



Weekly Booster

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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

*Our Vision: **Growing** as
disciples of Jesus while
connecting with others and
serving our community.*



Lessons from the Story of Balaam and His Donkey

Any Bible story that features animals is a favorite of Sunday school lessons and children's ministry decorations: Noah's ark, Daniel and the lions' den, Samson and the foxes, Jesus' triumphal entry on a colt or donkey, and others. Perhaps we feel the presence of animals makes these stories especially interesting and relatable to young children. While it's true that many kids love animals, the fact that these stories feature animals does not make them easy stories. A clear case in point is the story of Balaam and his donkey in Numbers 22.

When you think about odd stories in the Bible, the narrative of Balaam and his donkey will almost certainly be near the top of the list. What are we to make of this strange story featuring a talking animal? More importantly, what can Christians learn about themselves and about God by studying this passage?

The setting for this story is the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites. God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt and made a covenant with them at Mount Sinai. As they traveled toward their ultimate destination of Canaan—a prolonged trek due to the people's stubbornness and lack of trust in God—the Israelites frightened the nations of the lands they passed through.

Continued on page 2

“People often say the motivation doesn’t last. Well, neither does bathing—that’s why we recommend it daily.”
Zig Ziglar

“I am so clever that sometimes I don’t understand a single word of what I am saying.”
Oscar Wilde

Reminders

November 9th

Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
PK-6 S.S. during the message
Jr/Sr High S.S. – 10:30 a.m.

November 11th

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

November 12th

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.
Praise Team - 4:00 p.m.
Bell Choir – 4:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.

November 14th

T.O.P.S.

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

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



November 9, 2025
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Balaam - continued from page 1.

In Numbers 22, the Israelites travel through the plains of Moab to camp along the Jordan River, east of Canaan. When Balak, the king of Moab, sees the great number of Israelites, he asks the prophet Balaam to curse them. God, however, tells Balaam only to do what God commands (see Numbers 22:20).

As Balaam rides his donkey toward King Balak’s summons, God’s angel stands in Balaam’s way with a drawn sword. Only Balaam’s donkey can see the angel. The donkey resists moving forward due to the angel’s presence, and Balaam beats his donkey three times for refusing to go forward. Then comes the amazing moment: “the LORD opened the donkey’s mouth, and it said to Balaam, ‘What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?’” (Numbers 22:28).

Rather than being shocked and alarmed, Balaam argues with his donkey! Finally, God opens Balaam’s eyes to see what the donkey saw: the angel of God standing in the road with his sword drawn. Balaam finally realizes his donkey has saved his life. The angel then sends Balaam on his way with a stern warning to speak only what God tells him to speak.

When Balaam finally reaches King Balak, Balak asks him to curse the Israelites. Balak even offers Balaam a large sum of money in return. Balaam, however, speaks only what God commands. He refuses the king’s bribe to curse the Israelites. Far from cursing them, in fact, God leads Balaam to bless the Israelites three times over.

So, what does Balaam’s strange story teach Christians today? First, it reminds us that God protects his people. God promised Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation and declared, “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse” (Genesis 12:3). In the story of Balaam, God does not even allow Israel’s enemies to curse them. Instead, God turns an attempted curse into a blessing. God’s protection over his people is powerful, and that truth remains a comfort and assurance for us today.

A second lesson we can learn from Balaam’s story is that God can use extraordinary and surprising means to accomplish his will. A talking donkey is an extreme example, but the story reminds us that God’s purposes will never fail. *Continued on page 7*

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 –
Starting September 7th.
PK-6 during service
Jr/Sr High 10:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday
Praise Team – 4:00 p.m.
Bell Choir – 4:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.**

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

Office Closed
Bible Study 11:00

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 to
enter 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 were Lazarus'
siblings?

- a) Mary and Joanna
- b) Mary and Martha
- c) Mary and Elizabeth
- d) Mary and Magdalene

Who was Jeremiah's scribe?

- a) Baruch
- b) Jehudi
- c) Elishama
- d) Hananiah

Who was the last judge of
Israel?

- a) Gideon
- b) Samson
- c) Jephthah
- d) Samuel

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



10th – Mike Briggs, Michelle Morelock
11th – Chuck Oxenford, Matthew Volker
12th – Randall MacDonald
13th – Keith Allely
14th – Drew Bayless, Sallie Brownlee,
Derek Howard, Ginger Vermillion

****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, beloved of God, and dwell in the One who is the true vine.

People: We come, longing to be rooted in Christ's love.

L: Abide in Jesus, and you will bear fruit that lasts.

P: We come, ready to grow in the Spirit's care.

L: Remain in God's love and share that love with one another.

P: We come, trusting the One who makes our joy complete.

“Abide in Me”

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-17

Songs

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #384

You Are My All in All #3040

Take Time to Be Holy #395

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 86

Online Worship – 13

Our Vision:

“Growing as disciples of Jesus while connecting with others and serving our community.”

Answers for Nov 2nd are d) Elijah c) Galatians b) wisdom

Quiz hints – Q1) John Q 2) Jeremiah Q3) 1 Samuel



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday

to Deliver Meals

Sign-Up Sheet is on the

Welcome Center Counter



November 2025

Spaghetti Sauce and Pasta (any type), Chili, Chunky Style Soup, Mandarin Oranges, Green Beans, Corn, Spinach, Sauerkraut, Beets, Gravy Packets, Potato Flakes, Soda, Graham and Snack Crackers, Brownie, Cake, Muffin and Cookie Mixes, Hot Chocolate Mix, Microwave

Popcorn, Dish and Laundry 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 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 November will go to the **Adopt-A-Family**.



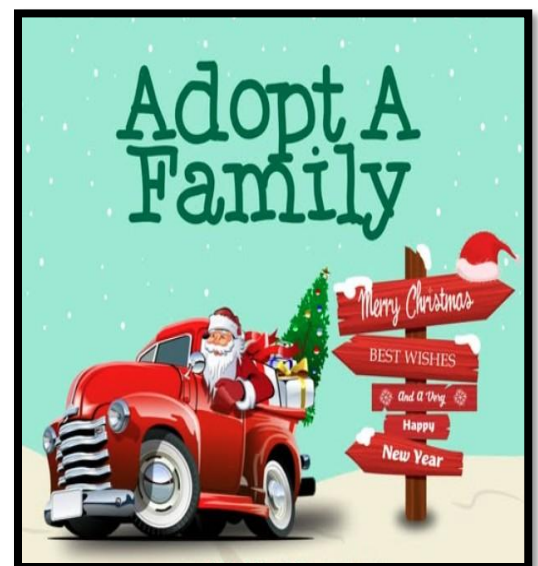
Fellowship Time

Cookies and Treats are running low for fellowship time. If you are willing to help replenish goodies for after service, it would be greatly appreciated. There is also a sign-up sheet downstairs if you would like to be in charge for a certain Sunday. Baked goods are still appreciated even if you can't host after service.

We are ready to take your orders for poinsettias to help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. If you are interested in purchasing one "In Honor of" or "In Memory of," please fill out a POINSETTIA ORDER FORM that is located on the Welcome Center information desk or attached to the booster. Each poinsettia is \$17.00. Please put your prepaid check or cash and order form in the envelope provided with the form and place it in the wooden offering boxes. We encourage you to order early (only 30 poinsettias were ordered) and appreciate your kindness in helping make our sanctuary colorful for the Christmas season.



Over 31 years ago, concerned citizens in the Shenandoah community had a dream of all community families having a happy and healthy holiday and formed the **Adopt-A-Family** project. Our church will provide a local family in need with a brighter holiday with gifts appropriate for their age or need. No adult information will be given; this way, we can help the children in more families. This year, we will be able to ask for contributions of money in the Mission Cans as we have done before. The mission Cans are placed on top of the wooden offering boxes and just inside the middle set of the sanctuary doors. As soon as the **Adopt-A-Family** committee contacts the church regarding the size of the family and items on their wish list, that information will be listed in the Booster. Thanks for your ongoing support for this important community project.



Balaam - continued from page 2.

This also calls us not to think too highly of ourselves when God chooses to use us—it is all about God's grace and power, not about our own ability or strength. After all, God could have used a donkey!

Balaam's story also reminds us of the importance of obeying God's will, even when there is pressure or incentive to do otherwise. Balak offers Balaam a handsome reward to curse God's people. Balaam's encounter with the angel, however, serves as a vivid reminder that only God's will is worthy of full obedience. In this world, there may be peer pressure to abandon God's instructions and "go with the crowd." It might seem more comfortable, more rewarding, or just easier. The truth, however, is that we are ultimately accountable only to God. His will and his Word are all that matter, and he alone is worthy of our full obedience. Following God's calling and desires for our lives may at times be difficult, but God's blessings for his children far surpass any fleeting and empty rewards the world might offer.

As you reflect on Balaam's story, consider which lessons are most relevant to your own life right now. Has God used surprising means to accomplish his will in and around your life? Has God shown you his amazing protection and love through difficult circumstances? Perhaps you've felt pressure to compromise in following God's will and need the reminder that whatever the world offers is ultimately empty. Hopefully, you've come to appreciate that even this odd story tucked away in Numbers 22 has important lessons for Christians today. As the New Testament reminds us, God's Word is living and active (see Hebrews 4:12), and "all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16–17). This includes even the strangest stories; God's Word offers treasures everywhere!

*Adapted from the study material from the NIV Application Bible based on the NIV Application Commentary series. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved
501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, October 27, 2025.*



Join us for the annual Harvest Dinner on Sunday, November 23rd after the Hanging of the Greens. The meat and potatoes will be furnished. You are asked to bring a side dish and your own table setting. This is a free will donation. Mark your calendar!



The Christmas season is fast approaching, and we have two wonderful opportunities for you to share the joy of the season through caroling! Both nights are open to **anyone** who would like to participate—all voices are welcome!

1. "Night the Lights Come On" Downtown Caroling

When: Saturday, November 29th

What: We've been invited to be a part of the downtown festivities for "Night the Lights Come On."

To Participate: If you would like to join the group caroling that evening, please contact the **church office** as soon as possible.

2. Annual Church Christmas Caroling

When: Sunday, December 14th

What: This is our traditional annual caroling night, sharing the Christmas spirit with our community.

Details: This event is open to everyone! More information regarding the time and location will be announced soon.

We look forward to making a joyful noise with you this Christmas season!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



**Sunday, December 14th
During Church Service**



Soup & Pie
Supper

Emmanuel Lutheran
Church-5:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 15th

Country Gospel Reunion

The Bill Sons Family

6:30 p.m.

Free Will Offering

Enjoy food, fellowship, and music





Dear Church Family,

In John 15:1–17, Jesus offers one of the most beautiful images of life with God: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.” It’s an image of deep connection, not duty. Jesus doesn’t call us to work harder or do more, but to abide, to remain close, and to stay rooted in love.

Abiding is both spiritual and practical. It happens when we pause to pray, when we forgive instead of holding a grudge, when we serve with compassion, and when we trust God’s care even in uncertainty. These daily acts of faith are how we stay connected to the true Vine. This is how love flows through us and bears fruit in our words, actions, and relationships.

Jesus reminds us that this kind of love is not abstract. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” To abide in Christ is to let that love take shape in how we live, living with patience, generosity, and kindness.

As we continue our "Rooted in Love" series, may we remember that our faith is not about striving for perfection but resting in connection. When we stay close to the Source, our lives become the fruit of God’s tender and enduring love.

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

"Fallen Heroes"

by Roger Loiseau, Family Friend Poems
November 4, 2019



VETERANS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Fallen heroes one by one,
In the news there's another one.
Whether they fight or whether they are on
call,
It's time to thank them once and for all.

To all you soldiers across the land,
Whether on call or in the promised land,
You're in our hearts, you're in our souls.
We thank you greatly as the conflicts unfold.

Fallen heroes one by one,
Let's pray to God there's not another one.
Whether they fought for our freedom or
whether they are on call,
It's time to thank them one and all.



LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS WITH SANTA'S WORKSHOP

The magic of Christmas is almost here - join Santa's Workshop for the Lighted Christmas Parade, festive fun, and holiday cheer! ★

🏆 Awards will be given for:

- BEST FLOAT
- BEST GINGERBREAD HOUSE
- BEST CHRISTMAS COOKIES
- CUTEST LITTLE ELF
- BEST DOWNTOWN WINDOW DISPLAY
- BEST LIGHTED YARD

LIGHTED PARADE ON
NOVEMBER 29TH @
5:30PM

PARADE ENTRY: No fee to join, but you must sign up with Santa's Workshop

SUPPORT THIS EVENT: If you would like to sponsor or donate to this event, a bank account has been set up at Bank Iowa

LET'S LIGHT UP OUR TOWN, SPREAD JOY, AND MAKE THIS
CHRISTMAS SEASON ONE TO REMEMBER! 🎁

