



Weekly Booster

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Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Pastor Oliver

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



Martha

Name: Martha

Key Passages: Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-44

Meaning of name: Lady

Ancestry and family life: Martha apparently lived with her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus. They were a Jewish family who were friends and followers of Jesus.

When and where she lived: Martha lived in the town of Bethany, which means "house of welcome" or "house of figs." Bethany was a small town located at the foot of the Mt. of Olives about 3 kilometers (1.7 miles) east of Jerusalem. The town was a suburb of the capital city and as such proved to be an important place of rest for Jesus just outside the chaotic crowds of Jerusalem. Jesus stayed there, probably with Martha and her family, during the last week of His life. On the day of His triumphal entry, He departed from Bethany. Being only 3 kilometers from the city, it would have been a pleasant 20 or 30-minute stroll.

Luke 10:38-42 – Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." **Continued on page 2**

“Success is the good fortune that comes from aspiration, desperation, perspiration and inspiration.” Even Esar

“Great achievement is usually born of great sacrifice, and is never the result of selfishness.” Napoleon Hill

Reminders

September 6th

Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.

PK-6 S.S. & Jr/Sr High – starts

September 13th

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

September 9th

Praise Team – 4:00 p.m.

No Bell or Chancel Choirs until fall

Practice begins September 9th

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

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

After service each week, join us in
Fellowship Hall for treats, coffee,
and fellowship.

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Communion Sunday



Martha - continued from page 1.

Then tell her to help me.” But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Weaknesses:

1. Distracted from the best by the good –

Martha is a very interesting character. She had a very unique and special opportunity to serve as a hostess for Jesus. On several occasions (including probably Jesus’ last week), she and her family opened her home to Jesus. Of all the people who have ever lived, Martha is one of the few who could visit with Jesus face to face and interact with Him in a personal setting as a friend. What a privilege!

But as has been said, “with great privilege comes great responsibility!” Martha had a heavy sense of responsibility at having Jesus over. She wanted to be hospitable. She wanted to be a good host. Martha seems to have wanted everything to be perfect for Jesus. Perhaps she was making Him a special dish. Or perhaps she wanted His room clean and tidy so that He could have a comfortable rest. It is an admirable goal.

But the text says that she was “distracted by all her preparations.” What was she distracted from? She was distracted from spending time with Jesus. Jesus clearly told her that Mary had made the better choice. Mary decided to simply put aside all the work and the worry and focus on listening to Jesus. Martha was thinking, “lazy!” But Jesus commended her. He clearly did not care about having the perfect dinner, the exactly correct seasoning, or a room that was spotless. Jesus wanted to have time with them, the people, His people.

And this was far more important than whatever Martha was readying. Martha had the opportunity of a lifetime. Perhaps decades from now she would surely think back to this very day. People may even ask her, “What was it like to have the Savior in your house?” And Martha might answer, “I don’t really know. I was busy trying to get a stain out of a cloth.”

It was not a wrong thing that she was doing. But it did distract her from something far more valuable.

Reflect: What are some good things that might distract you from something better?

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
Oliver Fabros - 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 – again in fall
Chancel Choir – in the fall

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.



To whom did God ask
the people of Israel to
bring the sheaf of their
first fruits in the book of
Leviticus?

- a) Prophets
- b) Levites
- c) Priest
- d) Judge

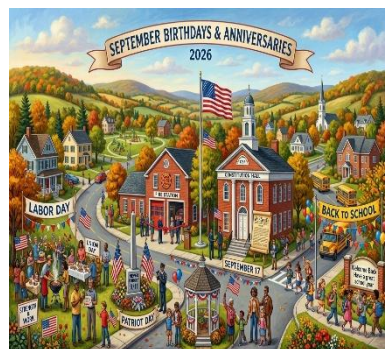
Who was Hanani to
Nehemiah?

- a) Commander
- b) Judge
- c) Brother
- d) Governor

What was Boaz's response
when Ruth called her his
redeemer?

- a) He agreed
- b) He didn't hear that
- c) He was shocked
- d) He rebuked her

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



6th – Bruce Johnson

7th – Dixie Major

8th – Dennis Bailey

11th – Doug McElroy, Zach Zwickle

12th – Brandy Pease

****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: Show us your ways, O Lord and teach us your paths.

People: Lead us in truth, for you are the God of our salvation.

L: God guides the humble and teaches the faithful how to walk.

P: We offer more than words; we offer willing lives.

L: Where our yes has been delayed, awaken obedience.

P: Where our faith has been only spoken, make it visible in action.

ALL: Come, let us worship-and let our yes to God become a lived yes.

“Rooted in Learning and Love”

Scripture Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Songs

They Will Know We are Christians #2223

Come, Now is the Time to Worship #77

Power of Your Love (screens)

Go Now in Peace #665

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 79 Online Worship – 23

Our Vision:

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

**Answers for August 30th are b) The Lord c) His hometown a) Solomon
Quiz hints – Q1 Genesis Q2) Matthew Q3) 1 Kings**



September 2026

Cereal, Hamburger, Tuna, and Chicken Helpers, Jelly, Mandarin Oranges, Pineapple, and Cinnamon Applesauce, Rice and Side Dishes, Cookie, Cake, and Muffin Mixes, Chunky Style Soup, Soda Crackers, Microwave Popcorn, Hot Chocolate Mix, Toilet Paper, Kleenex

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 contact Jeannine K. Liljedahl at 712-215-2488.

SHENANDOAH FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRY!
All are Welcome!

4:00 p.m. - PRAISE TEAM
4:30 p.m. - BELL CHOIR
5:30 p.m. - CHANCEL CHOIR

EVERY WEDNESDAY!

WE NEED YOU!
Find your place. No experience necessary.
Be part of something special.

Practice for the Bell and Chancel choir will start on Wednesday, **September 9th**. See the times on the flyer. Join the fun and fellowship.

Martha - continued from page 2.**2. Easily stressed and worried –**

Jesus could see that Martha was stressed out. And Martha's worry overflowed to all of those present. Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered by so many things."

Repeating her name twice was a gentle admonition. Martha was a worry-wart.

Reflect: What kinds of things do you worry about when you have guests over?

Here are some of the things Martha may have been worried about:

- Buying just the right ingredients for preparing the meal.
- Getting a good deal on those ingredients.
- Using those ingredients in just the right proportion.
- Cooking dishes that Jesus would like.
- Cooking and baking things for just the right amount of time.
- The air flow and temperature of the house.
- Having enough water on hand for washing up and making sure that water was cool.
- Getting bugs out of the house.
- Keeping the neighbor kids who were over quiet so that people could hear Jesus.
- Making sure there was enough oil for the lamps that evening.
- Cleaning and tidying the house.

The list goes on and on. In fact, these types of lists are endless. There are an endless number of things that you can worry about. Many of the things that people worry about will never happen.

Reflect: What is the underlying cause of stress and worry?

Worry can be caused by a lack of faith. Or it can be caused by placing undue importance on non-essential matters.

3. Bossy to Jesus –

Martha was stewing about the fact that she had to do all the work. She grew more and more flustered. And finally she had it. So she told Jesus, "Tell her [Mary] to help me." Martha was taken over by her emotions. And she temporarily lost her mind. Jesus is the Son of the God, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. And here she was bossing Him around, commanding Him to command her sister to help.

It was inappropriate to talk to Jesus in this way. But stress and frustration often causes people to speak without thinking.

In fact, many people treat God like this. They view God as their personal servant or wish-granter. And they expect that God should give them what they want and when they want it. Instead of humbly submitting their petition, they mistakenly demand God to intervene on their behalf. They, like Martha, forget who they are talking to.

Let us think about our petitions carefully and humbly submit them to God as His subjects, not His boss.

Strengths:

1. Hospitable –

Martha's weakness appears to be that she is "too hospitable." If you are going to have a weakness, that is a pretty good one to have! David was an adulterer. Moses was a murderer. Peter was a liar. And Martha was too hospitable.

Certainly, in this case Martha did not choose the most important thing, being with Jesus. But this does not negate the fact that she was a very dedicated hostess. Neither does it mean that we should not pay attention to details and make our guests feel comfortable. We, for example, do not have Jesus visit our houses so do not face the same choice that she did.

1 Peter 4:9 – Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Romans 12:13 – Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Hospitality should be sincere and from the heart. It is not about putting on a show or impressing people.

Reflect: How would you define hospitality? What are the qualities that a good host needs?

2. Servant –

Martha was not looking to have Jesus serve her. One translation says that Martha was "distracted by serving." Here you can see Martha's heart. She wanted to make things nice for others. Looking for ways to serve is a good quality.

There are very few people in the world who will be so intent on serving that they are distracted by it.

Reflect: In a church or a family there is a lot of work to do. Take for example a person who serves at church so much they are always busy and don't have much time to sit at Jesus' feet. He says, "I am serving like Martha so that others can be free of distractions to focus on the Lord." What would you say to this person?

3. Faith –

John 11:17-27 – So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."

When Lazarus got sick, Martha and Mary sent a letter informing Jesus with an implied request that Jesus come and heal Lazarus.

Martha clearly believed in Jesus' ability to heal. She said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Martha also believed in the last resurrection. And she made a powerful profession of faith, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."

Many thought Jesus was a prophet. Others thought He was a good man. Martha is one of the few true followers of Jesus at that time who believed that He was in fact the Messiah. In the end, that is by far the most important thing about Martha. And its especially powerful that she still expressed belief in Jesus even in the wake of her brother's untimely death. She had some weaknesses. She had some strengths. But she believed in Jesus.

His grace was sufficient to cover over every defect. His grace was sufficient to forgive every sin. And as we see in the passage, Jesus made a powerful statement to her, "I am the resurrection and the life." This is one of seven "I am" statements Jesus made about Himself. And He made it personally to Martha. If she believed in Jesus (as she did), she could would have this life.

From Romans 6:23 we know that the wages of sin is death. This death doesn't only refer to physical death, but it also refers to spiritual death. Spiritual death is separation from God and is punished by an eternity in hell. This is terrible news for humans. By our own efforts we cannot escape this fate. But Jesus promises hope!

We don't have to be doomed to separation from God and punishment! We don't have to go through life as a slave of sin! By believing in Jesus we can have a new life, here in this earth and after we die.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold new things have come."

Jesus promises a resurrection in our spiritual lives. He will wash away our sins and give us a new, joyful life in Him. But that's not all! Even though our body will die, that is not the end for us. It is the beginning of a new and wonderful life in the very presence of Jesus. These are some amazing promises.

But once again Jesus proved they are true. Shortly after he said "I am the resurrection and the life" he raised a man from the dead. Even more incredible, He himself raised from the dead, proving He has the power over death and the power to give us this life.

Important acts and events:

1. Recipient of Jesus' statement "I am the resurrection and the life." – In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes seven famous "I am" claims. Some of these were told to the crowds or the disciples. But along with the Samaritan woman, Martha is the only one to personally the object of one of these statements.

2. Witness of Lazarus being arose from the dead – Martha was an eye-witness of many of Jesus' amazing deeds and teachings. One of the most amazing was the raising of her brother Lazarus from the dead. Martha noted that he had been in the grave already for four days when Jesus commanded for the tomb to be opened.

Lessons from her life:

1. Don't allow anything to distract you from being with Jesus – We all face many distractions, things which vie for our attention and pull our focus away from Christ. Let's face it. The world today has far more distractions than what Martha faced. And most of those distractions are both more alluring and worse than the distraction (serving.)

Reflect: What are some things which may distract you from having quality time with Jesus in devotions and prayer each day?

Here are a few of the distractions that we often face:

- Electronics
- Social media
- Cell phone
- Internet
- Work
- Children
- Cooking
- Housework

The list could go on and on. Anything and everything could be a distraction. Sometimes distractions are sinful (greed, laziness, lust). Other times they are a part of life. If you have children, you will know that it can be hard to get quiet time free of distractions. You may just settle in for devotions when your kid comes in to tell you a joke or ask for help with a project.

But we must make a way. Spending quality time with Jesus each day is critical. It is not enough to listen to a sermon or an audio Bible while you are focusing on another task. Martha could have overheard Jesus talking, but her heart was not in it. We need a time when we are dedicated fully to meditating on God and His word. During those times we must put aside all distractions, all worries, all stress, and indeed all thoughts of our tasks that day.

There are far more “Marthas” than there are “Marys” in the world today. Ask someone, “how are you” and the odds are good they will answer, “busy.” Life is busy. A million things vie for our attention. And these spectacles are invading our homes and lives in a way they never did before. They are a click away, a glance away. Unending distractions are right there in our phones waiting to be discovered. It is a big business!

Ad companies spend huge amounts of money to get your eyes. Movie companies make movies just to get your eyes. But it goes far beyond that. Social media is all about eyes. How many likes did the post get? How many people viewed the video clip? Has it gone viral?

And companies promote every manner of either diversions or “necessary” pursuits such as: athletics, thrills, travel, and education. These are all competing for your eyes and your time, which means money.

Even Jesus had to get away from it all (in a world with many fewer distractions) to pray. How much more do we need to put aside distractions and find times to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to Him. It is not enough to

have Jesus in our house like Martha did while we are busy and fretting about other things. We must give Him all our attention.

Because you see, Jesus is the greatest spectacle of all! Martha put her attention to the meal. But the real meal was right before her eyes and she missed it. The story of Jesus is the greatest ever told. He actually delivers on all the promises that these paid peddlers of promises fail to fulfill.

Hebrews 12:2 – Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Application: What do you need to do to ensure that you have quality time with Jesus each day?

2. Do not distract anyone else from being with Jesus –

Martha was not only distracted from being with Jesus herself, but her flustered attitude and demand of Mary to help her was distracting others as well. Mary was in the right place with the right attitude, but Martha's focus on unimportant things threatened that.

We need to be very careful that we do not become a stumbling block to others in this area. For example, one practical way to apply this is for spouses to take turns watching the kids while their partner spends time with the Lord. There will be a temptation to feel resentment if you are working or facing challenges with the kids while your spouse is "just sitting there." But remember that what they are doing is important and will bear fruit in your marriage and in the family. Support and encourage them instead of nagging.

3. Do not allow trivial things to cause stress and worry –

Do not major on the minors. Much stress and worry is caused by focusing on things that are either not at all important or completely outside of one's control. Martha is so famous for worrying that a phrase was invented, "Don't be a Martha." It means that you should not worry so much.

You can probably think and remember events in your life that should have been happy, which were ruined or spoiled by excessive worrying. Worrying can wreck the mood of a family, bringing disharmony, grumpiness, complaining, and bad attitudes. And it doesn't help.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:27, "And which of you by worrying can add even one hour to his life?"

Are you a worrier? When you feel that worry is starting to overcome you, just pull back and quiet yourself down. Spend some quality time with Jesus. And follow the command in 1 Peter 5:7, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Life is short. Don't spend it worrying!

4. God may not ask others to do the same thing as what you are doing –

Maybe God has called you to serve in a specific area. Good! Do your best! But that doesn't mean God wants everyone else to join you. We are part of a team. And each member has their own gifting and calling. Do not push others to do what you are doing, but instead be understanding that God uses each person in different ways.

5. God's timing is not our timing and God's ways are not our ways –

Martha and Mary sent a letter to Jesus, expecting that He would come right away to heal Lazarus. But He didn't. And Lazarus died. They couldn't understand why Jesus allowed to happen. And you can almost detect blame in their words, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

How could Jesus allow this to happen? How could He not come right away when they needed Him?

The answer is that God's timing is not our timing. God had a bigger and better plan. He was going to do something amazing which they did not understand or expect. Of course we know that He raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus was proving the incredible statement, "I am the resurrection and the life." He was giving one more powerful evidence that He was the Son of God, an evidence that is still speaking to people today.

Like Martha, we often don't understand why God does things. We don't understand why He delays in answering our prayers. But we must trust that He has a plan. And His plan is better than ours.

Adapted from Study and Obey, Jason Dexter, 182 Queen Victoria Ave, Saint Johns, FL 32259



Hanging on in the Dark



“Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense—let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing.” Job 31:35

“Sometimes faith is just hanging on in the dark.” These words, spoken by a wise woman, were offered as a solace to a suffering friend. Sometimes things just don’t make sense. Sometimes we simply can’t see beyond the pain. Sometimes we can’t even manage to utter a prayer.

In those dark nights — when life seems to suffocate us with sorrow — faith compels us to hang on. We’ve seen that Job, who suffered great losses, felt that way. Job 31 records the final words of Job’s defense before God after his three friends filled the air with their empty explanations of why Job had suffered so greatly.

We know the conversation God had with Satan at the beginning of this account, yet we are still appalled by the tragic events of Job’s life. Job had no idea Satan was tempting him because God was allowing his faith to be tested. No wonder Job reeled from his losses and grasped for answers. We can feel the pain and desperation in his voice when he cried, “Oh, that I had someone to hear me!” But throughout his trial, throughout his test, Job knew the Almighty was listening.

Have you ever felt that way? Perhaps your heart’s cry surfaced in a winter season of your life — cold, dark and endless. You may be in that barren season even now, with no one to offer you comfort or relief. Allow Job’s words to comfort you as a fellow traveler on your journey: “Let the Almighty answer me.”

While we may learn God’s reasons later (sometimes only in eternity), for now all that is required is for us to “hang on in the dark” until God’s light illumines the way again.

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