

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DATES

Potluck after services today! Afternoon services to follow at 2 PM.

The Cookie Exchange will be December 13th at 2 PM at Karen Kennedy's house!

Youth Night for High School and College-aged youth at the Riggs' December 19th at 6 PM.

PRAYER LIST

- **Gerry Moser** - Health
- **Marnetta Tillman** - Health
- **Emma Wallis** - Mission trip
- **Patty Forkenbrock** - Cancer
- **Melanie Sides** - Cancer
- **Anthony Bishop** - Heart issues
- **Cami Michael** - Cancer
- **Dakodah Long** - Deployed
- **Mary Kay Pinckney** - Cancer
- **Jacy Saucedo** - Health
- **Jimmy Price** - Cancer
- **Doug Mottern** - Health issues
- **Audrey Cronquist** - Recovery from surgery
- **Rose** - Bladder Cancer
- **Isabelle Sorensen** - Bladder/bowel health
- **Joseph Sorensen** - Asthma
- **Adam Kohl and Annie Senior** - Recent job loss
- **Nate Miller** - Job search
- **David Sorensen** - Fractured finger
- **Tom Pryor** - Heart attack
- **Roger Cronquist** - Upcoming surgery, December 9th

To Add or
Remove a Prayer
Request please
follow the QR
Code!



Welcome to

CENTER POINT ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

We are a family whose purpose is to glorify God, lead others to Christ, minister to people's needs, and encourage each other to grow in faith and in His word so we may enjoy eternal life with Him.

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Wednesday

9:30 Bible Classes

7:00 Bible Classes

10:30 Worship Service

6:00 Worship Service

Available live on the church website or YouTube

Connect With Us!



ADDRESS

3264 N. Center Point Road
Marion, Iowa 52302



WEBSITE

www.cprcoc.org



PHONE

319.393.5502



Center Point Road
Church of Christ

DECEMBER 7, 2025

A TIME TO DRAW NEAR AND A TIME TO SHEATH

By: John McGiffin

I often hear our brethren quote that we must speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and be gentle to everyone, not quarreling, but patiently teaching (2 Timothy 2:24). And they would be correct. We certainly gain more converts by showing our love for them.

When the soldiers came for Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter drew his sword, ready to fight for the faith. Jesus replied to his readiness to fight by telling him to sheath his sword (Matthew 26:52).

On the other hand, some of my brethren like to quote that we must be bold, as there are 30 New Testament scriptures that mention being bold in our preaching and teaching (Phil 1:4). We are not to be ashamed of the Gospel (Rom 1:16). We should never apologize for preaching the Truth. There will be times when preaching offends someone. Repentance is a required prerequisite for baptism or the redemption of sins. Pointing out faults sometimes stings the ego (1 Thess 1:5).

PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the Gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe the Gospel - Hebrews 11:6

Repent - Acts 2:38

Confess Jesus as Lord- Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized - 1 Peter 3:21

Remain Faithful - Revelation 2:10

Birthdays & Anniversaries



12/8: Tanner Wallis

12/9: Liadan Kennedy

12/19: Parker Cotts



12/18: Andy & Karen Kennedy

12/20: Troy & Kayla Wallis

12/22: Gary & Dorothy Slege

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

	12/7	12/14
Greeter	Roger R.	Jacob S.
Song leader	Troy W.	Andy K.
Prayer	Art W.	Terry T.
Table	Jacob S.	Kim S.
	Steve H.	Troy W.
Scripture Reader	David S.	Ben M.
Speaker	Art W.	John M.
Closing Prayer	Kim S.	Steve H.
Communion Prep	Kayla W.	Kayla W.
Speaker- PM	Art W.	John M.
Wed. Song Leader	Troy W. (12/10)	Noah R. (12/17)

A TIME TO DRAW NEAR AND A TIME TO SHEATH (CONTINUED)

I am reminded of the verses Jude 22-23 22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

It seems that some are won by love and some by fear of hellfire. There is no contradiction in the Bible. There is a time to teach in loving tenderness and a time to preach fire and brimstone. How do we determine which?

There is no doubt we are in a warfare, as Ephesians 6:12 points out. There are some items mentioned that are essential. However, Paul makes it clear there is a difference between the first three pieces of armor and the remaining three pieces of armor.

He mentions that the belt, breastplate, and shoes are something we wear continuously in preparation for battle. The verb is translated as "to have". It indicates permanency or continual use.

Paul uses the verb "take" and "taking up" in reference to the shield, helmet, and sword. These are items of armor that we must keep ready and take up when needed.

One preacher described it like a baseball player. A player wears his uniform, cleats, and belt at all times. He has his glove, bat, and helmet ready when it is his turn to use those items. This does not mean we are not to be well-practiced in the proper use of the ENTIRE baseball gear. Paul tells us to take up the WHOLE armor (Ephesians 6:11).

Yes, Jesus was compassionate (Matthew 14:14), but he also turned over tables (Matthew 21:12), called a spade a spade (Matthew 23:14), and told his disciples to buy swords (Luke 22:36).

It seems that reconciling this difference is in the wisdom of knowing when to draw your sword and when to sheath it.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: