



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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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, Pastor David



The Key to Spiritual Growth: Do These 5 Things Daily

I would like to let you in on the key to leadership success. It's not talent. It's not opportunity. It's not even motivation. The key to success is a combination of two words: *consistency* and *discipline*. Admittedly, those are not exciting words. But they are habits that, if developed in our lives, can result in long-term leadership effectiveness. The Law of Consistency states, "Motivation gets you going — discipline keeps you growing."

Get Growing and Keep Growing

Paul said in Ephesians 4:15 that God wants you to "grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." Not one single person, not even the most influential leader, is immune to the need to keep growing. Even "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52) while he was on this earth.

If you want to grow spiritually, you need to be consistent and disciplined. To do that, you can apply The Spiritual Growth Rule of 5, five behaviors you can practice every day to take you closer to that goal:

Continued on page 2

"When you arise in the morning, think of what a privilege it is to be alive, to think, to enjoy, to love."
Marcus Aurelius

"Mondays offer a new beginning 52 times a year!"
David Dweck

Reminders

August 24th

10th Sunday after Pentecost
 Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.

August 26th

Mat Making (Loom Room) 1:00 p.m.
 1st Tuesday of the month only for
 July and August

August 27th

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
 Bible Study, Choir Practice, &
 Chancel & Bell Choirs
 Resumes in the Fall

August 28th

T.O.P.S.

Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries
 Sign up at the Welcome Counter

****Worship Assistants are needed
 October**

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



Spiritual Growth continued from page 1.

Behavior 1: God Time

God wants to spend time with you! He doesn't need you, but he wants you. When Adam sinned, it was not he who asked, "God, where are you?" It was God who asked Adam, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9).

To grow spiritually, make it a priority to spend time with God daily. Follow the advice of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Behavior 2: Gift Time

Every person has within him or her certain gifts from God. These are revealed by the things you dream of — what David calls "the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). True satisfaction in life comes when you operate in your gifted areas. Nothing will make you happier than doing what God created you to do.

The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every follower of Christ and activates those creative gifts hidden in the heart. At least three things will evidence a gift as something from God: (1) you will be good at it, (2) you'll have an opportunity to use it, and (3) you'll love to do it. God gave you gifts — find and use them.

Behavior 3: Grace Time

Accepting grace from God is not always easy. Most of us want to come to God based on our good works, our best days, our finest moments. Grace invites us to return, over and over, to the surprising reality of being loved amid our failures, weaknesses, and sins. God does not save us because of any great good we have done. He saves us because he is a great and gracious God.

Only after you and I have accepted grace from God can we give grace to others. When you miss the grace of God, bitterness grows in your life. When you embrace God's grace for you and immerse yourself in that grace, you can give that grace to others through forgiveness, acceptance, and unconditional love. Growth occurs when you consistently accept grace from God and give it to others.

Continued on 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
Barb Lundgren - 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 –
NO PK-6 or Jr/Sr High
Sunday School until Fall**

Wednesday

****Chancel & Bell Choirs –
resumes in the Fall**

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 on the next
business day.



Who is the image of the
invisible God according
to the book of
Colossians??

- a) Jesus Christ
- b) Adam
- c) Noah
- d) Human being
generally

Who had seven hundred
wives and three hundred
concubines?

- a) Solomon
- b) David
- c) Abimelech
- d) Abraham

A prophet asked a fellow
prophet to strike him but he
didn't, so what was his fate?

- a) He was stoned
- b) A lion killed him
- c) The earth swallowed him
- d) The prophet struck him

**Check page 4 for answers from
the previous week.**



23rd – LeRoy Whitehill, Derek & Stephanie Howard
24th – Craig & Kathy Harris
26th – Karen Foster
27th – Bryston & Jessica Dunkeson
28th – Pat Perkins, Marcia Goodrich Volker
29th – Buck & Sally Mueller, Glen & Tammy Braymen, Al & Phyllis Moore (60 years)

****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: Come, children of God, weary and bent low.

People: We come to be lifted by God's grace.

L: Come, people of faith, carrying burdens both seen and unseen.

P: We come to be set free in God's love.

L: Come, neighbors and friends, into the rest of this Sabbath.

P: We come to rejoice in the presence of Christ.

"SET FREE ON THE SABBATH"

Scripture Reading: Luke 13:10-17

Songs

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God #110

All My Hopes (screens)

Here I Am Lord #593

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 59

Online Worship – 11

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 August 17th are a) Solomon, d) Pharaoh's chief cupbearer and baker, b) Gilead.

Quiz hints – Q1) Colossians Q2) 1 Kings Q3) 1 Kings



August 2025

Microwave Popcorn, Green Beans, Corn, and Spinach, Mandarin Oranges, Pineapple, Cinnamon Applesauce, Pork & Beans, Chili Beans, Cake, Brownie, and Muffin Mixes, Pasta (any type including spaghetti noodles), Chunky Style Soup, Cereal, Laundry Soap, Shampoo, and Conditioner.

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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday
to Deliver Meals
Sign-Up Sheet is on the
Welcome Center Counter**

New members welcome!

It is time...

**Chancel Choir
&
Bell Choir**

Join the fun!

**Practice begins
Wednesday, September 3rd
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.
Bell Choir – 6:30 p.m.**

Spiritual Growth continued from page 2.

Behavior 4: Giving Time

God doesn't give us resources, talents, blessings, opportunities, and influence so we can indulge ourselves. Paul, encouraging cheerful giving among believers, stated, "God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. . . . You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous" (2 Corinthians 9:8, 11). God gives to you so you can give to others.

Generosity is an indispensable quality of a leader. Giving increases rather than decreases your resources and effectiveness. Your candle loses nothing when it lights another. Every day, look for ways to give to others — and then take action.

Behavior 5: Gratitude Time

Paul advised, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Grateful people choose to focus not on what's missing from their lives, but on all they do have, and then they express gratitude for it. The surest index of your spiritual and emotional well-being is the amount of gratitude in your life. Enrich your life and leadership with gratitude daily by doing the following:

- **Linger over life's blessings.** The English word thank shares the same root as think. Thankfulness is connected to thoughtfulness. You can't be grateful without being mindful of the many benefits you enjoy and the rich blessings you have been given. Take time to rejoice. Keep a gratitude list of whom and what you're thankful for.
- **Live in the moment.** Don't succumb to "destination disease," which suggests, "I'll be satisfied when . . ." Don't postpone joy. Pray with Moses, "Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days" (Psalm 90:14).

Adapted from "Living the 5" by John C. Maxwell from *The Maxwell Leadership Bible, NIV*. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, August 18, 2025.





As followers of Christ, we are offered the promise of heaven: a glorious home for believers of all generations to be united with the Father and each other. To imagine the beauty, peace, and majesty of heaven is a wonderful mental activity, as we turn our minds away from the pain and tribulation of this world and dwell on the joy to come in God's realm.

At the same time, Christians are not called to spend their days only looking upward. Though we should set our minds on "things above" (Colossians 3:2), what about our responsibilities to God and each other *today*?

No doubt the reality of heaven impacts our lives here on earth. The New Testament constantly affirms that what we believe about heaven affects how we live now. But as people of God, we are called to live with purpose, purity, and promise.

People of Purpose

Peter urged believers in Jesus to remain mindful of their purpose. He wrote, "Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (2 Peter 3:14 ESV).

The instruction to "be diligent" means to "do your best, make haste, take care, hurry on." In Peter's day, there were some who thought that since the Lord was coming back soon, they should just take it easy and coast into heaven. The very opposite is true. Because Christ is coming back, we're to be filled with urgency. We are to be diligent, consistently mindful.

Jesus affirmed this instruction when He told us to "do business till I come" (Luke 19:13 NKJV). We are to diligently use the gifts and callings He has placed upon us and take advantage of every opportunity that He puts in front of us.

People of Purity

In order to be Rapture-ready, we must live with the godliness and purity offered to us in Christ. Since He could return for us at any time, it is our responsibility to live in holiness until his return. As 2 Peter 3:11 (NKJV) tells us: "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness." In this verse, Peter described the lifestyle of a Christian who understands the

future plan of God. He said we ought to be people of holy conduct. He also added the word “godliness,” which means to have a God-ward attitude and to do the things that are pleasing to Him.

In his first letter to Timothy, Paul also exhorted us to make godliness the object of determined effort and pursuit. He said, “Exercise yourself toward godliness” and “pursue...godliness” (1 Timothy 4:7; 6:11 NKJV). This affects the words we speak, the things we watch, the thoughts we indulge, and the habits that shape our lives.

As one waiting for Christ’s return, are you living with the purity of mind and heart required of all believers?

People of Promise

In addition to lifting up godliness and holy conduct, Peter encouraged Christ-followers to be “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God” (2 Peter 3:12 NKJV).

In other words, Peter instructed us to be mindful of God’s promises for the future, specifically the Rapture and the Second Coming. When we believe in God and the prophecy given to us, we will live in ways that glorify Him and demonstrate the fullness of our belief.

According to Peter, it is easy to become indifferent to the coming of the Lord and His plans for us. He encourages us to live as those “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God.” The words translated as “looking for” mean “to expect or wait for.”

When Peter wrote in verse 12 that we are “hastening” the coming of the day of God, he was reminding us that we are to earnestly desire the coming of the Lord. Paul put it this way toward the end of his life: “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8 NKJV).

I love the word *anticipation*. We have an inborn psychological need to look forward to coming events, to enjoy thinking about them, to plan for them, to relish the thought of our upcoming vacation or visit with a grandchild or holiday meal. How much more should we anticipate the sure promise of Christ’s return for us!

As Christians, we are to live for the present *and* the glorious future to come. The knowledge we possess of God’s promise and plans should not detract from the plans He has for us today. May we all enjoy the benefit of knowing our future is secure in Christ while we toil on earth today! As children of the Most High God, it is our privilege to live for a Father who holds yesterday, today, *and* tomorrow in His loving hands.

Adapted from The Great Disappearance: 31 Ways to be Rapture Ready by Dr. David Jeremiah. Bible Gateway, 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, Tennessee, 37214. October 24, 2023.

Note from the pastor



In Luke 13:10–17, Jesus heals a woman who had been bent over for eighteen long years. What's striking is not only the healing itself, but that Jesus chooses to do it on the Sabbath. For him, the Sabbath is not about restrictions—it's about freedom. It is God's gift of rest, renewal, and release.

Here in Shenandoah, we know the value of hard work. Fields don't plant themselves; cattle don't feed themselves; houses don't fix themselves; task lists don't get checked off themselves, and meals don't cook themselves. Work is a blessing, and honest labor is part of the rhythm of life. But Jesus reminds us that rest is just as holy. We are not made to go nonstop. We need regular times to breathe deeply, to be restored, to remember that we are loved not for what we produce but for who we are in God.

Rest is not laziness—it is freedom. It's the freedom to lay burdens down, to trust that the world will keep turning even if we stop, and to let God's Spirit restore our weary souls.

This week, may you honor both your work and your rest. And may you hear Jesus' words as an invitation: Come, be set free.

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

