



Weekly Booster

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Facebook Contributors

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Barb Cunningham,

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Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Jodi Anderzhon,

Pastor David



Feeling Wronged? Our Response to Unfair Attacks

Life is full of insults and assaults. There are times it seems that hardly a day goes by when someone doesn't try to undermine or hurt us in some way. The sources of harm are countless. We might find ourselves the victim of a crime, betrayed by a spouse or deceived by a friend.

The injury may be small or large, but after the initial shock, our natural reaction may be to seek revenge. If someone cuts us off on the way out of a crowded parking lot after a concert or sporting event, we blast our horn while our blood boils. When someone delivers a cutting remark in our direction, our mind spins into appropriately nasty retort mode. If a business associate undercuts us, we fantasize about embarrassing them publicly or destroying their career.

Now think of the harm Joseph's brothers caused him. They threw him into a hole in the ground to die, then thought better of this approach when the opportunity arose to sell him as a slave. Nice, huh? Later, his boss's wife falsely accused him of rape. When in jail he interpreted the dreams of two important fellow prisoners. When they were sprung, the one who survived promptly forgot all about Joseph, leaving him there to rot. If anyone had a right to be angry about the way life was treating him, it was Joseph.

This background helps us understand why Joseph's brothers worried about their fate when their father died.

Continued page 2.

Question and Answer –

Q: What king liked to do things his own way?

A: Solomon

Reminders

August 12th

Men's Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

August 15th

Ad Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

August 16th

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.

August 17th

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

August 20th

**Methodist Men's Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hall
Blessing of the Backpacks

****Worship Assistants are needed
for September**

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



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

Feeling Wronged - Continued from page 1.

They presumed that Joseph was, underneath, like everyone else — that their father's death would pave the way for payback.

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. (Genesis 50:15-17)

Joseph wasn't blind to the injury his brothers had brought on him: "You meant it for evil," he reminded them simply. Then, amazingly, Joseph added the clincher: "But God meant it for good" (see Genesis 50:20). He looked back over his life and recognized that even the horrible things that had happened had a purpose. God used every one of them to bring him to a position through which he could provide the people of God with food during a devastating famine. Without this series of events in Joseph's life, Jacob's family might have died.

This is what Paul, in Romans 12:14-21, says about revenge:

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

*"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Continued page 5

Question and Answer

Q: What kind of car would Jesus drive?

A: A Christler

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**

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

****NO Chancel Choir Until Fall** – 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.

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.

BIBLE Quiz

What did King Artaxerxes call himself in his letter to Ezra?

- a) Great king
- b) King of Kings
- c) Noble King
- d) Governor

Who did God command to lie on his side and siege Jerusalem for many years?

- a) Hoshea
- b) Isaiah
- c) Elijah
- d) Ezekiel

How long did Moses live?

- a) 80 years
- b) 120 years
- c) 135 years
- d) 138 years

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 13th – Sharon Stribling
- 14th – Gregg & Elaine Broermann
- 16th – Keven Livengood, Devin Morelock, Carl Priebe
- 17th – Deb Milstead
- 18th – Steven DeLong, Joan Hamilton
- 19th – Vicki Briggs, Jessica Lambertsen

****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: Lord, be with us throughout these summer days.

People: Guide us in your paths of service.

L: Dance with us on the days of joy.

P: Reach out to us when we are fearful.

L: Dear friends, Jesus is our guide and our pilot.

P: No matter how rough the storm, Jesus brings us hope and peace.

“OUT OF THE BOAT”

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-23

Songs

- My Hope Is Built #368**
- Eye of the Storm (screens)**
- Just As I Am #357**
- Step by Step #3004**

Last Week's Attendance

- In-Person Worship – 63**
- On-Line Worship – 29**

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 August 6th are d) little foxes d) 7 a place for planting vineyards
a) donkey**

Quiz s hints – Q1) Ezra Q2) Ezekiel Q3) Deuteronomy

Feeling Wronged - Continued from page 2.

It's unlikely that Joseph always had a clear view of God's plan for his life. Neither do we. It comes down to a matter of trust. We may even go to the grave not knowing why bad things have happened to us. But God worked through the negative events in Joseph's life to pave the way for Moses. And David. And, through the family line, eventually the Messiah.

God knew what he was doing in Joseph's life. Can you imagine what he might have in mind for yours?

Adapted from the NIV Men's Devotional Bible. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, NIV Weekly Blog, July 7, 2023.

**Meaning of 'Be Still and Know That I Am God in Psalm 46:10**

Psalm 46 is a beloved passage in which the psalmist declared that no matter what was happening around him, God was his refuge and strength. Safe in the assurance that he is God, we can wait on him even amid chaos. He is still on his throne.

You may not be in prison, but you may be *infertile* or *inactive* or *in limbo* or *in between jobs* or *in search of health, help, a house, or a spouse*. Are you in God's waiting room? If so, here is what you need to know: *while you wait, God works*.

"My Father is always at his work," Jesus said (John 5:17). God never twiddles his thumbs.

He never stops. He takes no vacations. He rested on the seventh day of creation but got back to work on the eighth and hasn't stopped since.

Joseph's story appeared to stall out in Genesis 40. Our hero was in shackles. The train was off the tracks. History was in a holding pattern. But while Joseph was waiting, God was working. He assembled the characters. God placed the butler in Joseph's care. He stirred the sleep of the king with odd dreams. He confused Pharaoh's counselors. And at just the right time, God called Joseph to duty.

He's working for you as well.

"Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalms 46:10) reads the sign on God's waiting room wall. You can be glad because God is good. You can be still because he is active. You can rest because he is busy.

Remember God's word through Moses to the Israelites? "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today . . . The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still" (Exodus 14:13–14). The Israelites saw the Red Sea ahead of them and heard the Egyptian soldiers thundering after them. Death on both sides. *Stand still? Are you kidding?* But what the former slaves couldn't see was the hand of God at the bottom of the water, creating a path, and his breath from heaven, separating the waters. God was working for them.

God worked for Mary, the mother of Jesus. The angel told her that she would become pregnant. The announcement stirred a torrent of questions in her heart. How would she become pregnant? What would people think? What would Joseph say? Yet God was working for her. He sent a message to Joseph, her fiancé. God prompted Caesar to declare a census. God led the family to Bethlehem. "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28).

You'll get through this waiting room season. Pay careful note, and you will detect the most wonderful surprise. The doctor will step out of his office and take the seat next to yours. "Just thought I'd keep you company while you are waiting." Not every physician will do that, but yours will. After all, he is the Great Physician.

Adapted from an article by Max Lucado from the NIV Lucado Encouraging Word Bible. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, NIV Weekly Blog, June 12, 2023.



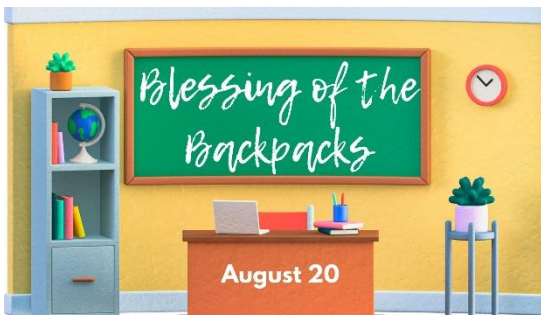
**Administrative
Board
Meeting
Tuesday
August 15th
6:30 PM**

Food Pantry Needs for August



Peanut Butter & Jelly, Brownie, cake, cookie, & muffin mixes, pasta (any kind), green beans, corn, Mandarin Oranges, cereal, Tuna & Chicken Helpers, microwave popcorn, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper

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.



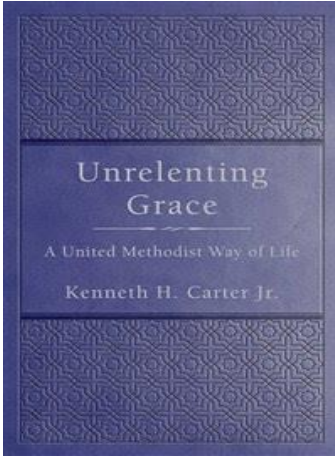
Join us on Sunday, August 20 for a Blessing of the Backpacks! This is a way for us to pray for and bless our students and educators in the new school year. If you are going to be a student, teacher, staff, or administrator, bring your backpacks, messenger bags, briefcases, tote bags, purses, fanny packs, and any other bags or packs you use.

Learning to Listen: Complexity Bias

As we continue to learn to listen to others and God, we come to a bias called Complexity Bias. This is a bias towards those things that seem simple. We are drawn to bumper sticker slogans. We are drawn to billboards. We are drawn to news headlines and soundbites. This bias leads us to reduce something as big as a political platform or a theological paradigm to a bumper sticker or a slogan we can chant. This bias is beneficial because our brains are hardwired to simplify things; the simpler they are the easier it is to interact with the world around us. But the danger with the Complexity Bias is that beauty and truth are rarely simple. The good things that we experience in life are seldom simple. The relationships that we value the most are rarely simple; they are full of complexity. When we let this bias take control, we miss out on all the truth and beauty that can not be contained in a news headline. The challenge of the Complexity Bias is for us to push against the bumper sticker slogan because that is not the whole story. The truth is always more complex.



Grace and peace,
Pastor David B. Clark



An Invitation from Bishop Kannetha J. Bigham-Tsai

Tuesday's at 7 pm on Zoom: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, 2023

Friends, in November, we will begin a virtual, conference-wide Advent Study of Bishop Ken Carter's new book, *Unrelenting Grace*. Bishop Carter calls grace the essence of a holy life, in which we recognize that God's loving presence in our lives is a gift. Being able to receive that gift and extend it to others "...stretches us, mystifies us, unravels us, and ultimately heals us," he writes.

For this season of Advent, I invite you to explore the unrelenting grace of God with friends and colleagues from around our conference. The study will help us remember who we are as United Methodists, and give us a sense of common belonging, shared identity, and unity. Maybe, it will even put us on a road to healing. The study will last for just four sessions and will be entirely online on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Central, beginning on November 28, then continuing on December 5, December 12, and 19.

We hope Advent in 2023 might be a season in which we embrace grace, seek holiness, and reconnect with one another, culminating in a conference-wide Epiphany worship service of commitment.

For registration information go to <https://www.iaumc.org/adventstudy> or speak with Pastor David. To order books through the church, let Pastor David know of your interest.

