

# CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

GRIEF SHARE

**SUN, NOV 19**  
**4-6PM**  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
First Church of Christ  
cherokeefcc.com

**SURVIVING**  
THE  
**HOLIDAYS**

## GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays"

When you're grieving the death of a family member or friend, you may dread the holiday season. Thoughts of social gatherings, family traditions and obligations might leave you anxious and overwhelmed. Have you lost a loved one or know someone that will find it difficult to face the coming holidays?

The GriefShare Surviving the Holidays seminar on **Sunday, November 19** from 4-6PM is open to anyone who is experiencing grief after the loss of a loved one, particularly during the holidays. The program offers practical, actionable strategies for making it through the holiday season.

In this **FREE** two-hour seminar, you'll view a video featuring advice from people in grief who've faced the holidays after their loss. Facilitators who have experienced grief-filled holidays, will lead us in discussion of how to manage all holidays and special dates in your life now.

Register online by [CLICKING HERE](#) or by calling the church office. Invite your family, friends and neighbors that are struggling through grief. All attendees will receive a **Holiday Survival Guide** with over 30 encouraging readings, helpful charts and tips to manage the holiday season during this difficult time.

### Questions?

[Click here](#) to email Pastor David or call the church office at [712-225-2667](tel:712-225-2667).

rightnow MEDIA

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First Church of CHRIST

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Visit our Website : [www.cherokeefcc.com](http://www.cherokeefcc.com)

**DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM. COLOSSIANS 3:17**

### DO WE HAVE ANY REASON TO BE THANKFUL?

I don't know who wrote these lines, but they represent my heart and my family this Thanksgiving season:

*"Thank God for dirty dishes;  
They have a tale to tell.  
While other folks go hungry,  
We're eating pretty well.*

*With home, and health, and happiness,  
we shouldn't want to fuss;  
For by this stack of evidence,  
God's been very good to us."*

No matter who we are or what we've been through this year, we all have a reason to be thankful. The Bible says, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17).

In case you're struggling to find something to be thankful for, perhaps this will help:

- If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million plus who will not survive this week.
- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of half a billion people in the world.
- If you were able to attend church services this past Sunday, and every Sunday, without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.
- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75 percent of the people in this world.

- If you have money in the bank, money in your wallet and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8 percent of the world's wealthy.
- If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.
- If you can hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer a healing touch.

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all. We have so much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving season. God has blessed us in so very many ways. Will you join me in thanking God for our blessings? Surely the blessing of life, liberty, family, friends, faith, and the privilege of living in this land of freedom and plenty would be at the top of our list.

The old song says, "Count your many blessings. Name them one by one. And it will surprise you..."

...what the Lord has done."

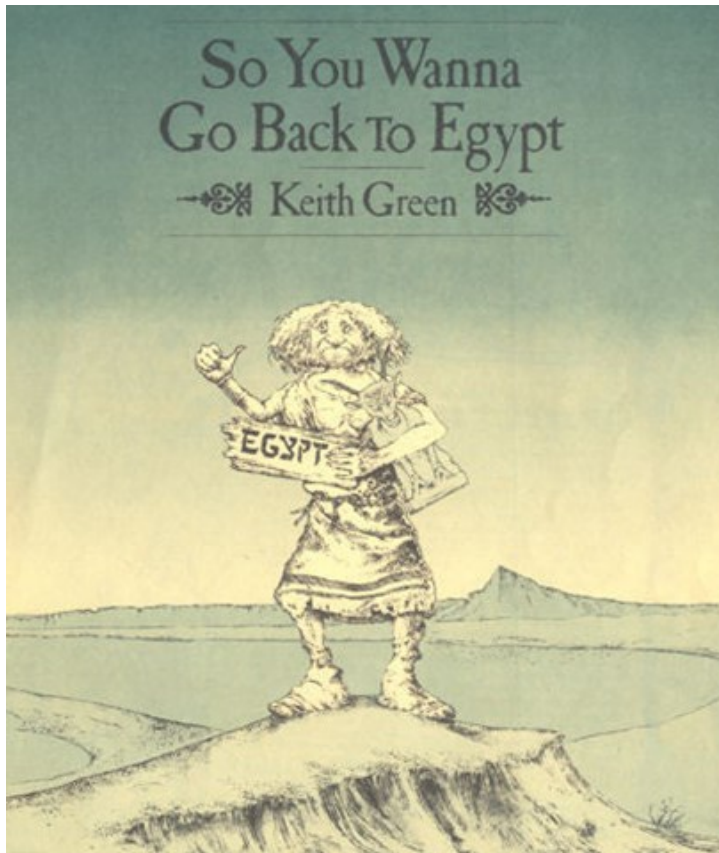
Thank you, God, for everything!

Blessings,

Pastor David



# Are You Sure You Want to Go Back



When I was a student in college a song was released on Christian radio entitled "So You Wanna Go Back to Egypt?" The singer, Keith Green, used this tongue-in-cheek song to describe the struggling Israelites wandering in the wilderness and make an important point. "Moses seems rather idle. He just sits around, he just sits around and writes the Bible! Oh, Moses, put down your pen! What? Oh no, manna again!" His point—how quickly the Israelites forgot how oppressed they were in slavery in Egypt. ([CLICK HERE](#) to watch a video of Keith performing the song live in 1980.)

It's easy for us to say, "What a bunch of idiots." But if we're honest, we often complain and lose sight of God's provision and purposes as well. We look at our box of ramen, which was donated, but we sure would've preferred mac and cheese. We drive our 10-year-old sedan when a 3-year-old SUV is preferred. We squeeze into our living room for Bible study but long for that open-concept home.

No matter what "deficit" you may be facing, God's blessings are a gift. Listen to Paul's encouragement for us today.

*"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding" (Ephesians 1:3-8).*

What a staggering reality! God chose us before the foundation of the world to become heirs of the Kingdom. He, in His grace, poured out on us every spiritual blessing. God's kindness is showered upon us with ALL wisdom and understanding.

It's true, you may not be where you want to be in life, but if it wasn't for God's grace, where would you be? Back in your own version of Egypt. You'd be a slave.

Today, "praise the name of God with a song and magnify him with thanksgiving" ([Psalm 69:30](#)). He loves you. He wants to bless you. He will continue to bless you. And He desires and deserves your thanksgiving. So let's start today.

## Receive:

Read [Psalm 69:30-36](#). What does this passage teach us about God? About us?

## Reflect:

Identify 5 things you are thankful for. Tell God how and why you are grateful. Share 1 thing with one person. See how your joy infects other people.

## Respond:

Thank you, God, for choosing me. Thank you for blessing me. Thank you for loving me. Help me spread this same grace and love. Amen.

## Seeking Cookie Plate Donations

Esther Circle will be delivering cookie plates this month. Are willing to donate some home baked cookies or individual packaged snacks to include in the plates? Please have your donations to church by November 14th. Your participation and donations for this outreach project is most appreciated.



**NEW SERVICE TIMES**

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00AM

WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

ACCURA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Giving Tree Located in Church Lobby

DECEMBER 3, 2023

When: 2:30 p.m.  
Where: Accura Healthcare  
921 Riverview Drive - Cherokee  
Bring: Some bars or cookies & yourself

It is time again to spread Christmas Cheer with the residents at Accura Healthcare in Cherokee! The Christmas Tree will be up the first Sunday in November and will have tags on it with either "Man" or "Lady" written on it. Be sure to write your name on the paper which will be on the table so we know which tag has been taken and by whom. When you return a gift with the tag on the package or bag, please make a check on the paper that you have placed your gift under the tree. Please purchase a \$10 gift for that tagged person. Suggestions are: hand lotion, body lotion, shampoo, a colorful calendar, blanket, etc. If you want to participate but don't have time to shop, give me your monetary donation and I will do your shopping for you! **All gifts MUST be back at the church by noon on Friday, December 1st!**

The party is scheduled for **Sunday, December 3rd at 2:30**. Everyone is welcome to attend the party! We will be singing Christmas Carols with the residents, distributing the gifts, and sharing a time of socializing with cookies, bars, and a drink. We will need to bring bars or cookies too! We won't have a sign up sheet for this. I trust those who will be coming to bring a dozen cookies or a small pan of bars.

Let's start the Christmas Season right by giving and spending time with those who will greatly appreciate our efforts! Thank you to each of you for making this local mission so successful!

—Pam Cronin

2023 FALL/WINTER SERMON SERIES

First Church of Christ Cherokee, IA  
www.cherokeefcc.com

Jesus THE ATONING SAVIOR

10/15 - We Affirm His Identity  
10/22 - We Submit to His Authority  
10/29 - We Heed His Warning  
11/5 - We Celebrate His Covenant  
11/12 - We Relate to His Humanity  
11/26 - We Share His Resolve  
12/10 - We Trust in His Sacrifice

- 1 – Matthew 20-21
- 2 – Luke 18:15-43; Luke 19:1-48
- 3 – Mark 11; John 12
- 4 – Matthew 22; Mark 12
- 5 – Matthew 23; Luke 20-21
- 6 – Mark 13
- 7 – Matthew 24
- 8 – Matthew 25
- 9 – Matthew 26; Mark 14
- 10 – Luke 22; John 13
- 11 – John 14-17
- 12 – Matthew 27; Mark 15
- 13 – Luke 23; John 18-19
- 14 – Matthew 28; Mark 16
- 15 – Luke 24; John 20-21
- 16 – Acts 1-3
- 17 – Acts 4-6
- 18 – Acts 7-8
- 19 – Acts 9-10
- 20 – Acts 11-12
- 21 – Acts 13-14
- 22 – James 1-5
- 23 – Acts 15-16
- 24 – Galatians 1-3
- 25 – Galatians 4-6
- 26 – Acts 17; Acts 18:1-18
- 27 – 1 Thessalonians 1-5; 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- 28 – Acts 18:19-28; Acts 19:1-41
- 29 – 1 Corinthians 1-4
- 30 – 1 Corinthians 5-8

## November Chronological Bible Reading Plan

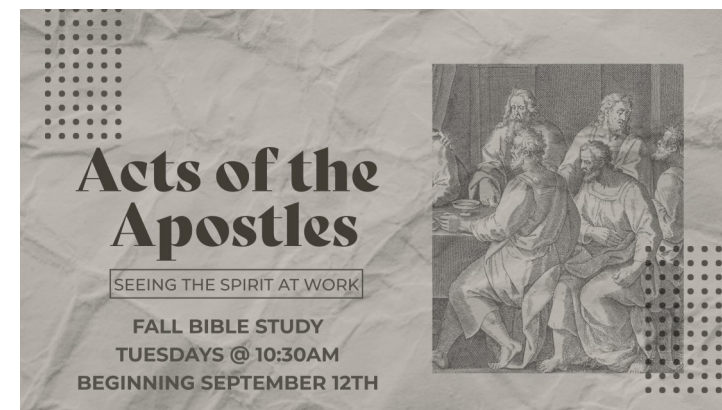
# November 2023

5	12	19	26
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
Mike Sparks	Guy Fishman	David Hall	Kirk Nelson
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
Sharon Henkel	David Hall	Sharon Henkel	David Hall
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
N/A	Eleanor Johnston	N/A	N/A
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Angela Hall	Nancy Nelson	Mark Casey	Angela Hall
David Hall	Larry Heschke	Marcia Casey	
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial
Barry & Nancy Nelson	Barry & Nancy Nelson	Barry & Nancy Nelson	Barry & Nancy Nelson
Marcia Nelson	Marcia Nelson	Marcia Nelson	Marcia Nelson



## 2023 HARVEST OFFERING

At the September meeting of the Board of Elders and Deacons it was decided that this year's **Harvest Offering** will be designated to offsetting the cost of replacing one of the church air conditioning units that went bad this summer. The goal is to raise at least \$15,000. The date for receiving this year's Harvest Offering is **Sunday, November 19th**. We ask that you prayerfully consider your participation and then give generously as God leads.



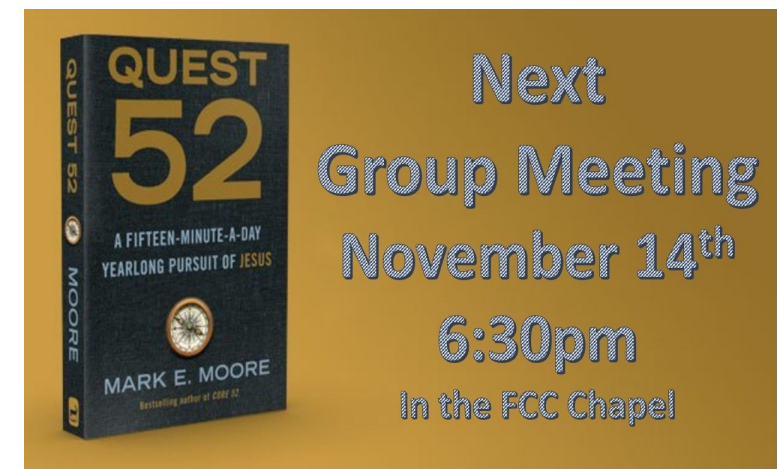
The Spirit moved in dramatic ways in the early church. The gospel was preached, thousands were added to their number, many were healed, and the good news about Jesus was spread across continents. Covering the exciting action of the Spirit in the years just following Jesus' life on earth, this study will open your eyes to the Spirit's power in the past *and* present and help you apply the riches of Scripture to your own life.

**Join us at 10:30am each Tuesday morning this fall and be a part of this exciting study through the Book of Acts. Invite a friend to attend with you!**



Join us in the church Fellowship Hall at the conclusion of the morning worship service on **Sunday, November 19th**, for a special **All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner**. This promises to be a fun time of food and fellowship for everyone. We are inviting all our Bible Buddies and their families to join us as special guests for the meal and ask that they bring only themselves. As for the rest of our church family, you are asked to bring **two of your favorite** Thanksgiving side dishes to share.

**Please plan to attend!**



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

**Nomination Form**

Nominate as few or many as you are lead.

**Elders: (3 year term)**  
**Qualifications** - To be elected a man must be a member of the congregation for at least one year and meet the qualifications in the New Testament including those in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

The duties will be to serve the needs of the congregation as outlined in the New Testament. The duties will also be to serve as a voting member of the board, serve on the nominations committee, serve on the pulpit committee, and serve on the board of education. The term will be subject to continued qualification for the office and run for three calendar years.

**Deacons: (1 year term)**  
**Qualifications** - To be elected a man must be a member of the congregation for at least one year and meet the qualifications in the New Testament including those in 1 Timothy 3:8-12.

The duties will be to serve the needs of the congregation as outlined in the New Testament. The duties will also be to serve as a voting member of the board and assist in carrying out the decisions of the board. The term will be subject to continued qualification for the office and run for one calendar year.

**Trustee: (3 year term)**  
**Qualifications** - To be elected the candidate must be an active and faithful member of the congregation for at least one year. The duties will be to act under the direction of the board and assume the responsibilities required by law.

**Membership Defined:**  
A member is anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as his/her personal savior and who has been immersed in baptism for the remission of sins or those who have transferred his/her membership from another recognized (restoration movement) church.

**A Voting Member:** One who is at least 16 years of age.

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**2024 Nomination Form**

**Current Elders**  
Mike Sparks - Chairman  
Kirk Nelson - Co-Chair  
Larry Heschke - Secretary

**Your Nominations:**

**Term Expires**  
12/31/2023  
12/31/2023  
12/31/2025

**Current Deacons**  
Barry Nelson  
Mark Patten  
Tom Mortenson  
Kevin Schmillen

**Your Nominations:**

**Term Expires**  
12/31/2023  
12/31/2023  
12/31/2023  
12/31/2023

**Current Trustees**  
Guy Fishman  
Curt Wiese  
Joe Draper

**Your Nominations:**

**Term Expires**  
12/31/2025  
12/31/2023  
12/31/2023



**November 1**  
McKenzie Booher

**November 3**  
Ava Schroeder

**November 5**  
Tim Vannatta

**November 7**  
Alexander S. (MCS Student)  
Quentin C. (MCS Student)

**November 14**  
Kevin Schmillen

**November 17**  
Hunter K. (MCS Student)

**November 19**  
DeAngelo E. (MCS Student)

**November 20**  
Jozzlin Inman  
Ulises Placido

**November 23**  
Brooke Joy

**November 27**  
Brian Nelson

**November 29**  
Polly Fishman

**Board of Elders & Deacons Nominations**

Nomination forms are included in this months newsletter and will also be available .

The deadline to submit your nominations will be **November 5, 2023.**

Those individuals accepting your nominations will be publish on the ballots by November 19, 2023. The election of those accepting nominations will take place on December 10, 2023. Their terms will begin on January 1, 2023.

You will not need to nominate someone whose term has not yet expired.

Thank you

Dear Church Family,

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 love being your pastor and serving the Lord alongside you in this place. Angela and I are truly blessed

"I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you." ~Romans 1:8

Love,

David

Pastor David

Date	Offering	On Campus Attendance	Online Attendance	Total Attendance
10/01/2023	\$1755.00	45	22	67
10/08/2023	\$3885.25	84	15	99
10/22/2023	\$1846.40	75	25	116
10/29/2023	TBD	89	14	93

For Kids  
Pre-K — 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Wednesdays  
6:30PM  
Join Us!

**NOTE:**  
It is not necessary to nominate someone whose term has not yet expired.