



# Weekly Booster

## CHURCH STAFF

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### Choir Director

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### Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

### Sunday Media Booth

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Alan Hutchison,  
Jeff Hiser

### 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, Jodi Anderzhon



As we approach Thanksgiving, our thoughts turn to giving thanks for all the good things the Lord has done and provided, especially since the beginning of the year. At the same time, we know that gratitude is a virtue that we should continually pursue as followers of Christ. In what follows, we'll consider several ways we can grow in the often-neglected virtue of gratitude and make it part of our daily lives.

## Called to Give Thanks

Before we start, it's important to recall how much the giving of thanks is emphasized in Scripture. The Psalms encourage God's people to "come before him with thanksgiving" and to "give thanks to him and praise his name" (Psalm [95:2](#); [100:4](#)). Jesus gave thanks for God's provision when he fed the multitudes and at the last supper ([Luke 9:16](#); [Matthew 26:26-27](#)). Paul regularly expressed gratitude to God (e.g., [1 Corinthians 15:57](#); [2 Corinthians 2:14](#)), and instructed believers to give thanks in all circumstances, as well as in our prayers ([1 Thessalonians 5:18](#); [Philippians 4:6](#)). The book of Revelation gives a preview of both angels and humans giving thanks to God in heaven ([Revelation 7:12](#)).

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*“The comeback is always stronger than the setback.”*

*“The Lord’s lessons will keep you from stressin.”*

### Reminders

**November 24<sup>th</sup>**

Church Office Closed

**November 25<sup>th</sup>**

Church Office Closed

**November 26<sup>th</sup>**

Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

**November 27<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday School All Ages, 10:30 am

NO Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

NO HS Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

**November 30<sup>th</sup>**

Advent Study - Noon

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.

Choir – 6:45 p.m.

**December 1<sup>st</sup>**

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

Church Office Closed

**\*\*Worship Assistants are needed  
December 4<sup>th</sup> & January**

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

*“Change your perception of what a miracle is, and you’ll see them all around you.”*

### Gratitude - Continued from page 1

All of this suggests that thanksgiving should be a way of life for God’s people. Yet, gratitude is a spiritual habit that is developed over time, and often doesn’t come naturally. Below, we’ll consider three ways that we can grow in and practice thankfulness

### Cultivate Humility

Gratitude grows from the root of humility. Humility flows from the recognition that all we are and have are gifts from God—our existence, the universe we live in, every good thing we enjoy, our salvation, to name a few. When we recognize that these are gifts and not something we’re entitled to, the natural response is gratitude. It’s notable that the opposite of humility, pride, was the root cause of the rebellion of Satan and the fall of Adam and Eve ([Ezekiel 28:12-17](#); [Genesis 3](#)). Pride blinds us to God’s goodness and our dependence on him.

The book of Proverbs equates humility with “the fear of the Lord”—that is, a proper respect for God’s authority and sovereignty—and adds that humility’s wages “are riches and honor and life” ([Proverbs 22:4](#)). Similarly, James observes that “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble” ([James 4:6](#); [Proverbs 3:34](#)). God wants us to acknowledge his authority, and rewards those who do. Reflecting on God’s status as Creator and ours as fortunate recipients of his good gifts helps us cultivate an attitude of humble thanksgiving.

### Remember God’s Blessings

Ingratitude often stems from forgetfulness—of who God is, as we just saw, or what he has done for us. As Bernard of Clairvaux observed, “Ingratitude is a searing wind which dries up the springs of pity, the dew of mercy, the streams of grace.” Yet, we can reawaken our sense of thankfulness to God by remembering some of the amazingly gracious things he has done for us, especially in relation to salvation. Meditating on the following points, to which many more could be added, can remind us of the multitude of ways God has blessed us—even when we experience life’s trials. We can give thanks for/that:

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*“The moment you start acting like life is a blessing, it starts feeling like one.”*

## Volunteers Needed



## Church Office Hours

**\*\* Children & Jr.-Sr. High Sunday School** 10:15  
**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 were not found among the people that Ezra reviewed?

- a) sons of Levi
- b) priests
- c) singers
- d) doorkeepers

According to Obadiah, what shall the house of Joseph be?

- a) wind
- b) stubble
- c) flame
- d) water

What has eaten what the cutting locust has left?

- a) pig
- b) swarming locust
- c) frog
- d) all of the above

**Check page 4 for answers in next week's booster**

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



27th – Bradford (Buck) Mueller  
 28th – Zack Crowdes  
 30h – Barb Bosley, Dave & Denise Tackett  
 2nd – Dakota Murren

**\*\*See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added, please call the office, or send an email to [office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)**

**Shenandoah First United  
Methodist Church**

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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. <http://bit.ly/3skF0p9>

\*Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: **Terry Stafford**

**Call to Worship**

**Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.**

**People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is PEACE.**

**L: God's Spirit has led us here.**

**P: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is HOPE.**

**L: God's Spirit has led us here.**

**P: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is JOY.**

**L: God's Spirit has led us here.**

**P: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LOVE.**

**L: The Spirit is in this place,**

**P: And we know that it's the Spirit of the Lord!**

**“Are We There Yet? Peace”**

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

**New Testament Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

**Third Scripture Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

**Songs**

**Come Long Expected Jesus #196**

**God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen #3052**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel #211**

**Love Divine All Love Excelling #384**

**Last Week's Attendance**

**In-Person Worship 89**

**Online Worship – 11**

**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 Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> are c) 10 b) Egypt a) darkness**

**Quiz Hints – Q1) Ezra Q2) Obadiah Q3) Joel**

**Gratitude - Continued from page 2**

- God's goodness and mercy ([Psalm 106:1](#); [107:1](#); [136:1-3](#))
- The nearness of God's presence ([Psalm 139:8](#))
- The supply of our physical needs ([Philippians 4:19](#))
- Jesus' sacrifice to reconcile us with God ([1 Peter 3:18](#))
- Victory over death and the grave ([1 Corinthians 15:20-22](#))
- Deliverance from indwelling sin ([Romans 7:23-25](#))
- Being more than conquerors ([Romans 8:37](#))
- We are God's workmanship ([Ephesians 2:10](#))
- The very hairs of our head are numbered ([Luke 12:7](#)).<sup>[1]</sup>

What else would you add to this list?

**Appreciate the Ordinary**

As we navigate the challenges of everyday life, it's easy to take the ordinary for granted. But our daily path is strewn with God's mundane blessings—the rising and setting of the sun, the stars, a gentle breeze, a friend's laughter. As the English poet William Blake expressed it,

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand  
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,  
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand  
And Eternity in an hour.*

Through the prophet Zechariah, the Lord warned the people of Judah not to “despise the day of small things” ([Zechariah 4:10](#)). Although the disciples tried to shoo them away, Jesus took time to bless small children ([Matthew 19:13-14](#)), and commended servants who had been faithful “with a few things” ([Matthew 25:21](#)). He took the time to admire the beauty of a flower, declaring that “not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these” ([Matthew 6:29](#)). As pastor and author Joshua Kang helpfully notes,

When we experience God's grace, our perspective is changed, and we are able to recognize the good in the ordinary. We see the good side of the people we meet, and the light in the midst of darkness. We learn to appreciate any kind of person and any circumstance, often being impressed and touched by nearly everything around us. When that happens, we notice God's love in every situation. We become grateful for everything we enjoy, seeing how undeserving we are.<sup>[2]</sup>

To grow in the depth of your gratitude toward God, make it a habit to pay attention to the commonplace, and recognize God's fingerprints on the everyday blessings in your life.

**Gratitude - Continued from page 5**

Christopher L. Reese (MDiv, ThM) writes about the Bible at Bible Exposition. He is a writer, editor, and journalist and has published two books with Zondervan as a general editor. His work has appeared in *Christianity Today*, *Beliefnet*, *Summit Ministries*, and other sites.

[1] Parts of this list are adapted from Moisés Silva and Merrill C. Tenney, *The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*, D-G (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009).

[2] Joshua Choonmin Kang, *Spirituality of Gratitude: The Unexpected Blessings of Thankfulness* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2015), Logos edition. I'm indebted to Kang's insights for my discussion here.

Over twenty-eight years ago, concerned citizens in the Shenandoah community had a dream of all community families having a happy and healthy holiday and formed the **Adopt-A-Family** project. Our church will provide a local family-in-need with a brighter holiday with gifts appropriate for their age or need. No adult information will be given, this way we can help the children in more families. The Quester's Sunday School Class is undertaking this project for the church. This year we will be able to ask for contributions of money in the Mission Cans as we have done before. The mission Cans are placed on top of the wooden offering boxes and just inside the middle set of the sanctuary doors. Thanks for your ongoing support for this important community project. **Edi Norris**



We are now taking orders for poinsettias to help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. If you are interested in purchasing one "In Honor" or "In Memory of" please fill out a [POINSETTIA ORDER FORM](#) that is located on the Welcome Center information desk. Each poinsettia is \$15.00. Please put your prep-paid check or cash and order form in the envelope provided with the form and place it in the wooden offering boxes. We encourage you to order early and appreciate your kindness in helping make our sanctuary colorful for the Christmas season. **Last day to order is Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**



**Hat & Mittens Collection** – we are collecting hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves for children in need. They can be placed on or around the hat & mitten trees located in the Welcome Center area.



In the season of giving, the preschool-sixth grade Sunday School class is currently collecting donations for the Shenandoah Food Pantry. There are grocery bags around the sanctuary and Welcome Center where you can place your Food Pantry items. Thank you in advance for your donations and for helping those in our community as our Sunday School class continues to look for ways to help others. *Jamie Burdorf, Michelle Morelock, & PK-6 Sunday School class members.*

Join Pastor David each Wednesday through Advent Season, and journey in the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus on a virtual pilgrimage through the Holy Land. Utilizing resources from St. George's College in Jerusalem, we will engage with the gospels in a new and fresh way.





Our Advent journey begins November 27. We are on the way to where God would have us be, and we're not there yet. But how shall we go? We shall go together, as one body, living and trusting in one another. We shall go as this community of faith, working side by side, and leaning into the grace of God every step of the way. Are we there yet?

December 18, Sunday Morning Worship  
The children's Sunday School class will be

leading our service.

December 22 at 6:30 pm | The Longest Night

We will host a contemplative service for those who are in a place of loss, pain, loneliness, and doubt.

Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm

Join us for this celebration of the birth of Christ through song and communion.

Christmas Day

There will be no in-person worship on Christmas morning. Worship resources and videos will be available for use at home.

Grace and peace,

Pastor David B. Clark  
308-258-7749