

# Reflection: Conservatism’s Door to the Gospel

by Sarah Dixon Young

Charlie Kirk didn’t begin his political activism from a Christian point of view.

He, like many others, thought that religion could be held separate from the political sphere, a self-imposed separation of church and state.

But, the more he became involved in conservative politics and policies, the more he changed his views on the role of Christianity in every sphere of life.

“Everything I do incorporates Jesus Christ,” he said. “The mechanisms of a religious society are good for everybody.



Young

When somebody walks around and thinks that you were created and that you’re not God, you tend to have better citizens.”

Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce College,

recently wrote about the dramatic change in Charlie’s approach to public discourse: “He began to argue with consistency that a recovery of Christian truth was essential for a lasting conservatism. He was right.”

Conservatism was the door through which he fully embraced the Gospel of Christ and advocated for that Gospel to be the governing rule of our nation.

As he examined the issues of marriage and family, life, gender identity, the role of government in the life of the individual, and gun laws, he grew in his faith. A

trip to Israel when the U.S. embassy moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem sparked a growing interest in faith matters, and soon, he was talking with pastor Rob McCoy about the Christian foundation of the United States of America.

Even NBC described his transformation as a “metamorphosis” when they wrote about what they termed his “Christian nationalism” in 2024.

Suddenly, political activism and achievement were no longer Charlie’s primary goals.

“God calls you to care about your nation’s welfare. I never say it’s the

most important thing. It’s not. The most important thing is giving your life to Christ. I say that I’m doing the second most important thing, which is to make sure you can do the first thing. We need to continue to be able to create Biblical citizens, and that’s what I’m focused on,” he said in 2022.

And for that, he was assassinated. Brutally. Publically. Ruthlessly.

I am a Christian in the United States of America. I believe many of the things Charlie Kirk espoused after his metamorphosis. Sometimes, if I happen to voice my views or, more rarely,

post them on social media, I am verbally attacked. I see it happening to my Christian friends.

Charlie’s murder brings to mind every time a college professor told us to sit down and shut up. Everytime our family members said they weren’t comfortable having us at their Thanksgiving dinner. Everytime we’ve been called hateful, judgmental, hypocritical, and evil because we voiced a Biblical worldview and dared to apply the Gospel to our politics.

Yet, we hold to what the Bible says. We trust

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# Pope praises forgiveness as mother of slain US journalist James Foley speaks of healing at Vatican

ROME (AP) — Pope Leo XIV on Monday praised the willingness to forgive after the mother of slain American journalist James Foley told a Vatican vigil about her process of healing following meetings with an Islamic State group fighter convicted in his beheading.

Diane Foley was one of

the featured speakers at a special Vatican vigil service in St. Peter’s Basilica on the eve of a Holy Year event honoring all those who suffer.

James Foley was among a group of mostly Western journalists and aid workers taken hostage and ultimately killed by a group of British-born Islamic State group mili-

itants in Syria during the group’s reign of terror. The militants, known as “the Beatles” because of their accents, released a grisly video showing Foley’s beheading in 2014, saying it was retribution for U.S. airstrikes in Iraq.

In a 2024 book, Diane Foley recounted the face-to-face encounters she had with the British-born

militant who was charged in connection with his death, Alexandra Kotey. On Monday, she told the story from the altar of St. Peter’s, choking up at times and clutching her hand to her chest.

After her son was killed, she said anger and bitterness surged within her, and she asked God how he could have

allowed it to happen.

“I staggered under the weight of that loss, unsure if I could go on,” she said. “In those dark moments I prayed desperately for the grace not to become bitter, but to be forgiving and merciful.”

She said the meetings she had with Kotey “became moments of grace.”

“The Holy Spirit allowed us both to listen to each other, to cry, to share our stories. Alexandra expressed much remorse. God gave me the grace to see him as a fellow sinner in need of mercy, like me,” she said.

Leo, history’s first American pope, thanked

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> River of Life 1903 Hwy 20 Devils Lake 701-662-4582 www.riverlife.us Sunday: 10 a.m. worship	<b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS</b> 20th St. & Lincoln Ave. Devils Lake Sunday: 10 a.m. Sacrament at 11 a.m.	<b>LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> Fort Totten, N.D. 701-766-4826 Sunday 10:30 a.m.	<b>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 515 Fourth St. Devils Lake 662-7558 Monday -Friday at 12:00pm Tuesday at 10:00am at Odd Fellows Wednesday at 10:00am at Eventide Friday at 9:30am at St. Joseph School Saturday at 8:30am & 5:00pm Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am	<b>ST. WILLIAMS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Maddock, N.D. 438-2668 Wednesday: 7 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass. Mass at 5 p.m. on the first Friday of the month.
<b>ASSUMPTION OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Starkweather, N.D. 292-4301 Sunday: Mass: Rotating 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. with St. Mary's, Munich Call 682-5178 (Munich).	<b>DAKOTA BAPTIST CHURCH</b> West Highway 57 Fort Totten Church - 766-4516 Sunday: 11 a.m. worship.	<b>MORNING STAR PARISH</b> 701-262-4714 www.morningstarparish.com Worship services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. rotating: American, Pekin, Warwick, Sigdal and Sheyenne Lutheran	<b>ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> St. Michael, ND 58370 766-4151 Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.	<b>SEVEN DOLORS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fort Totten 766-4314 Sunday: 11 a.m. Mass. Daily Mass: 7 a.m.
<b>BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> Tokio, N.D. (2 miles south of Tokio, near Woodlake) 294-2283 www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org Worship: at 11 a.m., Sunday school kids K - 5 grade during worship, potluck meal after	<b>EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT</b> Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue Devils Lake 11 a.m. Morning prayer 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Holy Eucharist- 4th Sunday	<b>NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP</b> North Junction of Hwy. 15 & 20 Rural Hamar 262-4470 Sunday: 10:30 a.m. worship service	<b>ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> 601 6th St. NE Devils Lake, ND 662-4911 9:30 a.m. Worship (September - May) Summer: 8:30 a.m. at Retreat Center 11 a.m. at St. Olaf (June - August)	<b>TRINITY-BERGEN AFLC LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> PO Box 46 Starkweather Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion every Sunday
<b>BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH</b> 1312 East Walnut St. Devils Lake 662-3758 www.bethelfree.com Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 601 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship	<b>OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> 612 14th Ave. NE Devils Lake, N.D. 662-5112 Sunday: 10 a.m. Service Wednesday: 6 p.m. Service	<b>ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 7th St. & 7th Ave. 662-2245 Devils Lake Missouri Synod Worship: 11 a.m. Dial-a-Devotion: 662-3158.	<b>WEBSTER CHAPEL</b> Webster, N.D. Worship is at 9 a.m. the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.
<b>CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Tokio Saturday: 7 p.m. Mass all year round.	<b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 311 5th Ave. NE Devils Lake 701-230-1332 Sunday: 10:30am and 6 p.m.	<b>PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC)</b> 1700 Fifth Ave. NE PO Box 1041 Devils Lake, N.D. 662-3565 Worship Sunday 9:30 a.m.	<b>ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Esmond, N.D. 249-8360 Tuesday-Saturday: Weekday Mass at 9 a.m. Saturday: 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass.	<b>WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 501 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake, 662-3584 Sunday worship 11:00 a.m.
<b>CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY)</b> 607 Fifth St. S.E. Devils Lake Saturday: 2 p.m.	<b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Lakota Missouri Synod Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	<b>ST. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Crow Hill District Hwy. #57, One mile N. Saturday: Mass 5 p.m.	<b>ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> Fort Totten, N.D. 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer	<b>ZOAR FREE LUTHERAN</b> Hampden, North Dakota Pastor Craig Wentzel May through August Worship Sundays 9 a.m.

This week’s listing brought to you by the following local businesses:

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1115 2nd Ave. NE, 662-5366

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314 3rd Ave NE,662-4117

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**-Altru Health System**  
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323 5th St. NE,662-4945

**-First United Bank**  
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