



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

David B. Clark

pastordavid@shen.church

Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

office@shen.church

Pianist

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,

Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

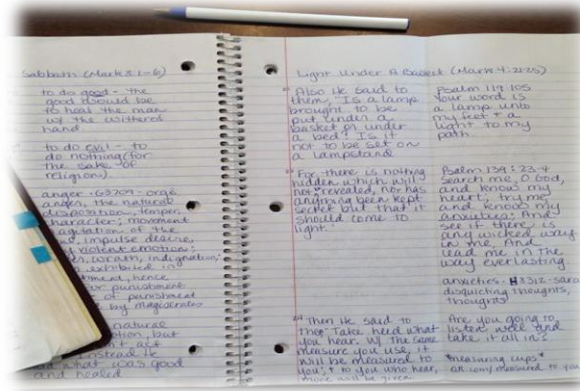
Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Pastor David

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



Pen in Hand: How Writing Deepens Bible Study

“What did I just read?”

I stared blankly at the book in front of me. I had actively been flipping the pages of my book but couldn't recall a single thing I had read from the past few pages. Granted, it was my bedtime and I was tired. Still, I had been awake enough to actively move my eyes from left to right, line by line, down the page as if I was truly reading and retaining the information.

But I wasn't.

I was frustrated with myself for zoning out and wasting my precious few minutes of me-time before bed. I don't get much time to simply sit and read for the fun of it, and when I do, I want that time to count.

I am a bit of a theology junkie. Fiction rarely holds my attention, but give me a book steeped in biblical or theological topics and I'm usually locked in.

Usually.

Moments like that one reminded me that reading alone doesn't always mean we are truly absorbing what we are reading.

Continued on page 2

“Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.”

Winston Churchill

“The first step toward success is taken when you refuse to be a captive of the environment in which you first find yourself.” Mark Caine

Reminders

May 10th

Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
No PK-6 S.S. & Jr/Sr High
Mother's Day

May 12th

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

May 13th

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

May 14th

T.O.P.S.

Worship is needed each Sunday,
sign up at the Welcome Center
counter

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

Fellowship Volunteers and treats
needed, sign up in Fellowship Hall

Pen in Hand- continued from page 1.

Over time, I began to notice something about my own habits. When I slowed down with a pen and highlighter in hand, my focus sharpened. Underlining key phrases, jotting thoughts in the margins and marking passages forced me to pause and engage with the text in a way that simply reading never did.

Instead of letting my eyes glide across the page, I had to *actually* think about what I was reading and engage my brain to process what I had just read.

And interestingly enough, there's science behind why that happens.

Our brains are wired so uniquely that something in the physical act of writing helps reinforce memory and comprehension. When we underline, highlight or write in the margins, we are doing more than decorating a page for the sake of beauty...we are actively processing and storing information more deeply.

Sometimes folks want to get uncomfortable when you mention science and Scripture in the same sentence. But personally, I think they work beautifully together.

After all, God is the author of both.

It shouldn't surprise us that the One who designed our minds also understands how we learn best. The way our brains respond to writing, repetition and reflection seems to align so perfectly with what we see in Scripture. God repeatedly instructs his people to write down his Word.

On Mount Sinai, Moses was instructed to record God's covenant words (see Exodus 34:27). Later, the people of Israel were told to write all the words of the law on stones when they entered the Promised Land (see Deuteronomy 27:8).

The prophet Jeremiah was told by the Lord to write in a book the words that were spoken to him (see Jeremiah 30:2). Habakkuk was given a direct command to write a prophetic vision on tablets (see Habakkuk 2:2). Ezekiel was told to write down the exact date of Jerusalem's siege (see Ezekiel 43:11). And in Revelation, John was told to write what he saw in his vision and send it to the churches (see Revelation 1:11).

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

*Bob Lynn - Chair
Mary Peterson - Secretary
Darlene Howard – At-Large
Roger Jones - Trustee
Dave Christensen - SPRC
Dan Weiss –
Finance/Stewardship
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 & Jr/Sr High
resumes in the fall**

**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 locked during office hours. Please ring the doorbell to be let into the church.

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 gave name to Ruth's child?

- a) Naomi
- b) Ruth
- c) Boaz
- d) Women of the neighborhood

Who was brought to Ezra from Iddo?

- a) Nathan
- b) Mahil
- c) Sherebiah
- d) Shealtiel

What did Ezekiel know the living creatures that he saw underneath the God of Israel to be?

- a) Seraphim
- b) Cherubin
- c) Prophet
- d) None of the above

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



10th – Molly Bowen
11th – McKenzie Sheeder
12th – Jessica Lashier
13th – Danny Shook
16th – Jean Stribling

****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: Let praise-filled voices be heard near and far.

People: Praise the One who give us life and does not allow us to stumble in the darkness.

L: We have journeyed through the wilderness,

P: but You lead us to peace and to rest.

L: Come and listen to what God has done.

P: God has listened. God has paid attention.

L: God did not turn away from my prayer,

P: nor did God hold back loyal love for me.

"A Witness to Hope"

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Songs

My Hope Is Built #368

All My Hope (screens)

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry #2051

God Be with You till We Meet Again #672

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 62

Online Worship – 12

Our Vision:

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

**Answers for May 3rd are d) He kissed him c) Jacob d) John
Quiz hints – Q1) Ruth Q) Ezra Q3) Ezekiel**



May 2026

Cereal, Mandarin Oranges, Cake, Brownie, and Muffin Mixes, Macaroni & Cheese, Soda & Snack Crackers, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles, Microwave Popcorn, Rice or Pasta Side Dishes, Brown Rice, Bar Soap, Shampoo

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.



As our Chancel and Bell Choirs prepare for a well-deserved summer intermission, the stage is open and waiting for **you!**

We are looking for talented individuals or groups to fill our sanctuary with "Special Music" during the summer months. Whether you are a soloist, part of an ensemble, or play an instrument, this is your moment to share your gift with our community.

If you're ready to share your talent or have a recommendation, please **contact the office**. We are currently developing our summer schedule and would love to include you in our lineup.

Pen in Hand- continued from page 2.

Once you start noticing it, the pattern of writing things down becomes hard to ignore.

God repeatedly asks his people to record what he says and what he does.

Which makes you wonder...*why?*

Why would the Lord place so much emphasis on writing things down?

Perhaps part of the reason writing matters so much is that it helps us slow down and reflect. When we write, we are actively processing what we are reading or hearing. It forces us to focus on the information in front of us rather than simply letting our eyes glide across the page.

The fact that God's command to write things down is everywhere in Scripture means there must be something to it. Recording what God says and what he does seems to matter deeply to the Lord.

Scripture shows this time and time again.

Personally, I have experienced the benefit of writing as I study through God's Word. When I pause to make notes in the margins, underline repeated phrases or jot down something the Lord is teaching me, my attention sharpens. I begin to notice things that I might have otherwise missed.

Over the years, writing as I study has become a normal rhythm of my Bible study. I rarely open my Bible without a pen and highlighter in hand. After using a journaling style Bible for the past ten years, I've realized I will always gravitate towards one. I need the space to write in the margins, jot cross-references and record important details. At this point, it's just how I engage with God's Word.

Because of that, it felt especially meaningful when the Lord opened a door I never expected. In his perfect timing, I was given the opportunity to create two cover designs for Zondervan as part of their *NIV Artisan Collection Journaling Bibles*.

As someone who has spent years filling the margins of a journaling Bible with notes, it feels like a full-circle moment. Truly a Bible after my own heart.

But beyond the design on the cover, what matters most is what happens on the inside of those pages.

Scripture was never meant to be approached like a checklist. God's Word invites us to linger. To dig deeper. To trace the thread from Genesis to Revelation and see the beautiful story of how he has redeemed his people.

Over time, writing in my Bible has become a record of learning, wrestling with the text and having several “ah-ha” moments when something in Scripture suddenly becomes clearer. I don’t think I would have been able to have the same experience with the text if it weren’t for writing in my Bible.

So, I invite you to slow down with a pen in hand. Write what you see. Ask questions. Take notes. Let the margins become your safe place of processing and learning.

Instead of treating your Bible study as something to check off your list, allow it to become a time you look forward to each day. Spend time lingering in the Word and discover for yourself the depth of what God has spoken.

Written by Kerri King.

See these other articles on Bible journaling: [Three Bible Journaling Ideas for Your Spiritual Walk](#), [Charting Your Spiritual Growth through Bible Journaling](#), [How to Bible Journal](#), and [How to Choose the Best Bible Journaling Tools](#).

Adapted from author Kerri King. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, May 4, 2026.

First United Methodist Church

**Your
Name**



We’ve been blessed to welcome many new faces to our worship services lately—in fact, we’ve created **52 new name tags** in just the last few months!

To help us all connect names with faces, please remember to wear your name tag each Sunday. This is also the perfect time to get back into the habit as we prepare for our pastoral transition. Wearing your tag will be a huge help to our new pastor as they work to learn everyone’s name.

- **Storage:** You can find your tag hanging by the three wooden doors or just inside the chapel door.
- **Need a tag?** If you don't have one or need a replacement, please contact the office.



Methodist History: The Founding Mothers of Mother's Day



Statistics say that \$20.7 billion will be spent on moms in honor of the U.S. holiday that falls on the second Sunday in May: Mother's Day.

All that cash and commercialism goes against everything the women who originated the idea wanted. In this video, meet the Methodist mother and daughter team who worked to create a day to honor a mother's love and to emphasize how important a mother's role is in building a peaceful world.

Script

(music, shots of cards, flowers)

Harriet Olson, Chief Executive, United Methodist Women: "When Ann Jarvis was working to establish Mother's Day as a national event, and when her daughter picked up the mantle from her, they were not thinking about greeting cards and flowers."

Instead the Methodist women who invented the idea in America wanted to honor mothers in a deeper way.

Harriet Olson, Chief Executive, United Methodist Women: "They were thinking about the work of women and the significant testimony that women could give about the need for peace."

Ann Reeves Jarvis organized women's clubs in the 1860s to serve suffering mothers and children.

Harriet Olson: "Women came together with their sisters in their locations to respond to the needs that they could see. For Ann, she was in a coal mining part of what is now West Virginia. And she could see the needs of women and children. And she could see the effect of the economy of her day on the people that she cared for most directly."

Donna Miller, Archivist, Historic St. George's United Methodist Church: "She started mothers clubs. And she talked to them about hydration for fevered babies, about sanitation and nutrition. And then the Civil War came along and they put a field hospital right outside Grafton."

Ann recruited nurses for military hospitals, and after the war formed friendship clubs to promote reconciliation.

Harriet Olson: "Ann Jarvis was convinced that mothers, women, but especially mothers, had to work for peace because they could see the ravages of war in their husbands and in their sons, in a way that was so focused

and so clear that their voices would be powerful. And that's what's at the genesis of the current Mother's Day."

Faith was always foremost. When she was older, Ann Jarvis and her daughter Anna became members of Philadelphia's St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church.

Donna Miller: "Anna became a Sunday school teacher here at St. George's. But she's best known for the efforts she made to get Mother's Day recognized as a national observance. She and John Wanamaker, who was a famous retailer here, are the ones that got Woodrow Wilson to sign the petition."

Ann Jarvis died in 1905, before an official holiday was in place. But her daughter Anna (who was never a mother herself) stayed true to the purpose of the celebration. She envisioned Mother's Day as a time to write a personal letter to your mother, a time to send her an inexpensive carnation (a flower in which the petals hold tight like a mother's love) and a time to visit or attend church together. She later became an outspoken critic when the special day turned too commercial.

Donna Miller: "She was really aggravated at people that turned that observation into a commercial outlet. So she had to say to Hallmark. She had a lot to say to the Salvation Army that started selling carnations. When she made carnations the symbol of Mother's Day they sold for pennies. But the price soon went up to \$1.50, \$2.00 apiece because people found they could make money off of it. And her comments about Hallmark are just wonderful. She said, 'How lazy can you be to buy somebody else's sentiments for your mother? One day out of the year sit down and tell your mother what you really think of her.'" And she was just furious. I like that kind of spunk She would have been a really interesting person to know. And I like telling the kids about her because the history of the church isn't a history of ministers. It's the people that make up the church. And I think they're such a wonderful example of that. And besides making kids think about their mothers is always a good thing to do."

Tag

In May 1908, Anna Jarvis organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. There was also a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia later that same day.

There is now an International Mother's Day Shrine in Grafton at the site of Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church. The building is among the heritage landmarks of The United Methodist Church. Listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places since 1970, and a National Historical Landmark since 1992, the shrine seeks to "preserve, promote and develop through education, the Spirit of Motherhood, as exemplified by the lives of Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis and Anna Jarvis, and the institution of Mother's Day that they established."

There is a short four-minute video about these women. If you are interested click here <https://bit.ly/4eOMB10>

This video was produced by United Methodist Communications in Nashville, Tennessee. Media contact is Joe Iovino.

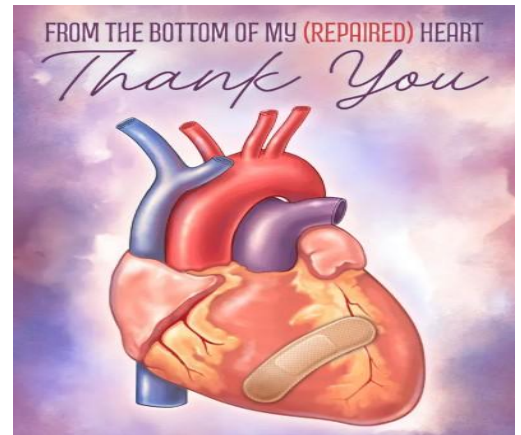


"I want to express my deepest thanks to everyone who remembered me on my birthday. Whether you sent a card, called, messaged, or kept me in your prayers, please know how much it meant to me. I feel truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family. Even though I join the service online each week, I felt right there with you when the congregation sang 'Happy Birthday' on Sunday morning. You truly touched my heart."

Arlyne Collings

"I would like to thank everyone for the thoughts, cards, and prayers during my recent heart surgery. I am so grateful to be home recovering. I also want to express my deepest thanks to my family, especially my wife, Barb, for her unwavering support through the highs and lows. It is a blessing to have such a supportive church family."

Gaylen Lundgren



**CITY-WIDE
GARAGE
SALE**

Thursday, May 28th
Friday, May 29th
Saturday, May 30th

**CITY-
WIDE
CLEAN
UP**



MAY 14TH 10-5 PM
MAY 15TH 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
MAY 16TH 8 AM-12 PM



Dear Church Family,

As our time together in shared ministry winds down, I want to take the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be the church. Specifically, understanding the sacraments of baptism and communion, as well as our membership vows in The United Methodist Church, helps us to understand what the church is and our participation in this community.

But even before that, I want to name what I have witnessed in this church community of Shenandoah, First UMC. I have seen folks show up every weekend, without fail, to make sure that Sunday mornings are a place of welcome. I have seen people use their own innate creativity to share the beauty of music with each other. I have witnessed others reaching out to church members who, for health reasons, are not able to make it on Sunday mornings by sending cards, visiting, and throwing parties. I have seen some who have moved from quiet participation to stepping into leadership roles. I have seen this church community serving our community in tangible ways through delivering meals, giving away school supplies, hosting 5th Quarters, and being active participants in community organizations. I have seen folks walk through grief with others coming right alongside them.

In short, I have witnessed in this church community love, healing, belonging, care, service, and generosity. This is the way of Christ, and you all are living this out. I fully believe that when your next pastor comes to serve you in this place, you will continue being the church and practicing the way of Christ in Shenandoah.

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

Blessings of a Godly Mother

A godly mother is one of God's greatest blessings to a family and to the church. In a world that often undervalues biblical motherhood, God's Word reminds us of the eternal impact of a mother who fears Him.

Proverbs 31 paints a beautiful picture of a virtuous woman. "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her" (Proverbs 31:28). A godly mother serves her family with strength, kindness, and wisdom. Her beauty is not merely outward, but spiritual: "A woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30). Such mothers influence generations through faithful living and consistent prayer.

The Bible also teaches that mothers have a sacred responsibility in guiding their children spiritually. Paul reminded Timothy of the sincere faith that first lived in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5). Their example helped shape Timothy into a faithful servant of God. This shows that a mother's influence can reach far beyond the home and into God's kingdom work.

Godly mothers reflect Christ through sacrifice, patience, and unconditional love. They teach their children to trust God during trials and to walk in obedience to His Word. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 encourages parents to diligently teach God's commandments to their children throughout daily life. Whether through prayer at bedtime, words of encouragement, or acts of discipline and compassion, mothers help lay a spiritual foundation that lasts a lifetime.

The church should continually honor and support godly mothers. Their labor is often quiet and unseen, yet it carries eternal value. As we thank God for mothers, may we also encourage them to remain steadfast in faith, knowing that "your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

May every mother find strength and wisdom in the Lord's word, and may her life shine as a testimony of God's grace and love to future generations. Bulletin Digest

New Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday
Thursday, Friday
10:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m.
1:00 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Closed Wednesday
open as needed