



JANUARY 2023

CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

Comfort Zones Can Be Killers



In 1993, a 6-ton, 35-foot long mammal named **KEIKO**, became a household word. He was the star of the **FREE WILLY** movies, a box office bonanza for Warner Brothers Pictures, in which sympathetic humans helped liberate a long-captive killer whale.

Ironically, after Keiko was found ailing in a Mexico City aquarium, a project was started to reintegrate him with a pod of killer whales, which cost over \$20 million, captured worldwide interest and created widespread debate. He was rehabilitated at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, then airlifted to Iceland in 1998. There he was prepared for the wild.

They taught him how to catch live fish in an operation that cost almost \$500,000 a month for nearly four years. When he was finally released from Iceland in July of 2002, you know what he did? He swam straight for Norway on an 870-mile trip that seemed to be a search for human companionship.

Millions of dollars were spent trying to teach Keiko how to survive on his own. But, he didn't bond with the other whales, apparently feared swimming under ice and died less than two years after being freed. In short, he preferred the company and care of humans over life in the wild. Who wouldn't?

When Keiko returned to Norway, he made his home near the small village of Halså on Norway's west coast. According to reports, "During the summers of 2000, 2001, and 2002, Keiko was trained to follow his caretakers' boats and practice taking open ocean swims. And each summer, he spent several days swimming with wild killer whales to help him adapt to the ocean and meet some of his own kind."

BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.

Turns out he craved the comfort of human contact more than the wild he was created for. Human contact was limited to help him get used to ocean life, and if Keiko approached the tracking boat, the crew went below deck or hid from view.

EVEN THAT DIDN'T WORK.

He would follow the tracking boats rather than stay with the pod of whales and eventually made his way to the bay in Norway where he became lethargic and listless.

His team of caregivers began feeding him up to 175 pounds of fish per day to try to save him. You might be interested to know he was getting handouts right up until the day he died.

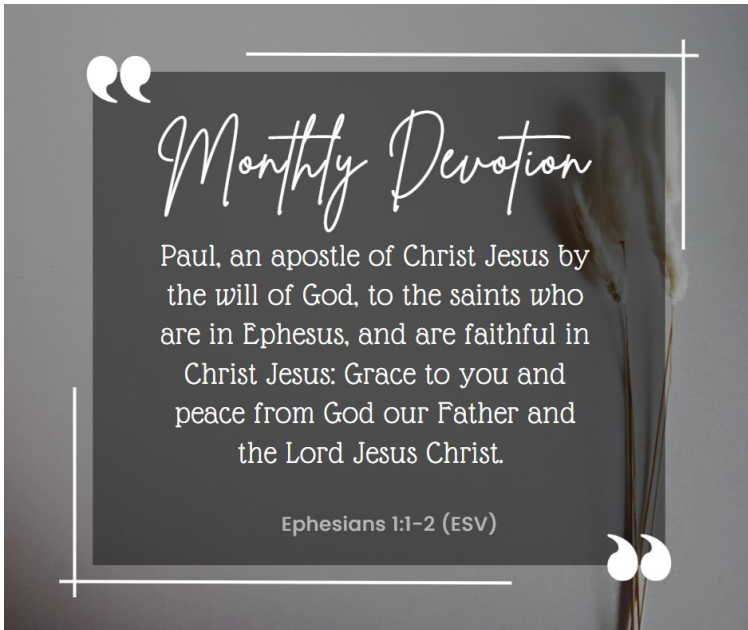
The official report says Keiko died of pneumonia. The truth is he killed himself by heading back to his comfort zone instead of launching out into the deep, where God created him to be.

So where do you want to be in 2022? Dead in the water or heading out to catch another wave of God's best for your life?

Blessings,

Pastor David

God's Peace in 2023



Read

Read Ephesians 1:1-2 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflect

What is the significance of Paul using a greeting that says, "grace to you and peace"?

If you have read any of Paul's epistles, you will notice that Paul follows a particular format when he writes to the churches that was standard. He includes a salutation that tells us that he is the author and sender of the letter. He tells us that this letter was intended to be received by the believers in Ephesus. Then, he gives a customary greeting.

But this isn't just a greeting with polite niceties. The greeting itself is a prayer for the believers in Jesus in Ephesus. Paul is praying for the readers and hearers of these words to be blessed with "grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

The fact that he addressed this to "saints" implies that the recipients of this letter have already accepted God's grace. Grace means "unmerited favor." We do not deserve to be justified and made right with God. As sinners, we do not merit salvation. But through Jesus Christ, God offers us a free gift of salvation. And when we accept that gift, we receive His grace. We are then referred to as "saints" or "the faithful in Christ Jesus."

So why does Paul pray for God to bestow His grace on the saints who have already received it? Because we do not stop receiving God's unmerited favor the minute we accept Christ. Rather, the moment we accept His unmerited favor in Christ, we begin to receive His unmerited favor continually. This is God's sustaining grace that Paul is referring to in 2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." This is the grace that enables us to do what God has called us to do. This is the grace that empowers us by the Holy Spirit to live as Jesus has called us to live. This is the grace that preserves and perseveres us until we see Him face to face.

Paul also offers a prayer for peace to the saints. Once we accept God's grace, we are justified to God and are therefore at peace with God. Again, this peace is ongoing. We are now at peace with God so we can continually experience peace from God in our lives. This is the peace that calms our fears and allows us to rest in His Sovereignty.

Friends, as saints and faithful believers in Jesus Christ, you too can continually experience God's grace and peace. My prayer for you today is that you will embrace the grace and peace that Christ offers you daily.

Pray

Father, thank You for Your gift of grace and peace. I know that I do not deserve it, but I am so grateful that You have not only made me right with you and offered me salvation but that You also sustain me daily. I accept the grace and peace that I need to live for You today. Amen.





Office Secretary

First Church of Christ is seeking the right individual to serve as our part-time office secretary.

Hours are Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in addition to monthly board meetings on Sundays after Bible Classes. Benefits include seven paid holidays, 25 hours of paid personal leave and 25 hours of paid vacation.

Individual seeking this position should think of this job as a ministry, have basic computer skills and a willingness to learn. A certain amount of creativity and resourcefulness is useful. Social skills with many types of people and personalities is a must.

For a complete job description please email your interest to office@cherokeefcc.com.

January Celebrations

January 5

Alex M. (MCS Student)

January 7

Izabelle Stephensen (BB)

January 11

Marcia Nelson

January 15

Veniece Young
Brandi S. (MCS Staff)

January 16

Nancy Nelson

January 24

Mark Casey

January 30

Chris Weinreich

January 31

Joe & Dixie Draper



THERE'S
SNOWBODY
LIKE YOU!



Winter
Times
are
Beautiful

HELLO *January*

JANUARY EVENTS:

- ❑ **January 2** - Office Closed for New Year's Day Observance
- ❑ **January 4** - Bible Buddies Resumes @ 6:30 p.m.
- ❑ **January 5** - Budget Proposal Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- ❑ **January 7** - Men's Monthly Breakfast @ 8:30 a.m.
- ❑ **January 8** - Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship Services
- ❑ **January 10** - Midweek Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m.
- ❑ **January 11** - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.
- ❑ **January 12** - Homemakers @ 9:30 a.m.
- ❑ **January 17** - Midweek Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m.
- ❑ **January 18** - Esther Circle @ 1:30 p.m.
- ❑ **January 21** - MCS Birthday Party @ 2 p.m.
- ❑ **January 24** - Midweek Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m.
- ❑ **January 25** - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.



Small Groups

FORM YOURS IN

2023

Community Organizations Meeting at FCC

- ❑ **Scout Troop 107** - Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- ❑ **Narcotics Anonymous** - Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00 p.m.
- ❑ **Quilt Batts Connections (*Sewing Days*)** - 2nd Weekend each month (*Friday @ 9 a.m. & Saturday all day*)
- ❑ **Quilt Batts Meetings** - 3rd Tuesday each month 7:00 p.m.

January Worship Team Schedule

January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Sholeen Sparks	Angela Hall	Polly Fishman
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Sholeen Sparks	Angela Hall	Polly Fishman
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Guy Fishman	Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	David Hall	Guy Fishman
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
Sharon Henkel	David Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel	David Hall
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Larry Heschke	Angela Hall	Marcia Casey	Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall
Nancy Nelson		Mark Casey	David Hall	
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Braella Inman	Ozzton Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks
Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors
Guy & Polly Fishman	Guy & Polly Fishman	Guy & Polly Fishman	Guy & Polly Fishman	Guy & Polly Fishman

Names and Descriptions of Jesus 1

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.”

John 1:29-31

CHRIST *Matt. 1:1*

EMMANUEL *Matt. 1:23, KJV*

KING OF THE JEWS *Matt. 2:2*

RULER *Matt. 2:6*

SON OF GOD *Matt. 14:33*

MASTER *Matt. 23:8, KJV*

RABBI *Mark 9:5*

SAVIOR *Luke 2:11*

PHYSICIAN *Luke 4:23*

BRIDEGROOM *Luke 9:34*

THE WORD *John 1:1*

LAMB OF GOD *John 1:29*

MESSIAH *John 1:41*

BREAD OF LIFE *John 6:35*

LIVING BREAD *John 6:51*

LIGHT *John 8:12*

GOOD SHEPHERD *John 10:11*

TRUE VINE *John 15:1*

LAST ADAM *1 Cor. 15:45*

KING OF KINGS *1 Tim. 6:15*

LORD OF LORDS *1 Tim. 6:15*

LORD OF GLORY *James 2:1*

OVERSEER *1 Pet. 2:25*

CHIEF SHEPHERD *1 Pet. 5:4*

ADVOCATE *1 John 2:1*

ALMIGHTY *Rev. 1:8*

ALPHA *Rev. 1:8*

OMEGA *Rev. 1:8*

LION OF JUDAH *Rev. 5:5*

MORNING STAR *Rev. 22:16*

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

CHRONOLOGICAL

Bible Reading

Bible in a Year: January 2023

- ❑ 1. Genesis 1-3
- ❑ 2. Genesis 4-7
- ❑ 3. Genesis 8-11
- ❑ 4. Job 1-5
- ❑ 5. Job 6-9
- ❑ 6. Job 10-13
- ❑ 7. Job 14-16
- ❑ 8. Job 17-20
- ❑ 9. Job 21-23
- ❑ 10. Job 24-28
- ❑ 11. Job 29-31
- ❑ 12. Job 32-34
- ❑ 13. Job 35-37
- ❑ 14. Job 38-39
- ❑ 15. Job 40 -42
- ❑ 16. Genesis 12-15
- ❑ 17. Genesis 16-18
- ❑ 18. Genesis 19-21
- ❑ 19. Genesis 22-24
- ❑ 20. Genesis 25-26
- ❑ 21. Genesis 27-29
- ❑ 22. Genesis 30-31
- ❑ 23. Genesis 32-34
- ❑ 24. Genesis 35-37
- ❑ 25. Genesis 38-40
- ❑ 26. Genesis 41-42
- ❑ 27. Genesis 43-45
- ❑ 28. Genesis 46-47
- ❑ 29. Genesis 48-50
- ❑ 30. Exodus 1-3
- ❑ 31. Exodus 4-6

Board of Elders and Deacons Meeting Highlights

- The board approved a recommendation from the Mission Team to support Impact the U in our rotating mission slot. This mission will replace Voice of the Martyrs for 2023. Kirk Nelson motioned to approve the recommendation and Barry Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- The total of the 2022 Harvest Offering yielded \$26,952.00 to be toward a newer lower mileage mini van as soon as a suitable one is found in that price range. There are a few offers for the old minivan once a newer one is purchased.
- The results of the Board of Elders and Deacons election were tallied and all nominees who accepted their nominations were elected.

The 2023 Board of Elders and Deacons comprises of the following men:

Elders: Term Expires:

Kirk Nelson	12/31/2023
Larry Heschke,	12/31/2025
Mike Sparks	12/31/2023

Deacons:

Barry Nelson	12/31/2023
Tom Mortensen	12/31/2023
Mark Patten	12/31/2023
Kevin Schmillen	12/31/2023

Trustees:

Curt Wiese	12/31/2023
Joe Draper	12/31/2023

- David Hall submitted his proposal for Housing and Professional Expenses for 2023. Each of the three part proposals were approved by the board.
- The board is seeking someone to teach Sunday school lessons to the MCS boys when they are here on Sundays. Kirk Nelson takes one group and someone else is needed for the other group.
- The board will be holding their proposed budget meeting on January 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. (**Note this was changed after the board meeting to January 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**)

Annual Congregational Meeting

JANUARY 8, 2023 @ 10:45 A.M.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

BIBLE CLASSES

10:40 a.m.

Christian Standard Curriculum
Chapel

Ladies Class
Room 7 - Downstairs

Men's Class
Room 8 - Downstairs

Children's Class
Downstairs

MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

Nebowa Christian Camp
Midwest Christian Services
Deaf Missions
International Disaster Emergency Services
Rapha International
Impact the U

OUR MISSION

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.

CHURCH INFO

Worship
Sunday Mornings
9:30 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
Kevin Schmillen, Deacon

Website
www.cherokeefcc.com
FB: @firstchurchcherokee

Phone: (712) 225-2667
Email: office@cherokeefcc.com
Office Secretary: Nancy Nelson

Total Attendance and Offerings

Date	Attendance	Offerings
11/27	66	\$18230.21
12/4	73	\$3449.00
12/11	91	\$6384.00
12/18	117	\$5778.95
12/25	72	TBD