

CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST



A NATION IN DISCORD

Never in our lifetime have we witnessed so much division and discord in America. Some say the issue is racism, which is definitely a major issue and always will be until people's hearts are changed. Only Jesus can do that. Others point to the divide in Washington between paid politicians who can't seem to agree on anything other than spending OUR money. (Our national debt is approaching \$40 trillion.) Others would point to recent Supreme Court rulings legalizing blatant, brazen immorality.

At the root is a deeper, more distinct issue. Let me explain.

There's a reason why there has to be standards in a nation like ours. No nation can exist for long without standards. Like an orchestra that has to have every instrument in tune, or they can't play a single song, the current discord in our nation is nothing more than the result of people and politicians who've decided we no longer need standards.

In Gaithersburg, Maryland, there's an agency called the National Institute of Standards and Technology. It's a federal agency, funded by your tax dollars, to make sure we're all on the same page. Here's how they describe it: "The Office of Weights and Measures promotes uniformity in U.S. weights and measures laws, regulations, and standards to achieve equality between buyers and sellers in the marketplace. This enhances consumer confidence, enables U.S. businesses to compete fairly at home and abroad, and strengthens the U.S. economy." They go on to say that half of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product is affected by this agency, and would

include retail food sales, transportation, petroleum products, and chemicals.

Can you imagine what would happen in America, if suddenly there were no standards by which to do business? What would happen to the construction business, retail sales, or food sales, if there were different standards or no standards at all? One of the reasons people stop at a McDonald's or Burger King when they're traveling is because they know what they're going to get. But what would happen if that suddenly changed? Travel to a foreign country, walk into a restaurant with an American name, and you'll begin to get an idea of what I'm saying.

What if a gallon of milk in Springfield, Oregon, were only half a gallon in Springfield, Florida, but sold at the gallon price? Most people would say that's unacceptable. Some would suggest it was criminal. Exactly. There must be standards.

If you want to see what it looks like when there are no standards, just check out Judges 17:6, where it says, "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." In other words, there were no standards and there was no accountability. Everyone just did their own thing, and it was chaos.

There must be standards. Whether you're talking about stop signs, milk, 2 x 4s, medicine, clothing, automobiles or even musical instruments.

In his book, *What Keeps You Up At Night*, Pete Wilson writes: "Here's something I didn't know until recently: in centuries past, there was no standard tuning pitch for musical instruments. It varies from place to place, and sometimes, even from street to street within the same city. 'What difference would that make?' you may ask. Well, if you've ever gone to an orchestra concert, you may remember that the first thing that happens is the first-chair violinist, or concertmaster, walks out on stage (people usually clap; I'm not sure why). Then, the oboe player sounds a note. Next, the entire orchestra plays the same note, then different notes, as each performer makes sure his or her instrument is in sync with the tuning note. Once everybody is in tune, the conductor walks out (people clap again, even though nobody has really done anything yet), and soon the music begins.

It just so happens that the pitch the oboist plays for the tuning note is the A above middle C. To be precise, it is the A that is produced by 440 vibrations per second. Musicians usually call it A 440. If you go to a concert in Nashville, New York City, Berlin, Istanbul, or Tokyo, the orchestras will all tune to A 440. It is the modern standard concert pitch.

The advantage of this is that if you are a musician, no matter where you go in the world, you can play with other musicians and know that you will all be in tune (well, as long as everyone is paying attention). If you are a trumpet player from Chicago and you are performing as a guest artist with the Budapest Festival Orchestra, your instrument will blend with the rest of the group. All of you are calibrated to the same standard.

Now, can you start to see the problem musicians were having a few centuries ago? There was no universally accepted standard. Each musician could do his or her own thing – which was a real difficulty if they wanted to perform together."

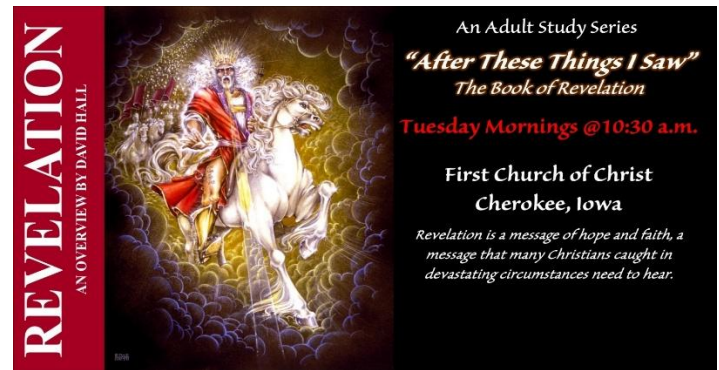
Wilson continues, "Just as any musician knows that his or her instrument needs to be recalibrated to A 440 before any important session or performance, we need to know that our lives have to be recalibrated on a regular basis. We need to measure ourselves against the standard, and God has provided us the perfect tuning pitch to make sure we are living in tune with the way He has designed us to function."

We're still called the United States of America. But it's pretty clear we're not all on the same page. Is there any hope for us? Can America be united again?

Only if we get in tune with God

Blessings,

Pastor David



Hosea: A Divine Love Story

What does relentless love look like when it's met with betrayal again and again? In this powerful 8-week sermon series through the book of Hosea, we'll journey into the heart-wrenching, beautiful story of a prophet called to love an unfaithful wife—and discover how it mirrors God's own unbreakable love for His wayward people. Through themes of judgment and mercy, brokenness and restoration, Hosea reveals a God who pursues us even in our deepest unfaithfulness, refusing to let us go. Whether you're walking through your own season of struggle or longing to understand the depth of God's grace, this series will challenge you to see love—both human and divine—in a whole new light. Join us beginning Sunday, July 5th as we explore one of Scripture's most raw and redemptive love stories, and rediscover just how far God will go to win back the hearts of those He loves.



On any given weekend, if you are going to be out of town, you don't have to miss a thing. You can join us online at the normal service time at fcoc.online.church or anytime on our church [YouTube Channel](#). If you're going to be gone, we hope you'll join us online wherever you are. And, you can still give online at cherokeefcc.com/give to help us continue to reach as many people as possible during the summer months.

The Importance of Independence Day

Read [James 1:17](#) (ESV)

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

Reflect

What comes to your mind when you think of Independence Day?

For many Americans, the Fourth of July serves as a day to watch fireworks, barbeque and have a good time with friends and family. While there is nothing wrong with having these traditions, it is important to remember the reason behind why we celebrate this holiday.

Samuel Adams, the father of the American Revolution, was bold in proclaiming his faith. To him, signing the Declaration of Independence meant no longer submitting to Great Britain, but rather, submitting to the Lord. As a result, America would be free from the power of man and able to serve Christ. What a significant day in history!

It is important to remember what our duties are as Christians. We are called to serve Christ and Christ alone, and it is such a blessing that we can live in a country where we have the freedom to do so.

Oftentimes, the enemy will use distractions to keep us from fulfilling our duties as Christians. Being distracted by all that happens on the Fourth of July can cause us to lose sight of the true meaning of the holiday. This is dangerous, as it can ultimately cause us to stray away from Christ.

So, why is it important to acknowledge the significance of Independence Day, and how can we do so in today's world?

American liberty is a blessing from God. Because of our freedom, we can express our faith and boldly share it with others. It is important to recognize that in many other parts of the world, this is not the case. The cost of following Christ is much greater for our brothers and sisters across the globe.

With this in mind, I encourage you to not lose sight of why we celebrate Independence Day.

Respond

Take time to reflect on the ways God has blessed you in your life and make it a goal to not take the freedom we have for granted. As you spend this day with family and friends, I encourage you to celebrate the blessing of freedom that was given to us by Christ.



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.

Dates	Grades	Fees
July 5-9	5th & 6th	\$180
July 9-11	3rd & 4th	\$140
July 12-17	7th-9th	\$215
July 19-24	9th-12th	\$215
July 26-30	6th-8th Sports	\$215
July 26-30	9th-12th Sports	\$215
Sept. 11-13	Women's Crafty Camp	\$80
Sept. 24-26	Man Camp	Donation

Register according to upcoming grade in the fall.

FCC SHUT-INS

The Gardens

(Enter Door Code – 1610) (Exit Door Code – 1379)
Darlene Nelson (#108) 712-321-3424
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	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 get to Sioux City.)
Ruth Dean	
(if not at church)	
1025 N Roosevelt, Apt 13	
Cherokee, IA 51012	
712-225-6439	

Let's Party

Birthdays

8th—Preston Newcomb
10th—Mark Patten
15th—Mike Sparks &
Luca VanVoorst
19th—Kendall Henkel
20th—Ozzton Inman
21st—Shelley Mortenson
22nd—Brett Askvig
27th—Anita Cougill &
Rita Pearson
31st—Emilee Belden

Anniversaries

20th—Curt & Rhonda Wiese (52 yrs)
26th—Kendall & Sharon Henkel (40 yrs)
28th—Barry & Nancy Nelson (36 yrs)



If you have a July 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

July 11

The host is Barry Nelson.

From the Church Secretary:

I will be on vacation from July 9th to the 21st. If you need me to do anything for you, please get it to me by the 7th so I can get it done before I go. I plan to be back in the office on Thursday the 23rd.

Julie

Nebowa 2026



Register today!

Pastor David is Co-Deaning at 5th & 6th Grade Church Camp from July 5th to July 9th. If you need assistance that week, contact one of the elders:

Larry Heschke – 712-221-7592
Kirk Nelson – 712-540-9591
Mike Sparks – 712-261-4730
Barry Nelson – 712-261-0592

Julie will be in the office on Tuesday July 7th and can help you then as well.

Weekly / Monthly Activities

- ☐ **Bible Study** - Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. (NO STUDY ON JULY 7TH)
- ☐ **Scout Troop 107** - Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- ☐ **Bible Buddies** - Are on break until September.
- ☐ **Homemakers** - 2nd Thursday 9:30 a.m.
- ☐ **Bondage No More** - Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Meetings** -
3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.—July 21
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Connections (Sewing Days)** -
First Weekend after the Tuesday Meeting—
July 17 & 18 (Friday @ 9 a.m. & Saturday all day)

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

July 2026			
5	12	19	26
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	Sholeen Sparks
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall	Sholeen Sparks
Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion
TBD	Larry Heschke	David Hall	TBD
Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	Barry Nelson
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Mike Sparks	Guy Fishman	David Hall	Kirk Nelson
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	David Hall	Nancy Nelson
	Angela Hall	Larry Heschke	Angela Hall
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial
Angela Hall	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	Angela Hall
David Hall	David Hall	David Hall	David Hall

BOARD OF ELDERS AND DEACONS MEETING

SUNDAY, JULY 12TH

FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

THURSDAY, JULY 9TH

9:30 AM AT THE CHURCH

(Christmas In July has been postponed)

Date	Offering	Attendance
		On Campus: 48 Online: 43 Total: 91
5/31/26	\$1,764.00	
6/7/26	\$2,274.00	On Campus: 48 Online: 19 Total: 67
6/14/26	\$1,462.00	On Campus: 50 Online: 45 Total: 95
6/21/26	\$NA	On Campus: 66 Online: 15 Total: 81
6/28/26	\$NA	On Campus: Online: Total:

CHEROKEE REGIONAL HOSPICE

Healing Series



Growing Through Grief

Historical Train Depot
119 S 4th St., Cherokee, IA
Paint flower pots
and plant seeds in
memory of loved ones
with local artist,
April Mason.

June 23
5 PM



Artful Healing

Historical Train Depot
119 S 4th St., Cherokee, IA
Join us for a meaningful
bereavement activity as
we paint canvases to
express emotions
associated with loss.

July 14
5 PM



Facing the Mourning

Cherokee Public Library
215 S 2nd St., Cherokee, IA
An interactive support
group designed to help
with the grieving process
by using visual and
thought-provoking tools.

July 8, 15, 22, 29
3-4 PM



Provided by Cherokee Regional

To register, call (712) 225-6459 or scan the QR code for each event.
The events are free but a \$15 donation would be welcome.



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 plan now, to participate in the fall.



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

We collected 8.7 pounds in this past Bible Buddies season!

Thankyou!!

MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS

