



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Pianist

Terry Stafford

Bells & Choir Directors

Dan & Linnea Shook

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Media Booth

Alan Hutchison

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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



Questions Teens Ask About Jesus' Birth

Teens have good questions about the Christmas story! In a Q&A format, we're providing answers to the common questions teens (and adults!) have regarding the prophesy of the coming Messiah and the events surrounding Jesus' birth.

Why name the child *Jesus*? ([Luke 1:31](#))

The name *Jesus* was a sign that God would *save his people from their sins* ([Matthew 1:21](#)). The Old Testament form of the name was *Yeshua* or *Joshua*, meaning "Yahweh is salvation."

Was *Jesus* a common name in those days? ([Luke 1:31](#))

Yes. *Jesus* was a very common Jewish name in the first century. The Jewish historian Josephus mentioned more than a dozen people with that name, and approximately 100 tombs have been discovered in Jerusalem inscribed with the name *Jesus*.

What's the significance of calling *Jesus* the Messiah? ([Matthew 1:16](#))

The Greek title "the Christ" and the Hebrew title "the Messiah" both mean "the Anointed One" and refer to the special one sent by God to save people.

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 29th

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

December 30th

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

January 1st

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.

January 2nd

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

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

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

Questions about Jesus - Continued from page 1.

How do I know Jesus really is the promised Messiah? ([Isaiah 9:2-7](#))

Isaiah 9:2 – 7 is a promise that one day someone will bring hope to a needy world. To hurt people, this Messiah (or Anointed One) was very good news.

Many other prophecies in the Old Testament also talk about the coming Messiah. How do we know those prophecies about the Messiah point to Jesus? Well, if we compare the prophecies in the Old Testament with the things Jesus did as recorded in the New Testament, we see that Jesus fulfilled every prophecy laid out in the Old Testament about the coming Messiah.

Here are just six of them:

1. [Psalm 16:10](#) and [Psalm 49:15](#) say that the grave would not hold him down ([Mark 16:5 – 6](#); [1 Corinthians 15:3 – 8](#)).
2. [Isaiah 50:1 – 6](#) discusses a “servant” who would remain faithful and describes the treatment Jesus endured before his crucifixion ([Luke 22:63](#)).
3. [Isaiah 53:5](#) says he would be pierced for our sins ([John 19:34](#)).
4. [Isaiah 61:1](#) says he would preach the good news to the poor ([Luke 4:14 – 21](#)).
5. [Micah 5:2](#) says the long-awaited Messiah would be born in Bethlehem ([Matthew 2:1 – 6](#); [Luke 2:1 – 7](#)).
6. [Zechariah 11:12](#) foreshadows Jesus’ betrayal for 30 silver coins ([Matthew 26:14 – 15](#)).

Because of these and many other fulfilled prophecies, we can have confidence that Jesus is the promised Messiah who came to rescue us from sin and bring us into an everlasting friendship with God.

How was Jesus born of a virgin? ([Luke 1:26-38](#))

How indeed! We know how babies get here, and a virgin birth just isn’t logical. Mary wondered the same thing. When told by an angel she was going to have a baby, she said, *How will this be . . . since I am a virgin?* (verse 34). Mary knew women didn’t get pregnant without first having intercourse.

The angel told Mary that she would conceive through the power of the Holy Spirit and that her baby would be the Son of God.

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*
- 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.



Who said faith apart from works is dead?

- a) James
- b) Paul
- c) Peter
- d) John the Baptist

What color was the stew that Jacob prepared for Esau?

- a) Brown
- b) Red
- c) Yellow
- d) Green

Who buried Isaac?

- a) Rebekah & Jacob
- b) Ishmael & Esau
- c) Jacob & Ishmael
- d) Esau & Jacob

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 30th – Kathleen Jones, Sonya Jones*
- 31st – Todd Lundgren, Rebecca O'Hara, Amy Zollars*
- 1st – Rawson Stevens*
- 2nd – Baylor Blank*
- 3rd – Scott Lundgren*
- 4th – JoDayle Irvin*

****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/Accomp
anist: **Terry Stafford**

Call to Worship

Leader: Children of God, Jesus Chris is born!

People: God has come to make a home among us!

L: Ye the story is not over.

P: In the ordinary and mundane, God has come to make a home among us.

L: And sometimes, in the midst of the every day we discover anew just what God is up to in our midst.

P: In the surprising and spectacular, God has come to make a home among us.

L: Children of God, let us worship the God who dwells with us in all things and all seasons.

P: We come to make our home with God who makes a home among us.

Service will be songs & scriptures

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-14

Songs

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing v 1,2 #240

The First Noel v 1,2 #245

Go Tell It on the Mountain v 1,3 #251

Welcome to Our Word #3067

Angels We Have Heard on High v 1-3 #238

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 73

On-Line Worship – 15

Christmas Eve – 155 and 3 online

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 22nd are d) His love d) Machpelah d) 3
Quiz hints – Q1) James Q2) Genesis Q3) Genesis**



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**

Questions about Jesus - Continued from page 2.

Believing in God's power and trusting him, she responded, I am the Lord's servant . . . May your word to me be fulfilled (verse 38).

The virgin birth is important to our belief in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit—the triune God. Jesus was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit; therefore, Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. He was perfect (God) and human (born of Mary). That way, Jesus could die for our sins.

The Holy Spirit placed life—divine life—inside the womb of a young, God-fearing virgin girl. And God did the impossible. The Son of God was born to a virgin.

How much did Mary know about Jesus? (Luke 1:46 – 55)

Mary was told that Jesus would be called the *Son of the Most High*, the Messiah ([verses 31 – 35](#)). The later incident recorded in [2:41 – 52](#) indicates that she didn't realize Jesus was God in human flesh.

How was Mary “highly favored?” (Luke 1:28)

God chose Mary for a special assignment, and Mary humbly accepted the call (verse 38). She knew her assignment was based on God's grace to her, not on her merit. Later Jesus said that those who hear God's Word and obey it are even more blessed than Mary ([Luke 11:27 – 28](#)).

In that respect, we all are *highly favored* by the Lord because he calls each of us to a special purpose in his kingdom. We are blessed when we, like Mary, surrender to his will and obey his call.

Why does the Bible give the genealogy of Jesus? ([Matthew 1:1](#))

Matthew wanted to highlight Jesus' human birth into a family with traceable roots. A Jewish male always traced his lineage through his father—and Joseph was Jesus' legal, though not biological, father. The Old Testament prophets foretold that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David's royal family ([Isaiah 11:1](#); [Ezekial 37:24](#); [Hosea 3:5](#)). Since Jesus was a descendant of both David and Abraham, Jesus was the fulfillment of prophecies and of the covenants God had made with them.

When was Jesus born? ([Luke 2:1 – 2](#))

Perhaps a year or so before the death of Herod the Great ([Matthew 2:19](#)), which occurred in 4 BC. But it's difficult to say for certain. The actual date of Jesus' birth was not a topic of discussion until a few centuries after his death, and that delay has resulted in uncertainty. Also, the Italian monk who devised the Christian calendar (which divides time between BC, “before Christ,” and AD, “*anno domini*”) complicated matters because he made a significant miscalculation. *Anno domini* means “in the year of our Lord,” but Jesus was not born in what this monk called AD 1.

Scholars guess Jesus' birth year was instead between about 6 and 4 BC. Confusion also exists because the only known census during the time of Quirinius occurred too late (AD 6) to be the first census mentioned here. Some suggest that Quirinius possibly was in office for two terms—first from 6 to 4 BC

and then again from AD 6 to 9—and ordered a census during each term. If that is true, then the census mentioned here would refer to the one in his first term and Acts 5:37 would refer to the second census.

Was Jesus born on December 25? ([Luke 2:8 – 11](#))

No. We don't know the actual date of his birth. Some say that December 25 was chosen by the Romans to combine this day of Christian celebration with a pagan holiday—observed near the winter solstice—marking the birth of the sun god. Other historians find no evidence to support any tie to a pagan holiday. Early Christians in the second century celebrated Jesus' appearance at the Jordan River and his baptism by John on January 6. Sometime later they expanded that festival to include Jesus' birth. Christians called it Epiphany, or “manifestation.”

Why was the birth of Jesus announced to shepherds? ([Luke 2:8 – 12](#))

Shepherds were despised for being unclean by the strict standards of the Jewish law. Also, shepherds had a reputation for being untrustworthy. In fact, a shepherd's testimony was not valid in legal matters. Yet God chose them to be the first witnesses to the birth of Jesus ([verses 17 – 18](#)). Shepherds may have been chosen because they represented all who needed cleansing; with the coming of Jesus that cleansing became available to even those considered the lowest in society.

Who were the Magi? ([Matthew 2:1](#))

Some have suggested that the Magi were a priestly tribe of Medes who lived northeast of Israel near the Caspian Sea. Others say they were Persian elders from Babylon who were schooled in philosophy, medicine, and science, and devoted to astrology, divination, and the interpretation of dreams. They may have belonged to the same order of astrologers as those who served Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar in Daniel's day ([Daniel 1:20](#); [2:2](#); [4:7](#); [5:7](#)).

If astrology was forbidden, why give this special revelation to astrologers? ([Matthew 2:2](#))

God used the knowledge and curiosity of the Magi to lead them to the infant Jesus. God can use all things and all people. In fact, the Magi represent the non-Jewish world and all who search for truth. Matthew's Gospel often stresses how people of all nations worshiped Jesus as Lord. With this story, God shows right away that Jesus is the King of kings—even the King of the Gentiles.

Was it common to think of the Messiah as being for the Gentiles as well as for the Jews? ([Luke 2:32](#))

This was unusual but not unprecedented. Isaiah had earlier looked forward to the day when nations from around the world would come and worship God in Jerusalem ([Isaiah 2:2 – 4](#); [42:6](#); [49:6](#)). Later, the idea that Gentiles would receive God's blessings without having to convert to Judaism was called a *mystery* ([Ephesians 3:1 – 6](#)).

Why we Celebrate Christmas

Celebrating the birth of Jesus the Messiah is an opportunity to pause and give thanks for the love, hope, and joy found in our Lord and Savior. One of the names for Jesus heard at Christmastime is *Immanuel*, which means “God with us” ([Matthew 1:23](#)). Jesus' birth, life, and death is a message of good news for

us. He came to earth and has walked in our shoes. He understands our struggles. The apostle Paul says, Jesus –

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*
Philippians 2:6 – 8

You are loved. That is the true meaning of Christmas.

Drawn from the [NIV Quest Study Bible for Teens](#).

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*There's
no place
like home*

There's No Place Like Home

A good home is such a wonderful place. It seems that we are always wanting to go home. And we especially love being home for the holidays. In fact, there is a traditional song that testifies to that fact. What is it that is so great about home? Let's note a few of them through an acrostic. And since the church is our heavenly home on the earth (Eph. 2:19), these will certainly apply there, as well.

Harmony – How marvelous it is when family members get along with each other. When this happens, the times together are cherished and memorable. This is also true with the church family. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity” (Psa. 133:1).

Optimism – A good home is desired, in part, because of the positive nature it presents. Everyone enjoys being together in a home where there is lots and lots of cheerfulness and sunniness. Without a doubt, this is true of a church home, also. “Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end” (Heb. 3:6).

Mercy – Home is the place where bountiful forgiveness is offered. The best homes are the ones that demonstrate agape love for one another, which always leads to overlooking shortcomings. There should be copious amounts of love and forgiveness in the Lord’s church, as well. “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:32).

Encouragement – Another of the reasons we enjoy being part of a wonderful home is the strength and inspiration that we receive. It is where we can get great encouragement to keep on keeping on. The church home should also be a place for boosting one another.

“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing” (1 Thess. 5:11).

Story adapted from Edd Sterchi, Broadway Church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY. December 2022, Vol. 41, No. 12, Bulletin Digest.



Office Hours December 30th -January 3rd

Monday, December 30th – 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 31st – 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1st – Closed

Thursday, January 2nd

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

12:00-3:00 p.m.

Friday, January 3rd

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

This week is photo number 23 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. Nothing is hidden this week to make you squint. This is just a great picture and it someone a lot of time!

#23



I want to say Thank You to everyone who came caroling at my home. It was nice to see so many carolers when I looked outside. Your caroling made my day and put a smile on my face.

Once again, I appreciate the group thinking of me and stopping.

Marilyn Bayless

