



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Bells & Choir Directors

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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.*



Passover: A Story of Rescue and Grace

Perhaps there is no clearer narrative in the Bible showcasing God's strength over the rebellious powers of this world than the ten plagues that led to the Israelites leaving slavery in Egypt. In one act after another, God clearly displayed his power and exposed the supposed power of Pharaoh and his "gods" as utterly impotent. Like the curtain being pulled back on the imposter pretending to be the "great and powerful Wizard of Oz," revealing him to be no wizard at all, Exodus 7–13 shows that God alone is sovereign and that the forces of this world hold no power next to him. The culmination of this dramatic masterclass in God's sovereignty is the story of the Passover, which matches God's power with God's grace.

The backdrop of the Passover event is the tenth plague, which is the most devastating of them all: the death of the firstborn child in every home not marked by the blood of a lamb. This plague is God's retribution against Pharaoh for his killing of the baby boys of the Israelites in Exodus 1.

God essentially tells the Israelites to set their calendars by this powerful event. He tells Moses, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year" (Exodus 12:2). The Passover event marks a new beginning. It's not simply about departing from Egypt; the Israelites were instructed to mark time by this event as their identity-defining national holiday. It was a new beginning for God's people, a fresh slate.

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“Nothing is impossible, the word itself says ‘I’m possible.’” Audrey Hepburn

*“I can’t tell you how many times I’ve been given a no, only to find that a better, brighter, bigger yes was right around the corner.”
Arlan Hamilton*

Reminders

March 29nd

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

March 30th

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

April 1st

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

April 2nd

T.O.P.S.

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

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



Passover - continued from page 1.

The Blood of the Lamb: Foreshadowing Christ’s Sacrifice

God gave Moses careful instructions to relay to the Israelites regarding what they were to do that night. They couldn’t just choose any animal to kill and spread the blood around their doors. God specified that it needed to be a year-old male without defect (see [12:5](#)). The blood of the lamb on their doorframes caused God to pass over the homes of the Israelites: “When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt” ([12:13](#)). The blood of the year-old lamb is a foreshadowing of the blood of Christ poured out for God’s children at the cross. [First Peter 1:19](#) tells us that God redeemed sinners by “the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

Along with the blood on the doorframes, God instituted a meal for his people, and he instructed them to practice this meal as a lasting ordinance (see [Exodus 12:14](#)). In this way, the Israelites would continually reenact their story of deliverance and God’s grace toward them. Reading these instructions should make us ponder where, in our lives and yearly routines, we take time to remember and reenact God’s grace to us through Jesus Christ. What are the particular practices, [worship](#) services, and occasions of remembrance that anchor us deeper in the memory and hope of God’s grace?

Remembering Deliverance—and Welcoming Outsiders

As we read on in God’s Passover instructions to the Israelites, we find provision even for outsiders to enter the community and celebrate this memorial of God’s grace: “A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the LORD’s Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land” ([12:48](#)). Take a moment to appreciate how dramatic this is: even those who aren’t part of the story—those who weren’t themselves liberated nor are descendants of those who were liberated from slavery in Egypt—may still enter God’s family of grace as though they were born among God’s people. This recalls God’s promise that [Abraham’s descendants](#) would be a blessing to “all peoples” ([Genesis 12:3](#)). Outsiders are invited to join God’s people and inherit the story of God’s grace as their own.

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 during service Jr/Sr High 10:30 a.m.**

Monday	9:00-11:00 12:00-3:00
Tuesday	9:00-11:00 12:00-3:00
Wednesday	Praise Team – 4:00 p.m. Bell Choir – 4:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.
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

The front door to the church will be locked during office hours. Please ring the doorbell to be let into the church.

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.



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Which of the following is well known for being hairy? | According to Habakkuk, who shall live by faith? | Who cursed, beat and pulled out the hair of certain people? |
| a) Moses | a) The righteous | a) Jeremiah |
| b) Isaac | b) The humble | b) Nehemiah |
| c) Jethro | c) The kings | c) Isaiah |
| d) Esau | d) The faithful | d) Hoshea |

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 31st – *Chris Perkins*
- 2nd – *Gregg Broermann, Abby DeLong*
- 3rd – *Nathan Blane*

****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: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

L: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone!

P: Hosanna in the highest!

L: Fling wide the gates, that all may enter in and give God thanks.

P: God's steadfast love endures forever.

L: Blessed are all who come in the name of the Lord!

P: Hosanna in the highest

“Waiting with Mary Magdalene”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11, 27:46-66

Songs

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna #278

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship #3176

Hymn of Promise #707

A Wilderness Wandering People #3113

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 82

Online Worship – 10

Our Vision:

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

**Answers for March 22nd are a) Joseph a) Jehoiakim a) Rebekah
Quiz hints – Q1) Genesis Q) Habakkuk Q3) Nehemiah**



Food Pantry Needs

April 2026

Cake, Brownie, and Muffin Mixes, Cereal, Mandarin Oranges, Pineapple, Pasta (any variety), Macaroni & Cheese, Soda or Snack Crackers, Cinnamon Applesauce, Evaporated Milk, Shampoo, and 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 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 February will go to the **Church Bible Camps**.

APRIL
SHOWERS
BRING MAY
FLOWERS

Passover - continued from page 2.

See [Psalm 87](#) for a dramatic picture of this; even Israel's greatest enemies—Babylon and Egypt—receive the gracious announcement, “This one was born in Zion” ([Psalm 87:6](#)). Amazing grace indeed!

Observing Passover was to become, Moses said, a way for parents to teach their children about God's powerful acts of deliverance. Moses instructed the people to say this out loud: “On that day tell your son, ‘I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’” (Exodus 13:8). Our faith cannot just live in our heads; we need concrete practices to show the next generation what we believe. When I was a child, my family would often put up a Jesse Tree during the season of Advent. This was a flannel wall hanging on which we would add characters from the Bible during the weeks leading up to Christmas to be reminded of how God's plan of salvation unfolds across the pages of Scripture. Concrete, embodied practices like this are a wonderful and necessary way to display our faith to younger generations. Other examples may include lighting Advent candles or—in keeping with the Passover practice—hosting a Seder meal at your church during Passover.

For Christians, the story of Passover finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Christ was crucified in Jerusalem during Passover. Just as blood on the doorframes saved the Israelites in Egypt, so the blood of Christ saves all God's children from everything that could separate us from the love of God. Christ's death opens the door for us to become children of God, freeing us from the power of sin and death. As Paul writes in [1 Corinthians 5:7–8](#), “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” Through Christ, we have freedom from slavery to sin and a new beginning in God's grace. Thanks be to God!

Adapted from the study material from the *NIV Application Bible* based on the NIV Application Commentary series.

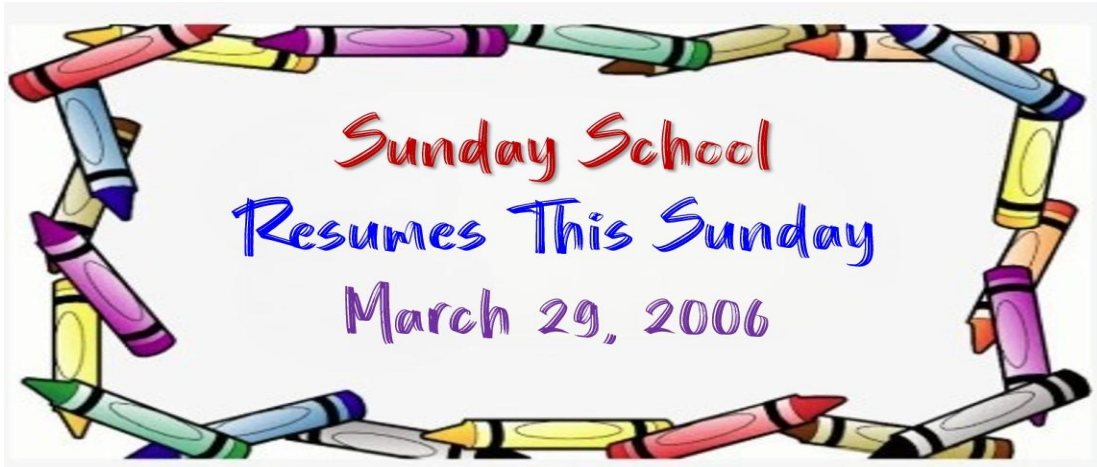
Adapted from the study material from the NIV Application Bible based on the NIV Application Commentary series. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, March 23, 2026.

**Promoted**

Mary & Mike Person would like to announce that they have been promoted to grandparents as of 2:18 p.m., Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Vivian Lorainne came into this world weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces, and 19 inches long. Her parents are Abby & Derek Steffen.

Congratulations to both the Steffen & Peterson families. Let the spoiling begin!

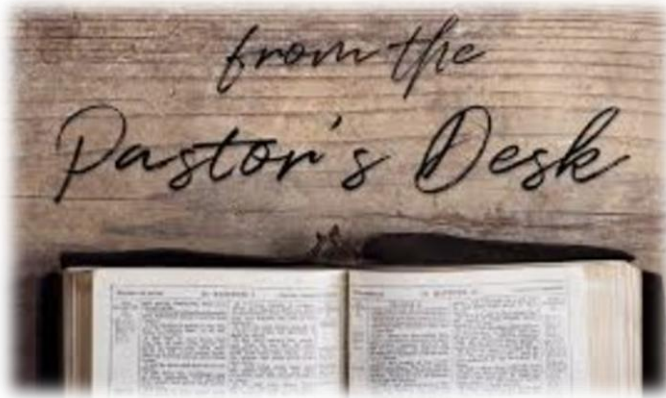


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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



You're invited to join us this Good Friday at 6:30pm as we gather in a spirit of quiet reflection and honest presence. This is a space to pause... to breathe... to sit with the story of love poured out, even in the face of suffering and loss. Whether you come with deep faith, questions, or simply a need for stillness, you are welcome here. Come and experience a sacred moment of reflection as we move together toward Easter.



Dear Church,

As the events of Holy Week unfold in the Gospels, many disciples fall away in fear and confusion. Yet Mary Magdalene remains. She stands near the cross when others have fled. She stays present in the shadow of suffering, refusing to abandon the one she loves.

Her discipleship is not loud or dramatic. It is steady. Faithful. Rooted in love.

Mary reminds us that following Jesus is not only about moments of clarity and celebration. Sometimes discipleship means staying close in the difficult hours; when prayers feel heavy, when hope seems distant, when the road of faith leads through grief.

Holy Week invites us into that same kind of devotion. We walk with Christ not only to the joy of Easter morning, but through the sorrow of Good Friday. Like Mary, we learn that love does not turn away when the path grows hard.

As Holy Week begins this coming Sunday, may we practice that same steady faithfulness, remaining near to Christ, trusting that even in the darkest hours, God's story is not finished.

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



To prepare for severe weather (**April & May**), create a family emergency plan, assemble a kit with at least three days of food and water, and identify a safe, interior shelter on the lowest level, away from windows. Stay informed using a NOAA Weather Radio, your local radio, television stations, and sign up for local alerts to get warnings in time.

Emergency Preparedness Kit Essentials

Water: One gallon per person per day.

Food: Non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food.

Safety: Flashlight, batteries, first aid kit, and manual can opener.

Information: NOAA Weather Radio (battery-operated) and phone chargers.

Personal items: Medications, blankets, and sturdy shoes