

CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMEBACK



Everybody loves a good comeback story. A story about an individual or a group of people, an organization, team, or business, who, when facing impossible adversity, somehow overcomes the odds and wins. History is full of them.

One of my favorites is the story of Bernie Marcus. Bernie was the son of a poor Russian cabinetmaker in Newark, New Jersey. In 1978, he was fired from a do-it-yourself retail store called HANDY DAN. What do you do when you've been fired from HANDY DAN? Well, Bernie teamed up with a guy named Arthur Blank, and they decided to start their own business. They opened their first store in Atlanta, Georgia. It was called THE HOME DEPOT. Today, they have stores all over the world, and their annual income is in the billions. That's a great comeback story!

Or how about Wilma Rudolph, who was the 20th of 22 children? She was born prematurely and her survival was doubtful. When she was 4, she contracted double pneumonia and scarlet fever, which left her with a paralyzed left leg. At age 9, she removed the metal leg brace she had been dependent on and began to walk without it. At age 13, she'd developed a rhythmic walk, which doctors said was a miracle. That same year she decided to become a runner. She entered a race and came in last. For the next few years, every race she entered, she came in last. Everyone told her to quit, but she kept on running. One day she actually won a race. And then another. From then on, she won every race she entered. Eventually, this little girl who was told she would never walk again went on to win three Olympic gold medals.

Talk about comebacks, did you know General Douglas MacArthur was turned down when he applied for admission to West Point? Not just once, but twice. He came back a third time, was accepted and marched into the history books.

Or how about Albert Einstein, who developed the theory of relativity? Did you know he was expelled from school for being dumb? In a 6-month period, he taught himself calculus. In 1905, he published three papers that revolutionized man's image of the physical universe and helped lay the foundation for the nuclear age. One of the papers offered an explanation of the photoelectric effect, which concerns the emission of electrons from metal surfaces exposed to light. Theoretically, this study represented a cornerstone of the quantum theory, and practically, it made possible many great inventions, including television and automation systems.

What about Thomas Edison, who was kicked out of school because they could do nothing with him? The teachers told his mother he was just too slow to learn. So, little Thomas was home schooled by his mother. And he made quite a comeback. At the age of 10 he'd already set up his first chemistry laboratory. He became our nation's most famous inventor with inventions such as the light bulb, the phonograph and the kinoscope. When he synchronized these, he produced motion pictures. He gave us over 1300 inventions that have radically improved our world.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was paralyzed by polio at the age of 39. Yet he went on to become one of the most beloved and influential leaders in American history, being elected President of the U.S. four times.

In the 1940s a young inventor named Chester Carlson took his idea to 20 corporations, including some of the biggest in the country. They all turned him down and he almost quit. In 1947, after seven long years of continuous rejection, he went back to a tiny company in Rochester, New York; the Haloid Company. They purchased the rights to his electrostatic paper-copying process. Haloid changed its name to Xerox Corporation, and Carlson's invention changed all of our lives.

(continued from page 1)

Those are all great comebacks. But none of them would qualify as THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMEBACK. Even in the Bible we find some phenomenal comebacks. Joseph who went from the pit to the palace, becoming the Prime Minister of Egypt. King David's comeback after his fall. Job would certainly qualify as one of the greatest comebacks of all time. John Mark would qualify after failing on his first missionary journey. Peter would be at the top of the list, after denying knowing the Lord, yet God allowed him to come back and preach the very first sermon on the opening day of the church, the Day of Pentecost.

However, none of those would qualify for *The World's Greatest Comeback*. In [Matthew 28:1-10](#), we have the greatest event in all of human history: The RESURRECTION of JESUS CHRIST. Talk about a COMEBACK (vs. 6). The angel said, "Jesus told you He'd come back. And He did. He's alive!" On April 5th a large portion of the world will celebrate the RESURRECTION of JESUS, and it is certainly one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the world. But what would you say if I told you the greatest comeback is yet to come?

That's right. The world's greatest comeback is still in the future. It's going to be when Jesus returns for His own. (Read [John 14:1-6](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#).) If we believe in the risen Lord and have accepted Him as our Lord and Savior, He's coming back for us. If we don't believe in the risen Lord and fail to give our lives to Him, we'll be left behind, forever.

Here's the point: Jesus is coming back ... there's no question about that. The question is ... is He coming back for you?

Blessings,

Pastor David



All are invited to join us for this free breakfast.

A red poster for Easter 2026 events. The text is white and pink. It lists events for Friday, April 3 and Sunday, April 5. At the bottom, there are four circular icons: a lightning bolt, hands in prayer, a dove, and a cross.

EASTER 2026
APRIL 3 - 5

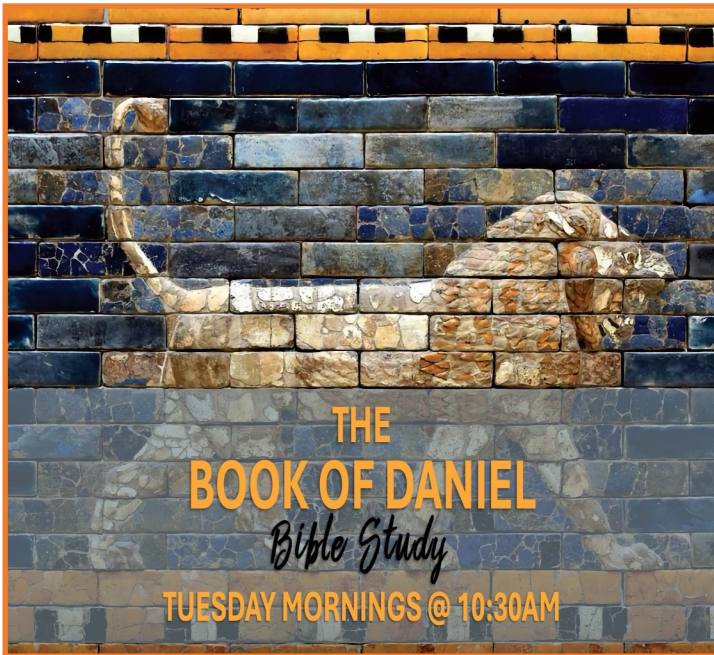
FRIDAY, APRIL 3
7:00 P.M.
Good Friday Worship and Communion Service

EASTER EGG HUNT!
For Kids Through 5th Grade
Immediately following the Easter
Worship Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
Easter Sunrise Breakfast • 9:00 A.M.
(No charge and all are welcome!)

Easter Worship Service • 10:00 A.M.

**No Sunday School

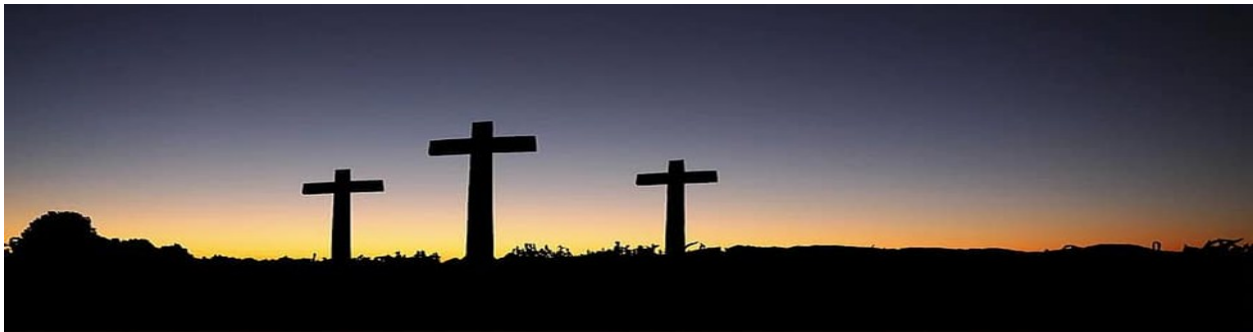


How do we faithfully follow the Lord while living in a place and culture opposed to the very things of God?

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.

*We meet most **TUESDAY mornings**, at 10:30 a.m. Hope to see YOU there!*



This Easter season, we invite you to journey through the events that changed everything.

"Of First Importance" is a five-week sermon series exploring the core of the Christian faith — the death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and return of Jesus Christ.

Beginning March 22nd and running through April 19th, each week will take us deeper into the truths that the Apostle Paul declared to be of *first importance* — the gospel that saves, transforms, and gives us living hope. Whether you're a longtime believer or simply curious about what Easter is really about, this series is for you.

Join us as we examine the most significant events in human history and discover why they matter for your life today.



The Promise of His Return

Read John 14:1-3

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may also be.”

Reflect

What troubles you the most in this world? Will that still be a problem for you once Jesus returns?

The world is a troublesome place. Which shouldn’t really surprise us, should it? After all, Jesus told us that we’d have trouble in this world. But He also told us to be of good courage because He has overcome the world ([John 16:33](#))! When I am struggling with the problems of this world, it helps me to remember that Jesus promised to return for us. And when He returns, He will renew and transform this world ([Revelation 21:5](#)).

In the above verses, Jesus encouraged His disciples by telling them not to worry. Yes, He was leaving them (in fact, He would be arrested that very night) but only for a while. He was leaving them, but it was for their own benefit. He was going to prepare a place for them in His Father’s house. In other words, Jesus promised to come back to get us and take us home!

It reminds me of my favorite line in Psalm 23: “...and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever” (v.6). Jesus is making a place for us and we’ll be able to live with Him forever!

But when? Well, Jesus told us that no one knows when He will return ([Matthew 24:36](#)) but that we should always be ready ([Matthew 24:44](#)). The apostle Paul said that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night ([1 Thessalonians 5:2](#)). But Paul also told us what we can expect: “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel,

and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord” ([1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#)).

But what is Heaven like? The apostle John saw it in a vision from the Lord, and he described his experience like this: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” ([Revelation 21:3-4](#)).

Friend, if you are struggling, please know that you are NOT alone. This world is hard. We do have troubles! But remember the promise of Jesus...don’t let your heart be troubled! He is preparing a place for us and He will come back to get us. Believe Him!

“He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon” ([Revelation 22:20](#)).

Respond

Lord, thank You for the promise that You will come back for us. You know that we have trouble in this world. You see our suffering. But when You return, You will make it all new. This world will be restored and perfected. And I know that I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever and so, I will always be with You, Lord. Amen!

Reveal

After Paul wrote about Jesus coming back to get us and taking us home with Him on the clouds, He wrote:

“Therefore encourage one another with these words” ([1 Thessalonians 4:18](#)). So, obey Paul and encourage someone who needs a reminder that someday, Jesus will return. He will take us to be where He is, and we will always be with the Lord.



FCC SHUT-INS

The Gardens

(Enter Door Code – 1610) (Exit Door Code – 1379)
Darlene Nelson (#108) 712-434-5311
Delores Wheeler (#402) 712-229-5418

Heartland Care – Marcus (Door Code-2501)

Charlotte Barnes (#209) 712-229-3244
Della Rupp (#201)
Connie Johnson (#212 – Assisted Living)

Accura – Cherokee (Door Code-3917)

Randy Cox (#201A)
Glenn Wallace (#211A) 919-815-0334

The Beck (Code *350)

Joanne Nelson (#106) 712-229-9202

Home

Bea Carver 1123 W. Bluff St. Cherokee 712-225-2656	Claudia Schulke 5503 Gordon Dr., Apt 208 Sioux City, IA 51106 claudiams@midco.net (She would appreciate a visit if you get to Sioux City.)
Ruth Dean (if not at church) 1025 N Roosevelt, Apt 13 Cherokee, IA 51012 712-225-6439	

Celebrate

Birthdays

1st—Amanda Curtin
6th—Connie Johnson
7th—Mike Duvall
10th—Bryson Newcomb
14th—Sholeen Sparks
22nd—Skyler Garland
24th—Joanne Nelson
28th—Noah Connor
30th—Duane Heschke



If you have an April 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

April 11th

The host is TBD



Brownies for
Camp



We are going to collect family size brownie mixes for Camp Nebowa.

Our goal is **50 family size boxes (makes 9"x13" pan)** of Brownie mixes.

A collection box will be in the foyer. **Deadline is May 24.**

Weekly / Monthly Activities

- Bible Study** - Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
- Scout Troop 107** - Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- Bible Buddies** - Are on break until September.
- Homemakers** - 2nd Thursday 9:30 a.m.
- Quilt Batts Meetings** - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
- Quilt Batts Connections (Sewing Days)** - First Weekend after the Tuesday Meeting (Friday @ 9 a.m. & Saturday all day)



CAMPS FOR ALL AGES!

The 2026 church camp season is quickly approaching! If you want to go to Camp Nebowa this summer - and we would love for you to go - there are camps for all ages, including adults. First Church of Christ is offering to pay half of your camp fees in 2026. You simply register online for the camp session of your choice at www.nebowa.com and enter the discount code "cherokee50" on the checkout page. Questions? Contact Pastor David.

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

April 2026

5 - Easter	12	19	26
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Sholeen Sparks	Angela Hall
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Sholeen Sparks	Angela Hall
Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion
David Hall	Tom Mortenson	TBD	Kevin Schmillen
Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Kirk Nelson	Barry Nelson
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Mike Sparks	Guy Fishman	Kirk Nelson	David Hall
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
David Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel	Sharon Henkel
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
N/A	Eleanor Johnston	N/A	N/A
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall	Nancy Nelson	David Hall
Larry Heschke		Larry Heschke	Angela Hall
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial
Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson
Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS



MONTHLY MEETING

April 12, 2026

Following the Morning Worship Service

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

APRIL 9, 2026

WE MEET AT 9:30 AM AT THE CHURCH

DIXIE IS IN CHARGE OF THE MEETING

Date	Offering	Attendance
3/1/26	\$1,059.00	On Campus: 56 Online: 18 Total: 74
3/8/26	\$2,463.00	On Campus: 59 Online: 14 Total: 73
3/15/26	\$0.00	On Campus: snow Online: storm Total: no services
3/22/26	\$2,335.00	On Campus: 68 Online: 38 Total: 106
3/29/26	\$NA	On Campus: 65 Online: 40 Total: 105

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. to Help with Heating Bills

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offered through **Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.** may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Health & Human Services and has been established to help qualified low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay a portion of their primary heating costs.

Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications through April 30, 2026. Each applicant will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member, and proof of the household's income for the past month (30 days), the past twelve (12) months, or the most recent calendar year (tax return). Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed at the right. Applicants eligible for an award will be paid on a first-come, first-served basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds.

MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME	
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$31,300
2	\$42,300
3	\$53,300
4	\$64,300
5	\$75,300

For families with more than five members, add \$11,000 for each additional member.

Please contact your local outreach office for an appointment to apply for LIHEAP:

Ida County	Cherokee County	Plymouth County	Sioux County	Lyon County
712-364-2175 or 712-225-3322	712-225-3322	712-546-6603	712-722-3611	712-472-3746 or 712-722-3611
Thursday 9:00 - 4:00	Mon-Wed-Fri 8:00 - 4:30	Mon-Tues-Thursday 8:00 - 4:30	Mon-Tue-Th-Fri 8:00 - 4:30	Wednesday 9:00 - 4:00

Visit us on the web at www.midsioux.org
 Central Office 1-800-859-2025 / Hearing Impaired call 711
info@midsioux.org

Serving Lyon • Sioux • Plymouth • Cherokee • Ida Counties

1-800-859-2025 • Fax 712-208-4949 • Hearing Impaired Call 711
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Cherokee County Healthy Aging Conference

Join us to learn more about important topics as we age- featuring local organizations with services for seniors and caregivers.



Thursday, April 23, 2026

9:00am - 2:00pm

WITCC Cherokee Campus
200 Victory Drive

8:30-9am Check-In with Coffee & Rolls

9-9:45am Session I: Advance Directives
Carey Ducommun & Melissa Schlenger, CRMC

10-10:45am Session II: Planning Your Final Arrangements
Jennifer Boothby-Nixon, Boothby Funeral Home

11-11:45am Session III: Healthy Movements & Fall Prevention
Jodi Schlichting & Kayla Koch, CRMC

12pm Lunch

12:30-2pm Vendor Fair open to the public

*Pre-Registration Required. \$15 Fee includes lunch.
 Checks made out to Connections Area Agency on Aging. Registration deadline: April 15.



REGISTER & PAY ONLINE: <https://tinyurl.com/CCHealthy>



REGISTER & PAY IN PERSON AT WIT CHEROKEE:

First & Last Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Info: Wendy Iverson, Western Iowa Tech Cherokee Campus Director, 712-225-0238

From the Church Secretary:

I'm still in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays at about 9 am and will be there until the day's work is done (1-3 hours typically).

If you need an announcement on the screen or in the bulletin, please get the information to the office by close of business on Wednesday before the you want the announcement to run. And let me know how long you would like it to run.

If you need something and I am not here, just leave a note on the desk. Thanks.

Julie

UPDATED INFORMATION

If you aren't sure if your contact information is correct, please call Julie when she is in the office on Tuesday or Thursday morning to check, or take a form from the table in the foyer, complete it and leave it in the office.

Thank you!



Join Our Worship Team!



Do you love to worship and have a heart to lead others in praise? Whether you sing, play an instrument, or love working behind the scenes with tech and media, there's a place for you on our Worship Team!

We're looking for passionate people who want to use their gifts to glorify God and help create a meaningful worship experience for our church family.

Opportunities include:

- Vocals and instruments
- Audio/visual tech
- Slides and media support

Whether you're experienced or just feeling the nudge to get involved, we'd love to connect with you. Training and encouragement provided!

Interested? Let us know!

Talk to Pastor David, call the Church Office, or email us at dhall.fcc@gmail.com.

Let's praise Him—**together**.

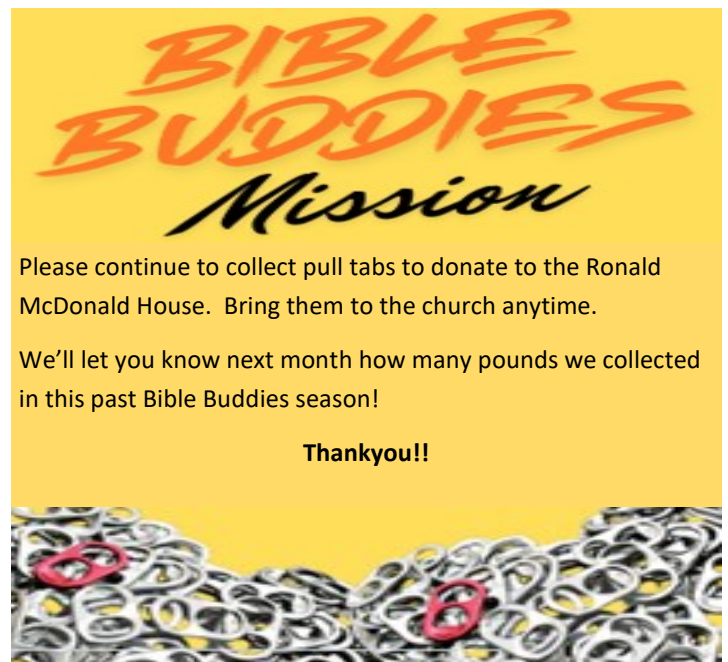
First Church of Christ
772 N. 2nd Street
Cherokee, IA 51012
(712) 225-2667
www.cherokeefcc.com

MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS



Bible Buddies in on break until school starts in the fall.

Thank you to everyone who made this past year's program successful. We can't do it without you.



Please continue to collect pull tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. Bring them to the church anytime.

We'll let you know next month how many pounds we collected in this past Bible Buddies season!

Thankyou!!