



CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

Thank God for His Bountiful Blessings



A sign in a hardware store declared, "We specialize in helping Do-It-Yourselfers." I chuckled at the irony: even Do-It-Yourselfers sometimes need someone to help them!

Most of us probably have made the confident assertion, "I want to do it myself," many times: when we were children learning to tie our shoes, teenagers learning to drive a car, or newlyweds establishing a home independent from our parents. Actually, though, it's surprising how little we really do by ourselves. Our daily lives depend heavily on the products and services others provide.

Every morning, I am awakened by an alarm on a cell phone assembled for Apple by factory workers in Zhengzhou, China. Eventually, I crawl out of my bed (built by a furniture factory in North Carolina), to turn on the light, and step into a warm shower (thanks to the people at the local utility companies). I prepare to face the day by using products (soap, razor, toothpaste) someone else manufactured for my convenience. I owe my morning breakfast many times to the folks at Quaker Oats, a baker at Country Hearth Bread Company, and a Florida orange grower.

Finally, I leave for work wearing comfortable clothes thanks to cotton farmers and garment workers (my shirt), cattle farmers and leather workers (my shoes and belt), and sometimes silkworms and children (the tie my kids gave me for Father's Day). On the way to pick up a hot breakfast sandwich (prepared by fast food workers) before going to the office, I pump my own gas at a self-service station – but only after someone else discovered, drilled, refined, hauled, and stored the petroleum for my convenience.

By 9:00 in the morning, I have already benefited from the efforts of people who live all around America and the world!

Maybe things would be different if I didn't live in a city. After all, people in more rural areas are known for their self-reliance and pioneer spirit. But I spent past summers working on my brother's farm, and I noticed that rural people also tend to be grateful people. Those who live close to the land understand both the importance and the limitations of hard work. Most of the farmers I know seem keenly aware that they grow their crops in partnership with God.

I treasure my childhood memories of Thanksgiving Day family gatherings, surrounded by the wonderful aromas of roast turkey and home-baked bread, listening to the excited voices of family members sharing the blessings of life. I find great comfort and encouragement in the memories of Godly parents and grandparents who instilled in me an appreciation for the simple things of life and the necessity of giving thanks to God in all things, good or not so good.

Somehow, we all need to find our own personal way to **"enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4)**. Though I enjoy the food and football, the parades and pumpkin pie, I am determined not to let my Thanksgiving be defined by the self-indulgent slogan "Eat till you pop, shop till you drop." This season's festivities remind us to look outside ourselves and to humbly exclaim, "Thanks, Lord. Thank you for your indescribable gifts!"

The Bible warns, **"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God.... You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth..." (Deuteronomy 8:10, 17-18)**.

America has prospered by emphasizing self-reliance. But we must never think we did it all ourselves. Our nation will cease to be great if we forget to be grateful. Take time out this Thanksgiving season to truly give thanks to God for his bountiful blessings.

With a Grateful Heart,

Pastor David





That You May Believe: A Journey Through John's Gospel

The Gospel of John is a bold and beautiful invitation to know Jesus—not just to know about Him, but to believe in Him and have life in His name. Unlike the other Gospel writers, John’s purpose is explicitly clear: *“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name”* (John 20:31).

In this series, **“That You May Believe,”** we will journey through key moments in John’s Gospel—signs, conversations, miracles, and declarations—that reveal who Jesus truly is. From the Word made flesh, to the Good Shepherd, to the Resurrection and the Life, John leads us again and again to the heart of faith: trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Whether you’ve walked with Jesus for years or are just beginning to ask questions about Him, this series is for you. As we open the pages of John’s Gospel, our prayer is that each of us would come face to face with the living Christ—and that we would believe. And in believing, that we would find life. True life. Eternal life.

Let’s open our hearts and minds to the One who came so that *we may believe*.



This year’s Annual Harvest Offering will be designated to go into our Church Building Fund to be used for building upkeep and repairs. The goal is to raise at least \$10,000. The date for receiving this year’s Harvest Offering is **Sunday, November 23rd**. We ask that you prayerfully consider your participation and then give generously as God leads.



5 Days of Thanksgiving Family Devotions

Thanksgiving is a wonderful opportunity to spend time as a family reflecting on God's many blessings. Below is a series of simple family devotions for you to use leading up to Thanksgiving, focusing on Bible verses that give thanks to God. Each day's devotional includes a short reading, Bible verse, discussion questions, and a prayer prompt.

DAY 1

Read:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

This Bible verse reminds us to give thanks to God because His love is with us forever! His love for us never ends, and our thankfulness to God should never end. In the United States, we have a day set aside to be thankful for our many blessings, and it is a very special day full of family and food, two of our wonderful blessings! As Christians, we know the true source of ALL our blessings—God!

Talk:

1. What is your favorite Thanksgiving Day blessing (it's okay if your answer is pumpkin pie!)?
2. Share 3 more of your very special blessings. What else are you thankful for?
3. How does it make you feel to know that God's love never ends?

Pray:

As we start this week of Thanksgiving, let's praise the Lord for everything He has made. Go around and have everyone say something the Lord has made that they are thankful for. We should never stop giving thanks to God for those things!

DAY 2

Read:

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:17)

This verse in James reminds us that every good thing is from God. The verse also tells us that God never changes—He is the same, and His gifts are the same, no matter what is going on. What an important reminder about God's nature and how perfectly He loves us!

When President Abraham Lincoln declared the first Thanksgiving holiday in the United States, he wanted all Americans to remember the source of their blessings and gifts. Even in the middle of a horrible war (the Civil War), Lincoln knew that the people had a lot to be thankful for. God was still present and working—and blessing His people—during the war. In his proclamation making Thanksgiving a holiday in 1863, he said that the year was full of "the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies," and that "They are gracious gifts of the Most High God."

Talk:

1. What good gifts can you thank God for today?
2. What do you think it means that God never changes?
3. Why do you think it's important to thank God, even in hard times?

Pray:

Can you think of some of the biggest blessings in your life this year? What is something good that has happened? Did you see God show His beauty and love in the middle of something hard? Let's share those things together and then praise God for His good gifts to us.

DAY 3

Read:

*"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!" Psalm 95:1-6*

What a beautiful verse from the Psalms! We have so many reasons to come to God with thanksgiving and praise. Psalm 95 lists some of them—let's see how many we can find: (God is our salvation; God is a great God; God is the King above all kings; The earth belongs to God; The mountains belong to God; God made the sea; God made the land).

As we prepare for Thanksgiving this week, let's make sure we remember the One to whom we owe thanks for every good thing! Isn't it amazing to know that we belong to God, but also that the whole world belongs to God? He loves the world and everything He created, and He calls us to love those things too.

DAY 3 (continued)

Talk:

1. What do you think it means to “make a joyful noise”?
2. What is your favorite part of God’s creation?
3. What is one way you can show your thanks to God by taking care of the things He made?

Pray:

Let’s take a moment to think about all the things we have to thank God for, and how He calls us to love the things He has created. Then let’s pray and ask Him to always help us be aware of His blessings and to be grateful for them.

DAY 4

Read:

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!
Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!” (Psalm 105:1-6)*

Psalm 105 gives us wonderful instructions for how to show thanks to the Lord—by telling other people about His works, singing praises to His name, seeking His presence every day, and remembering the many good things He has done! When we think about spreading the Good News of God and what He has done for us, it is important to reflect on the story of the Bible and the many promises God made to His people from the beginning of time—and the marvelous ways He kept those promises by sending Jesus.

Talk:

1. What are some ways we can give thanks to God this Thanksgiving by telling other people about Him?
2. What is your favorite song that sings praises to God?
3. What is one way you can “seek” God’s presence (which means to look for ways to spend time with Him)?

Pray:

Let’s ask God to help us see opportunities to tell other people about Him and His wonderful works.



DAY 5

Read:

“...addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:19-20)

Ephesians 5 provides a beautiful picture for how we should celebrate Thanksgiving! As we give thanks with our family and friends, let’s also remember to give thanks to God. This verse also says to sing songs to God in our hearts all of the time. What do you think that means? It means that even when we can’t actually sing, our hearts should always be praising God. God is in everything, all the time—and we can give thanks to Him always and for everything! Sometimes we can sing out loud, though, and Thanksgiving is the perfect time!

Talk:

1. What do you think it means to praise God in your heart (without singing out loud)?
2. If you had to choose just one or two words to shout out to God in thanksgiving, what would it be?
3. Can you think of one more thing to be thankful for as we get closer to Thanksgiving Day?

Pray:

Do you know what a “doxology” is? It is a short song of praise to God. Let’s sing the doxology together to close out this beautiful week of thanksgiving—

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Amen

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 23, 2025

4 p.m. at St. Paul’s

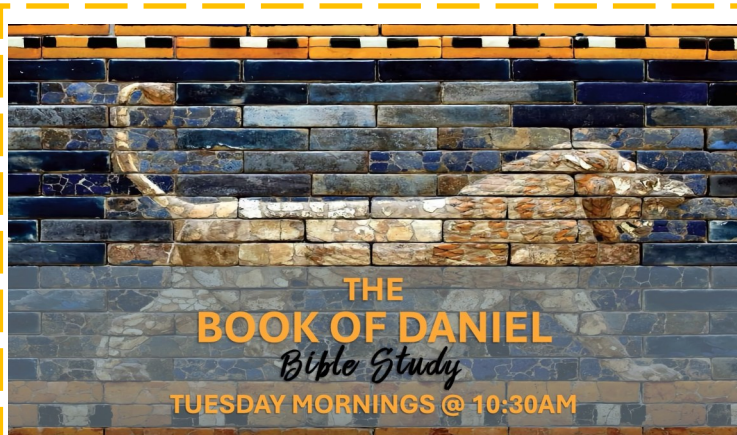
United Methodist Church

531 W. Main Street, Cherokee

Sponsored by the Cherokee County Ministerial Association

A Community Choir will be performing!





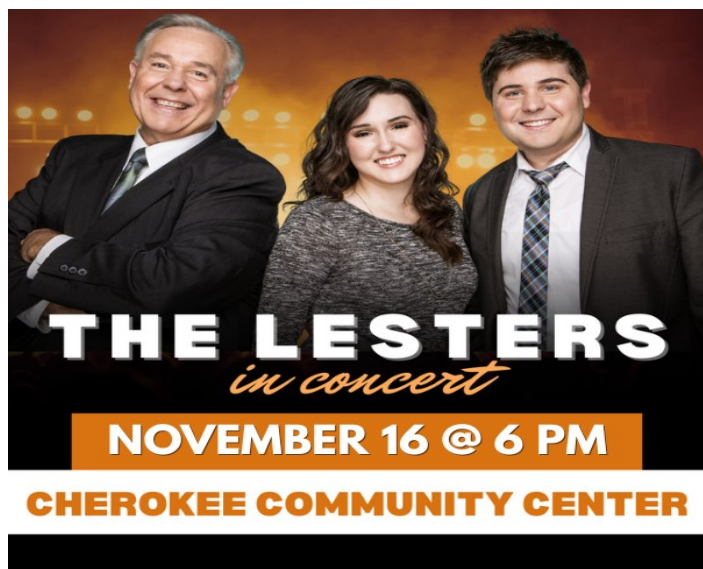
How do we faithfully follow the Lord while living in a place and culture opposed to the very things of God?

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.

Join us each Tuesday morning this fall!

We'll see you there!



There is no admission fee. They will take up a Free Will Offering, instead.

Come enjoy an evening of gospel music.



TREATS

This year, instead of signing up to bring treats for Bible Buddies each week, we are seeking monetary donations so we can purchase the treats that we need.

We have a donation container on the foyer table for your donations.

Thank you for your help in making our Bible Buddies program a success.

If you have questions, you can check with Dixie.



From the Church Secretary:

School is back in session. If you want something in the bulletin or in the on screen announcements, I need the information by close of business on Wednesday before the announcement is to run.

I'm still planning to be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays about 9 am and will be there until the day's work is done (1-4 hours typically). 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 (#301)

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

Please remember to update your information (current address or phone, birthday, anniversary date, etc.), any time there is a change. If you aren't sure if your information is right, please call Julie on Tuesday or Thursday morning or take a form from the table in the foyer, complete it and leave it in the office. Thank you!

Let's Celebrate

Birthdays

3rd—Ava Schroeder
5th—Tim Vannatta
7th—Gunner Cadwallader
14th—Kevin Schmillen
15th—McKenzie Booher
20th—Jozzlin Inman & Ulises Placido
23rd—Brooke Joy
29th—Polly Fishman



If you have an November 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

November 15

Larry Heschke hosting



Weekly / Monthly

Activities

- ☐ **Bible Study** - Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
- ☐ **Homemakers** - 2nd Thursday 9:30 a.m.
- ☐ **Scout Troop 107** - Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- ☐ **Bible Buddies** - Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Connections (Sewing Days)** - First Full Weekend (Friday @ 9 a.m. & Saturday all day)
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Meetings** - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

rightnow MEDIA

Happy Fall

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

Get Free Access

1. Contact the church office for an email invite

2. Or scan the QR code here:

iPhone & iPad chromecast Roku android firetv

Fall Back

Remember to Change Your Clocks
Back One Hour

Sunday, November 2

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

November 2025				
2	9	16	23	30
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
David Hall	Kirk Nelson	Kevin Schmillen	TBD	TBD
Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator
Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	Barry Nelson	Larry Heschke	Barry Nelson
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Guy Fishman	David Hall	Kirk Nelson	Mike Sparks	Guy Fishman
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
Sharon Henkel	David Hall	Sharon Henkel	David Hall	David Hall
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
N/A	Eleanor Johnston	N/A	N/A	N/A
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	David Hall	Nancy Nelson
David Hall		Larry Heschke		Larry Heschke
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Mike Sparks
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial
Paula Burch	Paula Burch	Paula Burch	Paula Burch	Paula Burch
Pam Cronin	Pam Cronin	Pam Cronin	Pam Cronin	Pam Cronin

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS



MONTHLY MEETING

November 9, 2025

Following the Morning Worship Service

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

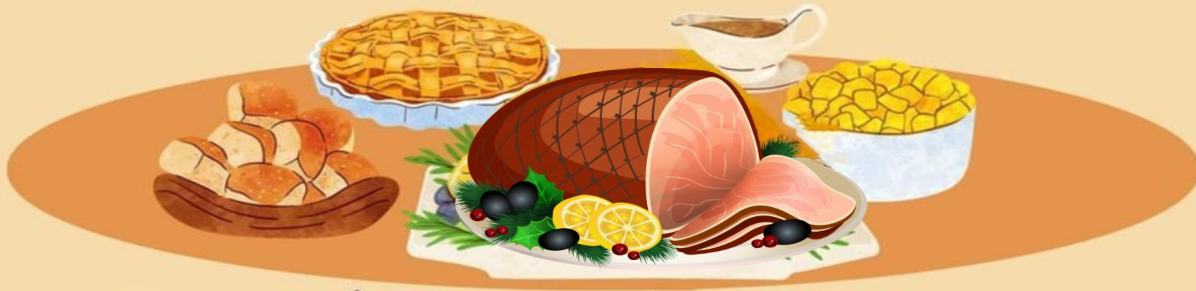
NOVEMBER 13, 2025 @ 9:30 AM AT THE CHURCH

DIXIE IS HOSTING, HAS THE DEVOTIONS AND THE HEIRLOOM TO SHARE

Date	Offering	Attendance
10/5/2025	\$2,0078.00	On Campus: 66 Online: 21 Total: 87
10/12/2025	\$1,579.00	On Campus: 48 Online: 13 Total: 61
10/19/2025	\$2,018.00	On Campus: 56 Online: 9 Total: 65
10/26/2025	\$970.10	On Campus: 47 Online: 10 Total: 57

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST ALL-CHURCH THANKSGIVING CARRY-IN DINNER

Special Guests:
Bible Buddies and their families



November
16
11:30 AM

Provided by the Church:
Ham, Drinks, Paper Goods

Provided by Attendees (You):
2 or more Thanksgiving side dishes to share

Join us in the church Fellowship Hall at the conclusion of the morning worship service on **Sunday, November 16th**, for our All-Church Thanksgiving Carry-In Dinner. This promises to be a fun time of food and fellowship for everyone. We are inviting all our Bible Buddies and their families to join us as special guests for the meal and ask that they bring only themselves. As for the rest of our church family, you are asked to bring two or more of your favorite Thanksgiving side dishes (each to serve 10 people) to share. If you have questions, ask David or call Dixie at 712-229-1864. Send her a text if she doesn't answer.

Please plan to attend!



Accura of Cherokee (Countryside Estates) Christmas Party

It is that time of year again to start thinking about Christmas and preparing to make the residents of Accura smile during our annual Christmas Party! The date will be **Sunday, December 7th at 2:30 pm**. They have 37 residents. They suggest personal gifts such as shampoo, body lotion, hand lotion, blankets, 2026 calendar, etc. (something they can use) in the \$15 range.

We will sing Christmas Carols with them for entertainment. We can bring in baked cookies and bars. There will be no sign-up sheet for baked goods. Please bring them with you when you come. **All church members are invited to attend the Party!**


Instructions:

1. Please take a tag from the tree, write your name on the sheet of paper (located on the small table by the tree) that you have taken a tag from the tree. This way we will know a gift is being bought for that tag. The tag will either have Lady or Man written on it.
2. When you bring the wrapped gift back to the church, please mark the paper again, before placing the gift under the tree.
3. If you rather contribute money for a gift instead of shopping, give your donation to me or leave at the church with Julie and I will do the shopping for you. If you choose to donate money for this project, please have it to me or at the church no later than **Wednesday, December 3rd at noon**.

The residents enjoy this program very much and it is a wonderful way to express Jesus is the reason for the season! Merry Christmas!

Thank you so much, Pam Cronin






THE LORD DOES NOT LOOK AT THE THINGS
PEOPLE LOOK AT. PEOPLE LOOK AT THE
OUTSIDE OF A PERSON. BUT THE LORD
LOOKS AT WHAT IS IN THE HEART.
1 SAMUEL 16:7B

BIBLE BUDDIES

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
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!



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

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.

Handbags With Hope is meant to bless women struggling from abuse and addiction.

Items Needed:

- toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- mouth wash
- deodorant
- pads
- tampons
- lotion
- soap
- shampoo
- conditioner

