



Weekly Booster

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Pastor David B. Clark,

Barb Cunningham,

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Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Jodi Anderzhon



God's Gift of Guilt-Free Giving

Quick—what was the *best* gift you ever received? How did you feel when you opened it? What made it so special?

For me, it was “Fort Legoredo”—a LEGO cowboy fortress. When I was about eight years old, my Grandma Rose stunned me with this lavish surprise after all the other presents had been opened on Christmas morning. I never thought I would own a LEGO set so massive and so cool. (And I’ve got the video footage of me weeping joyfully in a heap of wrapping paper to prove it!)

As far as I know, the Apostle Paul never played with LEGO forts. But he did know a thing or two about lavish gifts. You might say that *lavish giving* is the theme of 2 Corinthians 9. In this section of his letter, Paul encourages the church at Corinth—a wealthy trading center—to give generously to a financial offering that Paul was arranging for needy Jesus followers in the city of Jerusalem.

Paul even employs some playful competition to motivate the Corinthians in their giving. In 2 Corinthians 9:2, he writes: “ For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians,

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***Bible Verse Humor –
Genesis 25:30 “He said to
Jacob, “Let me gulp down
some of that red stuff; I’m
starving.”***

Reminders

May 6th

Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

May 7th

**No PK-6 & Jr/Sr
Sunday School or
Confirmation and HS Youth Group
Communion Sunday**

May 10th

**Study with Pastor David - Noon
Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
Choir – 6:45 p.m.**

May 11th

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

****Worship Assistants are needed
for May 14th & 28th**

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

God’s Gifts- Continued from page 1.

telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give, and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action.” (Apparently, Paul knew the power of a matching gift in a fundraising campaign!)

Now consider this: How would you feel if your pastor told you that he was writing you a letter about why you need to give more generously to the ministry of the church? (Yikes.) Opening that letter might feel a little different than opening a special present on Christmas morning. It might feel more like unwrapping a big old pile of *guilt* rather than a delightful *gift*.

Sadly, it’s far too easy to take the good news of the Gospel and twist it into a crushing law. It isn’t hard to imagine a guilt-trip version of 2 Corinthians 9. Paul could have looked down his nose, wagged his finger at the Corinthian church, and piled on a long list of rules about their giving. “Make sure you’re giving generously! Make sure you’re giving intentionally! Make sure you’re giving sacrificially!”

But Paul knew better.

For one thing, he makes it clear that God isn’t all that interested in “guilt-trip giving.” In 2 Corinthians 9:7, he explains, “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.” Your giving is ultimately between you and the Lord. Don’t let anyone manipulate your conscience just to increase the size of your donation!

Second, Paul knew that authentic Christian giving has more in common with that warm, fuzzy, Christmas morning feeling than we might initially realize. All of us are gift-receivers before we are gift-givers. The only reason we can give cheerfully and generously to God—and to others—is because God first gave cheerfully and generously to us (1 John 4:19).

That’s why in Paul’s fundraising letter, the primary giver in view isn’t the Corinthians—it’s God! He is the ultimate cheerful giver. Maybe some of your favorite Bible verses declare this very truth:

- “Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.” (John 1:16)

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Bible Verse Humor –
Ecclesiastes 10:19 “A feast is made for laughter, wine makes life merry, and money is the answer for everything.”

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 Office Hours

**** Children & Jr.-Sr. High Sunday School finished until September 2023**
 Questers (Adults) 10:30

****Chancel Choir –**
 Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
 Sunday 8:30 a.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
 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 had a seamless garment?

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

Mary said to Jesus, “Rabboni”! What does this mean?

- a) teacher
- b) where do you live
- c) get up
- d) Thank

Nahum was given Oracle concerning which city?

- a) Ai
- b) Nineveh
- c) Samaria
- d) Egypt

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



8th – Janet Jones
 10th – Molly Bowen
 11th – McKenzie Sheeder
 12th – Jessica Lashier

****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**

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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 hears our voice, our pleas for mercy

People: God has leaned down to listen when we were in trouble.

L: As long as we have breath,

P: We will call on God.

L: We have come, eager to offer a sacrifice of gratitude,

P: And fulfill the promises we have made to God.

“Remember Who You Are”

Old Testament Reading:

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel Reading:

Songs

My Life Is in You (screens)

Grace Alone #2162

God of Grace and God of Glory #577

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship - 96

Online Worship – 15

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 April 30th are d) seller of purple cloth c) 8 a) James
Quiz s hints – Q1) John Q2) John Q3) Nahum**

- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
- “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)
- “Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:1-2)
- “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17)
- Jumping back to 2 Corinthians 9, consider the many ways Paul basks in the generous grace of God in this chapter:
- “And 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.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)
- “Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10)
- “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:11)
- “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15)

You can almost picture the joyful tears in Paul’s eyes—not unlike an astonished little boy on Christmas morning—as he penned that climactic doxology in verse 15. More than anyone else, he—a former murderer and persecutor of Christ and his church—knew the overwhelming joy of sins forgiven and a heart set free to serve the Lord.

For the Corinthians—and for us—that lavish gift of grace should motivate us to give freely, generously, and joyfully to others. No guilt is necessary.

Thanks be to God, indeed!

By Jack Newman, Stewardship Communications Manager, Biblica.

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THIS WEEKEND, City Wide Garage Sale will be taking place on Friday, May 5th, and Saturday, May 6th.

The logo for the City-Wide Garage Sale features the words "CITY-WIDE", "GARAGE", and "SALE" stacked vertically. "CITY-WIDE" is in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. "GARAGE" and "SALE" are in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font with a 3D effect, appearing to be slightly offset from each other.



City Wide Clean-up has been set for Thursday, May 11th through Saturday, May 13th. You must live within the city limits. You are asked to bring items to Shenandoah Sanitation, 1207 W. Ferguson Rd.

Items Accepted: unwanted trash, junk, or unwanted materials from your house & property.

Items NOT Accepted: electronics, oil, wet paint, tires, asbestos. Refrigerators must have the compressors removed or lines removed, or they will not be accepted.

Citizens are asked to remain in vehicles at all times. There will be staff on-site to unload. If you have questions please call Shenandoah Sanitation, at 712-246-3350.

Food Pantry Needs for May

pineapple, mandarin oranges, cinnamon applesauce, soda and graham crackers, jelly, powdered milk, tuna & chicken helpers, pasta (any variety), ketchup, mustard, spices, cereal, shampoo and conditioner, and soap.



It is a wrap for the summer. PK-6, Jr./Sr. High School Sunday School is done until school begins in the Fall.

Rachel & Aiden Hobbie, Michael Blane, Baylor Blank, Molly Bowen, and Brody Burdorf have completed confirmation and will be recognized for their accomplishment this Sunday, May 7th during worship service. **You are invited** to help congratulate these individuals after church in Fellowship Hall where cake

will be served in their honor.

Sunday evening Youth Group has also finished for the year.

Thank you to all those that gave their time to teach our youth this year. The church is lucky to have individuals that are willing to give their time each week to help our youth understand how important it is to have Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior be part of their everyday life.



Update from the Administrative Council

For the past several months, one topic of discussion with the administrative council is how we can more effectively lead Shen FUMC in ministry. While there are numerous and interrelated reasons, it has been found that our current structure of 5 administrative committees (Admin Council, SPRC, Trustees, Finance, and Nominations) is no longer serving the needs of our congregation. Many Methodist churches, in Iowa and across the US, have encountered similar issues. The Book of Discipline, while setting a standard for a global denomination, allows for local adaptation and the creation of alternative structures to better support and fulfill the mission of the church.

One such alternative structure that many churches have found to be successful is called the Single Board Model. We have been learning about this model and have come to a consensus among those that are currently members of our 5 administrative committees that this is a model that would serve our congregation well in providing new opportunities for ministry and new opportunities for those who are looking for different ways of being involved. The process of moving to an alternative structure is done in consultation with our District Superintendent and with the approval of the congregation (not just the Admin Council).

The next step in this process will be to write new by-laws and guiding principles for ministry. Once these have been drafted, they will be communicated with the entire congregation with the opportunity for feedback.

While many of the specifics won't be worked out until the by-laws and guiding principles are written, if you have questions or comments, please reach out to me, Pastor David, or our Admin Chair, Edi Norris.

Grace and peace,

Pastor David B. Clark