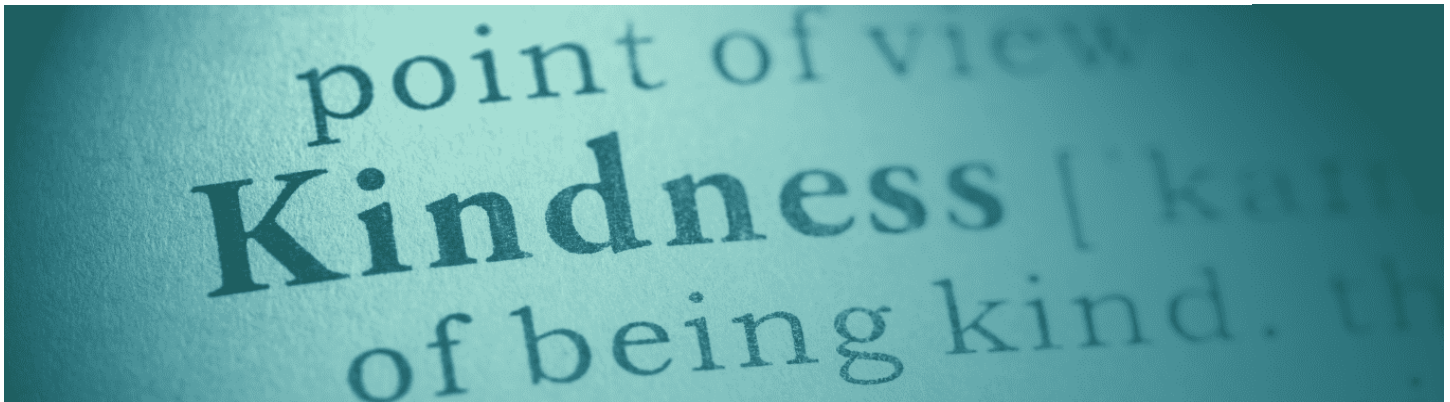




Kindness is a beautiful thing. It reflects the very heart of God. When we are kind to people, animals and even other's stuff, we are revealing our maturity. We show that God is working in our lives.

I remember back in the day when videocassette rentals carried a label that said: "**Be Kind. Rewind.**" It was a cute but simple request to think about the next person renting the cassette.

Perhaps that's the best way to look at kindness overall.

It's a "pay it forward" investment into the people around us—the ones we know (and love) and those we know we'll never see again. When we're kind to others we show respect, appreciation and awareness.

Kindness has taken a beating in our ever-increasing course and impatient American culture. From driving around town to buying something at a store to daily interactions at work, fewer people seem to choose to be kind. And it has taken a toll on all of us. A lack of kindness creates stress, anxiety and fear.

Our children now grow up in a world where "mean girls" and bullies are given the attention and sometimes even the glory.

In many homes today, siblings bully each other through destructive words, attitudes and behaviors. Then they go to school and take even more abuse. Children get labeled and called cruel names. Social media only adds to the problem. It's still early but the first generation purely raised on social media is now graduating high school...and what we see and hear is (or should be) alarming.

For the Christian, kindness is a character trait of maturity. It's an expression of who we are in Jesus. Kindness reflects the peace, love, joy and hope we carry within our souls. Gentle people are *kind* people. Patient people are *kind* people. Humble people are *kind* people. Generous people are *kind* people.

Paul wrote the Galatians (5:22-23): *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

If you haven't noticed it before, look again: **kindness is the middle rung in this list of Spirit-driven qualities.** On one side you have "love, joy, peace and patience" (things you are) while on the other you have "goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (things you do based upon who you are). You act good because there's a joy within. You are gentle because you enjoy inner peace. There's self-control because you've learned patience and there's fidelity because you genuinely love.

And yet the swing characteristic that glues all these attributes together is KINDNESS. In fact, you could argue that none of these other characteristics can exist *without kindness*. Love isn't love if you aren't kind. Joy and peace are empty without kindness. When we're kind we are also patient, good, faithful, gentle and in control of our passions.

Consequently, kindness is a significant trait for anyone to possess. But let's be honest: it's pretty easy being kind to people we like. It's easy being kind to furry kittens. But what about those who agitate us? Or hurt us? Or abandon us? What about those for whom we carry a prejudice? People too young? Too old? Too fat? People with a different ethnicity, religion or political party?

Our ability to be kind to everyone is a sign of maturity. It reflects our awareness of needs, our appreciation for humanity and our desire to sacrificially serve others without reward. We are motivated by love.

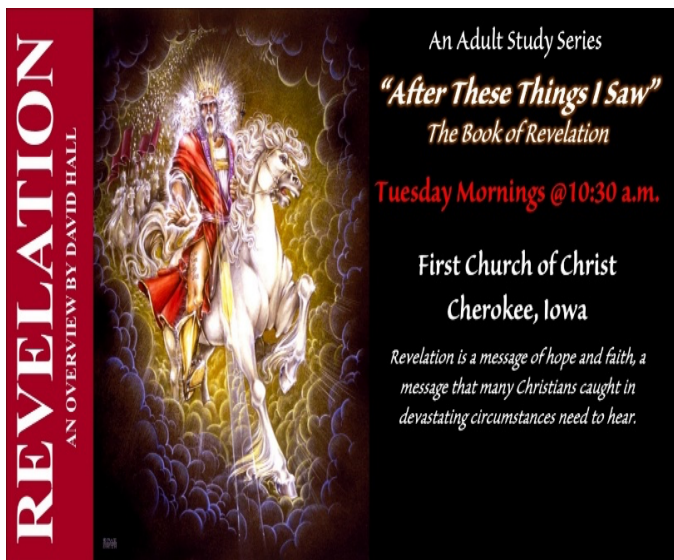
So that's the challenge this month: **BE KIND.**

And the irony? When you spread kindness somehow it always comes back to you. You get to enjoy the beauty and blessing of your kind words, attitudes and behaviors.

It's also how you know God is working in your life and He IS always working.

Today is your day. Be blessed and a (kind) blessing to everyone and everything you meet!

Yours Very Kindly



Christmas Poinsettia Orders

A sign-up sheet to order your Memorial Poinsettia will be on the table in the church foyer **beginning Sunday, October 4**. The cost per plant is \$15.00 each. Please make your check payable to First Church of Christ with 'Poinsettia' on the memo line. You can also mail or drop off your payment to the church office. Orders for the plants will be taken **until October 25**. The plants will be delivered to the church later in November and used to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.



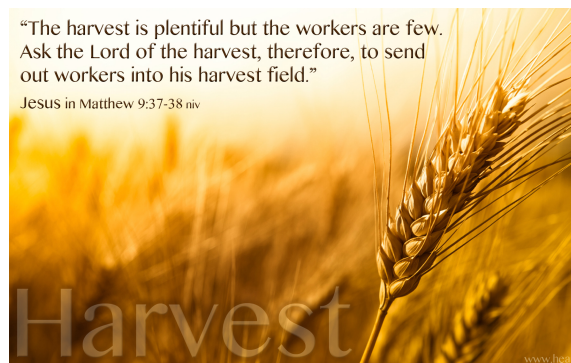
2 Corinthians: A Transforming Journey

Life is full of weakness, suffering, and unexpected turns—but what if those very places became the setting for God's greatest work in us? Join us each Sunday morning for *A Transforming Journey*, a new fall sermon series walking verse by verse through Paul's deeply personal letter to the Corinthian church. Written from a place of hardship and heartache, 2 Corinthians pulls back the curtain on genuine ministry, authentic community, and the surprising power of God made perfect in our weakness. Together we'll explore themes of comfort in affliction, reconciliation, generosity, and the renewal that comes when we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is eternal. Whether you're walking through a season of struggle or simply longing for a deeper, more honest faith, come discover how God transforms ordinary, broken vessels into carriers of His extraordinary grace. This is more than a study—it's an invitation to let God do a new work in you.



"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

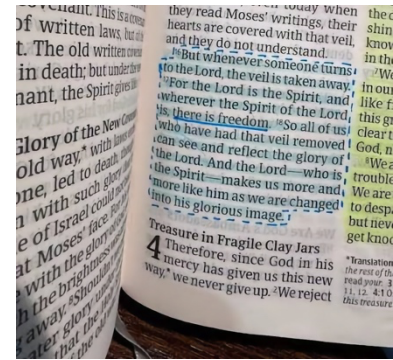
Jesus in Matthew 9:37-38 niv



Living An Unveiled Lifestyle (Devotional)

SCRIPTURE

¹² Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. ¹⁴ But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. ¹⁵ Yes, even today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand. ¹⁶ But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. —2 Corinthians 3:12–18 (NLT)



DEVOTIONAL

By the grace of God the veil that represented our sin and shame has been replaced with shameless, limitless, and face-to-face encounters with our heavenly Father. God longs for us to live an unveiled lifestyle. He longs for us to behold his glory and be transformed into the same image: a reflection of his glorious Son, Jesus. The idea of looking like Jesus used to seem utterly impossible. How could we ever look anything like Jesus? In our sin and shame, how could we ever resemble the perfect, sinless Son of God? But God has an enjoyable and perfect process by which he transforms us. As we seek out all that God has for us in an unveiled lifestyle, God longs to renew our minds to his plans for our transformation.

2 Corinthians 3:18 makes it clear that in **“seeing the glory of the Lord”** we are transformed. Just as Moses went into the tent of meeting and came out with his face shining ([Exodus 33:7-11](#)), we are to go into our own tent of meeting and come out having met with God with unveiled face. Allow the truth of Scripture to define what spending time with God is meant to look like for you. When we spend time alone with God, the Holy Spirit longs to lead us into direct, tangible, and transformative encounters with the glory of God. Christian spirituality is all about direct connection with our heavenly Father and not about engaging in religious practices just because we feel we should. The death of Christ has made unveiled encounters with God completely available to you whenever, wherever. We enter into our tent of meeting clothed with Christ, washed completely clean of our sin by the power of his blood.

And 2 Corinthians 3:18 also makes it clear that when we see God's glory we are **“changed into his glorious image,”** the image of Jesus. Genesis 1:27 says, **“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”** God's intention was always for us to represent him well. When sin entered into humanity that image became grossly distorted. But through the death of Jesus and encounters with our heavenly Father that image is being restored. We can now be reflections of God to a world that is desperately searching for relationship with its Creator. We now bear the image of the one who has saved and redeemed us.

Living an unveiled lifestyle is simply encountering our heavenly Father and living our lives as a response to his love for us. Every encounter with God changes us and makes us more like him. Every taste of his presence fills us with his love and equips us to love others. To live an unveiled lifestyle is to experience the abundant life Jesus came to bring us. May you behold the glory of your heavenly Father and be a reflection of his love to a lost and dying world today.

Spend time in prayer practicing what 2 Corinthians 3 describes for us: **seeing and reflecting the glory of the Lord.**

PRAYER

1. Meditate on the availability for you to encounter God face-to-face, unveiled.

“But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.” (2 Corinthians 3:16)

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into the tangible presence of your heavenly Father. Ask God to make his nearness known to you.

"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

3. Spend time in God's presence being transformed by his love. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you more like Jesus. Ask God to reveal himself in a way that would mold and shape you into his likeness.

"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." (Romans 8:29)

GO

How incredible is our God that he would make transformation such an accessible and enjoyable process. Fully letting go of our sin and shame is difficult to be sure, but the depth of grace, love, and relationship he offers us in return makes it all worthwhile. Allow God to continue to heal any areas of your life where you feel brokenness and shame. Open up your heart to him completely today in faith and allow him to create in you a new foundation in him on which you can live freely and healed.



Everyone is invited to join us the first Sunday evening of each month at 6:00pm in the church fellowship hall to celebrate those having birthdays and/or anniversaries that month.

Refreshments will be provided.



2026 Church Board Nominations

The Nomination Period is Now Open



It is time once again to consider your nominations for our Board of Elders and Deacons for the upcoming year. Included in this newsletter is a nomination form. The form gives a description of the type of person who is eligible to be nominated to our board. We ask that you read these carefully and refer to the scriptures cited in the description. Consider your nominations through thoughtful prayer.

We also ask that you do not nominate someone whose current term has not yet expired. The term expiration dates are listed next to each of the current board member's names. If their term does not expire at the end of 2026 please do not nominate them as they will continue to serve until their term has expired.

Nominating someone doesn't mean the person will accept the nomination or that they are eligible. The current board members will contact your nominees to find out if they are both eligible and whether or not they will accept your nominations.

Nominations are **due no later than November 1, 2026**. They can be mailed in to the church office or brought in and put in the nomination box located on the table in the lobby. The election of board members will take place on **December 13, 2026**. Election ballots will be available on that day in the lobby and in the bulletins. We ask that you attend worship that day to submit your ballots.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will then take place following worship services on **Sunday, January 10, 2027**. We highly encourage you to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting. If you have something you want to address at that meeting, please contact the church office to be placed on the agenda.

Those of you who lead small groups or ministries please begin thinking about and submitting your annual report for publication in the First Church of Christ 2026 Annual Report. Please have your reports typed in a Word document and attach it to an email to be sent the office at office@cherokeefcc.com.

The ballot form is on the next page, so you can complete it and take this page out of the newsletter to turn in.

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.

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

2026 Nomination Form

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

Current Elders

Larry Heschke – Chairman
Barry Nelson
Kirk Nelson – Co-Chair
Mike Sparks

Term Expires

12/31/2028
12/31/2027
12/31/2026
12/31/2026

Your Nominations:

Current Deacons

Mark Patten
Kevin Schmillen
Tom Mortenson

Term Expires

12/31/2026
12/31/2026
12/31/2026

Your Nominations:

Current Trustees

Curt Wiese
Joe Draper
Mark Casey
Guy Fishman

Term Expires

12/31/2026
12/31/2026
12/31/2028
12/31/2028

Your Nominations:

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	

Celebrate

Birthdays

2nd—Gabriel Cadwallader
3rd—Paula Burch & Jordan Huff
17th—Jean Heschke
18th—Hadley Schroeder
19th—Simon Stoll
20th—Eleanor Johnston
27th—David Hall
29th—Sharon Henkel
30th—Randy Cox & Sherri Ludvigson



If you have an October birthday (or anniversary), and I missed getting you on the list, please let me know and I will get our records updated.

From the Church Secretary:

It's getting to be the holiday season, and a busy season for the church. If you have announcements or other items for the bulletin, screen announcements or the next newsletter, please get them to me in plenty of time for them to be published when you want people to see them. Thank you. *Julie*

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Pastors are present for some of the most meaningful moments of our lives. They baptize us. They celebrate weddings. They pray beside hospital beds. They stand with families at funerals. They preach when they are tired, answer calls when it isn't convenient, counsel people through difficult seasons, celebrate our victories, and faithfully point us back to Jesus Christ.

Much of what pastors do happens where very few people ever see it.

Pastor Appreciation Month, which is observed throughout October, is a wonderful opportunity to let your pastor (and his family) know his ministry matters and it matters to YOU.



MCS Birthday Party

October 10

The host is TBD.

Weekly / Monthly Activities

- ☐ **Bible Study** - Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
Book of Revelation
- ☐ **Scout Troop 107** - Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- ☐ **Bible Buddies** - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
- ☐ **Homemakers** - 2nd Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Meetings** - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
October 20th
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Connections (Sewing Days)** -
First Weekend after the Tuesday Meeting
(Friday @ 9:30 a.m. & Saturday all day)
No Sew Days in October

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

October 2026			
4	11	18	25
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
Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion	Shut-In Communion
Larry Heschke	David Hall	TBD	Kirk Nelson
Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator
Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	Barry Nelson	Larry Heschke
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
David Hall	Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	Guy Fishman
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
Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	
David Hall		Larry Heschke	
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
David Hall	David Hall	David Hall	David Hall

BOARD OF ELDERS AND DEACONS MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH
MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 9:30 AM
Jean is in charge.

Date	Offering	Attendance
9/6/26	\$1,359.00	On Campus: 56 Online: 15 Total: 71
9/13/26	\$1,728.00	On Campus: 50 Online: 25 Total: 75
9/20/26	\$1,728.00	On Campus: 65 Online: 19 Total: 84
9/27/26	\$1,995.00	On Campus: 56 Online: 32 Total: 88

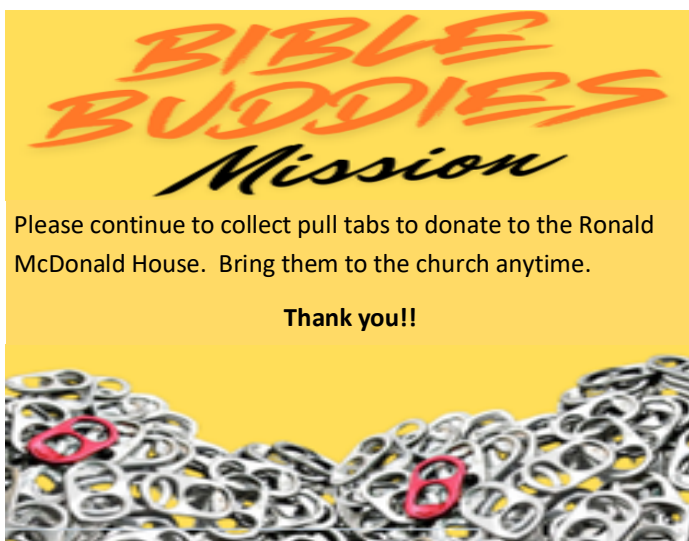


WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM

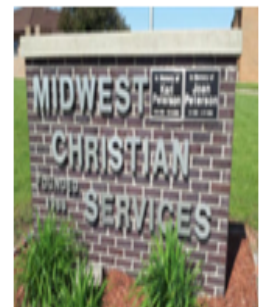
PreK – 5th Grades

Come join us for fun, snacks, fellowship
and learning about Jesus.

We want you!!!



MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS



Please be praying for the Bible Buddies ministry
as well as the other missions we support.

Pray also for church leadership and their
families. Pray for those being nominated to
become church leaders for 2027.

