



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Terry Stafford

Bells & Choir Directors

Dan & Linnea Shook

Multimedia & Website

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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



What Is the Kingdom of God?

Given the importance of the kingdom in the message of Jesus, let's briefly review this concept.

A kingdom is a society of people with a structure in which there is one person, a king or queen, to whom all of the citizens offer loyalty, service, and respect. The sovereign's part of this relationship is to provide care, protection, and service for the good of the people. It has always been understood that the welfare of a leader rests upon the welfare of the people.

The kingdom of God is exactly like that. It is a society of persons where there is love, service, and respect for the king; and there is care, protection, and service for those who live in the kingdom. When we speak of the kingdom of God, we are speaking of a kingdom that works more like a family or a well-functioning neighborhood, where people do love one another and care for each other.

This kingdom is the range of God's effective will—or simply God acting in this world—where what he wants done is done. Jesus' teaching showed us that the kingdom of God is not a thing of times and places; it is a thing of the heart. It is a life that is lived in vital connection with God himself.

Unlike the kingdom of God, human government functions on principles of force, deception, brutality, and the power of death.

Continued page 2.

“You can’t turn back the clock. But you can wind it up again.” Bonnie Prudden

“When you can’t find someone to follow, you have to find a way to lead by example.” Roxane Gay

Reminders

December 22nd

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

December 23rd

Mat Making (Loom Room) 1:00 p.m.

December 24th

No Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.
No Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
No Choir Practice – 5:30 p.m.
No Bell Choir Practice – 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m.

December 25th

T.O.P.S.

Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries

****Worship Assistants are needed
for January 2025**

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

Kingdom of God - Continued from page 1.

All human governments have the power of death, but what they lack is the power of life. This is what the kingdom of God has: the power of life. Human governments can kill. God’s government gives life. This life is based upon the new birth that is an entry into the kingdom of God.

We are invited to bring our lives into the eternal life of God in his everlasting kingdom, being mindful that eternity is already in progress; it is not something that will start later.

The only biblical definition of eternal life is this: “Now this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent” (John 17:3). To “know You” is an interactive relationship in which everything we bring into that relationship becomes eternal.

When we live in the kingdom of God by the Spirit of God, our lives are constantly overflowing with goodness and mercy. We do not make this happen. It is a gift, and we receive it. It is not “eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17), which is not humanly possible.

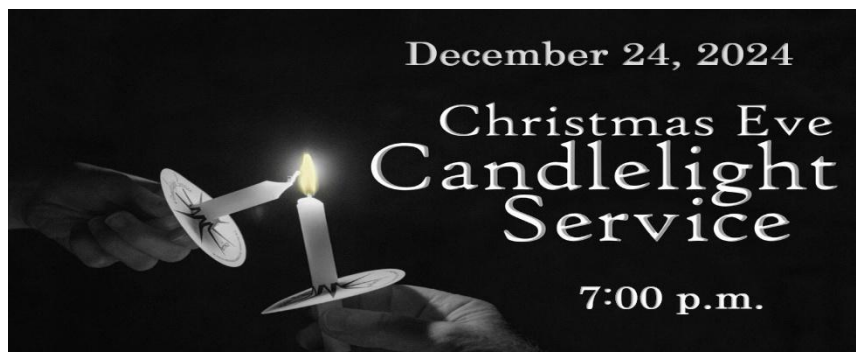
The best advice about how to go to heaven is to go now by living your life with God. That is what Jesus was saying when he preached, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4:17).

The kingdom of God constantly renews us; it comes to us where we are. It is always “near,” present with us. When the Bible speaks of heaven, it means God acting in this world—right here, right now.

This is real life. That is why Jesus said, “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

Adapted from [The Scandal of the Kingdom](#) by Dallas Willard.

*Adapted from The Scandal of the Kingdom, by Dallas Willard. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved
501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, December 16, 2024.*



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*
- Gary Milstead - Trustee*
- Roger Jones - SPRC*
- Robin Hensen - 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.



In the book of Zephaniah, what will the Lord quiet His people by?

- a) His faithfulness
- b) His judgments
- c) His righteousness
- d) His love

Where did Abraham buy a field to use as a burial ground?

- a) Ur of the Chaldeans
- b) The land of Uz
- c) Haran
- d) Machpelah

How many people died from the falling of the tower in Siloam?

- a) 3
- b) 12
- c) 18
- d) 23

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 22nd – Pam Antons*
- 23rd – David & Vicki Skinner*
- 24th – Dixie Dailey*
- 26th – Marcia Allely*

****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: God shepherd, hear our prayers, and deliver your people.

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us.

L: Feed us with your mercy

P: and grant us your peace.

L: Restore us, O God;

P: let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

“Mary’s Song”

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-55

Songs

O Come, All Ye Faithful – v 1,3,6 #234

What Child Is This #219

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #240

Last Week’s Attendance

In-Person Worship – 128

On-Line Worship – 19

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 December 15th are b) His blood a) slaves d) The promised Holy Spirit

Quiz hints – Q1) Zephaniah Q2) Genesis Q3) Luke



Food Pantry Monthly Needs

January 2025

Pancake Mix & Syrup, Cake, Brownie, and Cookie Mixes, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Pasta (any variety), Spaghetti Sauce, Microwave Popcorn, hot Chocolate Mix, Crackers (sods, graham, snack), Macaroni & Cheese, Potato Flakes & Boxed Potatoes, Toilet Paper, 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 with their food items home. 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.

Bring Your Change to Make a Change

*Collected each Sunday after
the children's message*



"Each of you should GIVE what you have decided in YOUR HEART to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for GOD LOVES a cheerful GIVER." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

The Noisy Offering is one more way to do ministry for those in need and teach your children the importance of giving and serving. Each Sunday a new opportunity for mission giving will take place after the Children's Message. Sunday School students will walk around the congregation, collecting your loose coins and currency in their colorful metal pails. This would be a good time to clean out the loose change from your pockets or purse. The money donated in December will go to **Midwest Mission** to make meal packets.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday

to Deliver Meals

Sign-Up Sheet is on the

Welcome Center Counter



Giving and Receiving

“What are you getting for Christmas?” “What do you want for Christmas?”

How many times have you heard these questions lately? Christmas shopping is in full swing. For the next two weeks, many gifts will be given and received. Which do you enjoy the most – giving or receiving?

Unfortunately, for many people, the truthful answer to that question conflicts with the answer they know they should give. Honestly, receiving gifts, especially the one(s) we’ve always wanted, brings a lot of pleasure and happiness. But there’s no honor in receiving gifts (however, there can be dishonor in the way we act when we don’t get the gifts we’d hoped for).

Several years ago, Calvin Coolidge, our 30th president, said, “No person has ever been honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.” Can you think of an award or honor given to someone who received the greatest or most gifts? There may be, but nothing comes to my mind. On the other hand, there are numerous honors and rewards for those who excel at giving to an individual. Oscars and Emmys are given to the person who contributed the most to the music and entertainment industry. Athletics have their Most Valuable Player awards. Universities, governments, and even zoos have buildings named after major contributors.

This probably doesn’t surprise you at all. No doubt you have heard many times the statement of Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). The best-known verse in the Bible honors God for what He gave, not for what He received (John 3:16). What does surprise many people is that when God honors giving, it has nothing to do with the amount of the gift. Generation after generation honors the poor widow who, even though it wasn’t much, gave all she had (Luke 21:2). The Macedonians are also esteemed for their giving, even though poverty-stricken themselves (2 Cor. 8:1-5). In contrast, very little is said about those receiving the gifts. What do you know about the poor saints in Jerusalem other than they were famine-stricken and very poor? The only thing we know about how to receive gifts is to do so with gratitude and in a way that glorifies God. Perhaps we need to work a little harder at becoming a generous giver and spend less time hoping and dreaming about all the things we might receive. That’s hard to do, especially at this time of the year, but by doing so, we will become a little bit more like the God we love and serve. Givers truly are more blessed than receivers.

Story adapted from Joe Chesser, Fruitland Church of Christ, Jackson, MO. December 2022, Vol. 41, No. 12, Bulletin Digest.



I've been thinking about how we are surrounded by stories at Christmastime. We have decorations that bring to mind seasons of our lives or remind us of loved ones. There are recipes that not only tell us how much sugar to include but also tell us about Grandma. Some songs are played on the radio that transports us to a different time. There are stories of blizzards and how they changed everything for that year. There are stories of loss and stories of happiness. Some stories get told every year when the family is gathered in the living room, like when my dad and his brother were late to Christmas dinner because they had to stay and watch the end of the longest game in NFL history between the Chiefs and Dolphins and the details seem to change with each passing season.

And every year we retell the story of the birth of Jesus from Matthew's or Luke's gospel and it never gets old. These stories shape who we are individually, as a family, and as a church. The interweaving of all of these stories makes you who you are today. As we enter into the heart of the Christmas season, let yourself be shaped by these stories. Slow down and listen. Slow down and be present. Keep telling stories.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor David Clark
308-258-7749 (cell)



ALERT!

The first aid kit from downstairs is missing. If you know where it might be please contact the office. Reward,

one from Bandaid!



This past Sunday we had 128 people in the sanctuary and 19 online for our Youth's Christmas Program. They did an excellent job and looked so festive. Then, at 4:00 p.m. there was a group that went caroling and others that stayed to make sure the soup and everything was ready when the carolers returned. Approximately 60 people attended and enjoyed the fellowship. No pictures of the caroling were available at this time. Pictures from the Christmas Program at below.



This week is photo number 22 in a series of unique pictures from all over the world. For some pictures, you may need to squint and then you will see what the picture represents, others you will see it right away. I have found these amazing and wanted to share them.

#22



REMEMBER
THIS IS THE SEASON **THIS IS THE REASON**



Merry
Christmas

