

CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST



Choices! From what we *eat* to what we *do* to where we *go*, we face countless decisions. All I know is the choices we make will eventually *make* us. So choose *wisely*!

We live in a "choice" culture.

Everywhere you look there are choices to make and decisions to consider. Yesterday I was at a Walmart and took a turn down the cereal aisle. Now I remember a day when the options for morning breakfast were pretty simple: *Lucky Charms* or *Coco Crisp* or *Quisp*. I ate *Quisp* for my morning breakfast and nightly snack for years. I ate *Quisp* all day long. I snuck it to school and church. I sometimes ate 2-3 bowls. There was nothing better than *Quisp*. Now my older brother favored *Quake*. Maybe that's why he's taller and has hair. Come to think of it, I do look like the *Quisp* guy now. I guess it's true: *you are what you eat*.

But I digress.

As an adult, I've come to appreciate more mature cereals like Special K. But Special K isn't all that *special* anymore. According to Wikipedia there are now 15 types of Special K cereals: *Original*, *Chocolatey Delight*, *Chocolatey Strawberry*, *Cinnamon Pecan*, *Red Berries*, *Vanilla Almond*, *Fruit & Yogurt*, *Brown Sugar Gluten Free*, *Oats & Honey*, *Touch of Honey Granola*, *Chocolate Almond*, *Cranberry Granola*, *Protein*, *Cinnamon Brown Sugar Crunch Protein*, *Blueberry Lemon*, and *Pumpkin Spice (Seasonal)*.

Now that's a lot of choices.

Or take television. When I was a kid back in the Stoned Age (a.k.a. late 1960s and 1970s), there were only three stations and two of them were weathered (we called them "snowy" because the rabbit ears couldn't pick up the signal well). Basically, you watched what was on and learned to be content, even if you couldn't hear or see very well.

And then cable television came along, and later satellite. Suddenly there were dozens, then hundreds, of channels. I never heard of HBO until around 1976 when one

of my friends' parents had it added to their seven-station cable lineup. It was pretty cool to watch theater movies in your home. Today there are seven HBO channels, including distinct ones for "family" or "Latino" or "comedy" persuasions. We can now watch our favorite sports team exclusively, even if we live out of market. We have the Weather Channel uniquely designed to feed us our local temps and forecasts. We have news channels for every political view. *CNN*. *MSNBC*. *FOX*. *Newsmax*. We have home shopping and home improvement channels, travel and outdoor channels, history and biography channels. There's even a channel just to learn.

Since the advent of 19th century technology in cars, communications and cyberland, Americans have never had more choices.

And the more choices we face, the faster we shut down. It's why most Americans rarely venture beyond their preferences. We go to restaurants and order the *same* meal. We buy the *same* brands. We drive the *same* way to work or church. We play the *same* games and eat the *same* foods.

In a Ted Talk I listened to recently, Dan Gilbert made some interesting observations on "why we make bad decisions." He revealed how we tend to choose based upon what we gain and the value of that gain. This is a significant revelation for those who have ears to hear, especially for those who lead in churches, clubs and other fraternal organizations (all of which struggle to attract and retain members).

There's no doubt that church attendance, for example, is shrinking. Every major pollster (from Gallup to Pew to Barna) have noted the fact that Millennials—the most church-ed generation with the best resources, facilities and professional staff—are walking away from the church in droves. And it's not just churches. It's the same with Rotary, Kiwanis and Soroptimist clubs. The Elks, Moose, Masons and other fraternal organizations report similar declines in membership.

Maybe Gilbert gives us the reason *why*. When it comes to joining these communal entities, the Millennial Generation is not *seeing a gain* nor *a value of gain* to participate. They are, consequently, choosing better options (in their minds and from their experience).

Church has become just another choice.

And we may not agree with it. We may detest it. We may even preach and teach against it. But that won't bring people back.

Joshua had the same problem back when Israel was a young nation. His people were also choosing to follow other gods. Joshua recognized the problem and drew a line in the desert sand: *"Choose this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house we will choose the Lord (Joshua 24:15)."*

Throughout the Old Testament you hear the same call to "choose wisely" taught through prophets like Samuel, Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezekiel. You hear it in the wisdom literature of Solomon's proverbs. You see it in the lives of Peter, James, John and the other disciples who chose to follow a Galilean guru who taught he was the way, truth and life (John 14:6).

Life is full of choices.

The best choices are the ones that create liberty and life, beauty and bounty, honor and happiness. It's when we choose to be kind, humble, righteous, joyful, good and patient that things turn to our favor.

We all choose our gods today. Some choose alcohol or drugs. Some choose pornography or greed. Some choose a life philosophy or a religious system. Some choose not to believe in anything at all.

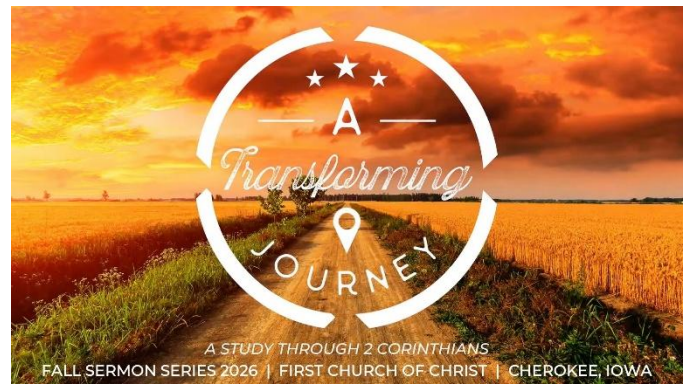
As for me, I still choose Jesus. Jesus is enough. He's always been enough for me. It's why I still make "church" and my two Bible study groups a priority.

I have a feeling that most of you reading this today, feel the same. I also think you'd agree we need more "Jesus" in our world today. Well that can only happen if we choose to make it happen. **So let's choose to live like Jesus today.** Let's love without condition, serve without discrimination and give without restraint. Let's be the change we want to see. And it starts in our families, our churches, our schools, our workplaces...and eventually in our communities, country, culture and world.

Let's make the world a bit better TODAY. We don't have to do much as long as we all do *something*.

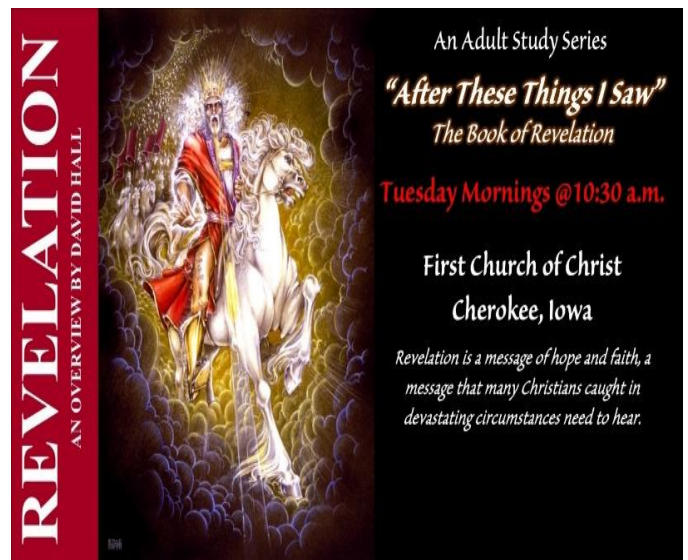
Blessings,

Pastor David



A Transforming Journey: A Study Through 2 Corinthians

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.



Living As a Masterpiece

“Dress the part.” That’s the advice often given to young professional salesmen who are just starting out. They don’t yet have the sales record. They often lack confidence and as a result feel stuck. So, they are told, “Success begins by putting on the reality of who you want to be. Dress the part.”

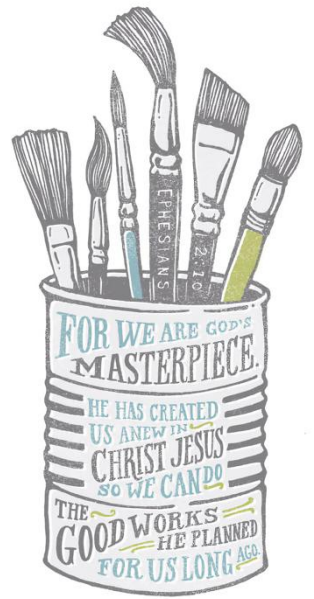
Maybe you feel spiritually stuck. You look at yourself and say, “Wow. You’ve got a long way to go. Just look at you.” The Apostle Paul has a word of advice for you:

“But that isn’t what you learned about Christ. ²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² put off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.”

You see, you don’t need to dress who you want to be. Every Christian is a masterpiece, according to Ephesians 2:10: “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus....” You are a new person. Therefore, dress the part. You are a masterpiece whom God loves, no matter what you say or what you do. So, dress the part.

If you feel spiritually stuck, know who you are: a masterpiece. If you’re still struggling with old sin habits, know first that God still loves you. Remember also that you don’t have to. God has a new way of living. He has a new outfit. He says, “put it on.” Don’t believe me? Be renewed in the spirit of your minds by getting into God’s Word.

You are a masterpiece, so dress the part today.



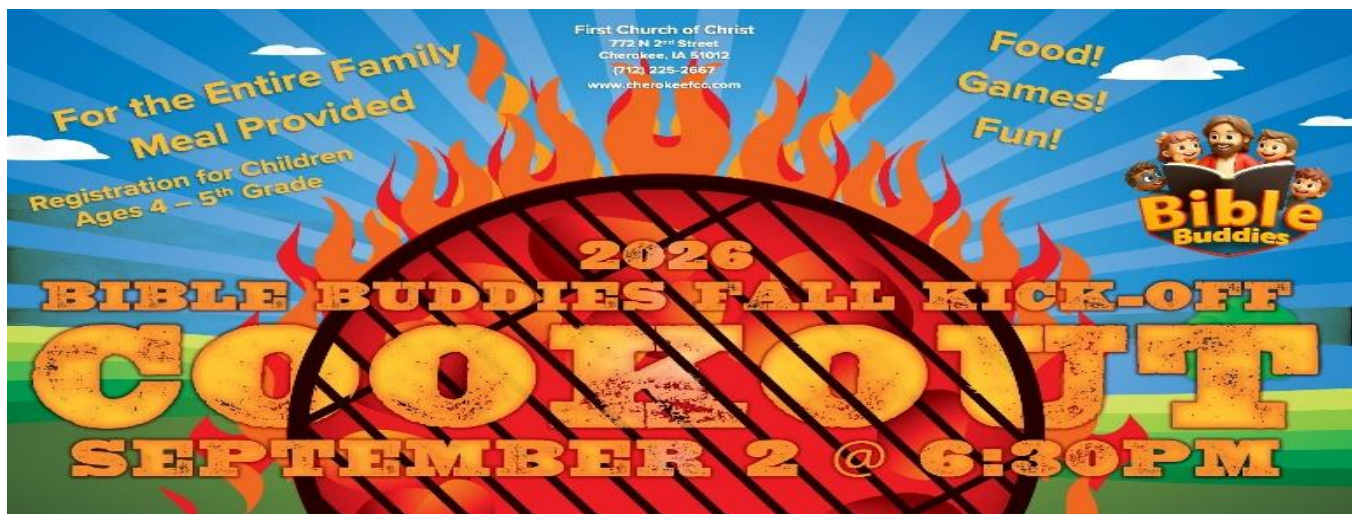
Devotional

Text in Context: Read Ephesians 4:17-32.

Reflect: What does putting on and putting off mean? How do you know if you have put on or taken off? What is the difference between godly living and worldly living?

Respond: Many of us feel like slaves to sin, but God has freed us from that bondage. How are you still living as a slave to sin? How does God’s message of a new outfit help you?

Prayer: Father, thank you for freeing me from my sin. Help me to live out the wonderful work you’ve done in me. Amen.



Fall GriefShare Support Group Forming

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

GriefShare will be held **Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm beginning September 1st** and running for 13 weeks. The weekly seminars will meet in the Chapel of First Church of Christ.

Cost: \$25 (includes workbook)

Childcare: No

Any questions, call Pastor David at 641-638-4762

Registration: online is preferred and highly recommended by **CLICKING HERE**. You can also call the church office at 712-225-2667. **Please register by August 25th.**

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
— Cherokee, Iowa —

GriefShare®

Join Our GriefShare
Support Group

A friendly, caring group of people who will
walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult times.

MEETING TUESDAY EVENINGS
FROM 6:30-8:00PM
SEPTEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 24


SCAN TO REGISTER!

<https://find.griefshare.org/groups/300535>

 FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
772 N. 2nd St.
Cherokee, IA 51012
(712) 225-2667
www.cherokeefcc.com

*"The Lord is close to the
brokenhearted and saves those
who are crushed in spirit."*
PSALM 34:18



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

9th—Jerry Clark
8th—Lorraine Duvall
23rd—Norma Mongan
23rd—Curt Wiese
24th—Mary Hasbrouck
27th—Alexander Johnson

Anniversaries

1st—Royden & Della Rupp (21 yrs)



If you have a September 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

September 12

The host is TBD.

From the Church Secretary:

I will be out September 23-October 2nd. If you need me to do anything for you during that week, please get it to me by September 17th so I can get it done before I go. I plan to be back in the office on Tuesday, October 6th.

Julie

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 TUESDAY at 9:30 a.m.
(Please note the change to Tuesday, the 8th for this month.)
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Meetings** - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
September 15th
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Connections (Sewing Days)** -
First Weekend after the Tuesday Meeting
Sept. 18 & 19 (Friday @ 9:30 a.m. & Saturday all day)



WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

September 2026			
6	13	20	27
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
David Hall	Larry Heschke		Tom Mortenson
Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator	Communion Coordinator
Kirk Nelson	Mike Sparks	Barry Nelson	Larry Heschke
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
David Hall	Guy Fishman	Kirk Nelson	Mike Sparks
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	Mark & Marcia Casey	Larry Heschke	Angela Hall
David Hall	Shelley Mortenson	Nancy Nelson	
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial
Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke	Jean Heschke
Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke	Larry Heschke

BOARD OF ELDERS AND DEACONS MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

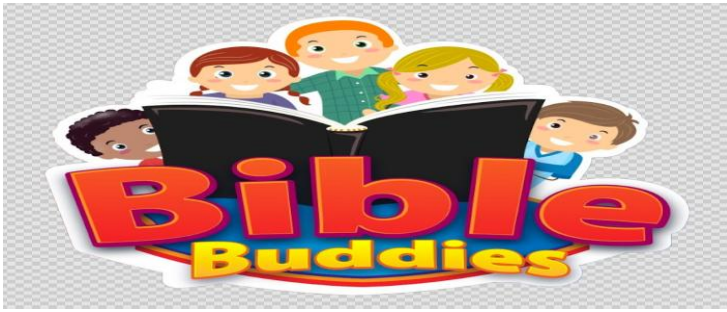
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 9:30 AM

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY THIS MONTH!!

Polly is in charge.

Date	Offering	Attendance
8/2/26	\$752.00	On Campus: 46 Online: 14 Total: 60
8/9/26	\$2,711.00	On Campus: 63 Online: 13 Total: 76
8/16/26	\$912.00	On Campus: 50 Online: 16 Total: 66
8/23/26	\$1,690.00	On Campus: 63 Online: 28 Total: 91
8/30/26	NA	On Campus: 76 Online: 23 Total: 99

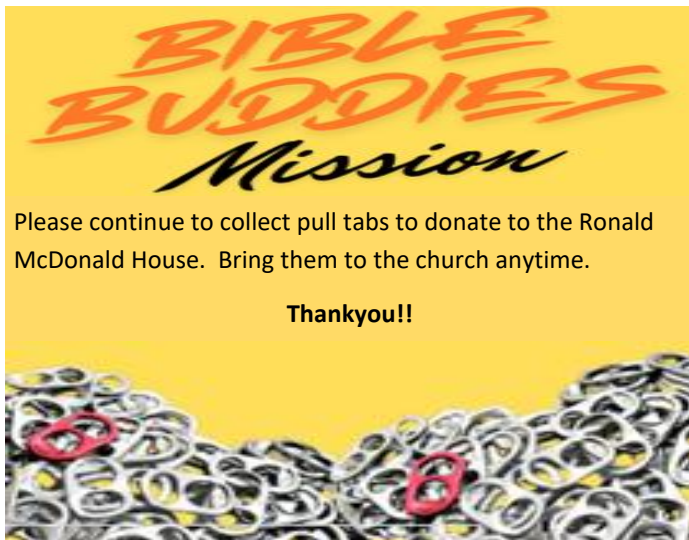


WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM

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.

