



# Weekly Booster

## CHURCH STAFF

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### Pianist

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### Choir Director

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## Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

## Sunday Media Booth

Kris Anderzhon,  
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



## You Were Created By God To Dream

Dreaming has an essential role in developing your faith and helping you become the kind of person God has always intended you to be. There is an important connection between dreaming and believing, between your imagination and your growth. Without a dream, you get stuck. But with God-inspired dreams, you have almost limitless possibilities.

Before you took your first breath, God had already placed the gift of imagination into your brain. God hardwired creativity into every cell of your body. The Bible says you were created in God's image (Genesis 1:26). Part of what is included in being made in God's image is the ability to dream and create something out of nothing.

This ability to dream of something you have not yet experienced is a God-given capacity that sets humans apart from the rest of God's creation. Fish can't imagine flying or even living out of water. Birds can't imagine living underwater. But humans have dreamed of both of these and so much more, for ages.

Dreaming is an important part of what makes you human. People dream great dreams.

*Continued page 2.*

Bible Verse Humor –

*2 Kings 9:20 NIV: The lookout reported, “He has reached them, but he isn’t coming back either. The driving is like that of Jehu son of Nimshi—he drives like a maniac.”*

**Reminders****May 20<sup>h</sup>****Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.****May 21<sup>st</sup>****Methodist Men’s Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall****May 24<sup>th</sup>****Study with Pastor David - Noon  
Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.  
Choir – 6:45 p.m.****May 25<sup>th</sup>****T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.****\*\*Worship Assistants are needed  
for May 28<sup>th</sup> and June****\*\* Fellowship Volunteers needed  
sign-up in Fellowship Hall****Dream- Continued from page 1.**

They imagine creating and doing things often years before those things become reality. Everything that humanity has accomplished in history started as a dream. Napoleon once said, “Imagination rules the world!”

Your dreams profoundly shape your identity, your happiness, your achievements, and your fulfillment. But God-inspired dreaming is far more important than just these benefits. Dreaming has *eternal* implications too. Dreaming is always the first step God uses in his process to change your life for the better. Everything starts as a dream.

God dreams. Just look around! Everything in the universe is something God dreamed up. You can’t get past the first phrase of the first verse of the first chapter of the Bible without coming face-to-face with God’s creativity. Genesis 1:1 says, “*In the beginning God created.*” God imagined and spoke everything into existence. It all began in the mind of God. The Bible says, “*Through him, all things were made; without him, nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind*” (John 1:3-4).

Just by looking at nature, we can learn a lot about God. We can see that God is powerful. We can see that God loves beauty. We can see that God cares about details. We can see that God is organized. He has created all kinds of coordinated systems that interrelate—in the galaxies, in our environment, in our bodies, and many other ways. Science continues to uncover new relationships between systems that we were previously unaware of.

Most of all, we see God’s *creativity* in nature. Our Creator is extravagantly creative. Just think of all the plants and animals that fill our planet. He dreamed up the millions of variations in creatures and vegetation—and then he created you. He gave you the ability to create too, by giving you the capacity to dream, imagine, and plan.

Children are naturally creative dreamers. We learn by playing make-believe. You dreamed of doing things in your mind long before you did them. Yes, children are instinctively creative dreamers who imagine all kinds of things that adults know are “impossible.” What happens to all that joyful creativity and dreaming?

**Continued page 5.**

Funny Bible Questions

*Who was the greatest financier in the Bible? Noah-he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.*

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.



During the feast of weeks in Leviticus, the goat is offered for?

- a) Peace offering
- b) Sin offering
- c) Firstfruits
- d) Thanksgiving offering

What did Paul tell the Philippians to do to complete his joy?

- a) consistently study
- b) trust in God
- c) endure persecution
- d) being of the same mind

How many days did Goliath parade before Israel?

- a) 7
- b) 30
- c) 40
- d) 90

**Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.**

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**



21<sup>st</sup> – Sue Kinney  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Amanda McIntosh  
24<sup>th</sup> – Nathan Crowdes, Scott & Ashley Lundgren  
25<sup>th</sup> – Mace & Robin Hensen

**\*\*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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Shenandoah, IA 51601

Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail  
[office@shen.church](mailto: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: Sing songs of praise to the Eternal God!**

**People: God is a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows.**

**L: God makes a home for those who are alone.**

**P: God frees the prisoners and leads them to prosper.**

**L: God led his enslaved people from Egypt,**

**P: and has journeyed with us through the wilderness.**

**"Stand Firm"**

**Old Testament Reading:**

**New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

**Gospel Reading:**

**Songs**

**How Firm a Foundation #529**

**Shout to the Lord #2074**

**I Surrender All ##354**

**My Hope Is Built #368**

**Last Week's Attendance**

**In-Person Worship - 60**

**Online Worship – 19**

**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 May 14th are d) Peter b) Bethany d) His oldest servant  
Quiz s hints – Q1) Leviticus Q2) Philippians Q3) 1 Samuel**

Dream- Continued from page 2.

It gets crushed, stuffed, suppressed, stifled, and destroyed by others over time. It's tragic but true. Typically, the older we get, the less we imagine and create.

What does all of this have to do with your spiritual development? Everything! Most people are unaware of the important connection between dreaming and faith. But men and women of deep faith have always been great dreamers. They didn't stop dreaming after childhood. The Bible is filled with examples of adult dreamers: Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Ruth, Esther, and many more. Instead of settling for the way things are in the world, people with strong faith imagine the possibilities of what could happen if they just trusted God a little bit more.

Great faith inspires great dreams.

Great dreams require great faith.

In many ways, a great dream is a statement of faith. Certainly, announcing your dream publicly requires faith because other people are likely to reject it. To courageously imagine or dream of a better future for yourself, your family, or others is an act of faith. You are saying, "I believe that things *can* change and can be different, and I believe that God will enable me to accomplish it!" Trusting God always makes God happy. The Bible says, *"Without faith, it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him"* (Hebrews 11:6).

I believe God is pleased that you are reading this right now. You matter to God, and he is not finished with your life. This is the beginning of something wonderful.

*Adapted from Created to Dream: The 6 Phases God Uses to Grow Your Faith by Rick Warren. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, May 15, 2023.*

### **Holy Spirit moments: Learning from Wesley at Aldersgate**



Many have experienced a moment when the Spirit of God came upon them in a powerful way. For some, it happened on a retreat as a youth or a mission trip later in life. Others had an experience during a Sunday morning worship service or a Wednesday night Bible study. Some have felt Christ especially present while praying from the top of a mountain or crying out over the sound of crashing waves while standing on a beach.

Whatever the circumstances, these moments can be life-changing. We look back upon them as times of conversion, renewal, and revelation. We may feel called to do something, experience healing and wholeness, or receive peace about a decision.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, rather famously had a Holy Spirit moment often referred to as his "Aldersgate experience." Wesley records in his journal what happened on May 24, 1738:

*In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading [Martin] Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.*

When read by itself, this one journal entry seems to suggest this God-moment happened unexpectedly. The same is true when we hear others report similar experiences. Most often, however, these special encounters with the Holy Spirit come to those who are seeking, those who have opened their hearts to receive something special from God.

#### A little background

When John Wesley and his brother Charles returned to England after their missionary journey to Georgia, their faith was a bit shaken. Their American mission didn't live up to expectations.

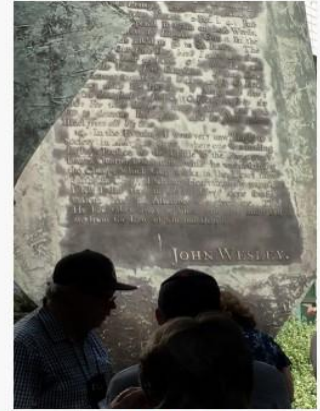
General James Oglethorpe invited John to come to Savannah as a chaplain, but he almost immediately came into conflict with colonists who didn't appreciate his zeal. Charles traveled to serve as Oglethorpe's secretary, a role for which he was poorly suited. Both thought they would have time to serve as missionaries to Native Americans, but that never really panned out.

During their travels, the brothers met Moravian Christians from Germany whose assurance of faith the Wesley brothers envied. In a storm at sea and during trying times on land, these Christians displayed a peace for which John and Charles longed.

Upon their return to England—Charles in July 1736 and John in February 1738—they sought out the Moravians, hoping to discover the secret to their faith.

In May 1738, Charles fell ill and was concerned for his survival. Lying in bed day after day, he focused on his spiritual well-being. If this illness were to take his life, was he ready to die? He prayed, studied, and spoke to friends who prayed for him to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

At about the same time, John was having conversations with a well-respected Moravian name Peter Böhler. Böhler was teaching Wesley about Moravian spirituality, which included the belief that Christians have an assurance of faith experienced as love, peace, and joy. Those emotions were in short supply for each of the Wesley brothers at the time. Between conversations, John pored through the Bible for evidence of Böhler's claims.



*A commemorative plaque on Aldersgate Street in London contains the text of John Wesley's journal entry for May 24, 1738. Photo by Joe Iovino, United Methodist Communications.*

## ***Spiritual encounters***

On Pentecost Sunday, May 21, 1738, something amazing happened. Between visits from his brother, his doctor, and those who were taking care of him, Charles had a personal encounter with the Holy Spirit.



*While staying at the home of a friend during a difficult illness, Charles Wesley had a special encounter with the Holy Spirit three days before his brother. Photo by Joe Lovino, United Methodist Communications.*

In his journal entry for that day, he reports experiencing "a strange palpitation of the heart" that caused him to exclaim, "I believe, I believe!" Several sentences later he continues, "I now found myself at peace with God, and rejoiced in hope of loving Christ."

When John visited the next day, Charles shared what had happened to him and together they prayed for John to have a similar experience. Charles writes, "I almost believed the Holy Ghost was coming upon him."

Later that week, John "went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street" where his heart became "strangely warmed." It was a moment for which he had prayed, studied, and prepared.

### ***Preparing our hearts***

The same is often true for us. While God can come to us at any time and any place, it is often helpful to prepare our hearts to be receptive to the Holy Spirit stirring within us.

Throughout his ministry, John Wesley taught about the means of grace, things we do regularly to put ourselves in a place where we are open to receiving the grace of God. Those practices include individual and communal works of piety and work of mercy, like private devotions, sharing in the sacraments, visiting the sick, and standing up for justice.

As you and I long to hear from God, it is good to follow the examples of John and Charles Wesley who prayed, studied, and sought the counsel of others. We cannot control when or where God will speak to us—it often seems to happen unexpectedly—but we can put ourselves in a place where we will be ready to hear when it happens.

*Adapted from an article by Joe Lovino in United Methodist NOW, Inspiration for Faithful Living, May 15, 2023. Joe Lovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications This story was first published on May 18, 2017.*



## 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.

For the past several months we have been in conversation about how to more effectively structure our committee organization. There has been a consensus that what we have been doing as a church, has not been working in a way that supports multiple ways for people to be involved, initiates new ministry opportunities, and avoids the drudgery of showing up for committee meetings. Shen is not unique in this and there are multiple reasons for why this is the case. But we have the freedom and the responsibility to figure out what works for our congregation so that we can be the church in our community and the future.



One solution that many United Methodist Churches who are in similar situations as us has been to turn to what is called a Single Board administrative structure. Currently, our administrative committees consist of an Administrative Board, Trustees, Finance Committee, Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, and Nominations Committee. In total, the number of people to fill all of those positions represents roughly 40% of our average Sunday Morning attendance. The Single Board model keeps the Nominations Committee separate and then collapses the other Administrative Committees into a single board of 6-12 members (5% of our average Sunday attendance) that functions as Ad Board, Finance Committee, Trustees, and SPRC. Reducing the number of persons serving on Administrative Committees will open up more opportunities for persons to serve on a short-term project/event basis, and for more persons to serve on ministry teams being developed such as Education, Congregational Care, Missions, Worship, etc.

Moving to this alternative structure required a conference-led training/workshop, approval from our District Superintendent, and will require a church vote for approval of the organizing document called our Administrative Board Guiding Principles. In a separate email, a draft of the Guiding Principles will be attached in digital form and we will have physical copies available at the church as well. Please review this document and join us on **Sunday, June 11 at 10:30 am** for questions and feedback. The current Administrative Board will receive your feedback and make modifications to the draft Guiding Principles. We will repeat this process of questions/feedback with the entire church until we reach a consensus on what will work for our church. After a consensus is reached, we will then schedule a time to vote and approve the Guiding Principles.



If you are interested in serving on the Administrative Board. If you are interested in serving in a ministry capacity that is not yet in place. If you want to be involved but don't know how let's get together and have a conversation.

Grace and peace,

Pastor David B. Clark  
308-258-7749



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The church office will be closed on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> the office will be open until 11:00 a.m.