

You're Gonna Love This!



"When Noah sailed the waters blue,
he had his troubles same as you.
For forty days he drove the ark,
until he found a place to park."

The author of that poem took some obvious liberties as far as **Noah** looking for a place to park. But he hit the nail on the head in regard to Noah being like us.

How many times do you suppose people pick up a Bible and try to read it and think to themselves, "There's no way this relates to me ... I'm not like these people."

For example, we can't imagine some Bible character struggling to make a mortgage payment, or having rebellious children, or having a huge stack of monthly bills and a puny paycheck.

So many struggle to understand, although times are very different, people are basically the same.

You might be interested to know **MOSES** struggled for quite some time while working for his father-in-law, **JETHRO**. **ADAM** and **EVE** most likely had to change diapers. After all, the entire human race began with them, and I'll bet whatever they used was nothing compared to what we have today!

ELIJAH struggled economically during times of intense famine. **DAVID**, a king in Israel, struggled with lust and adultery. A very talented but troubled man named **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** had an ego problem that cost him everything. **ABRAHAM** lied on several occasions. So did his son, **ISAAC**. **PETER**, one of the most prominent followers of **JESUS**, was known to have a problem with cursing and swearing.

The **SAMARITAN WOMAN** had been married and divorced numerous times and was living with a man who was not her husband when she encountered

the Lord. **JONAH** is remembered even today for his rebellious spirit and disobedient lifestyle which led to the biggest "fish story" you've ever heard. (Yet, it's true!)

The stories of each of these people are found in the pages of the Bible. And it doesn't matter who you point to, they are basically the same as people today. They struggled just like we do and had to deal with problems just like we do.

That's what makes the Bible so unique. God has provided "real-life" examples of people **JUST LIKE US**, so we can profit from their pain, learn from their losses, avoid their mistakes and failures and use their stories as steppingstones for our own success.

The Bible isn't a collection of feel-good stories that make for good late-night reading when you can't sleep or simply for soothing verses to be read at someone's funeral. Rather, it is one continuous story that tells the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about people's real-life struggles with temptation, sin, the devil, people, problems, kids, families, finances, you name it.

When we take the time to read the whole story and learn from it, we can rewrite our own story for eternity.

In a world of increasing uncertainty, insecurity, and hopelessness, we have a place we can go for answers.

So, whatever your problem is today, I know just the book to help you. It's called the **BIBLE**.

Come study the BIBLE with us here at First Church.

We have plenty of parking, too!

Blessings,

Pastor David



Let's Get Busy

It has been pretty quiet around here . . . too quiet if you ask me. Hey, I know we are all pretty busy with life in general, but we have got to find a way to make some noise for the Lord. Let's be the disciples God has called us to be.

How? That's a great question. Let's put on our creative thinking caps, dust off our Bibles, and go to work. Here are a few ideas.

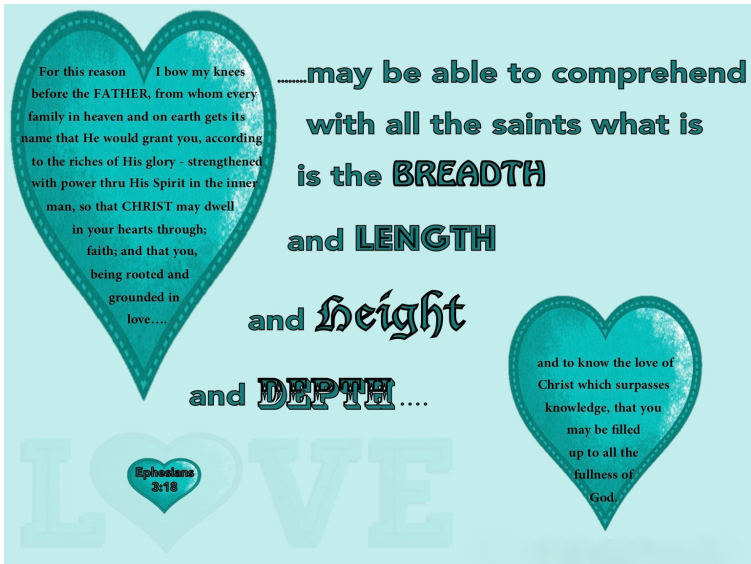
1. Put together a Bible reading plan group. Get some friends and strangers (*soon to be friends*), pick a bible reading plan, get together and read the through the plan together. You can do it over morning coffee, pick an evening at your home, or take advantage of a free afternoon at the church. Put one together at an assisted living facility or nursing home. The possibilities are limitless.
2. Establish a group of people (*friends and strangers*) with a common interest such as walking, hiking, hunting, archery, sewing, crafting, reading, movies, farming, gardening, writing, traveling, exploring, fishing, theater, singing, cooking, collecting, history, genealogy, and whatever other hobby or interest you enjoy. Schedule some activities for both enjoyment and service and include some devotions, prayer, and/or some kind of book study. Enjoy your interest while you connect with others and the Lord.
3. Maybe you are at a particular stage in your life that you need encouragement and support from others in the same stage of life. Are you empty nesters, retirees, senior citizen, young adult, parents of teens, parents of small children? Imagine what a group of Christ followers in these stages could do for each other and how they can reach out to others in the same boat who are not yet Christ followers.
4. Host a Christian book study and invite your friends and neighbors. You can host it anywhere you like at anytime you like. Most book studies come with study guides. The goal of most book studies is to build relationships through discussion and discovering common ground all while finding out how God plays important roles in our lives. As a host you don't have to have all the answers. You are the facilitator.
5. Establish your own in person prayer circle. I know we have a prayer chain here at First Church of Christ but how much more powerful would prayers be in a circle of friends in person. You could meet daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly with the one and sole purpose of prayer. You could pick a theme, topic, person, community, or any specific prayer for the day, week, month or year and focus on prayers related to your choices.
6. You are never too old to learn or explore. Find some people who want to learn something new with you, find a person to teach it to you, and then go out and learn it as a group. Then put what you learn to use and pick another learning or exploration project.
7. Become a mentor to young people. For example, you could come to Bible Buddies and sit next to a Bible Buddies student while they are learning about the Lord and answer any questions they have or just listen to them tell you stories about themselves.
8. Become a mentor in the community. Do you have a specific skill or know how to do something really well that others might like to learn? Offer a class or workshop about it to the community, your friends, and neighbors. Share the knowledge and skills that God graciously gave to you with others. Some examples might be cooking for singles or couples, budgeting, basic wiring, basic car maintenance, basic home maintenance, computer software, writing, singing, playing an instrument. Here the possibilities are endless as well. Don't keep all that savvy to yourself.

So what's it going to be my friends? Where do you want to start? What are your ideas? Let's get busy!

Announce your group, study, or activity with us by contacting the First Church of Christ office at 712-225-2650 or office@cherokeefcc.com. Be prepared to answer the following questions. What is the name of your group or activity, who is it for, when, where and what time will you meet, what are the goals of the group, who do they contact for more information, and how is that person to be contacted.

Want help establishing your activity, event, or group? Give Nancy Nelson at the church office a call and chat with her. She will be happy to help.

DEVOTION



Knowing Love

Read Ephesians 3:18-19

...may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with the fullness of God.

Reflect

What impact does growing in your relationship with Christ have on your love for Him?

When my wife and I first got married, I thought I loved her. And I did! But I soon realized that even though I thought I knew her well, there were always new things that I was discovering about her the longer we were married. Now that we've been married for almost 40 years, my love for her has grown immensely. I thought I couldn't love her more than I did on our wedding day, but I was wrong!

The same is true in our relationship with Christ. The more we get to know Him, the more we love Him. In today's passage, Paul is praying for the Ephesians. His prayer is that they would be able to comprehend how vast God's love is for all who are in Christ. Paul points out that the love of Christ "surpasses knowledge." As finite human beings, we will never be

able to fully grasp how much Jesus loves us. As a child, we can sing "Jesus love me, this I know" and believe that it is true. But we fail to fully grasp the concept.

The longer I walk with Jesus, the more I understand the deep love that He has for me. But at the same time, the more I know about Jesus, the more I marvel at His love and fail to fully comprehend it. It is astounding to me to know that I will never, ever be able to fully grasp the love of Christ. But I plan to spend the rest of my life trying to.

I can say with confidence that the more I know Christ and how much He loves me, the more I love Him. Friends, as the leadership of First Church of Christ, we are praying the same for you. We are praying that the Holy Spirit fills you up and gives you the strength to continue to grow in your understanding of Jesus's unfathomable love for you which in turn will strengthen and deepen your love for Him.

Pray

Jesus, thank You for Your love. I can spend all my life trying to comprehend how much You love me but never fully understand it. Increase my understanding, Lord, and strengthen my love for You. Give me Your power to love others the way that You love me. Amen.

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.



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST



BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS UPDATE

Board Meeting Notes February 6, 2022

- Under ministry reports the Prayer Chain was the topic of discussion. Mary Hasbrouck wants to step down from being the primary intake person. Nancy Nelson asked if the board could come up with a plan for the interim until a new intake person would step forward. David Hall suggested checking into a telephone tree message system. It was also suggested to call for a volunteer in the newsletter. A final suggestion was to target a couple of key people to take certain parts of the Prayer Chain. No action was taken at this time.
- Under Mission Reports it was reported that the Mission team will meet on February 11, 2022, at 2 p.m. with plans to set up a display table to highlight the Voice of the Martyrs mission for the first quarter. The board also asked that the team discuss possibly adding the Cherokee County Ministerial Association back to our missions list since they are meeting again.
- Under Fellowship Easter services were brought up in discussion. David is considering a sunrise service. Jews for Jesus will be here on April 12th for a special presentation. There was some discussion about a Good Friday service, but no action was taken at this time. The leadership will again present a breakfast prior to worship services on Easter Sunday. Sermons Ala Carte is also being presented this year with David presenting a sermon on March 23rd.
- Under Worship the elders were approached with concerns about the service time beginning at 9:00 a.m. as it was voted for at the congregational meeting. After some discussion Larry Heschke motioned to leave the service at 9:00 a.m. as that was how the majority voted at the annual meeting. Barry Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- David Hall brought up the idea of getting a new wireless head worn microphone system but said he will wait until finances were better. He also let the board know that he would like to purchase an update pulpit. He would prefer to have something where he can preach from the middle of the stage rather than off to the side without interfering with the view of the worship team. David shared a photo of an example of what he was thinking about. Action on these requests will be taken later when finances are better.
- Under Buildings and Grounds Kirk Nelson was checking with SCE about scooping the sidewalk since it had not been done that last time it snowed. Normally this is done by volunteers. Kirk was not present to share what he found out. Barry Nelson said he would talk to his son Benjamin Nelson about maybe stopping at the church first and blowing off the cement before going onto their normal snow removal customers. The main issue is getting it done before SCE comes with their equipment. It could have been a new employee who did not know to back drag the cement prior to clearing off the rest of the parking lot.
- The most recent MidAmerican Energy bill was about three times the normal amount. The board new natural gas prices were going to go up and accounted for it in the recent budget proposal.
- Under old business Larry Heschke asked Mike Rose at Valley Glass to go ahead and order the new door for the lower-level southwest entrance. We will have to follow up and make sure he orders it. Getting the old door out will take some planning and warmer weather.
- The board instructed Nancy to place a call for greeting volunteers for Sunday morning worship in the newsletter so we can get back to greeting people prior to worship. They also ask that she publish the Thanksgiving meal results in the newsletter as a member of the congregation requested.
- The next board meeting will be March 13, 2022, following Bible classes. It will also be daylight savings time.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Mission Highlight



The Voice of the Martyrs

For the next couple of months the Mission Team is highlighting The Voice of the Martyrs. This is a mission we currently support with a monthly monetary donation.

The Mission Team would like to take this support a step further. In the lobby you will notice a table set up with more information about this mission and what they do. There are free resources and books that you are welcome to have. We encourage you to pray for the Voice of the Martyrs mission as well as all those who are currently persecuted for their faith Jesus.

We will be adding a daily prayer on our Facebook page that coincides with the VOM Global Calendar where each day is marked with a prayer for specific place in the world that needs our prayers.

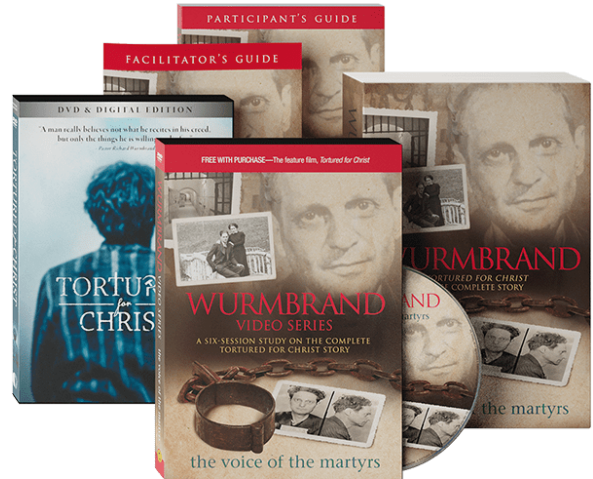
In addition to that the Mission Team is also hosting a book study complete with video series and study guide about the persecution and work of the founders of Voice of the Martyrs, Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand.

This six week study will be held on Sunday evenings afternoons at 4 p.m. beginning March 13, 2022. This will be the six weeks leading up to Easter Sunday.

The Mission Team will need a head count for those who are interested in participating in the study in order to have enough study guides on hand. Please contact Nancy at the church office to let her know of your interest in this study by March 4th.

You can learn more about Voice of the Martyrs at www.persecution.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand, founders of The Voice of the Martyrs, lived exemplary Christian lives despite imprisonment and torture at the hands of Nazis and Communists during and following World War II. With this six-session video curriculum, filmed on location in the Wurmbands' native Romania, you can study Richard's and Sabina's lives and be inspired by their walk of faith and commitment to Christ. The study includes six video sessions, *Wurmbrand: Tortured for Christ*, the book, and study guide.

The study will begin on:

March 13, 2022 at 4 p.m.
First Church of Christ
772 N. 2nd Street
Cherokee, Iowa 51012

To ensure there are enough resource materials on hand please register by **March 4th**.

Contact Nancy Nelson at the church office M-F 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. either in person, by phone (712) 225-2667, or email office@cherokeefcc.com to register for the study.

This study is open to the community.



Easter Lilies

Sign Up Sheet in the Lobby

\$20.00 each

Make Checks Payable to
First Church of Christ
Memo: FLOWERS

Order no later than February 28th



Christ in the Passover
Presented by: Zach Stafford
Tuesday - April 12, 2022
6:30 p.m.

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

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

March 2
Dennis Ducommun
Angel Jansen

March 15
Landon A. (MCS)

March 3
Ralph Kaufman

March 20
Laura N. (MCS Staff)

March 6
Londyn Lammers (BB)

March 22
Danny Salter

March 7
Carlee Rexroat (BB)

March 23
Bryar Hodges (BB)

March 8
Jerry & Joyce Clark (63)

March 25
Jebadya Feller (BB)

March 9
Derrick M. (MCS Staff)

March 26
Darlene Dobson

March 11
Kyson Rexroat (BB)

March 30
Shelbi Luiz (BB)
Twyla Schmillen

March 12
Robbie R. (MCS Staff)

March 31
Angela Hall

March 13
Colton Henkel

ATTENDANCE

January 2		January 9		January 16		January 23	
On Campus	37	On Campus	47	On Campus	49	On Campus	41
Online	37	Online	43	Online	30	Online	32
TOTAL	74	TOTAL	90	TOTAL	79	TOTAL	73

OFFERING

January 2		January 9		January 16		January 23	
On Campus	776.00	On Campus	2955.00	On Campus	2676.00	On Campus	1379.00
Online	280.55	Online	106.87	Online	-	Online	214.38
Special	-						
TOTAL	\$ 984.55	TOTAL	\$3061.87	TOTAL	\$ 2676.00	TOTAL	\$ 1593.38

ATTENDANCE

January 30		February 6		February 13		February 20	
On Campus	37	On Campus	53	On Campus	72	On Campus	61
Online	43	Online	31	Online	26	Online	26
TOTAL	80	TOTAL	84	TOTAL	98	TOTAL	87

OFFERING

January 30		February 6		February 13		February 20	
On Campus	1768.00	On Campus	2476.06	On Campus	1044.16	On Campus	-
Online	408.55	Online	48.55	Online	206.87	Online	-
Special	-						
TOTAL	\$ 2176.55	TOTAL	\$ 2524.61	TOTAL	\$ 1251.03	TOTAL	\$ -

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

6-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Kirk Nelson	Guy Fishman	Mike Sparks	Dennis Smith
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
David Hall	Sharon Henkel	Wren Smith	Wren Smith
Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard
-	-	Wren Smith	Wren Smith
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
-	-	-	-
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Sharon Henkel	Larry Heschke	Dennis Smith	Dennis Smith
Larry Heschke	Angela Hall	David Hall	Larry Heschke
Angela Hall			Sharon Henkel
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks
Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors
Nancy & Barry Nelson	Nancy & Barry Nelson	Nancy & Barry Nelson	Nancy & Barry Nelson
Marcia Nelson	Marcia Nelson	Marcia Nelson	Marcia Nelson

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
Cherokee, IA 51012*



Our Ap

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



Online

www.cherokeefcc.com

Easter

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Matthew 21:2-11

And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’

Hosanna in the highest!”

Matthew 21:8-9

BETHPHAGE	RIDING <small>NIV</small>	SON OF DAVID
MOUNT OF OLIVES	BROUGHT	BLESSED
VILLAGE	LAID	WHO COMES
DONKEY	CLOTHES	HIGHEST
TIED	SET	JERUSALEM
COLT	SPREAD	WHO IS THIS
LOOSE	ROAD	PROPHET
BRING	CUT DOWN	NAZARETH
THE LORD	BRANCHES	GALILEE
HAS NEED	MULTITUDES	
FULFILLED	CRIED OUT	
GENTLE <small>NIV</small>	HOSANNA	

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

BIBLE CLASSES

10:00 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
Voice of the Martyrs

CHURCH INFO

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
FB: @firstchurchcherokee

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



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