



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

David B. Clark

pastordavid@shen.church

Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

office@shen.church

Pianist

Terry Stafford

Bells & Choir Directors

Dan & Linnea Shook

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Media Booth

Alan Hutchison

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

Facebook Contributors

Pastor David B. Clark,

Barb Cunningham,

Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Drew Morelock,

Pastor David



Isaiah's Ministry of Hope and Salvation

The prophet Isaiah prophesied during one of the most crucial times in the history of Judah and Israel—a time marked by political upheaval, spiritual decline, and growing threats from powerful neighboring empires. His ministry spanned the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah (Isaiah 1:1). Many scholars believe that Isaiah's call to the prophetic office occurred around 740 BC, the year King Uzziah died (Isaiah 6:1, 8).

During that time, both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah had experienced nearly a half-century of increasing prosperity and power. However, spiritually, things were in decline.

- Israel, ruled by Jeroboam and a series of lesser kings, had fallen into pagan worship.
- Judah, under Uzziah, Jotham, and Hezekiah, outwardly maintained orthodoxy but had gradually fallen into serious moral and spiritual decline (Isaiah 3:8–26):

Though there would later come one more revival under King Josiah (640–609 BC), Isaiah knew that Judah had violated the covenant recorded by Moses in Deuteronomy 30:11–20 to such an extent that judgment and captivity were inevitable even as it was for Israel.

Isaiah entered his ministry at about the time of the founding of Rome and the first Olympic games of the Greeks. While Europe's nations were still emerging, powerful Asian empires—especially Assyria—were poised for conquest to the south and west.

Continued page 2

“The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have.” Vince Lombardi

“A loving heart is the truest wisdom.” Charles Dickens

Reminders

February 23rd

PK-6 S.S.– After Children’s Message
Jr/Sr High S.S. – 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation Class – 10:30 a.m.

February 24th

Mat Making (Loom Room) 1:00 p.m.
Ad Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

February 26th

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.
Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
Choir Practice – 5:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Practice – 6:30 p.m.

February 27th

T.O.P.S.
Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries

****Worship Assistants are needed
March & April 2025**

**** Fellowship Volunteers needed
sign-up in Fellowship Hall**

Isaiah - Continued from page 1.

Isaiah recognized that conflict was imminent and Assyria took Samaria in 721 BC which resulted in the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel and its people being taken into captivity.

A Prophet with a Purpose

Isaiah’s ministry had at least a threefold purpose:

- 1. To declare God’s judgment** on the sins of Judah, Israel, and the surrounding nations. Isaiah used nearly every Hebrew word for sin to highlight the seriousness of their disobedience.
- 2. To call God’s people to repentance** in the hope of averting disaster. While this call went largely unheeded, Isaiah faithfully delivered it.
- 3. To offer hope and a future** to the faithful remnant of God’s people. Isaiah’s writings are filled with promises of restoration, redemption, and salvation, as well as the certainty of the coming Messiah.

Isaiah’s message was both a warning and an encouragement. While judgment was inevitable, he assured God’s people that His ultimate purposes would prevail.

A Prophet for the Ages

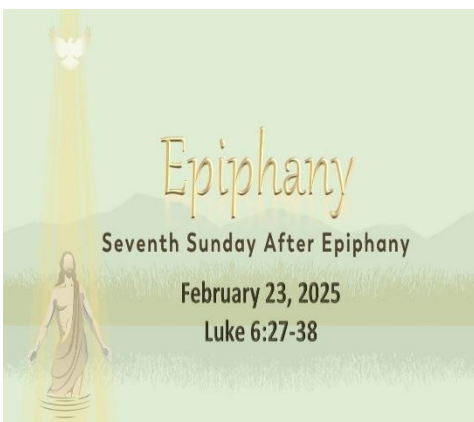
The book of Isaiah speaks as powerfully to today’s world as it did to his own. For this reason, Isaiah has been called both the “Messianic prophet” and the “evangelical prophet.” He prophesied events not only for his time but for all ages, including predicting the first and second comings of Christ.

His very name, “Isaiah,” means “Yahweh is Salvation,” reflecting the heart of his message. This salvation was to come from a Savior or Redeemer who provided a ransom and salvation by grace—not just for Israel, but for all nations. Isaiah’s prophecies carry through to when the Savior will rule over his kingdom of peace which is yet to come (Isaiah 2:1– 5; 11:1– 9; 42:1– 4; 61:1– 11; 65:17– 25; 66:22–23).

Prophecies of the Coming Messiah

Isaiah and other prophets of his time also prophesied events in the life of Jesus which happened seven hundred years later. —events that would take place 700 years later. After His resurrection, Jesus Himself explained to His disciples how the Scriptures—including Isaiah—pointed to Him (Luke 24:27).

Continued page 6



Volunteers Needed



LAST PERSON LEAVING
PLEASE TURN OUT LIGHTS
AND LOCK DOORS

First United Methodist Church

**Please wear your
name tag on
Sunday mornings**



Church Ad Board Members

Michelle Morelock - Chair
Mary Peterson - Secretary
Margaret Brady - Vice Chair & Trustee
Roger Jones - Trustee
Bob Lynn - SPRC
Open - Finance
Dave Lashier - Treasurer
Craig Harris - Lay Member to Annual Conference
Connie Anderson - Memorials
Linda Haldane - Membership
David Clark - Pastor

Church Office Hours

**** Children & Jr.-Sr. High
Sunday School –
PK-6 during service,
Jr/Sr High 10:30 a.m.**

Wednesday

****Choir –5:30 pm**

****Bell Choir –6:30 pm**

The front door to the church will be unlocked during office hours and closed only for errands and lunch.

Monday

9:00-11:00

12:00-3:00

Tuesday

9:00-11:00

12:00-3:00

Wednesday

CLOSED

Thursday

9:00-11:00

12:00-3:00

Friday

9:00-11:00

12:00-3:00

Please continue to call in advance if you need in the church to make sure someone is in the office. If you reach the answering machine please leave your name, number, and a brief message and your call will be returned. Calls after 2:00 p.m. may be returned the next business day.



What did God give us in our hearts as a guarantee according to 2 Corinthians?

- a) His men
- b) His angel
- c) His Spirit
- d) Our conscience

With what will the Lord Jesus kill the lawless one according to 2 Thessalonians?

- a) fire
- b) worm
- c) breath of his mouth
- d) sword

What was all flesh asked to do before the Lord according to the book of Zechariah?

- a) be silent
- b) cry out loud
- c) bring sacrifices
- d) flee

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



23rd – Linda Haldane

24th – Anna Priebe, Ryan Richardson

26th – Gaylen Lundgren, Mac McNeal

27th – Parker Dailey

1st – Jim O'Hara

****See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added, please call the office, or send an email to office@shen.church**

**Shenandoah First United
Methodist Church**

200 Church St.
Shenandoah, IA 51601

Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail
office@shen.church

Same address – a new look at
<https://shen.church>



<https://shenchurch.onechurchsoftware.com/>



United Methodist Church,
Shenandoah, IA

<https://www.facebook.com/methodist.church.shenandoah>



Services are now on our YouTube
channel only.

<https://www.youtube.com/@shen.church8192/streams>

***Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: Terry Stafford**

Call to Worship

Leader: Trust the Lord and do good;

People: Live in the land, and farm faithfulness.

L: Enjoy the Lord,

P: And he will give what your heart asks.

L: Commit your way to the Lord and trust him!

P: And he will make your righteousness shine like the dawn.

L: Be still before the Lord and wait for him.

P: Don't get upset when someone gets ahead, let go of anger and leave rage behind!

"The Freedom of Jesus"

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:27-38

Songs

How Firm a Foundation #529

Breathe #3112

Let There Be Peace on Earth #431

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 56

On-Line Worship – 18

Our Mission:

"Know & Serve God by Sharing Christ's Love."

Our Vision:

"We will grow in holiness, our community will thrive, & we will make a difference in our world."

**Answers for February 16th are c) 10 men b) Edom d) Edomites
Quiz hints – Q1) 2 Corinthians Q2) 2 Thessalonians Q3) Zechariah**



**Food
Pantry
Monthly
Needs**

March 2025

Pasta (any variety, especially spaghetti), Chili Beans (canned), Dry Pinto Beans, Pineapple, Cinnamon Applesauce, Mandarin Oranges, Macaroni & Cheese, Tuna & Chicken Helpers, Cake & Brownie Mix, Potato Flakes & Boxed Potatoes, Stuffing Mix, Chunky Style Soup, Shampoo & Conditioner, Bar Soap.

There are times when people who use the Food Pantry come to the pantry on foot. They are then forced to walk home carrying, pushing, or pulling several pounds of food. Southwest Iowa Transit, for a very reasonable fee of \$5.00, will take individuals home with their food items. If you are interested in helping pay for these fees, simply seal your cash (whatever you would like to give) in a plain envelope and add it to your donated food items.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Community Food Pantry. We exist totally on donations - we couldn't assist those in need without your help!

If you or know of anyone who would be interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry, please have them contact Jeannine K. Liljedahl, at 712-215-2488.



**Food
Pantry
Monthly
Needs**

Noisy Offering – February

The month of February and the first Sunday of March the Noisy Offering will go to the local Food Pantry. To have a little fun for the kids we will also collect cereal. There is no particular kind or brand but just boxes of cereal. The boxes will be collected at the front of the sanctuary. On the first Sunday of March, the kids will set them up like dominoes and then knock them over, and then they will be taken to the food pantry. Who doesn't like to watch dominoes fall over?



Isaiah - Continued from page 2.

In fact, seventeen chapters in the book of Isaiah contain prophetic references to Christ describing Him as:

- The **LORD**
- The **Branch of the LORD**
- **Immanuel** (God with us)
- **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**
- The **Cornerstone**
- The **King** and **Shepherd**
- The **Servant of the LORD** and **Chosen One**
- The **Lamb** and **Redeemer**

Isaiah 53 is the most striking prophecy of the Messiah's atoning work. This chapter paints a clear picture of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, explaining that "He was pierced for our transgressions" and that "by His wounds, we are healed" ([Isaiah 53:5](#); [Romans 4:25](#); [1 Peter 2:24](#)).

Other New Testament writers who quote Isaiah include: [Romans 15:21](#) ([Isaiah 52:15](#)); [John 12:38](#) ([Isaiah 53:1](#)); [Romans 10:16](#) ([Isaiah 53:1](#)); [Matthew 8:17](#) ([Isaiah 53:4](#)); [Acts 8:32–33](#) ([Isaiah 53:7-8](#)); [Luke 22:37](#) ([Isaiah 53:12](#)).

The Holy Spirit at Work

Isaiah also emphasized the work of the Holy Spirit, mentioning Him twelve times in his book. The Spirit and his work are described in three general categories:

1. The Spirit was active at creation and in the preservation of nature ([Isaiah 40:13](#)).
2. The Spirit's outpouring upon Israel to give them success in their rehabilitation after the exodus ([Isaiah 44:1–5](#); [63:1–5](#)), to protect them from their enemies ([Isaiah 59:19](#)), and to preserve Israel's covenant relationship with Yahweh ([Isaiah 59:21](#)).
3. The Spirit's anointing upon the Messiah to rule, heal, liberate, enlighten, and bring justice to the nations ([Isaiah 11:1–12](#); [42:1–9](#)) as the anointed one (Messiah) in both his comings ([Isaiah 61:1–3](#); [Luke 4:17–21](#)).

The Lord Jesus, whose earthly ministry was carried out in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit as Isaiah has prophesied, promised to pour out his Spirit upon the church to empower it for ministry in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Isaiah's Legacy

Isaiah's life was marked by faithfulness in a difficult time. He highlighted the sordid sins of Israel and Judah, warned of the consequences of judgment if sin continued, and urged a return to holiness. Tradition holds that he was martyred during the reign of King Manasseh. Many believe that the clause "sawed in two" in [Hebrews 11:37](#) is a reference to Isaiah's death. Despite this, Isaiah's message endures. His words challenge us to turn from sin, trust in God's salvation, and look forward to the fulfillment of His promises. Above all, Isaiah points us to Jesus—the Messiah, the Savior, and the hope for all nations.

Adapted from content in the NIV New Spirit-Filled Life Bible. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, February 17, 2025



What Would You Do If You Knew Jesus Was Coming Back in Ten Years?

A few years ago, I found myself in a place of exhaustion. I love what I do, but I found myself wondering what it would look like to just quit. I imagined a life of indefinite sabbatical, hanging out with my husband and family, relaxed and unburdened by the heavy weight of this call on my life. I asked God, "Is this the time? Do we close everything down?" Looking back, I was just so weary.

As I asked God what to do, a friend of mine prayed specifically for God to give me clarity. The very night of that prayer, I had a dream — a dream that Jesus was coming back in ten years. While I have no idea if Jesus will come back in ten years or tomorrow or generations from now, what I do know is that this dream changed me and I haven't been the same since. I haven't thought about quitting one time since because I have resolved that in the small chance He is coming back soon, I am going to do my part.

What about you? Imagine if you knew with absolute certainty (*reminder, we don't*) that Jesus is coming back in ten years. What would change about your life? What would change about what you're thinking about and what you're doing with your time?

Here's what I know down deep in my core: if we as a Church knew this, *it would change everything*. We would become ablaze with single-mindedness, and we would fix our solely eyes on Jesus. More specifically, I believe that if we as a global Church knew that Jesus was coming back in ten years, we would *know our mission*, we would *come together*, and we would *hate our sins*.

We would know our mission.

Matthew 28:18-20 tells us Jesus's last words to his disciples and is known by most of us as the Great Commission. "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and

the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (ESV). Jesus couldn’t have been clearer: the mission of the Church is discipleship.

What is discipleship? It’s leading someone who doesn’t know God to the ways of Jesus. If we’re also disciplining people who already know Jesus, then we should be disciplining them to disciple people who don’t know Jesus to know Jesus! (Is that a tongue twister or what?!)

If we knew Jesus was coming back in ten years, we would be obsessed with helping the lost know Jesus. This mission to “go and make disciples” would feel crystal clear and incredibly urgent.

But many of us have found our mission out of a place of drive rather than calling. How can you know if you’re living driven or living called?

Driven people...

- Need affirmation before they feel good about something.
- Spend more time online than with Jesus.
- Compare their results to others.
- Constantly look to arrive at an achievement.
- Live frustrated at their lack of opportunities.
- Get anxious when they aren’t performing.
- Check numbers all the time.
- Think of how others can elevate them.
- Share their weakness publicly before they confess it privately.

But called people...

- Have nothing to lose and nothing to prove.
- Celebrate others’ successes easily.
- Enjoy the work that God has for them no matter the results.
- Are comfortable confessing weakness and sin.
- Seek out and recognize others.
- Enjoy Jesus.
- Prioritize real-life relationships over online significance.
- Think about how they can elevate others.

“Driven vs. called” is one of the main ways that the enemy has hijacked the Church’s mission because we have been distracted by looking for significance rather than focused on kingdom impact. We have loved other things more than God and made things more complicated than Jesus intended. **I believe that if the Church knew Jesus was coming back in ten years, we would live as called people on a mission to make disciples.**

There are 2.5 billion Christians on Earth and 5.5 billion people on Earth who don’t know Jesus yet. How could the world be changed if every Jesus follower discovered, resolved, and was commissioned into the cause of making Jesus known? This is what we will be doing at Gather25 — mobilizing the Church to participate in the mission of God and to “go and make disciples.”

We would come together.

When we’re all looking for significance, we tend to separate from each other. We live isolated and become lonely as we focus on our drive. But when we lean into living called, we come together for the only thing that will last: the kingdom of God. Like the Avengers coming together (*do you love the Marvel movies as much as I do?*), when we work together as a team, unbelievable things are possible that we simply cannot do alone.

This idea of coming together is intrinsically tied to our vision for Gather25. Our dream is to gather the global Church — every man, woman, and child who follows Jesus. Leaders across many different streams of Christian faith share our vision to work together for the gospel.

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV) describes the early Church this way: “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

If we are living like Jesus is coming back in ten years, we as the Church will come together in a similar way; we will fellowship together, we will be devoted to the teaching of the Word, we will praise God together, and we will sacrificially love our neighbors.

A picture God gave me of this coming together is of a big boat with lots of small boats behind it. Believers all around the world, across different continents, languages, and denominations, have been rowing in their small boats. But the time has come for us to get on the big boat together. We need each other, and it’s time that we all set aside petty arguments and division and instead get caught up in the big story of God!

We have called Gather25 “the greatest group project ever,” and that is how we see it! Through technology that has only recently existed, we can gather the global Church to participate in the same live stream and instantly translate our content into 14 languages. We are bringing Christians around the world together so that we can send them back out to their local communities with a shared vision for the mission of making disciples.

We would hate our sin.

Hebrews 12:1-3 says, “Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder, and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

If we as a Church knew that Jesus was coming back in ten years, I believe that we would hate our sins. We would be renewed in the fight to, as Hebrews says, “lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely” as we look to Jesus. We would fix our eyes on Jesus instead of the trivial pursuits that do nothing but distract us from our mission.

What would this look like? A few ideas...

- We would not be consumed with materialism.
- We would not numb out with entertainment.
- We would not be in sexual sin.
- We would not yell at our kids.
- We would not lie or hide.
- We would not gossip or be critical of others.
- We would not be addicted to our phones, to food, or the approval of others.
- We would lay down self-loathing and insecurity.
- We would lay down greed and discontentment.

Holiness is the way we will show people our God. It’s the way Israel showed people their God, and it’s the way Jesus called us to show people. **The world doesn’t hate Christians because we are like Jesus; they hate us because we aren’t.** The more we become like Jesus, with holiness, truth, grace, and love coming together in our lives, the more we spread Jesus to our churches, communities, and the world.

Have you been afraid to name the sin that’s entangled you? Sin flees when it’s brought into the light. If we truly want to throw off the sin that so easily entangles us (Hebrews 12:1 NIV), we have to *name* that sin. We have to confess to one another.

When Jesus comes back — whenever that might be — let's be the most single-minded, full-hearted, confessed people on earth. There is no condemnation (Romans 8:1)! Live your life in the light and help others live in the light. Be brave, and share the thing you're scared to share with someone you trust.

Adapted from American author, speaker, and visionary of Gather25, Jennie Allen. BibleGateway News & Knowledge, February 6, 2025.



In a couple of weeks, the Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday. Lent has often been associated with giving something up. Why do we do this? The purpose is to focus our hearts and minds on Christ. This world is good and beautiful, but we can choose to let go of something that is good in order to learn how to hold things lightly. Jesus said, "For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?" (Mark 8:36)

We don't give something up for a season because that thing is bad, we do it because even the good things that are gifts from God can eat away at our very soul if we cling to them. The Lenten season is a time of learning to let go for new life to emerge.

There is also another movement to Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes in the mark of the cross with these words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Lent is a time to remember our mortality. Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). The 40 days of Lent usually fall within the transition from winter to spring. The image of planting a seed, then, is a good metaphor for the season. We recognize and learn to accept our mortality. Purposefully giving something up for a season helps in this acceptance. And while the logic of Christ requires a death, it is never the last word. We look forward to the hope of a new life that we celebrate at Easter.

I invite you, then, to participate in Lent this year beginning with our Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 6:30 pm.

Grace and peace,
Pastor David Clark
308-258-7749 (cell)




**Administrative
Board
Meeting
Tuesday
Feb. 24th
6:30 PM**



Join Us On March 5th
*Ash
Wednesday*
Service at 6:30 p.m.

**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Feed**



*The Little Brick Church
with the Red Doors that are
open to all!*

**Tuesday
MARCH 4, 2025
5-7 p.m.**

Free-will Donation
The pancakes are back!
Join us!

**St. John's Episcopal Church
401 Church Street
Shenandoah**