2:11 (NASB)

When you hear “Christmas,” what word comes to mind? Jesus? Mary? Joseph? Bethlehem? Presents? I’m going to go out on a limb and guess that the word was not “shepherds.”

On the night of Jesus’s birth, the Lord sent an angel to tell shepherds the amazing news: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10–11).

God choosing shepherds for this life-changing news was significant in several ways.

First, in Jesus’s day, the role of a shepherd was not at the top of the job-wanted list.

A shepherd was viewed as a simple, lowly, and unlearned man.

Years ago, there was a country song entitled, “Mammas, Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys.” In Jesus’s day the song could have been, “Mammas, Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Shepherds.” The fact that God chose shepherds to be the first to hear of Jesus’s birth makes a huge statement. The baby in the manger came for all people but especially for those who are lowly and brokenhearted (4:18).

Jesus came for us.

Second, the shepherds ran to the baby in the manger.

The text says, “The shepherds began saying to one another, ‘Let us go straight to Bethlehem.’...They came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger” (2:15–16). The shepherds took off running. They threw down their shepherding tools, left their flock, and ran as fast as they could to find the Christ child. Upon arriving they were captivated with the child who was lying in the manger. Why? This baby was their Messiah, Savior! This baby was the Lamb of God! They knew their lives would never be the same.

Run as fast as you can to Jesus. Become captivated with Jesus. You will never be the same!

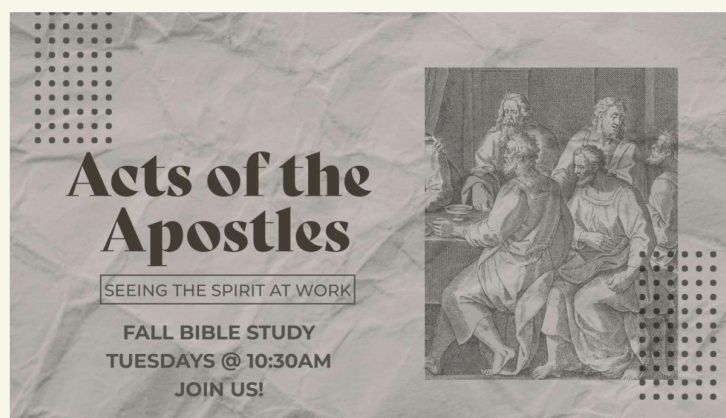


Third, the shepherds couldn’t keep quiet about the birth of Jesus.

“After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child” (2:17). The first messengers to share about the birth of Jesus were shepherds. And they told everyone!

This Christmas we, too, can spread the word about the greatest Present ever: the Savior of the world.

Just like the shepherds, we are chosen. Run to Jesus. Be captivated by Him. Tell everyone!



*It's never too late to join the study.
We hope to see YOU Tuesday morning!*



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed to this year’s special Harvest Offering on November 19th. The total recieved was an amazing \$11,670 towards this year’s goal of \$15,000. Those still wishing to contribute should mark their checks or envelopes with the words “Harvest Offering “ on the memo line. Thank you so much for your generous support of First Church of Christ and our ministry to the community.



Come and Behold Him. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you at our Annual Christmas Eve Service taking place at 5:00pm on Sunday evening, December 24th. This year we will enjoy a special program entitled “Christmas Through the Carols.” In attempt to remember well the gift God sent to us, we will share the Christmas story as recorded by some of the greatest carols of our faith. Plan now to take part in this beautiful celebration of our Savior’s birth.



❄️
ACCURA CHRISTMAS PARTY
*Giving Tree Located
 in Church Lobby*

 DECEMBER 3, 2023

When: 2:30 p.m.
 Where: Accura Healthcare
 921 Riverview Drive - Cherokee
 Bring: Some bars or cookies & yourself



THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
 DECEMBER 25

*Merry
 Christmas*

**SUPPORT
 BIBLE BUDDIES
 MISSION**

**SAVE AND BRING IN
 YOUR PULL TABS**

- ALUMINUM CAN TABS
- CANNED FOOD TABS
- CANNED PET FOOD TABS

**PULL TABS ARE
 THE WAY
 FOR A SPECIAL
 PLACE
 TO STAY!**




Happy
 New Year

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
 JANUARY 1, 2024

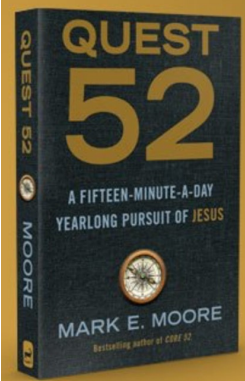
rightnow MEDIA

MERRY AND BRIGHT

We've purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos and are giving free access to everyone in our church.

GET FREE ACCESS

Scan the QR code to
 create your free account
 and start browsing.

Next
 Group Meeting
 December 12th
 6:30pm
 In the FCC Chapel

Attendance & Offering

11/5

Offering \$3,692.25
 On Campus Attendance 87
 Online Attendance 14
 Total Attendance 101

11/12

Offering \$2,665.25
 On Campus Attendance 73
 Online Attendance 16
 Total Attendance 89

11/19

Offering \$1,454.90
 Harvest Offering \$11,670.00
 On Campus Attendance 110
 Online Attendance 20
 Total Attendance 130

11/26

Offering \$1,849.35
 On Campus Attendance 72
 Online Attendance 18
 Total Attendance 90



POINSETTIAS

In Memory Of

Loved Ones Gone Before Us
 (by David & Angela Hall)

**Helen Clark
 Kenny Brandt**
 (by Della Rupp)

Dean Nelson
 (by Kirk & Marcia Nelson)

Wally & Esther Erickson
 (by Kirk & Marcia Nelson)

**Rodney Hazen,
 Kermit & Kathryn Hazen**
 (by Joyce Salter)

Gene Schulke
 (by Claudia Schulke)

Harold & Bev Heschke
 (by Kevin & Twyla Schmillen)

Steve Buck
 (by Rita Pearson)

Wayne Buck
 (by Rita Pearson)

Steve Buck
 (by Hulda Schmitt)

Wayne Buck
 (by Hulda Schmitt)

Vera Gano
 (by Laverne Gano)

George, Fern, & Connie Cockburn
 (by Curt & Rhonda Wiese)

Paul & Maxine Jenness
 (by Paula Burch)

**Neal Johnston
 Ruth & Freeman Conley**
 (by Bob & Eleanor Johnston)

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

Ballot Form

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

2024 Ballot Form

Elders Serve 3 Year Term:
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 Serve 1 Year Term:
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 Serve 3 Year Term:
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. The term will be subject to continued qualification for the office and run for three calendar years.

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.

Deacon & Elder Elections on December 10, 2023

Current Elders
Mike Sparks - Chairman Term Expires 12/31/2023
Kirk Nelson - Co-Chair Term Expires 12/31/2023
Larry Heschke - Secretary Term Expires 12/31/2025

Your Nominees:
Mike Sparks - Chairman YES NO Term Expires 12/31/2026
Kirk Nelson - Co-Chair YES NO Term Expires 12/31/2026

Current Deacons Term Expires
All of 2023 Deacon terms expire 12/31/2023

Your 2024 Nominees:
Barry Nelson YES NO
Mark Patten YES NO
Tom Mortenson YES NO
Kevin Schmillen YES NO

Current Trustees Term Expires
Curt Wiese YES NO Term Expires 12/31/2023
Joe Draper YES NO Term Expires 12/31/2023

Your Nominees:
Curt Wiese YES NO Term Expires 12/31/2026
Joe Draper YES NO Term Expires 12/31/2026

***NOTE: The nominees on this ballot are the men who are eligible and have accepted your nominations.**

December 2023				
	17	24	31	
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	
Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	N/A	
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	
Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	N/A	
Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	
Kendall Henkel	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	N/A	
Sharon Henkel	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	N/A	
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	
Kirk Nelson	David Hall	David Hall	Mike Sparks	
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	
Sharon Henkel	David Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel	
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano	
Eleanor Johnston	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	
Mark Casey	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	Nancy Nelson	
Marcia Casey			Larry Heschke	
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	
Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Braella Inman	Braella Inman	
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound	
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	
Lorraine Duvall	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	
Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	
Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	
Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman	Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	
Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	
Penny Lehman	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	
Marcia Nelson	Sholeen Sparks	Sholeen Sparks	Sholeen Sparks	
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	
Guy Fishman	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	
Sharon Henkel	Sharon Henkel	Sharon Henkel	Sharon Henkel	
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	
Angela Hall	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	
Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound	
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	
Lorraine Duvall	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	
Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	

Worship Schedule