



CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

Peace On Earth



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was filled with sorrow at the tragic death of his wife in a fire in 1861. The Civil War broke out the same year, and it felt like an additional punishment. Two years later, Longfellow was once again saddened to hear his son had been seriously wounded as a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac.

Sitting down at his desk one Christmas day, he heard the church bells ringing. It was in that setting he wrote the words to this famous Christmas carol:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
Their old familiar carols play.
And wild and sweet the words repeat,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said.
'For hate is strong and mocks the song,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: '
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

A lot of people are having a hard time hearing the bells and singing Christmas carols this year because of what's going on in their lives and all over the world. Like Longfellow, it's hard for them to believe there will ever be peace on earth. If he were here today, he might write those lines again: "And in despair I bowed my head: 'There is no peace on earth,' I said. 'For hate is strong and mocks the song, Of peace on earth, good will to men.'"

But don't stop there. Keep listening to the bells.

On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright finally succeeded in keeping their homemade airplane aloft for 59 seconds. They were ecstatic! As part of their excitement, they rushed a telegram to their sister in Dayton, Ohio.

Their simple message was, "First sustained flight today of fifty-nine seconds. Hope to be home by Christmas."

She was so enthralled with their success, she immediately took the telegram to the newspaper and gave it to the editor. The following morning the Wright brothers' name was splashed across the front page. The headline read, "Popular Local Bicycle Merchants To Be Home For Holidays."

He missed the whole point. And so do millions of people every December. They're completely oblivious to the REASON for the season because they're not listening to the bells.

As Longfellow continued to listen to those church bells, ringing on Christmas Day, he wrote: "Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: 'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men.'"

This Christmas, don't turn away from the bells, turn to them. Even though you've got hurts that won't seem to heal, problems that won't go away, and burdens that tend to overwhelm and consume your soul. Don't turn away from the Christmas carols, the Christmas programs or the Christmas services celebrating the birth of Christ.

Because there's a magnificent message of hope ringing out to you and every person in the world. It's "GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE." It's the message that in CHRIST JESUS, the Messiah from Bethlehem's manger, Conquering King of Calvary's cross, and Resurrected Redeemer from earth's empty tomb, we can find PEACE. Everlasting peace. Not only here on earth, but for all eternity.

The bells are ringing. Are you listening?

Merry Christmas,

Pastor David



Advent Sermon Series 2025

First Church of Christ | Cherokee, IA

“When the time had fully come, God sent his Son.” God’s people had been waiting for hundreds, thousands of years for God to send the rescuer. As the time approached, God sent his messengers to declare that the waiting was nearly over. The King of all creation was entering the world. This Advent, we will prepare for the Christ-child by listening to God’s messengers of Good News, the angels, as they appear to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. They have a message from God of good news that brings great joy, which is for all people. Join us each Sunday in December as we ponder the mystery of the virgin birth, the incarnation, and the humility of God as he becomes one with us to rescue us from sin and death. We too are messengers, sent from God, to invite others “to see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Upcoming Sermons Include:

12/7 — Hope: An Angel's Message to Zechariah — Luke 1:5-20

12/14 — Purpose: An Angel's Message to Mary — Luke 1:26-45

12/21 — Salvation: An Angel's Message to Joseph — Luke 2:1-7

Christmas Eve — Joy: An Angel's Message to the Shepherds — Luke 2:8-14

12/28 — After the Angels Are Gone — Luke 2:15-20



Come and Behold Him.

Invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you at our Annual Christmas Eve Service taking place at **5:00pm on Wednesday evening, December 24th.**

There will be congregational singing, Scripture reading, special music, a short Christmas message, and a special time of communion, all in an inspirational candlelit setting.

Plan now to take part in this beautiful celebration of our Savior’s birth.



A Gift Too Wonderful for Words!

Scripture Reading — [Luke 2:1-20](#)

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15



Every Christmas season for the past several years we have had the privilege of watching our grandchildren open their Christmas gifts. It has become a family tradition. Each year it's a delight to see their anticipation as they tear wrapping paper away and then see a gift they wanted but had not expected.

Whatever gifts we give each other, none comes close to the gift God gave us on the first Christmas Day some 2,000 years ago—the gift of his Son, the Lord Jesus. It's a gift too wonderful for words.

God's gift to us is the most costly gift ever. It's the gift not only of the birth but also of the death of his Son, our Lord Jesus. It's a gift we don't own, because we belong to him, and we can't keep this gift for ourselves. Most important, Jesus is the gift that each one of us needs desperately. Without him there is no hope, no life, no future.

God's gift to us on that first Christmas calls us to celebrate and worship. Make sure to come and worship Christ the Lord this Christmas season. Accept God's gift and receive him as your Lord and Savior. Invite someone who does not know about this gift to come with you. And as you celebrate, ask the Lord for open doors to share this gift in days to come.

Pray

Father in heaven, thank you for your gift that is too wonderful for words. Help us to accept your gift and share it. To you be all glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

2026 Church Board Nominees

Terms to Begin on January 1, 2026



Church Leadership Election Set

The annual election of church leaders will take place on **December 14th** at the end of the morning worship service. Election ballots will be available on that day in the church lobby and in the worship bulletins. We ask that you attend worship that day to vote and turn in your ballots.

Those accepting your nominations this year are as follows:

For Elder—Larry Heschke

For Deacon—Tom Mortenson, Kevin Schmillen, Mark Patten

For Trustee—Mark Casey, Guy Fishman

Terms of those elected will begin on January 1, 2026. Please remember these men and our church in your prayers.

Accura of Cherokee (Countryside Estates) Christmas Party

The date will be **Sunday, December 7th at 2:30 pm.**

We will sing Christmas Carols with them for entertainment. We can bring in baked cookies and bars.
Please bring them with you when you come.

All church members are invited to attend the Party!

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



BIBLE BUDDIES FAMILY NIGHT

✳️ **Christmas Caroling** for the entire family

✳️ **Cookies**

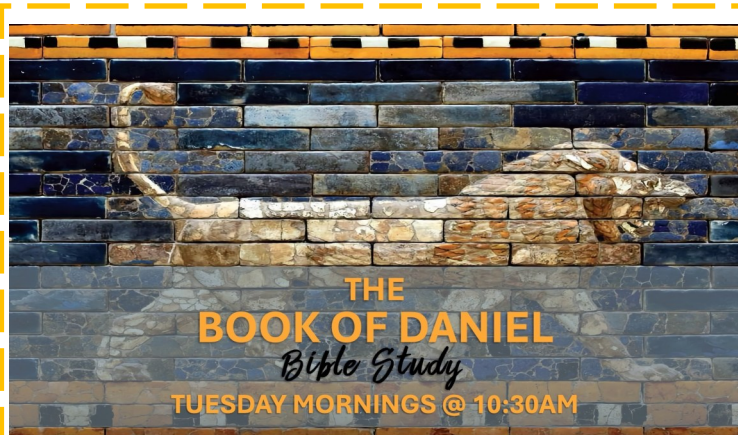
✳️ **Hot Chocolate**



Please meet at The Gardens Assisted Living at **6:30pm on Wednesday, December 17th**. We would like for parents to transport their own children and stay to carol with the residents. We will enjoy Christmas cookies and hot chocolate afterwards.

**This special fun family event will be our last Bible Buddies meeting for the month of December.*





How do we faithfully follow the Lord while living in a place and culture opposed to the very things of God?

That's precisely the question Daniel faced. In this Bible study through the 12 chapters in the book of Daniel, you'll discover how Daniel resisted the pressure to comply.

The book of Daniel is a fascinating mix of stories about Daniel in exile and his prophecies about coming kingdoms and the end times. This Bible study explores Daniel's life in Babylon and his prophetic visions in which earthly rulers and heavenly powers collide.

Join us each Tuesday morning!

We'll see you there!



This year, instead of signing up to bring treats for Bible Buddies each week, we are seeking monetary donations so we can purchase the treats that we need.

We have a donation container on the foyer table for your donations.

Thank you for your help in making our Bible Buddies program a success.

If you have questions, you can check with Dixie.



Sounds of The Season

Immaculate Conception Church in Cherokee will be hosting A Night of Caroling on Sunday, December 21st at 5:45 PM. As the Christmas season is always a busy time, we want to share this information early so families can plan ahead and join us for this special evening of music and community.

Join us for a joyful celebration of the season as musicians from Immaculate Conception Church, along with children from our Religious Education Program, lead us in singing beloved Christmas carols. Together we will lift our voices in preparation for the coming of Christ.

Event Details:

A Night of Caroling

Sunday, December 21 • 5:45 PM

Immaculate Conception Church, Cherokee, Iowa

A light reception will follow.

A free-will offering will be taken to support ongoing music ministry projects throughout the year.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach out. Thank you in advance for helping us spread the word — we look forward to celebrating the beauty of the season with you.

Cain Junkman

Director of Worship & Religious Education

Immaculate Conception Church

Phone: 712.225.4606

Email: cain@iccherokee.org

From the Church Secretary:

The holidays are here and everyone is busy. So if you need an announcement on the screen or in the bulletin, please get the information by close of business on Wednesday before the announcement is to run. And let me know how long you would like it to run.

I'm still in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays about 9 am and will be there until the day's work is done (1-4 hours typically). If you need something and I am not here, just leave a note on the desk.

Thanks.

Julie

FCC SHUT-INS

The Gardens

Darlene Nelson (#108) 712-434-5311
Delores Wheeler (#402) 712-229-5418

Heartland Care – Marcus

Charlotte Barnes (#209) 712-229-3244
Della Rupp (#201)
Connie Johnson (#301)

Accura – Cherokee

Randy Cox (#206)
Glenn Wallace (#206) 919-815-0334

The Beck

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 go to Sioux City.)

UPDATED

INFORMATION

Please remember to update your information (current address or phone, birthday, anniversary date, etc.), any time there is a change. If you aren't sure if your information is right, please call Julie on Tuesday or Thursday morning or take a form from the table in the foyer, complete it and leave it in the office. Thank you!

Time To Celebrate

Birthdays

1st—Treton Huff
5th—Rhonda Wiese
12th—Delores Wheeler
13th—Guy Fishman
17th—Makenna Gray
20th—Ruth Dean & Sawyer Hilt



Anniversary

24th—Larry & Jean Heschke

If you have a December 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*



MCS Birthday Party

December 13th

Kirk Nelson hosting

Weekly / Monthly Activities

- ☐ **Bible Study** - Tuesdays 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.
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Connections (*Sewing Days*)** - First Full Weekend (*Friday @ 9 a.m. & Saturday all day*)
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Meetings** - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.





MERRY AND BRIGHT

We've purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos and are giving free access to everyone in our church.

GET FREE ACCESS

Scan the QR code to create your free account and start browsing.



WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

December 2025

7	14	21	28
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers	Advent Candle Readers
Connor Family	Tamerra Henderson	Curt Wiese	N/A
	Nancy Nelson	Rhonda Wiese	N/A
Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion
Kirk Nelson	Kirk Nelson	Larry Heschke	Kevin Schmillen
Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator
Larry Heschke	Barry Nelson	Kirk Nelson	Mike Sparks
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Guy Fishman	David Hall	Kirk Nelson	Mike Sparks
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
David Hall	David Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
N/A	Eleanor Johnston	N/A	N/A
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
	Larry Heschke		Nancy Nelson
	Nancy Nelson		Larry Heschke
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
Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall
Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS

MONTHLY MEETING

December 14, 2025



Following the Morning Worship Service

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

DECEMBER 11, 2025 @ 11:30 AM

MEET AT WHISKEY THROTTLE FOR LUNCH

Date	Offering	Attendance
11/2/2025	\$1,956.00	On Campus: 69 Online: 13 Total: 82
11/9/2025	\$1,461.00	On Campus: 60 Online: 11 Total: 71
11/16/2025	\$1,880.00	On Campus: 85 Online: 8 Total: 93
11/23/2025	\$3,134.20	On Campus: 70 Online: 13 Total: 83
11/30/2025	\$NA	On Campus: 0 Online: 52 Total: 52



BIBLE BUDDIES

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM
PreK - 5th Grades

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



MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS




We will not have Bible Buddies on Wednesday, December 24th or December 31st.

We will resume on January 7th.

Enjoy the holidays!!!!

BIBLE BUDDIES
Mission

Please continue to collect pull tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. Bring them to the church anytime. Let's see if we can collect 14 pounds of tabs this Bible Buddies season!



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

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 With Hope
To Bless Women Who Are Struggling
From Abuse And Addiction

Items Needed

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Deodorant
- Pads
- Tampons
- Lotion
- Body Wash/soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner



For questions contact:
Minister Tamerra Henderson
(309) 231-5216
Items can be delivered to:
First Church of Christ
772 N 2nd St
Cherokee, IA 51012
Pastor David
(712) 225-2667