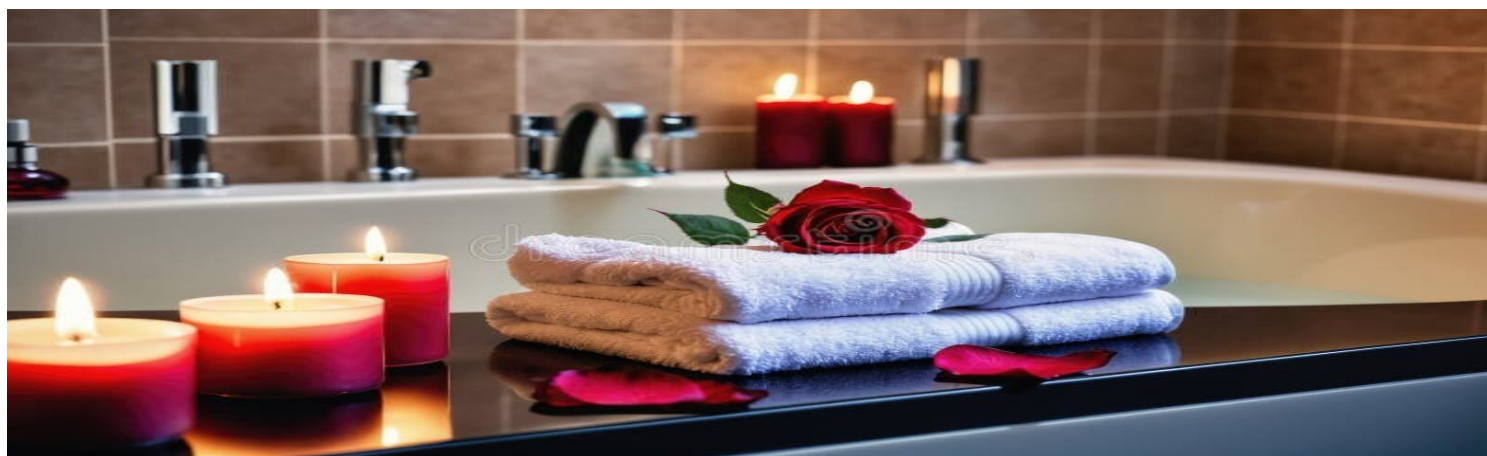


# CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST



## A Novel Romance

What's love got to do with it? Apparently nothing. It's a love story more reminiscent of O.J. and Nicole than Romeo and Juliet. Even the police chief in Henderson, Texas, admitted, "It's the kind of case you would expect to see on a 'Columbo' episode."

An East Texas husband said he had simply planned a romantic evening for his wife.

However, he was indicted on charges of attempted murder, his wife left him, and he was placed on an unpaid leave of absence from his job pending the outcome of the case. If convicted, he would face up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.00.

Here's what happened: According to authorities, the 34-year-old emergency room nurse told his wife he wanted to do something nice for her. So he fixed her a bubble bath and lit several candles placed around the tub. He then turned on a radio in the bathroom playing soft music. His wife said she noticed the radio, which was normally on a shelf across the room, on a bench beside the tub, but didn't think much about it. Even though now, looking back, she realizes it was strange he had used an extension cord and had plugged the radio into an outlet in an adjoining room.

As she was reclining in the tub her husband "accidentally" bumped the radio into it. At least that's his recollection of the incident. The arrest warrant said, "The defendant was in the bathroom with her and she believes knocked the radio into the tub on purpose ... She caught the radio before it hit the water and threw it out of the way."

Following the alleged "accident," she testified his reaction was "not normal," causing her to be suspicious. To her surprise, when checking their home computer, she found a number of websites he had evidently looked up, two days before, dealing with bathtub electrocutions.

In addition, police also uncovered the fact he had taken out a life insurance policy on his wife five months before the alleged incident.

Think it's safe to say their love is "not here to stay?" Unfortunately, stories like this are not that uncommon — think Dr. Sam Sheppard, Ira Einhorn, Scott Peterson and Robert Blake to name a few. Both history and the headlines, from today's news outlets, tell us far too often of broken trust, broken hearts and love gone awry.

Thankfully, the Scriptures tell us of a love that will never disappoint and will never end. It's the love of God. In Psalm 136, the psalmist, overwhelmed with the love of God, states no less than 26 times, one for each verse, that "His love endures forever."

Jesus warned in Matthew 24:12 that in the end times, "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold." But not God's love. Psalm 147:11 says, "The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love."

Want more good news? Paul wrote in Romans 8:38, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

You gotta love that.

Blessings,

Pastor David



## Winter 2025 Sermon Series

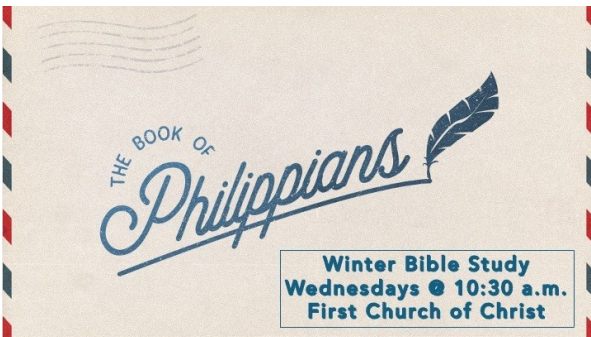


The thing about game film is that it gives us a new angle—a fresh perspective. It helps us see where we've gone wrong and allows us to make the adjustments necessary to keep moving. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is an invitation for His followers to stop and take an honest review of the game film of our lives. This series takes a fresh look at what is holding you back, what is weighing you down, and what really matters on God's turf.



**JESUS LOVES\* YOU**

*\*Conditions do not apply*



Noted as Paul's most affectionate letter, the book of Philippians captures Paul's immense love and care for the Philippian church. In this book, the Apostle Paul centers his writing on the believer's need to remain resolute amid great suffering. The theme of his message centers on the joy found in Christ in all things.

In this verse by verse, expository study through the book of Philippians, Pastor David will show how the Apostle Paul, through great compassion, hopeful confidence, and loving warning, steers the believers to experience true joy in living, serving, knowing, and resting in Christ.

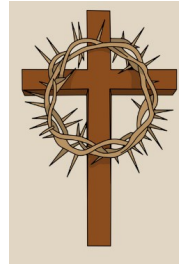
Join us each Wednesday morning at 10:30am!

## CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

FEBRUARY 13, 2024 @ 9:30 AM

AT THE CHURCH

PAULA WILL BE THE HOSTESS, DO THE  
DEVOTIONS AND HAVE AN HEIRLOOM TO  
SHARE



**Christ's Passion According to the  
Gospel of Mark**

**39th Annual Sermons A La Carte**

**A Lenten Sermon Series**

**Wednesdays March 5—April 9**

**Worship @ 12:05, Lunch at 12:30 (\$5 cost)**

Our Church will be participating in the 39th Annual Sermons A La Carte again this year.

Our date is **Wednesday, April 2nd**. David will have the sermon. We will be working with the congregations from the Washta Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, and the Mount Olive Church.

A sign up sheet is in the foyer waiting for you to donate either a salad or a pan of bars. **We need 13 salads, 3 pans of bars, 2 waitresses and 3 ushers/money takers.** Be sure that the bars are uncut in the 9x13 or jelly roll size pan! Salads are to feed 10-15 people! The Committee will transfer your salad to one of their bowls as soon as you arrive with it. It would be appreciated if you waited just a few minutes when dropping off your donation, to have your containers (ice cream pails work great for salads) washed and given back to you. Otherwise, be sure someone will pick them up for you.

I would be happy to pickup your donation that morning if you are unable to get it to the Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Church doors will be open at 7:30 am. The sermon starts at 12:05 pm and the meal starts at 12:30. The cost is \$5 for the meal. There are 16 Cherokee County Churches involved in this community project. It is open to everyone.

Pam Cronin



## God's Conversation Hearts A Valentine's Devotional

by Julia Bettencourt

*"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Luke 11:28)*

I've always loved those candy conversation hearts at Valentine's. The New England Confections Company, otherwise known as Necco, says that conversation hearts are the most popular of Valentine's candy. I read the history of the candy on the Necco website, and it was quite interesting how the sayings being printed on the candy got started. Can you believe that the concept behind conversation hearts was started back when Abraham Lincoln was president?

I like the taste of those little hearts and it's one of those childhood candies that give sweet memories. I also like them to decorate cupcakes and cookies with. What I like best I guess is those little sayings. "Kiss me!" "Be Mine" "Be True". I know today they say a few different things than the ones I grew up with.

Did you know that God sends us conversation hearts too? The things He left in His Word were left for us because He loves us. Each conversation heart from God is sweet to the taste. We just don't sometimes read or pay attention to them.

### Here are some of my favorites...

**BE MINE** - God wants us to accept His love.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

**ALL MINE** - God loves us and will keep us.

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." (John 10:27-30)*

**TRUE LOVE** - God loves us with true love as only He can.

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." (Jeremiah 31:3)*

**LOVE ME** - God wants us to love Him.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27)*

**I'M SURE** - God's sure of His love and wants us to know we have a future with Him.

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:1-3)*

**SWEET TALK** - God's Word is His love letter to us.

*How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (Psalm 119:103)*

**BE GOOD** - God tells us how to love Him back.

*"If you love me, keep my commands." (John 14:15)*



Devotion—continued

**FAX ME** - God loves us so much He wants to communicate with us.

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

**Conclusion:**

There are more conversation hearts that the Lord left for us to see His love through. We just have to dig into His Word to find them.

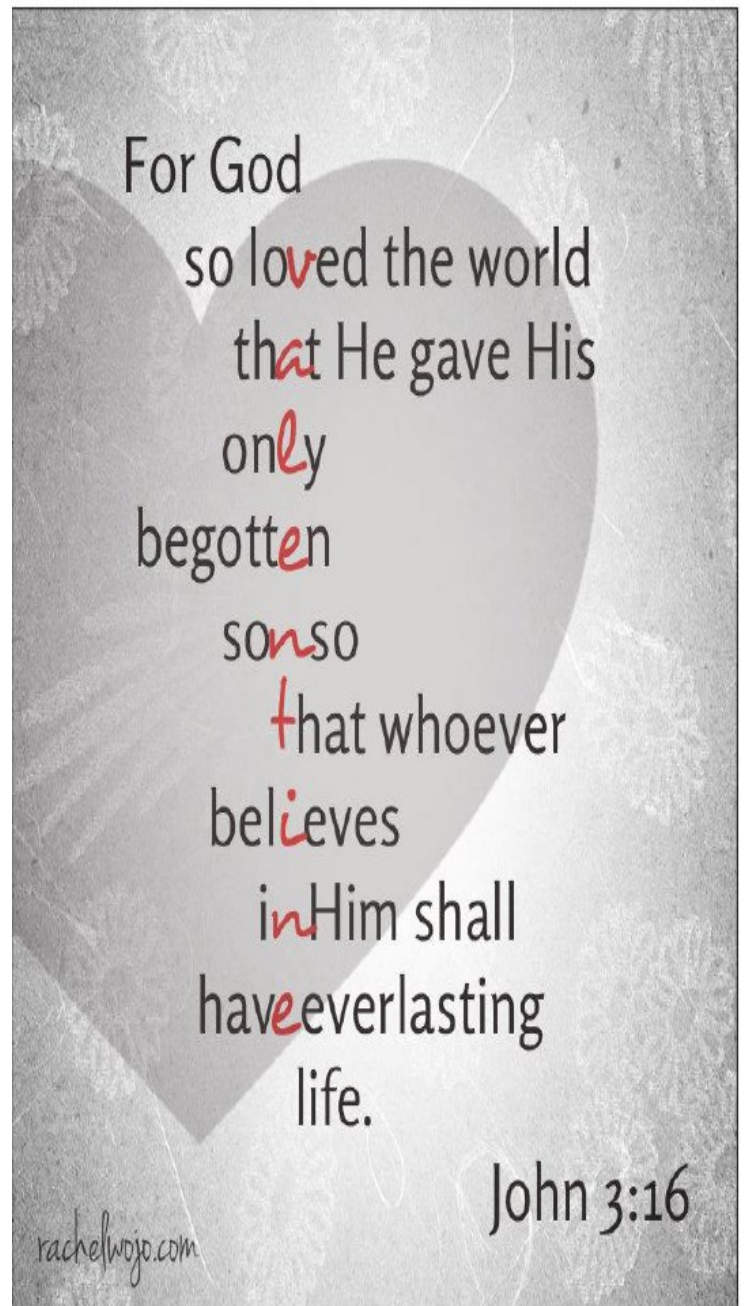
**So, have you missed out on God's conversation hearts?**



**All-Church Potluck Dinner**  
**Sunday, February 23rd**  
**Immediately Following the Morning Worship Service**

Cook up a couple of dishes of your favorite family recipes and bring them with you to share with all. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity for food, fellowship, and fun.

We'll be looking for YOU!



# WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

February 2025			
2	9	16	23
<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Children's Church</b>
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
<b>Shut-In Communion</b>	<b>Shut-In Communion</b>	<b>Shut-In Communion</b>	<b>Shut-In Communion</b>
Kirk Nelson	Larry Heschke	Kevin Schmillen	David Hall
<b>Communion Coordinator</b>	<b>Communion Coordinator</b>	<b>Communion Coordinator</b>	<b>Communion Coordinator</b>
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Kirk Nelson	Barry Nelson
<b>Communion Message</b>	<b>Communion Message</b>	<b>Communion Message</b>	<b>Communion Message</b>
Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	David Hall	Guy Fishman
<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>
Sharon Henkel	David Hall	Sharon Henkel	David Hall
<b>Piano</b>	<b>Piano</b>	<b>Piano</b>	<b>Piano</b>
N/A	Eleanor Johnston	N/A	N/A
<b>Singers</b>	<b>Singers</b>	<b>Singers</b>	<b>Singers</b>
Angela Hall	Larry Heschke	Angela Hall	Larry Heschke
David Hall	Angela Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel
<b>PowerPoint</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>
Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman
<b>Sound</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Sound</b>
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks
<b>Janitorial</b>	<b>Janitorial</b>	<b>Janitorial</b>	<b>Janitorial</b>
Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke
Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke

## BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS



### MONTHLY MEETING

**FEBRUARY 9, 2025**

Following the Morning Worship Service

## Weekly / Monthly Activities

- ☐ **Bible Study** - Wednesdays 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.
- ☐ **Narcotics Anonymous** - Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00 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.

Date	Offering	Attendance
1/5/2025	\$2,414.00	On Campus: 40 Online: 54 Total: 94
1/12/2025	\$1,360.00	On Campus: 38 Online: 13 Total: 51
1/19/2025	\$1,395.00	On Campus: 34 Online: 40 Total: 74
1/26/2025	\$2,289.20	On Campus: 55 Online: 29 Total: 84

## FCC SHUT-INS

### The Gardens

Darlene Nelson (#108) 712-434-5311  
Darlene Patten (#114) 712-225-4315  
Delores Wheeler (#402) 712-229-5418

### Heartland Care – Marcus

Charlotte Barnes (#209) 712-229-3244

### Accura – Cherokee

Glenn Wallace (#203) 919-815-0334  
Larry Wallace (#202A)

### The Beck

Joanne Nelson (#106) 712-229-9202

### Home

Bea Carver  
1123 W. Bluff St.  
Cherokee  
712-225-2656

## Time To Celebrate

### Birthdays

8th—Darlene Nelson  
10th—Tom Mortenson  
20th—Angel Jansen  
24th—Anna Oleson  
28th— Marcia Casey  
28th— Dennis Smith



If you have a February birthday (or anniversary), and I missed getting you on the list, please let me know and I will get our records updated.

Thank you.

Julie



February is not too late to start a Bible-reading program. The absolute best place to find one is the app: [YouVersion](#). They have many Read Through The Bible plans as well as reading through a specific book or theme. Find one that interests you.



### [From the Church Secretary:](#)

Hello. I am in the office from 9:00 a.m. to when I get my work done on Tuesday and Thursday. I am happy to help with anything I can do to help you. I have finished putting all the historical records into a searchable database. If you need dates for someone, I can look those up for you. I have added baptismal dates to our current database. If there is anything I can help you with, please let me know.

Julie



# UNLEASHED OUTREACH

## New Year—New Opportunities

For a ministry that you want to support.

### The Guidelines for Unleashed Outreach are as follows:

- The project or mission must be an ongoing ministry outside First Church of Christ walls, within our area communities or within your sphere of reach.
- You must be directly and actively and physically involved in your ministry project.
- Your ministry or project does not have to be faith based but it must have a direct positive impact on the individuals or community served by your ministry or project.
- You must complete the Unleashed Outreach registration form so that the members of the Mission Team and First Church of Christ have a better understanding of your project or mission's purpose and goals. This will help us better support you and what God has put on your heart.
- Be BOLD in FAITH and unleash your outreach.

**Registration forms are on the table in the foyer.** If you would like to have one emailed to you, please contact the church office at 712-225-2667.

### Submit your registration form to:

#### Unleashed Outreach

Nancy Nelson

772 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

Cherokee, IA 51012

[unleashedoutreachfcc@gmail.com](mailto:unleashedoutreachfcc@gmail.com)

## 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 | • tampons     |
| • toothpaste   | • lotion      |
| • mouth wash   | • soap        |
| • deodorant    | • shampoo     |
| • pads         | • conditioner |



# UNLEASHED OUTREACH

A new initiative from the Missions Team  
Helping **YOU** with what **GOD** has put on **YOUR** heart



"Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to Him."

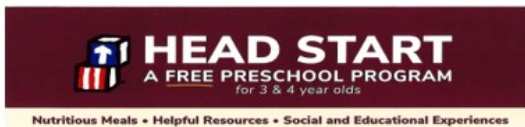
Philippians 4:6 (NIRV)

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 p.m.

Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades



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



**SPACES ARE LIMITED! APPLY NOW.**

To complete an application, you will need the following items:

- 12 months Proof of income
- Child and parent social security numbers (if available)
- Birth certificate or proof of birthdate

**TO APPLY, CALL:**

CHEROKEE COUNTY 712-225-3322  
IDA COUNTY 712-364-2175  
LYON COUNTY 712-472-3746  
PLYMOUTH COUNTY 712-546-6603  
SIOUX COUNTY 712-722-3611

or call 1-800-859-2025 for more information or to fill out an application!



## MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS



Deaf Missions



**RAPHA**  
INTERNATIONAL



# BIBLE BUDDIES Mission

Bibles Buddies once again will be collecting pull tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House so we hope you all have continued to save your pull tabs through the summer.

Bring your collected tabs to the church anytime throughout the Buddies Buddies Season. Let's see if we can double last years collection of 13 pounds!

