



SEPTEMBER 2022

# CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

## The God Who Stays



We were visiting my sister and were ready to head out the door. I had forgotten something, so I turned to get it, assuring my family I'd be right down. I grabbed the item and raced down the stairs from Erna's apartment to the parking lot only to discover my family was not there! "They left without me," was my panicked childhood thought. I soon realized I exited the wrong door and entered the wrong parking area. My family was indeed waiting for me. Even though it felt like it, they had not abandoned me.

David started **Psalm 22** in that same emotional place – feeling abandoned. He asked the question we've all raised at one time or another, **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (v. 1)?** We'd be surprised to know how many saints have prayed this prayer over the centuries! *"In our own way you and I will pray this Prayer of the Forsaken if we seek the intimacy of perpetual communion with the Father"* (Richard Foster, *emphasis his*). Foster argues this experience is *"universal among those who have walked the path of faith."* Are you encouraged yet?

We glimpse the tennis match held in David's heart. The serve – God has forsaken me and is silent (**vv. 1-2**). He returned the serve by declaring God is still the holy One, who alone is worthy of our praise and our trust as has been demonstrated through the generations (**vv. 3-5**). But the volley continued.

David doubted his worth, not only abandoned by God but despised by the people. He was

scorned, ridiculed and his faith mocked (**vv. 6-8**). But that was not the last shot. God who was present at his birth was present still. This learned trust sustained him and would once again. God is not *"watching from a distance."* He is near and the source of our ongoing help (**vv. 9-11**).

In recounting his circumstances (**vv. 12-18**) David seemingly transcended his own life, describing what Jesus would experience on the cross. From abandonment to dehydration to the piercing of his hands and feet to the dividing up of his garments, it is all there. Perhaps that is why Jesus quoted **Psalm 22** from the cross. There can be no doubt Jesus fully experienced our humanity (**cf. Heb. 2:17; 4:15**), including feeling abandoned.

We are not *"talking about a true absence but rather a sense of [God's] absence. God is always present with us"* (Foster, *emphasis his*). David had to acknowledge his feeling of abandonment before praise could truly flow. He had to confront his questions to emerge more secure in his faith. Then He could write, **"He has not hidden his face from [me] but has listened to [my] cry for help" (v. 24).** There is such joy and freedom in being brutally honest with God, knowing even the most difficult feelings can melt in the presence of *"the God who stays."*

The abandonment I felt as a child melted when I saw my waiting family. I just hugged them and smiled. I still smile knowing I have a God who loves me, who will never leave or forsake me (**cf. Heb 13:5**), even when I ask the toughest questions of him or end up in the wrong parking lot. Are you encouraged yet?

Blessings,

*Pastor David*

## Should We Believe in Biblical Prophecies?



### Read

#### Luke 24:44 (NIV)

*He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."*

### Reflect

*How many prophecies can you think of that Jesus fulfilled?*

Have you ever heard someone claim that they can predict the future? It seems like usually one of two things happens when we run into people like that. First, someone might give such a vague "prophecy" that it could be interpreted in many different ways and is likely to happen anyway. For example, someone might say, "I see happiness in your future" or "something good is going to happen to you soon." It's easy for this "prophecy" to come true because "something," "good," and "soon" are not specific and could easily "come true" coincidentally. Or, of course, most prophecies turn out to be just plain wrong.

Thankfully, the Bible's track record with prophecies is infinitely better than the false prophecies the world offers. The Bible's prophecies are specific enough that they are not likely to be a coincidence. Even better, most of them have already come to pass!

As we read through the Gospels, we see prophecy after prophecy fulfilled in Jesus. In [Genesis 12:3](#), we read the prophecy that the Savior would come from the line of

Abraham. In [2 Samuel 7:12-13](#), we learn that the Messiah would be an heir to King David's throne and that He would reign forever. The prophet Micah named Bethlehem as the Messiah's birthplace about 700 years before Jesus was born ([Micah 5:2](#)). Both Matthew and Luke confirm that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Further, the genealogies listed in these Gospels confirms that Jesus' lineage can be traced back to King David and Abraham.

There were also many prophecies regarding His death. [Zechariah 11:12-13](#) specifically mentions the Messiah being worth 30 pieces of silver which is the exact amount Judas betrayed Jesus for in [Matthew 27:3](#). [Psalm 22:16-18](#) predicts that His hands and feet would be pierced and that they would cast lots for His clothes which are all confirmed in the crucifixion accounts. In [Isaiah 53:9](#), we read of how Jesus was meant to be buried with the criminals He died alongside but instead He was with a "rich man" in His death. This points to the Gospel accounts that Joseph of Arimathea donated his tomb and gave Jesus an honorable burial.

We could go on all day explaining prophecies that are ultimately fulfilled in Christ. But some prophecies are still unfulfilled. For example, prophecies declaring our hope that Jesus will return and establish His eternal kingdom. "Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you...' And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away ([Isaiah 35:4,10](#)).

Friends, we can believe the prophecies in the Bible. Scripture's impeccable record of fulfilled prophecy should fill us with hope and expectation! Because most prophecies have already been fulfilled, we can take God at His Word that He is not finished fulfilling His Word yet. Jesus said all things concerning Himself must be fulfilled! We know He is coming back, just as He said: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" ([John 14:3](#)).

### Pray

*Jesus, I am waiting expectantly for all the prophecies concerning You to be fulfilled. I am hopeful and confident in the future because I know that You are coming back and establishing Your Kingdom. And a place for me! Amen.*



# Invitation

*The Ladies Sunday School Class is Hosting a*

**Meet & Greet Couples Wedding Shower**  
*for*

**Brian Nelson & his bride elect, Lizzy Stutzman**

**September 18, 2022**

*following worship services in the lobby*

Enjoy refreshments and greet the couple with your well wishes.

We are asking that the couple be given monetary gifts to put toward either their house fund or their honeymoon fund. However, if you prefer to bring a wrapped gift see Nancy in the church office for a list of gift ideas.



*The happy couple are scheduled to be married*  
**October 1, 2022**

# SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

**September 1**  
Royden & Della Rupp

**September 6**  
Jerry Clark

**September 7**  
Dwight & Bonnie Varce

**September 10**  
David & Anita Cougill

**September 12**  
Bonnie Varce  
Cliff & Michelle Nelson

**September 18**  
Lorraine Duvall

**September 20**  
Michelle Nelson

**September 21**  
Shawn & Brooke Joy

**September 22**

Richard M. (MCS Student)

**September 23**  
Curt Wiese

**September 25**  
Mary Hasbrouck

**September 28**  
Patrick F. (MCS Student)



## Food ~ Fellowship ~ Devotions

Join us for the first of our monthly

**Men's Breakfast**

gatherings on

**Saturday, October 1, at 8:00am**

in the church Fellowship Hall.

The plan going forward will be to meet the first Saturday morning of each month. This is an awesome time to get to know other men, be encouraged and challenged through God's word, and enjoy a meal together! Invite a friend and plan to join us! A sign-up sheet is located in the church foyer.



**The Office Will Be Closed**  
**Monday, September 5, 2022**



LATE SUMMER 2022  
SERMON SERIES

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHEROKEE, IA

# WHEN JESUS COMES TO CHURCH

## REVELATION 1 - 5

8/21 - JESUS: THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

8/28 - JESUS: THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

9/4 - JESUS: THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH

9/11 - JESUS: THE HONOR OF THE CHURCH

9/18 - JESUS: THE HEALTH OF THE CHURCH

9/25 - JESUS: THE HERO OF THE CHURCH

John's Revelation can confuse us, intimidate us, or even scare us away. But we don't need to be overwhelmed—Jesus is in control. *He* is the Author of Revelation and in the first five chapters he gives us an anchor that can hold us throughout the rest of the Book. We see Jesus walking among His Church and surveying all that He sees. He gives us a clear picture of what He expects of us, His people, and reassurance that He is with us through it all.

**"Head of the Church"** - The Book of Revelation can confuse us, intimidate us, or even scare us away. But we don't need to be overwhelmed—Jesus is in control. He is the Author of Revelation and *The Head of the Church*.

**"Heart of the Church"** - Our pride often tells us that *we* deserve credit for the growth of our church. But no matter how hard we work, we cannot survive without Jesus at the center. *He* should always be at the Heart of the Church.

**"Hope of the Church"** - Even when the world seems relentlessly harsh, Jesus calls us to persevere. In the face of persecution—Jesus is the Hope of the Church.

**"Honor of the Church"** - Hypocrisy can damage the name of Jesus in our communities. We should strive to protect His reputation with our lifestyles as He protects the Honor of the Church.

**"Health of the Church"** - Church is not perfect. Thankfully, Jesus is. He guides us as we try to humbly grow the Health of the Church.

**"Hero of the Church"** - We live in a fallen world—a world that can often make us feel defeated—but we have a champion in Christ. Jesus is the Hero of the Church.

## Many Ways to Give at First Church of Christ



**In Person**

*We love to see you!*



**Mail**

*First Church of Christ  
772 N. 2nd Street*



**Our Ap**

*Text FCCGIVER to  
1-888-364-GIVE (4483)*



**Online**

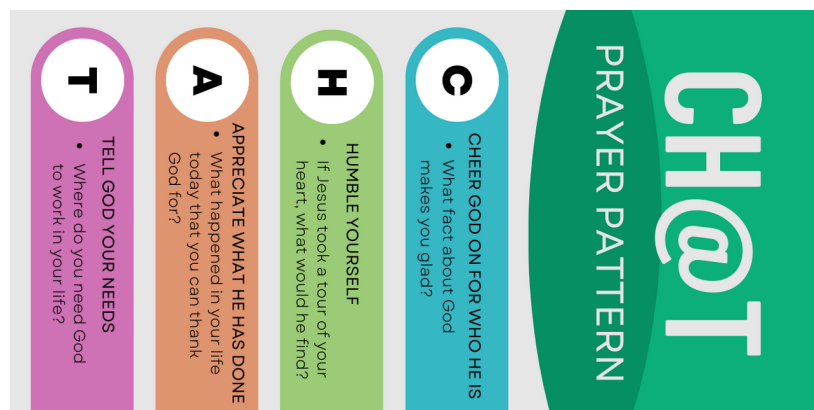
*[www.cherokeefcc.com](http://www.cherokeefcc.com)*



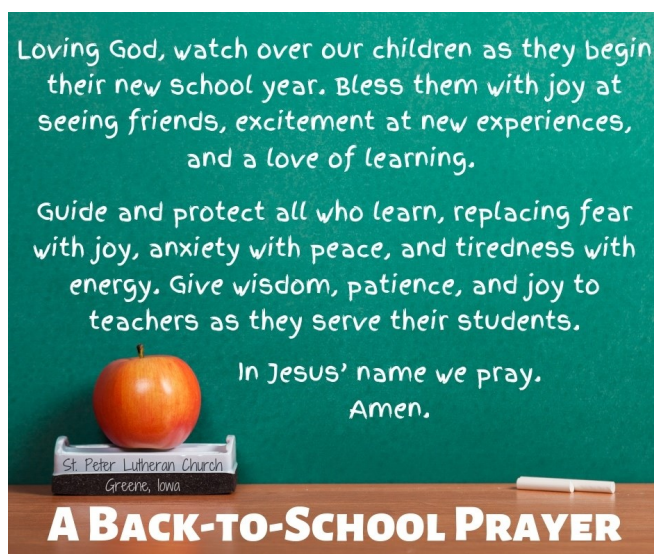
The Gospel of Mark chronicles Jesus's journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. Along the way, the Messiah gathers a ragged band of disciples. As crowds grow and dwindle on the road to Jerusalem, only a few stick by the Suffering Savior on the road of discipleship.

In this 11-part series on the Gospel of Mark, author and speaker Francis Chan invites us to walk with him along the ancient ways of the Master. Tracing the steps of Jesus and the Twelve through Israel, Francis explores the major themes of the Gospel of Mark, and asks: Are we willing to take this journey to embrace discipleship?

Join us this fall for this exciting weekly Bible study! A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the church foyer. Questions? Contact Pastor David.



- ## MINISTRY UPDATES
- Bible Buddies Family Meal Registration**  
September 7 @ 6:30p.m.  
Fellowship Hall
- Christian Homemakers Meeting**  
September 8 @ 9:30 a.m.  
Penny Lundell, Hostess  
Pam Cronin, Devotions
- Esther Circle**  
September 21 @ 1:30 p.m.  
Nancy Nelson, Devotions & Missions  
Karen Weinreich, Hostess
- Bible Buddies**  
September 14 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall
- Bible Buddies**  
September 21 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall
- Bible Buddies**  
September 28 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall



## ATTENDANCE

July 24		July 31		August 7		August 14	
On Campus	79	On Campus	81	On Campus	66	On Campus	75
Online	15	Online	20	Online	32	Online	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>

## OFFERING

July 24		July 31		August 7		August 14	
On Campus	1985.00	On Campus	1800.00	On Campus	1679.00	On Campus	2321.00
Online	50.00	Online	110.00	Online	50.00	Online	275.00
Designated	-0-	Designated	-0-	Designated	-0-	Designated	-0-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2035.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1910.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1729.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2596.00</b>



# SOUL SECURE

## *Winning Over Worry Bible Reading Challenge*

1. Psalm 127:1-5
2. Isaiah 35:1-10
3. Jeremiah 17:5-10
4. Matthew 6:22-34
5. Luke 12:22-31
6. Philippians 4:1-7
7. 1 Peter 5:1-7
8. Hebrews 13:1-7
9. Psalm 121:1-8
10. 1 Corinthians 10:9-13
11. Colossians 3:12-17
12. Psalm 55:9-19
13. Romans 8:28-39
14. Psalm 17:1-8
15. 2 Timothy 1:1-7
16. Psalm 16:1-8
17. Psalm 91:1-10
18. Psalm 91:11-16
19. Psalm 112:1-10
20. Psalm 56:1-13
21. Galatians 1:1-10
22. Hebrews 6:10-20
23. Romans 8:1-6
24. Psalm 73:21-18
25. Psalm 18:1-13
26. Psalm 18:14-29
27. Psalm 18:30-39
28. Psalm 18:40-50
29. Psalm 25:1-10
30. Psalm 25:11-22
31. Psalm 19:1-14

*This Bible Reading Plan was put together by Rachel Wojo at [www.rachelwojo.com](http://www.rachelwojo.com)*

## WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

4-Sep	11-Sep	18-Sep	25-Sep
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
David Hall	Kirk Nelson	Guy Fishman	Mike Sparks
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
Wren Smith	Wren Smith	TBD	Wren Smith
Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard
Wren Smith	Wren Smith	Eleanor Johnston	Wren Smith
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
-	-	Wren Smith	-
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Sharon Henkel	Nancy Nelson	Sharon Henkel	Nancy Nelson
Angela Hall	Sharon Henkel	Angela Hall	David Hall
Dennis Smith	David Hall	Larry Heschke	Dennis Smith
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke
Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors
Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke
Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke



# Living the Christian Life

Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as the **ELECT** of God, **HOLY** and **BELOVED**, put on tender **MERCIES, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, MEEKNESS, LONGSUFFERING; BEARING** with one another, and **FORGIVING** one another, if **ANYONE** has a **COMPLAINT** against another; even as Christ **FORGAVE** you, so you also must do. But above all these things **PUT ON LOVE**, which is the **BOND** of **PERFECTION**. And let the **PEACE** of God **RULE** in your hearts, to which also you were **CALLED** in **ONE BODY**; and be **THANKFUL**. Let the word of Christ **DWELL** in you **RICHLY** in all wisdom, **TEACHING** and **ADMONISHING** one another in **PSALMS** and **HYMNS** and **SPIRITUAL SONGS**, singing with **GRACE** in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in **WORD** or **DEED**, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

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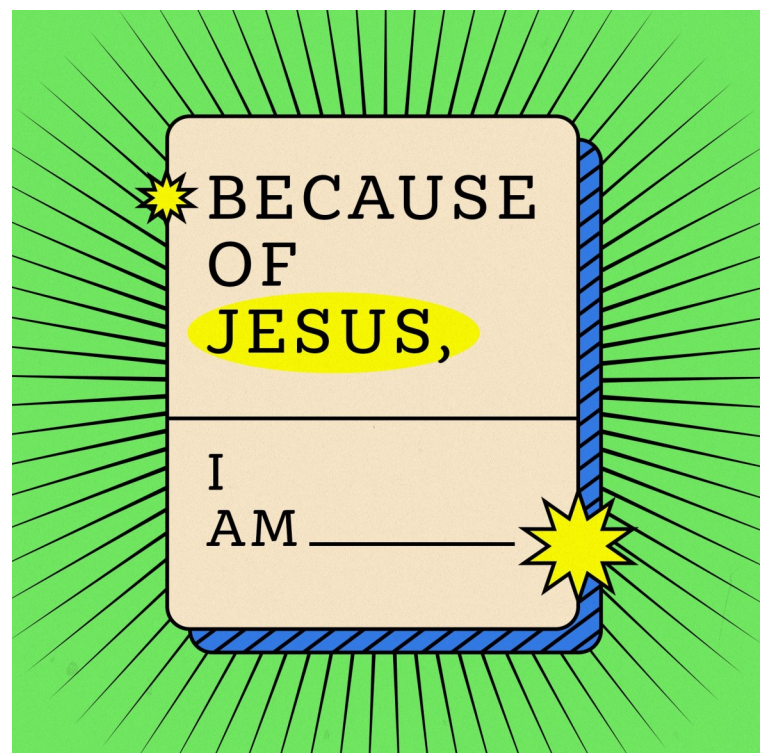
## OUR MISSION

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We are a body of **Believers** who simply want to **Love** one another and **Grow** in their relationship with God. We believe this is best accomplished when we:

- Share our Story of Faith with others
- Serve with a heart of generosity, compassion and hospitality
- Gather to encourage, study and worship
- Devote ourselves to a life filled with prayer
- Love others just as Christ Jesus has loved us

The church is established by God and powered by the Holy Spirit so that each believer may let their light shine through service for God's glory as we reach the lost through love, encouragement and prayer.





F G L E R K X I Y D F Y M M K P S S B K C J S B B E M Q  
F D L C L J W T D T V Y W I K F P G J T Q S R H F G J F  
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N S W H U L C D C Q T D C H I A R O M G D G A M W L P H  
D F D M I L X T X V N M S N M U I R E R M L B N B S E R  
L H P M P V R H S E I N Y O M G T G R L O Q J S T C R W  
R F U O R L I J S V A B D H P V U A C X N E N H M D F D  
M H J T Z F J S G Y L Q O B E K A V I W I L J S E J E Q  
C S S S E N K E E M P V B V F H L E E X S O Z M C Q C P  
H S D V F F Q R Q N M W E Y J F S D S J H N X L M V T V  
R M S U Y O G J I S O G N J H B O E F C I G U A Q R I R  
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E V O L N O T U P V I D Z H M P G H N H R E G T S L L H  
T P G J M G Y P P A E N O Q I A Y X B Y J R Q S F Y A C  
H N M K W K F W C E G L G C W I M J E S O I Q P C L E C  
A T M T L T B L D H Y N J B D B V N L S J N T D U L B A  
N E E M D S V Q G H D N I J O X F Q O T Q G E Q V Y X M  
K H B Z R U L E W O R D U R Z N V X V N F P K E P J G I  
F A F T A A Y M O N M S Y K A D D P E C C Q V L C X C Q  
U H T X X V V P G M Q P Q E Z E L J D O L G F G Y K B A  
L H B X L T E A C H I N G U G C B C D R G B N S Q W M M

# BIBLE BUDDIES BEGINS SOON!

**Registration Night / Family Meal**

**Wednesday - September 7, 2022**

**Fellowship Hall @ 6:30 p.m.**

***Ages 4 years old through 5th grade***



**NEW SERVICE TIMES**

**9:30am - Worship**  
**10:40am - Sunday School**

**BEGINNING**

***Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>***

QUARTZ



# MAN CAMP

@Nebowa

## 2022

Thursday-Saturday  
**SEPTEMBER 15-17**

Men of all ages will gather for  
**Food, Fellowship, Fire, and other  
junk men love!**

Email: [parsonjefferson@gmail.com](mailto:parsonjefferson@gmail.com)

## PLANTED

Psalm 1:1-3

## Professional Organist Concert

Friday - September 23



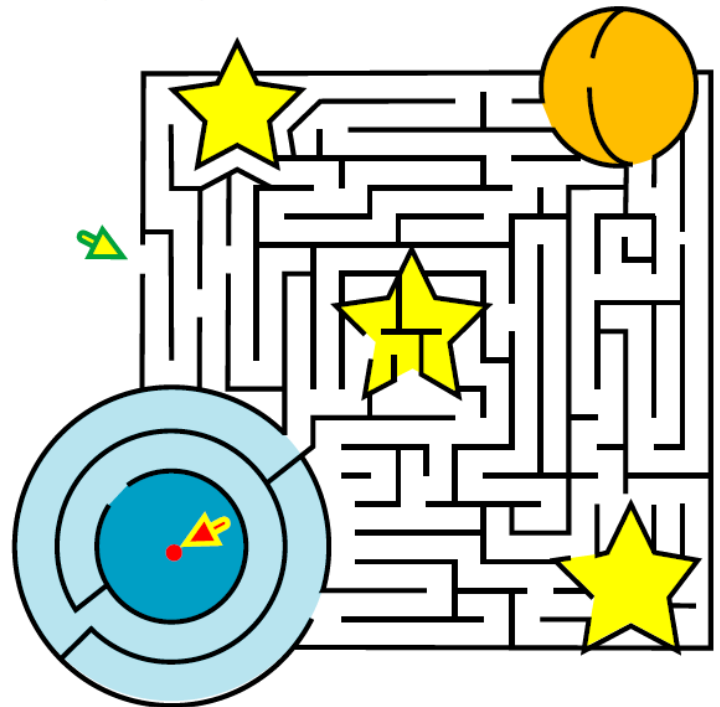
Mark your calendar! Arjan Breukhoven, an award-winning concert organist from the Netherlands, will be in concert at Immaculate Conception Church in Cherokee, Iowa on the evening of Friday, September 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Each year, Breukhoven plays in approximately 400 concerts and services internationally as a concert organist, and has given masterclasses and lectures in the USA and Russia, as well as the Netherlands. In addition to his teaching and lectures, he has worked on numerous recordings for radio and television, and has played in approximately 200 CD's and DVD's. He is also known as a composer, being renowned for his many compositions for choir, organ and other instruments.

There will be a free-will offering at the end of the concert.

## God Made the World Maze

Find your way through the heavens.



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## BIBLE CLASSES

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**10:00 a.m.**

**Christian Standard Curriculum**

Chapel

**Ladies Class**

Room 7 - Downstairs

**Men's Class**

Room 8 - Downstairs

**Children's Class**

Downstairs

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## MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

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Nebowa Christian Camp

Midwest Christian Services

Deaf Missions

International Disaster Emergency Services

Rapha International

Voice of the Martyrs

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## CHURCH INFO

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**Worship**

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Leadership**

Pastor David Hall (641) 638-4762

Mike Sparks, Elder (712) 261-4730

Kirk Nelson, Elder (712) 540-9591

Larry Heschke, Elder (712) 221-7592

Mark Patten, Deacon

Barry Nelson, Deacon

Tom Mortenson, Deacon

**Website**

[www.cherokeefcc.com](http://www.cherokeefcc.com)

FB: @firstchurchcherokee

**Phone:** (712) 225-2667

**Email:** [office@cherokeefcc.com](mailto:office@cherokeefcc.com)



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