



Wouldn't it be great if you and I as individuals and our nation as a whole could once again think of Thanksgiving as a holy day instead of just another holiday? The Pilgrims believed that Almighty God who created them was over all, and that men, women, and children were dependent upon Him. Things have changed over the years. The dominant attitude today is that we are master of life. We feel we are in charge of the world and don't need this God so much anymore. We can handle everything ourselves. It is more difficult for a modern person to be grateful, and that, I believe, is why Thanksgiving has changed from be a holy day to being a holiday.

Perhaps we should rethink the term "Thanksgiving Day." Robert Caspar Lintner said, "Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day." But that is what we have done with Thanksgiving. Perhaps we should set aside one day a year for grumbling – call it "Grumble Day" – and then live the other 364 days in a truly thankful manner! Burton Hillis has observed, "I don't think the Lord wants any pompous proclamation of thanks on one Thursday in November as much as He wants a little humble service from us every day in the year."

Over and over again the Bible admonishes us to be thankful to God. "Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation" (Ps. 100:4-5). "And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful" (Col. 3:15). Christina Georgina Rosetti wrote, "Were there no God, we would be in this glorious world with grateful hearts, and no one to thank." The fact that a man is thankful implies that there must be Someone to be thankful to. To whom does an atheist or a skeptic give thanks? Peace is seeing a sunset and knowing Who to thank!

We should all express our thanks to God for the things we take for granted. Be thankful for your mind with which to think, reason and discern. Be thankful for your eyes with

which you can see, observe, read and enjoy. Be thankful for your ears with which you can hear and listen to such wonderful things as a baby's gurgle, a child's laugh, the sound of the wind in the trees, the rush of a waterfall, the song of a bird. Be thankful for your nose with which you can enjoy the wonderful aroma of pumpkin pie, hot coffee, apple blossoms in the spring, burning leaves in the fall. Be thankful for your mouth with which you can kiss those whom you love. Be thankful for your tongue with which you can speak to others and share your joys and sorrows. Be thankful for your hands with which you can touch, feel, squeeze, hold, heal, and write needed cards and letters of encouragement. Be thankful for your feet with which you can skip, run, walk, and go into the house of the Lord, as well as into the homes of those who need your love and care. Most of all, be thankful for your heart and spirit with which you can love God with all your being and love your neighbor as yourself.

There are so many forgotten people on Thanksgiving Day. People who will be alone, sit alone, eat alone, and go to bed alone. Forgotten on a day that should inspire gratitude and thanksgiving in all of us.

In a message on Thanksgiving, Arthur Calandro wrote: "A group of men were talking one day about people who had influenced their lives and to whom they were grateful. One of the men said that he was grateful for a schoolteacher, Mrs. Wendt, who thirty years before had introduced him to Tennyson. Another man asked him if he had ever told her. He replied that he had not. A third man then suggested that he do so, and he did. The letter was forwarded until it reached Mrs. Wendt. Some time later he received this letter written in feeble scrawl:

My dear Willie,

I can't tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my eighties, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely and like the last leaf lingering behind. You will be interested to know that I taught school for fifty years and yours is the first note of appreciation I ever

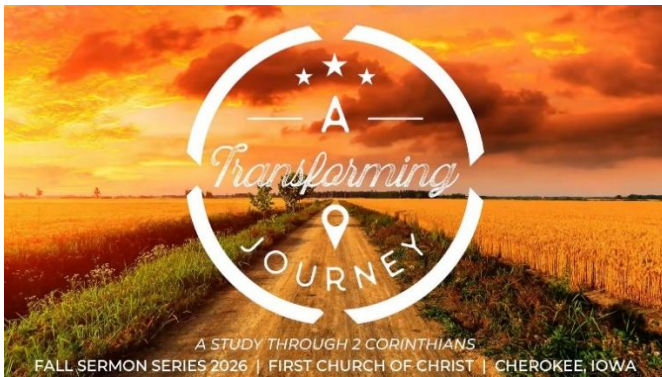
received. It came on a blue, cold morning, and it cheered me as nothing has for years.

Folks, you can make the most of this Thanksgiving by first thanking God for the things you have. Then take time to remember those who have helped you in life. Take out a piece of paper. Jot down their names. Then write or call them and tell them how much you appreciate them for what they have done in life. It will make your day but, more important, it will make their day. I have done this on a number of occasions, and it always brings me satisfaction and joy. It will make everyone's life richer, sweeter and fuller. Do it today.

Eliot Porter has said, "Before theology comes doxology." I think he is right. Thanksgiving is thanksgiving. Thanksgiving will make more sense when we develop a true sense of thanksgiving in our lives – to both God and man.

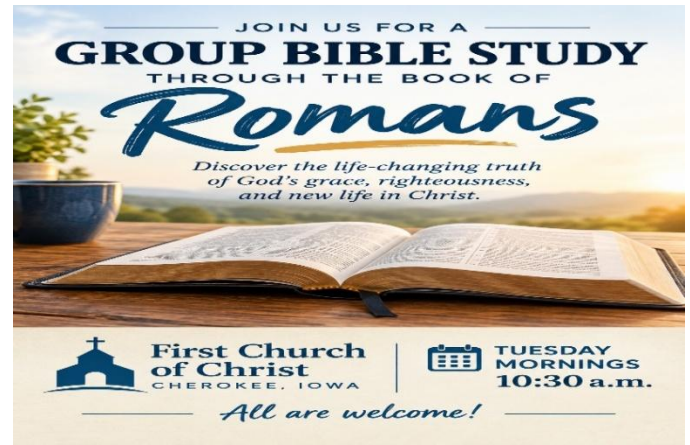
Thankful for YOU,

Pastor David



2 Corinthians: A Transforming Journey

Life is full of weakness, suffering, and unexpected turns—but what if those very places became the setting for God's greatest work in us? Join us each Sunday morning for *A Transforming Journey*, a new fall sermon series walking verse by verse through Paul's deeply personal letter to the Corinthian church. Written from a place of hardship and heartache, 2 Corinthians pulls back the curtain on genuine ministry, authentic community, and the surprising power of God made perfect in our weakness. Together we'll explore themes of comfort in affliction, reconciliation, generosity, and the renewal that comes when we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is eternal. Whether you're walking through a season of struggle or simply longing for a deeper, more honest faith, come discover how God transforms ordinary, broken vessels into carriers of His extraordinary grace. This is more than a study—it's an invitation to let God do a new work in you.



The Gospel That Transforms

A New Small Group Bible Study Through the Book of Romans

Few books have shaped the Christian faith like Paul's letter to the Romans. It changed the lives of Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Wesley, and it still speaks with power today. In its pages we find the heart of the gospel: we have all fallen short, God's grace meets us where we are, and in Christ we are made new.

Join us for **The Gospel That Transforms**, a new small group study that will walk through Romans chapter by chapter. Together we'll explore what it means to be made right with God, to live by the Spirit, to rest in the promise that nothing can separate us from His love, and to let the gospel reshape how we live with one another.

Whether you've studied Romans many times or are opening it for the first time, you'll find a welcoming place to ask questions, share insights, and grow in faith alongside others. No preparation or prior knowledge is needed, just bring a Bible and an open heart.



Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.



First Church of Christ, Cherokee, Iowa



In the Chapel

Bring a friend, grab a cup of coffee, and come discover the life-changing power of the gospel.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." — Romans 1:16

Encountering God Through Thanksgiving (Devotional)

SCRIPTURE

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! —Psalm 100:4 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

Expressing gratitude and thanks to God has a miraculous way of opening and changing our hearts. Today we'll explore the discipline of thanksgiving, and encounter God in response. May you take away from our time today, timeless principles that quickly get your heart in the right place despite your season or circumstances.



DEVOTIONAL

Thanksgiving is a gift given to us by the good and loving nature of our heavenly Father. In and out of every season of life, we have a reason to give thanks because we serve a wholly faithful, good, and loving God. We serve the only King who would lay down his life for his unworthy, rebellious servants. We serve a God perfectly worthy of all the thanksgiving and praise we could possibly give.

In using the incredible gift of thanksgiving, we remind ourselves of how truly good our Father is. In thanksgiving, we experience the joy of a proper perspective and have our hearts stirred by the renewing of our minds. [Psalm 100:4](#) says, *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!”* When we come before God with thanksgiving, we seek the face of our Father while grounding ourselves firmly in the truth of his perfect nature. When we begin our days, prayers, worship, reading, and fellowship with a heart of thanksgiving, we live out of a place of faith and reality found in the kingdom of God come to earth.

Our God is bigger and better than our circumstances, fears, wounds, misconceptions, and past failures. There is security and joy in declaring the goodness, kindness, loving, and eternal nature of our Father. We dictate the emotions we feel by what we choose to dwell on and believe. Our minds are the battleground for our emotions, actions, and desire to dwell in communion with our good God.

[Ephesians 5:20](#) says we are to be *“giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* And [Psalm 92:1-5](#) says:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!

Our hearts become glad when we offer continual thanksgiving. Five minutes of thanksgiving and praise has the power to change the direction of each day. It has the power to stir our hearts and make us open to and aware of God's will for us in every situation. It fills us with an atmosphere of joy and of the Spirit. And it can greatly assist us in choosing the life of communion with the Father over the pursuits of the world as temptations and situations arise. May you be empowered and filled with transcendent joy as you engage in continual thanksgiving.

Take time in guided prayer to practice thanksgiving and enjoy the fruits of a renewed mind and a heart filled with joy and truth.

PRAYER

1. Meditate on the importance of thanksgiving. Allow Scripture to stir up your desire to offer thanksgiving in every season.

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” [Colossians 4:2](#)

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." [Psalm 103:2](#)

"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!" [Psalm 95:1-2](#)

2. Take time to give thanks to God. Think about how he sent Jesus to die for you. Think about how faithful he is and always will be. Think about how good heaven will be. Give thanks for any gift he's given you.

"I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. This will please the Lord more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs." [Psalm 69:30-31](#)

"We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds." [Psalm 75:1](#)

3. How do you feel after taking time to engage in thanksgiving? Have your concerns, desires, and perspectives shifted? Journal about the effects of thanksgiving on your heart and mind.

WORSHIP

Listen to and meditate upon the song "[Thank You](#)" by Maverick City Music.

GO

We are continually commanded by Scripture to remember the deeds of our God. When the world comes crashing down around us, it's hard sometimes to remember how faithful God has been and will be. It's easy to get so wrapped up in the fleeting cares and problems of this life and forget how perfect and never-ending the next life will be. [Psalm 103:2](#) says, *"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."* May you be quick to remember the benefits of restored relationship with your heavenly Father today as you take time to bless and thank the Lord for all the wonderful things he's given you.

Extended Reading: [Deuteronomy 8](#) or watch [The Bible Project's video on Deuteronomy](#).



Annual Harvest Offering – Sunday, November 22

As we gather to give thanks for God's many blessings this season, we invite you to take part in our Annual Harvest Offering, to be received on Sunday, November 22.

This year, gifts to the Harvest Offering will go toward upgrading our aging church office computers. These machines keep our ministry running every week. They produce this bulletin and the monthly newsletter, manage communications with our members, keep our records, edit and produce our weekly online worship service, and support the outreach and care we offer our community. New

equipment will help our staff serve the congregation faithfully and efficiently for years to come.

Our goal is \$6,000.

Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute. Special Harvest Offering envelopes will be available on the literature table in the foyer, or you may mark your check "Harvest Offering." If you will be away on November 22, gifts may be given any time before that date.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV)

Thank you for your generosity and for helping equip our church for the work God has given us!



Thank you

Please accept my heartfelt thank you for all of the ways so many of you expressed your love, support, and encouragement to me throughout Pastor Appreciation month, as well as for my birthday. I enjoy being your pastor and serving the Lord alongside you in this place. Angela and I are truly blessed.

Love,

Pastor David

"I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you."

~Romans 1:8



Community Thanksgiving Service

**Sunday, November 22, 2026
5 p.m.**

**Cherokee Washington
High School auditorium
600 W. Bluff St., Cherokee**

If you'd like to sing in a community
choir for this service, please meet at
the school at 4 p.m. for rehearsal.

**Sponsored by the Cherokee
County Ministerial Association.**



As we gather together to give thanks this year, we invite you to share in the holiday cheer.

Please join us for a friends and family

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, November 26, 2026 at 12:00noon

Meriden Evangelical Free Church

412 E. 3rd Street, Meriden, Iowa 51037

** transportation can be provided if necessary **

Please RSVP as soon as possible to:

Meriden Evangelical Free Church (712) 443-8283 OR

Michelle (712) 898-6226 (call or text)



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	

Celebrate

Birthdays

3rd—Ava Schroeder
5th—Tim Vannatta
7th—Gunner Cadwallader
8th—Amber Furgason
14th—Kevin Schmillen
15th—McKenzie Booher
20th—Jozzlin Inman & Ulises Placido
23rd—Brooke Joy
29th—Polly Fishman



If you have a 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

From the Church Secretary:

It's getting to be the holiday season, and a busy season for the church. If you have announcements or other items for the bulletin, screen announcements or the next newsletter, please get them to me in plenty of time for them to be published when you want people to see them.

Thank you. *Julie*



MCS Birthday Party

November 14

The host is TBD.

Weekly / Monthly Activities

- **Bible Study** - Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
Book of Romans
- **Scout Troop 107** - Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- **Bible Buddies** - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
- **Homemakers** - 2nd Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
- **Quilt Batts Meetings** - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
November 17th
- **Quilt Batts Connections (Sewing Days)** -
First Friday & Saturday of the month
(Friday @ 9:30 a.m. & Saturday all day)

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 6th at 2:30 pm. They have 45 residents 22 women, 23 men. They suggest personal gifts such as shampoo, body lotion, hand lotion, blankets, 2027 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 2nd 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

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

November 2026				
1	8	15	22	29
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
Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion
Kevin Schmillen	Kirk Nelson	Tom Mortenson	Larry Heschke	David Hall
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
David Hall	Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	Guy Fishman	David Hall
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
Sharon Henkel	David Hall	David Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
N/A	N/A	Eleanor Johnston	N/A	N/A
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall	Shelley Mortenson	Sharon Henkel	Nancy Nelson
David Hall		Mark & Marcia Casey	Angela Hall	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 AND DEACONS MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH
MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 11:00 AM
To carpool to Polly's house for your
Thanksgiving celebration.

Date	Offering	Attendance
10/4/26	\$1,969.00	On Campus: 65 Online: 22 Total: 87
10/11/26	\$1,772.00	On Campus: 75 Online: 20 Total: 95
10/18/26	\$2,583.00	On Campus: 73 Online: 20 Total: 93
10/25/26	NA	On Campus: 65 Online: 35 Total: 100



WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM

PreK – 5th Grades

Come join us for fun, snacks, fellowship
and learning about Jesus.

We want you!!!



MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS



Please be praying for the Bible Buddies ministry
as well as the other missions we support.

Pray also for church leadership and their
families. Pray for those being nominated to
become church leaders for 2027.



Please continue to collect pull tabs to donate to the Ronald
McDonald House. Bring them to the church anytime.

Thank you!!

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

Special Guests:
Bible Buddies and their families



November

01

11:30 AM

Provided by the Church:

Ham, Pulled Pork, Drinks, Paper Goods

Provided by Attendees (You):

2 or more Thanksgiving side dishes to share



**November
Birthday &
Anniversary
Party**

November 1,
at the Harvest Dinner
Please join us to celebrate!

A photograph of three people: an older man on the left, a woman in the center, and a younger man on the right, all smiling and dressed in formal attire.

THE LESTERS
in concert
NOVEMBER 15 @ 6 PM
CHEROKEE COMMUNITY CENTER