

CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

What Will Heaven Be Like?



Everyone has questions about what heaven will be like. Gary Larson, one of the funniest cartoonists ever, addressed the question in one of his *FAR SIDE* cartoons. He had a man sitting on a cloud with a halo on his head and angel wings doing nothing and no one else in sight. His expression is like that of Tom Hanks when he was marooned on an island in the movie, *CASTAWAY*, with all the time in the world and nothing to do. The caption said, “...Wish I’d brought a magazine.”

Over the years I’ve been asked all kinds of questions about Heaven. Like, “Will there be coffee in heaven?” “Will heaven be one long, boring worship service?” “Will my dog be in heaven?” “Will there be golf in heaven?” Yes, there will be golf in heaven. I’m not sure about the others. (Just kidding.)

The Bible gives a number of indications what heaven will be like. For example, when John was given a glimpse of heaven here’s what he wrote:

“After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar ‘Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!’” (Revelation 7:9-10, NLT)

Heaven won’t be one long worship service. But at this one, men and women from every culture and corner on earth, every nation, language, background, ethnicity, and tribe are all dressed alike in white robes, doing one thing: praising **GOD** and **JESUS** for our salvation!

Revelation 21:4 tells us there won’t be any more tears or crying, death or dying, pain or suffering “because the old order of things have passed away.”

Jonathan Edwards said, “Even the very best of men, are, on earth, imperfect. But it is not so in heaven. There shall be no pollution or deformity or offensive defect of any kind, seen in any person or thing; but every one shall be perfectly pure, and perfectly lovely in heaven.”

Wouldn’t it be great if there was some way, somehow, some place where we could experience a little of that here ... now? Jesus suggested there is. When He taught His disciples to pray, He told them to pray like this, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, **ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN** ...” (Matthew 6:9-10). In other words, pray for God’s will to be done **ON EARTH** as it is **IN HEAVEN**.

But where would that be?

I believe it’s His Church. If there’s one place where people ought to see heaven on earth, if there’s one place where you ought to be able to find people praying for and living out God’s will on earth as it is in heaven, it should be the church. The church should also be a place where you see people from every background, age and stage of life, race, class and ethnicity imaginable.

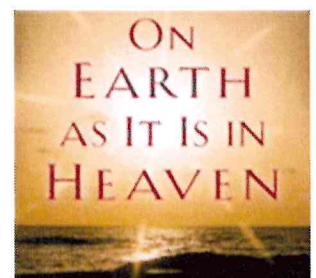
Derwin Gray said, “The gospel Paul preached destroyed racism (“neither Jew nor Greek”), economic classism (“neither slave nor free”), and gender inequality (“no male and female”). The local church should be a mosaic that the world looks at and says, ‘So that’s what heaven looks like.’”

Think about that for a moment and you’ll start wishing you could experience that. Here’s the good news: you can. Attend a local church and get actively involved.

It’s a little bit of heaven on earth.

Blessings,

Pastor David





That You May Believe: A Journey Through John's Gospel

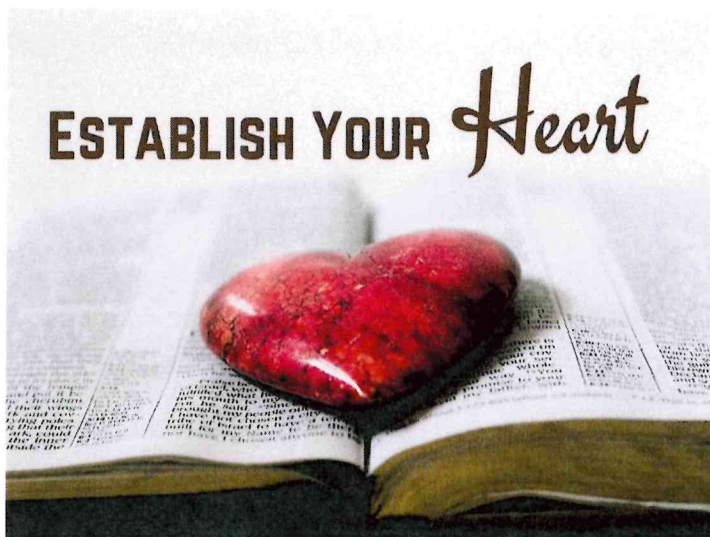
The Gospel of John is a bold and beautiful invitation to know Jesus—not just to know about Him, but to believe in Him and have life in His name. Unlike the other Gospel writers, John’s purpose is explicitly clear: *“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name”* (John 20:31).

In this series, **“That You May Believe,”** we will journey through key moments in John’s Gospel—signs, conversations, miracles, and declarations—that reveal who Jesus truly is. From the Word made flesh, to the Good Shepherd, to the Resurrection and the Life, John leads us again and again to the heart of faith: trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Whether you’ve walked with Jesus for years or are just beginning to ask questions about Him, this series is for you. As we open the pages of John’s Gospel, our prayer is that each of us would come face to face with the living Christ—and that we would believe. And in believing, that we would find life. True life. Eternal life.

Let’s open our hearts and minds to the One who came so that *we may believe*.





Establish Your Heart

Read James 5:7-8 (ESV)

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Reflect

What are you looking forward to the most about the coming of the Lord?

Have you ever wondered what is taking so long? Why hasn't Jesus come back yet? We look around and we see the signs. Jesus said, "...you will hear of wars and rumors of wars...For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places" (Matthew 24:6-7). We watch the news on any given day and we see those things happening and we wonder, is it today? Is it tomorrow? We long for Jesus' return. The suffering on earth is immense. It is hard to witness and agonizing to experience and endure.

That is why I find James' words in today's verses so encouraging. James had just called out the wealthy wicked for their evil deeds. He assured them that the Commander of the armies of heaven took notice, and that swift judgment was coming upon them. Now, he turns back to address and exhort his fellow believers. "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord."

I don't know about you, but patience is not a strength of mine. It is hard to wait for anything, but it is especially hard to wait when there is suffering involved. The longer we suffer the more prone we are to doubt and question. Is it ever going to happen?

That is why James urged the believers to "**establish your hearts.**" In other words, settle the matter in your heart and be steadfast. The Lord is coming back. And while none of us know the day or the hour (Matthew 24:36), His return is imminent. He could come at any moment! That should strengthen our resolve and shore up our faith.

I also find it easier to be patient when I know that there is a good reason for the delay. James used the analogy of a farmer waiting until his crops received the rains needed to be ripe for the harvest to show that there is a purpose to God's timing. Jesus is not just sitting around waiting for nothing.

The apostle Peter explained, "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). What we perceive as His delay is really His incredible patience with us. Wise farmers don't pull up their produce before it is ready to be harvested. Like farmers, we should patiently wait until the harvest is ready.

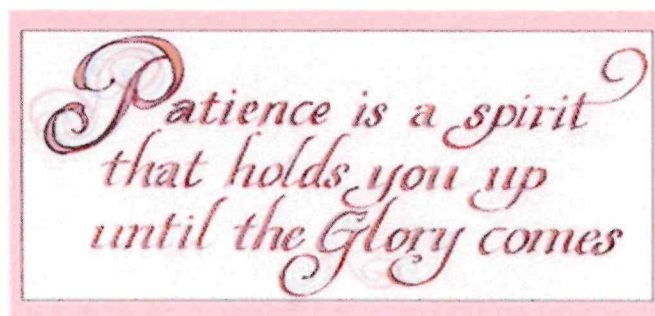
Friends, I know this life is hard. It isn't easy to wait patiently for Jesus' return. But don't get discouraged. Keep looking forward to His coming. Establish your hearts on this truth: He is coming. And soon. Every day is one day closer.

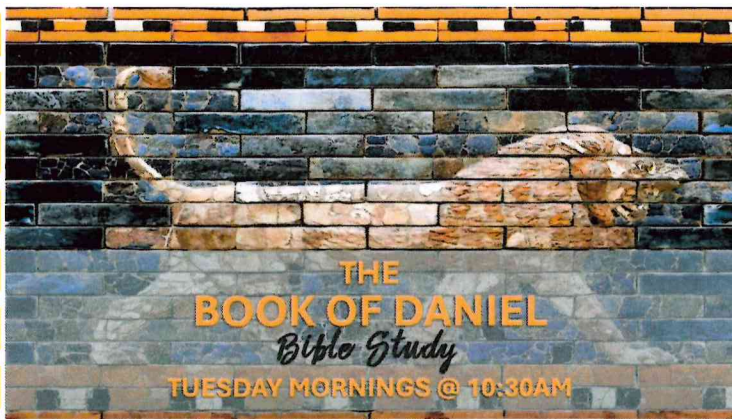
Respond

Lord, I confess that some days it is hard to wait for Your return. There is so much suffering in this world. But I know that You have a purpose in Your delay and that Your timing is perfect. Strengthen my heart to continue to wait patiently for You no matter what I face in the future. Amen.

Reveal

When someone shares their frustration with the brokenness of the world, listen well, then offer to pray with them—asking God to give both of you patience and hope as you wait for His perfect timing.





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.

Join us each Tuesday morning this fall!

We'll see you there!



TREATS

This year, instead of signing up to bring treats for Bible Buddies each week, we are seeking monetary donations so we can purchase the treats that we need.

We have a donation container on the foyer table for your donations.

Thank you for your help in making our Bible Buddies program a success.

If you have questions, you can check with Dixie.

From the Church Secretary:

School is back in session. If you want something in the bulletin or in the on screen announcements, I need the information by close of business on Wednesday before the announcement is to run.

I'm still planning to be 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 something and I am not here, just leave a note on the desk . Thanks.

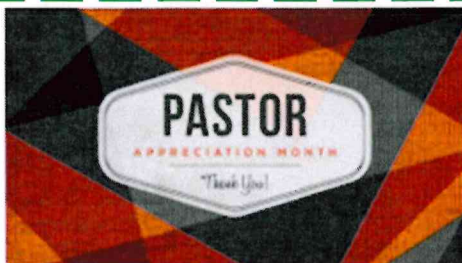
Julie

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

A sign-up sheet to order your Memorial Poinsettia will be on the table in the church foyer **beginning Sunday, October 12, 2025.**

The cost per plant is \$15.00 each. Please make your check payable to First Church of Christ with the word '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 **November 2**. The plants will be delivered to the church later in November and used to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.



Sunday, October 12 – Pastor Appreciation Day

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and this Sunday is a good time to thank your pastor for the countless ways he pours into the church. A simple handwritten note or one thoughtful gesture can remind him that his work is deeply valued and appreciated! And his birthday is this month, too!

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 (#301)

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

UPDATED

INFORMATION

I am finding some information (current address or phone, birthday, anniversary date, etc.), is not right in our records. If you aren't sure if your information is right, please call Julie on Tuesday or Thursday morning or take a form from the table in the foyer, complete it and leave it in the office. Thank you!

rightnow MEDIA

Happy Fall

We've purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos and are giving free access to everyone in our church.

Get Free Access

1. Contact the church office for an email invite
2. Or scan the QR code here:



iPhone & iPad chromecast Roku android firetv



Let's Celebrate

Birthdays

2nd—Gabriel Cadwallader
3rd—Paula Burch & Jordan Huff
14th—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. I apologize if I did miss someone. Thank you. *Julie*



MCS Birthday Party

October 11

Kevin Schmillen is hosting

Weekly / Monthly Activities

- ☐ **Bible Study** - Tuesdays 10:30 a.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 Connections (Sewing Days)** - First Full Weekend (Friday @ 9 a.m. & Saturday all day)
- ☐ **Quilt Batts Meetings** - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.



WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

October 2025

5	12	19	26
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
Kevin Schmiller	David Hall	Larry Heschke	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	David Hall	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	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	David 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
Kevin Schmiller	Kevin Schmiller	Kevin Schmiller	Kevin Schmiller

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS



MONTHLY MEETING

October 12, 2025

Following the Morning Worship Service

CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS

OCTOBER 9, 2025 @ 9:30 AM AT THE CHURCH

JEAN IS HOSTING, HAS THE DEVOTIONS AND THE
HEIRLOOM TO SHARE

Date	Offering	Attendance
8/31/2025	\$1,641.00	On Campus: 45 Online: 25 Total: 70
9/7/2025	\$1,237.50	On Campus: 71 Online: 14 Total: 85
9/14/2025	\$1,707.00	On Campus: 41 Online: 22 Total: 63
9/21/2025	\$1,625.60	On Campus: 53 Online: 13 Total: 66
9/28/2025	\$1,160.00	On Campus: 34 Online: 22 Total: 56

2025 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 members names. If their term does not expire at the end of 2025 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 2, 2025**. They can be mailed in to the 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 14, 2025**. Election ballots will be available on that day in the lobby and in the bulletins. We ask that you attend worship that day to turn in your ballots.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will then take place following worship services on Sunday, **January 4, 2026**. We highly encourage you to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting. If you have something you want to address at that meeting, please contact the 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 2025 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.

Living with Loss

Grief Support Group

*A learning and sharing series
for those who grieve.*

**Join us for a 12-week Grief Support Group
at Cherokee Public Library 215 South 2nd Street Cherokee, IA
Wednesdays from 2:00-3:30pm
October 1st - December 17th, 2025**

\$40.00 for 12 sessions, suggested donation

Register by calling Cherokee Regional Hospice at 712-225-6459 or follow the QR code below!



GRIEF SUPPORT

Facing the Mourning

4-Session Grief Support Group

Dates: October 7, 14, 21, & 28 | 3-4:30 PM | Private Home in Holstein

An interactive support group designed to help with the grieving process by using visual and thought-provoking tools. During these four sessions, the participants share their story, build memorials, compose letters, write in journals and develop goals with milestones.

Designed for all types of losses, individuals and family members.

To Register:

Call: 712-225-6459

Or

Scan:



\$20.00 for 4 sessions, suggested donation



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

2025 Nomination Form

Current Elders

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

Term Expires

12/31/2026
12/31/2026
12/31/2025
12/31/2027

Your Nominations:

Current Deacons

Mark Patten
Kevin Schmillen

Term Expires

12/31/2025
12/31/2025

Your Nominations:

Current Trustees


Guy Fishman
Curt Wiese
Joe Draper

Term Expires

12/31/2025
12/31/2026
12/31/2026

Your Nominations:

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




THE LORD DOES NOT LOOK AT THE THINGS
PEOPLE LOOK AT. PEOPLE LOOK AT THE
OUTSIDE OF A PERSON. BUT THE LORD
LOOKS AT WHAT IS IN THE HEART.
1 SAMUEL 16:7B

BIBLE BUDDIES

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
PreK - 5th grades

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




MISSIONS THE CHURCH SUPPORTS



BIBLE BUDDIES Mission

Please continue to collect pull tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. Bring them to the church anytime. Let's see if we can collect 14 pounds of tabs this Bible Buddies season!



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

Handbags with Hope

Purses and Toiletries for Women in Need

Accepting donations of new or gently used purses or handbags and toiletry items to fill our handbags.

Handbags With Hope is meant to bless women struggling from abuse and addiction.

Items Needed:

- toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- mouth wash
- deodorant
- pads
- tampons
- lotion
- soap
- shampoo
- conditioner

