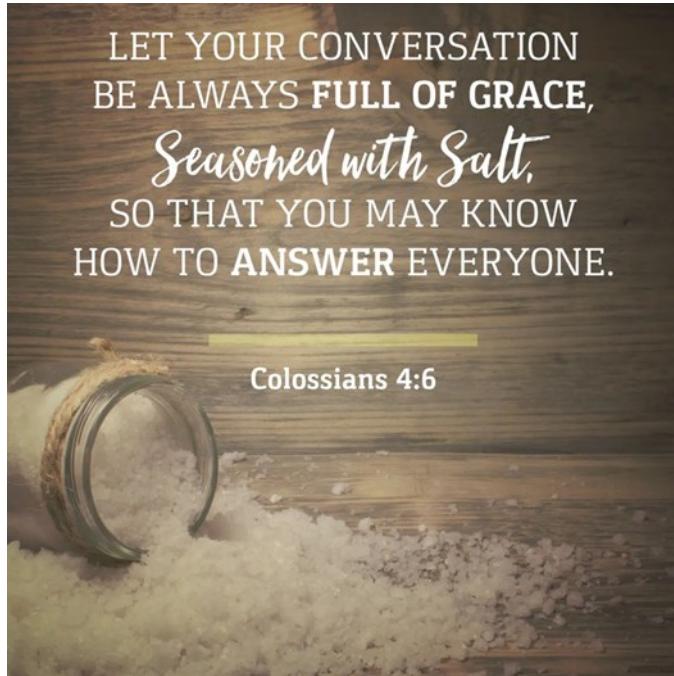


CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oh, Be Careful, Little Tongue, What You Say



I was frustrated! Angela and I went out for a nice dinner, but the service left a lot to be desired. Our server failed to get several things right, was slow in bringing items we requested, and seemed to ignore us when walking by our booth. I had already calculated in my mind what I was going to say and how this would affect her tip.

Then our server completely disappeared, and a different server took over. Shortly, the manager came by and offered his apology. We learned it was our server's first night on her own and she was overwhelmed by the responsibilities. We overheard the waitstaff say she locked herself in the bathroom and was crying uncontrollably. My frustration melted into compassion as I recalled the hard first days on some of my jobs.

Paul wrote our conversation should "**be always full of grace.**" In this context, grace implies mercy and compassion be given, even though unearned and undeserved. It is acting toward another the way God in Christ has acted toward me. My rehearsed speech was full of criticism and judgment, but I suspect our server had already spoken that to herself. She needed words of grace and encouragement.

Paul added our conversation should be "**seasoned with salt.**" Salt was used in a variety of ways in the first century, to preserve, to flavor, as an antiseptic and even as a currency. So, I need to ask: Will my words preserve a relationship or destroy it? Will they leave a pleasant taste or bitter aftertaste? Will they bring healing or make the hurt worse? Are my words good as gold or as worthless as a counterfeit? Hard questions to consider!

Solomon wrote, "**The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit**" (*Pro. 18:21*). Words are powerful things. We tend to treat them casually, but they can minister life or death. The adage "*sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me*" is patently false! The broken bones I've sustained have all healed but recalling hurtful nicknames still stings. No, I won't tell you what they were!

Gordon McDonald writes, "*What the Christian has to say must fit closely to the needs of those to whom he speaks ... to sustain the one who is weary, to speak God's word and tell of his righteousness, and bring God's wisdom to bear ... becoming the tongue of silver Solomon encouraged (Pro. 10:20).*"

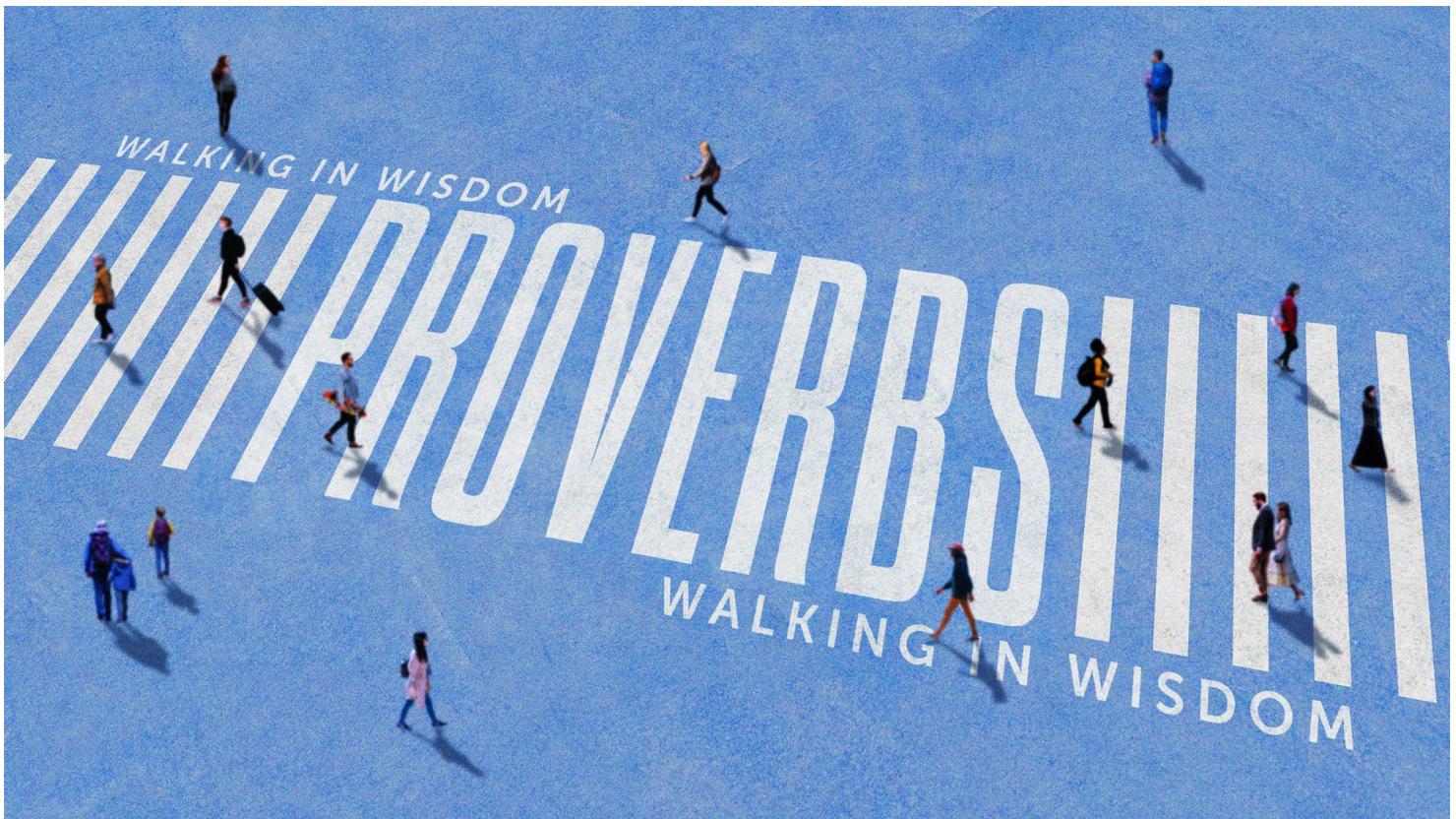
It will take a lifetime of learning the power of words "**so that you may know how to answer everyone.**" When our server returned to our table to offer her sincere apology, my calculated speech was replaced with words of encouragement. I am thankful my heart and my words softened, that my salty words became instead words "**seasoned with salt.**"

Solomon wrote, "**a word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver**" (*Pro. 25:11*). Perhaps a word check is in order!

Blessings,

Pastor David





Proverbs: Walking in Wisdom

The biblical book of Proverbs is in a section of the Bible that is often referred to as Wisdom Literature. Wisdom is a main theme in the book and biblical wisdom is so needed and helpful for living a healthy and fruitful life. This winter on Sunday mornings we will study several themes that run through the book of Proverbs. We will come to understand that wisdom begins with a comprehension that true wisdom does not lie in us, but outside us. Wisdom involves the humility of recognizing God's deity and our finitude. Come learn through the wisdom of the book of Proverbs how to better know yourself, better know how the world works, and better know the God who wants you to experience deep abundant living.



CHILI COOKOFF

**February 22, 2026
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE**



We are having a chili cookoff lunch following worship on Sunday, February 22, 2026.

The menu will be chili or chicken noodle soup, crackers, cornbread or cornbread muffins, cinnamon rolls and relish tray.

Mark Patten will be making 1 pot of chili and we need 3-4 other men to bring their favorite chili so we can decide which is our favorite.

Dixie Draper will be making chicken noodle soup for those who don't like or can't eat chili.

We need volunteers to provide the crackers, cinnamon rolls, cornbread and relish tray (carrots, celery, etc.). Please sign up on the sheet on the foyer table for what you would be willing to bring.

Please join us for this time of fun and fellowship.



The Fruit of Abiding

Read **John 15:5 (ESV)**

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

Reflect

Tapping into Christ's presence and power is what will allow you to bear good fruit in this life.

Every Christian I know wants to live an effective life for Jesus. The key to succeeding in this is abiding in him. Abiding in Christ is foundational to centering your whole life around God. Tapping into Christ's presence and power is what will allow you to bear good fruit in this life. It is my hope that after today you are more equipped and empowered to live out a life centered about God.

So often out of a right desire to do good and God-honoring works we try and force fruit out of ourselves without taking the time to rest and receive the nutrients we can only get from abiding in our heavenly Father. A branch disconnected from an apple tree can no more produce good fruit than you and I can do good works apart from continual abiding in the love, grace, and presence of God. Without truly centering our lives around meeting with God, we'll never produce the fruit we were created to make. Jesus taught us in **John 15:1-5**,

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

God's heart is for us to abide in him all day, every day. How incredible is that! You and I can graft ourselves every day into the perfect, good, and powerful vine of our heavenly Father. We can wake up every day, open our hearts to God, and live out of the union afforded us by the powerful sacrifice of Jesus.

Rather than striving to do good works from the moment our feet hit the ground, we must take time to be loved by our heavenly Father. Rather than making our own opportunities to serve God, we must allow him to guide us to the works he's set out for us. Rather than trying to lead others to Jesus by our own efforts, we must simply live openly and honestly with others, thereby revealing God's heart to meet with those who are broken and in need of him. And rather than living as if God has left us to our devices, we must acknowledge our union with the Holy Spirit in every moment, thereby allowing his loving presence to permeate everything we do.

James 2:26 teaches, ***"For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."*** Connect yourself to the wonderful vine of Jesus today. Center your life around meeting with him. It's only in abiding in God that your faith will produce works that are alive, eternal, and filled with the transformational power of God's Spirit. May you discover the freedom and love available to you in continual communion with your heavenly Father today.

Pray

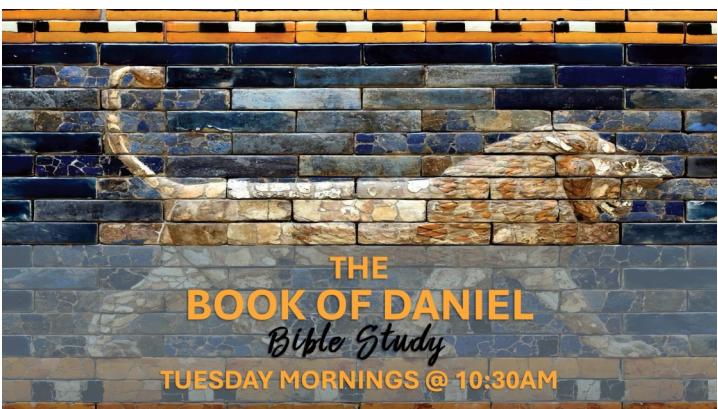
1. Meditate on the importance of abiding in the vine. Allow Scripture to stir up your desire to rest in God today.

***"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:5**

2. Where have you been striving to do good works apart from the abiding presence of your Creator? What parts of your life need to have a greater connection to the love of God?

3. Take time to rest in the presence of God. Abide in him. Don't look to or think about the things set before you today. There will be plenty of time for tasks and relationships. Focus all your attention on the reality of God's nearness and open your heart to receive all the love he has for you in this present moment.





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!



[From the Church Secretary:](#)

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 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

Sermons Ala Carte

Community Lenten Services & Lunches

Wednesdays in Lent at Memorial Presbyterian Church
127 E. Willow Street, Cherokee, Iowa

Service begins at 12:05 p.m.
Meal begins at 12:30 p.m. and costs \$5/person.

This year's theme is "Places of the Passion."

February 18

"The Temple"
Philip Beisswenger
from Memorial Presbyterian

March 11

"The Courtyard of Caiphas"
Pastor Brenton Lopez
from Aurelia First United Methodist

February 25

"The Upper Room"
Pastor Mike Agnew
from St. Paul's United Methodist

March 18

"The Praetorium"
Dan Rupp
from Immaculate Conception

March 4

"The Garden of Gethsemane"
David Hall
from First Church of Christ

March 25

"Golgatha"
Nelson Jenkins
from Meriden Evangelical Free

Join us! Everyone is welcome!



We will be assisting with the lunch (which will be spaghetti) on March 4th. We need 11 salads (to serve 10-15 people), 4 pans of bars and 1 waitress. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer. Thank you for your help.

REMSEN ST. MARY'S ANNUAL ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

Fish Supper

Friday, February 20, 2026

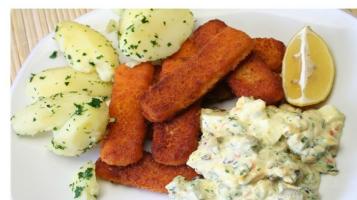
St. Mary's High School Cafeteria, Remsen

Menu Includes:

Fried & Baked Fish

Corn & Cheesy Potatoes

And our wonderful homemade salads & desserts!



Serving from 4:30-6:45 p.m.
Carry outs & Deliveries are available, call 786-1433.

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 (#212, Assisted Living)

Accura – Cherokee

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

The Beck

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 go to Sioux City.)
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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!

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RightNow Media Summer Promotion (3 x 2 in)

Time To Celebrate!

Birthdays

6th—Briar Stoll
8th—Darlene Nelson
10th—Tom Mortenson
19th—Barry Nelson
24th—Anna Oleson
26th—Elliot Addison
28th—Marcia Casey & 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. I apologize if I did miss someone. Thank you.

Julie

MCS Birthday Party

February 14th

Barry Nelson hosting

Weekly / Monthly Activities

- Bible Study** - Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
- Bondage No More** - Tuesdays 6:45 p.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 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)



WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

February 2026			
1	8	15	22
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
Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion
Kirk Nelson	Larry Heschke	TBD	David Hall
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	Kirk Nelson	David Hall	Guy Fishman
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
David Hall	Sharon Henkel	David Hall	Sharon Henkel
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
N/A	N/A	Eleanor Johnston	N/A
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Angela Hall	Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall	Nancy Nelson
	Larry Heschke		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
Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke
Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS



MONTHLY MEETING

February 8, 2026

Following the Morning Worship Service

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

WE MEET AT 9:30 AM AT THE CHURCH

PAULA BURCH IS IN CHARGE THAT DAY

Date	Offering	Attendance
1/4/26	\$2,756.00	On Campus: 70 Online: 26 Total: 96
1/11/26	\$1,262.00	On Campus: 58 Online: 17 Total: 75
1/18/26	\$1,535.00	On Campus: 69 Online: 24 Total: 93
1/25/26	\$1,318.60	On Campus: 51 Online: 23 Total: 74

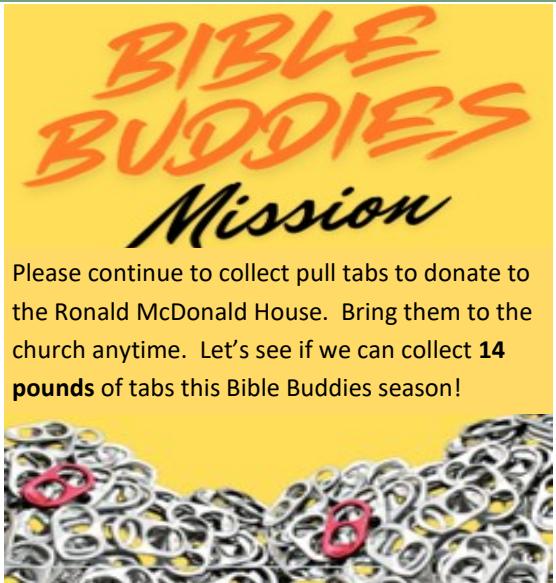




BIBLE BUDDIES

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM
PreK - 5th Grades

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

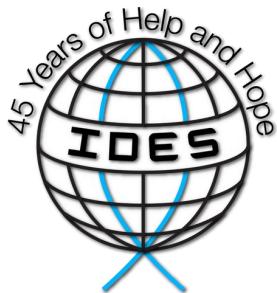



We are using your monetary donations to buy treats for the Bible Buddies snack time each week. We have a donation container on the foyer table for your donations.

Thank you for helping making our Bible Buddies program a success.

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

MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS



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To Fill Our Handbags With Hope
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Items Needed

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
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- 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