



Weekly Booster

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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



Only 14.3 acres in total land mass, it is a small kingdom unto itself. Located in three separate areas in the United States—part in Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Northern California—you can leave the United States and enter the Republic of Molossia. It is considered to be a micro-nation . . . a “nation within” our nation.

Molossia has its own flag, its own signs, and its own boundary markers. It even has its own tourist attractions. Kevin Baugh is the president, or Sovereign, over his own little kingdom. His space program consists of model rockets. The basic unit of currency in Molossia is the valora. The valora is linked in value to Pillsbury Cookie Dough. Three valora has equal value to one tube of cookie dough.

There is a railroad—model sized. The national sport is broomball. And although his nation is landlocked, he claims a navy that is merely an inflatable boat. You can visit anytime you like. But—although it sounds fun—don’t think you can move there. He says there is not enough room. Kevin affectionately calls his nation “The Kingdom of Me.”

Don’t laugh too quickly. We may not have gone to the same extremes as Kevin Baugh, but we mostly live our lives as if we are rulers of our own kingdoms. What a surprise it is when we discover that we are living in a kingdom but it is not ours.

Continued page 2

“Stop searching, drop all doubt, and roll with the Lord!”

Reminders

July 16^h

Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

July 17th

Methodist Men’s Breakfast
Fellowship Hall – 8:00 a.m.

July 20^h

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
No choir until fall

July 21st

T.O.P.S. – 4:30 p.m.

****Worship Assistants are needed for July 17th, 24th, & August**

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

**** Special Music is needed for the summer. If you or you know of someone that would like to charge their musical talents this summer, please contact the office**

Breaking Free- Continued from page 1

That’s the message of Jesus. He came saying, “The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news” (Mark 1:15). Literally he says the kingdom is “at hand.” It is that close. All around us. Within reach.

His kingdom is not as a nation with armies and weapons but as a farmer who comes with seed and the seed falls on soil (Mark 4:3-9). Finding his kingdom is like finding a treasure in a field (Matt. 13:44). And his kingdom is worry-free (Matt. 6:25-34). Best of all, this kingdom has a king who is in control (Mark 4:35-39).

Jesus said “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. . .” (28:18). Kings say things like that. Unlike Molassia, if you want to enter and live in this kingdom, there is room for everyone. That’s not the problem. There is plenty of room in this kingdom for everyone.

But you need to know that there is only room enough on the throne of this kingdom for one King.

Adapted from the article about The Story was originally written by Pastor Rick Brown of Christbridge Fellowship in Tomball, Texas.



It is that time of the year for Vacation Bible School. Although we will not be having one here at our church we still encourage those of you who do have the interest to check out other opportunities within our community.



Peace Ev Lutheran Church, 411 Church, 246-2806. August 2-6, 3:00-4:30 daily. Activities, Snacks, & Fun for grades K-8. All are welcome!



Shenandoah Ecumenical VBS July 31st – August 3rd. Free for Ages 4 years through 6th grade at the St. Mary’s Catholic Church. Registration forms are on the Welcome Center table.

“We hold sit-in demonstrations every Sunday.”



First United Methodist Church

Please wear your name tag on Sunday mornings



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.

****Sunday School & Choir only during the school year.**

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.



According to Proverbs 15, what refreshes the bones?

- a) good news
- b) greasy food
- c) consuming vegetables
- d) hard work

What was the previous name of Bethel, where Jacob made a vow to the Lord?

- a) Beth-zur
- b) Beth-horon
- c) Luz
- d) Bethlehem

Whose life was completely transformed on the road to Damascus?

- a) Pontius Pilate
- b) Paul
- c) Herod
- d) Caiaphas the High Priest

Check page 4 for answers in next week's booster

Birthdays and Anniversaries



17th – Mace Hensen

18th – Brent Ehlers, Hali Giese Mayer

21st – Sherri Hiser

23rd – Shannon Harris, Alan Hutchison

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

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

Call to Worship

Leader: God is our shelter and our strength. When troubles seem near,

People: God is nearer and ready to help.

L: When the earth spins out of control,

P: We are sure and fearless.

L: When mountains crumble and the waters run wild,

P: We are sure and fearless.

L: Even in heavy winds and huge waves, or as mountains shake,

P: We are sure and fearless.

L: Come, gaze, fix your eyes on what God can do.

P: When we wake at dawn, God has already been at work.

L: Be still, Be Calm.

P: We see and understand that God is God.

“Into the Wilderness Rest Through Stillness”

Old Testament Scripture: Exodus 20:8-11

Psalm 46

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:28-30

Songs

God of the Ages #698 (Hymnal)

Holy Spirit (words on the screens)

Be Still, My Soul #534 (Hymnal)

In the Garden #314 (Hymnal)

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 96

Online Worship – Youtube 14

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 July 10th are b) stop regarding man a) Absalom a) Joshua

Quiz Hints – Q1 no hint, Q2 Genesis, Q3 Galatians



“People need to be reminded more often than they need to be instructed.” This famous quote comes from Samuel Johnson, born in 1709. He was an English literary critic, biographer, essayist, and poet. He published the work he is perhaps best known for, *A Dictionary of the English Language*, in 1755. He is regarded as one of the greatest figures of 18th-century English life and letters.

The man knew about how people learn, and how they apply what they’ve learned to their lives.

What Dr. Johnson said back in his day about people’s needs certainly rings true for our lives today as 21st century Christians. In a world where we have the vast majority of global intellectual capability in the palms of our hands, how much more do we as Christians need to learn? If we’ve sat in church services for decades, is instruction in the meaning of God’s words really our problem as we face our daily struggles?

More likely, we need daily reminders of God’s love, care, concern, and purpose for us. And we begin to understand the wisdom behind Samuel Johnson’s words when we realize that in the words of the Bible, we find those consistent reminders of God’s love and care for us.

Where Have God’s Promises Been?

Perhaps our memory of God’s promises for us has been dulled as of late. What have we as a nation just emerged from?

- The recent memories of local and national shutdowns because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Watching numbers of infections and deaths increase.
- Once-in-a generation waits in huge public facilities standing in carefully spaced-out lines to receive vaccinations and booster shots.
- Pandemic-related confusion and disruption at the highest levels of our society.
- Over two years of educational upheaval and pandemic-related isolation, with its accompanying change in the ways we act as individuals and families.
- Culture-changing shifts in the way we learn, communicate, and work.
- The loss of too many seemingly healthy friends and family members.

As many of us have now emerged from the protective cocoon of home and moved back into the workplace, we experience the difficulty of reminding ourselves of what life was like before the pandemic. We can’t remember what we did before the first few weeks of March 2020, when the world shut down in the face of

this unknown virus. And we still wait with the vague fear that another, more virulent, variation will emerge that's not covered by our current vaccinations. Finally, we live with the loss of our loved ones, gone too soon.

The American Bible Society, in their recent publication *State of the Bible: USA 2022*,^[1] have observed through their research that the last two years, and our American experience with the pandemic, showed a shift in the ways that people have engaged with God's Word. Their research reveals that while Bible engagement experienced an uptick during the first part of the shutdown, since then a precipitous drop in Bible reading and engagement has happened. This is based on their surveys of Americans in different age groups and in all walks of life. Perhaps most alarming is that their overall observation shows a more than 10% drop in Bible engagement since their last annual report in 2021.

The trends here are not good. That means some 26 million Americans have either slowed or stopped engaging with the Bible since the second shutdown year of 2021. Dr. John Plake, with a hopeful tone, observes in his introduction to the research in this way: "Whenever Christians face disruptions and difficulties from warfare, pandemic, heartache, and grief, we look to the Bible for wisdom, guidance, and perspective...So how do we [as Christians] respond when the world is broken and tragic? We just keep showing up and trusting God with the outcome because we know that God's Word brings freedom, healing, and help to those who seek it."

Searching for God's Promises

Yes, today more than ever it seems we need those reminders of God's love for us. We need to remember more than we need to learn. So how do we begin down that road?

One way that people commonly engage with Scripture, per the research in the *State of the Bible*, is that they search for help and wisdom based on how they're feeling, or, as the report states, their "mood at the time" they pick up the Bible. (Not surprisingly, many more in the 18 to 25 age group say they engage the Bible digitally rather than picking up a printed Bible. This is actually a hopeful sign for Bible engagement in the future, as our phones are now basically an extension of our hands.)

If, as Dr. Plake asserts, Christians look to the Bible during life's crisis points, that means that they're likely searching out God's promises in the Bible to find inspiration and reassurance when facing life's tough circumstances and questions.

Those of us who have spent our Sundays sitting in church pews have heard these promises time and time again. Regular church attenders who spent years in Sunday school and other church-sponsored youth groups can rattle off many of God's promises by heart.

For those of us who can't, a quick internet search for "God's promises to us in the Bible" reveals multiple options for searching out and discovering more of those promises. One of those options reveals an

assertion from author Herbert Locklear, who in his book *All the Promises in the Bible*[2] counted 7,147 promises from God to humanity within the pages of the Bible. That's a lot of promises for a book that, in its basic text form, runs about 1,200 pages long.

Finding God's Promises

Those people who, impacted by their recent personal and cultural experiences, look to the Bible to find help and inspiration are met with a plethora of statements of God's reassurance in the pages of the Bible. Those who find one of the Bible's 365 mentions of some variation of "Do not be afraid" can discover the

The Bible includes these and many more reassurances of God's presence in the lives of his followers. Surely, the God who is the same "yesterday and today and forever" ([Hebrews 13:8](#)) is still with us and can allay our fears today as well. But many who search for God's promises will quickly ask the next logical question, "So what does God think about me personally?"

For those living in America in 2022, this question has answers in many forms. Most pastors spend their weeks preparing sermons to help individuals discover what the answer to that question could be. Those who are searching the Bible for the answer to that question need to look no further than the writings of the apostle John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved" ([John 13:23](#)). John asserts over and over that the Bible tells the story of God's great love for those who seek and follow him.

In the wake of the global pandemic, with all of its fear, chaos, and restriction, many who experienced the worst of its impacts may be wondering where this love is for them today? Where was it in the lives of their families and friends in the last two years?

John, in his Gospel, also records a prayer that Jesus prayed to the Father for every one of us who believe in him:

"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." ([17:20–26](#)).

Perhaps most poignantly, John explains the relationship we can have with God our Father in another of his letters:

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

“This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

“We love because he first loved us.” ([1 John 4:7–19](#))

These are the kinds of promises that people are searching for in today’s world. The reminders of God’s love for his people are the great realities that help us cope with our difficult circumstances.

These and many other passages from the Bible reassure those of us who are seeking out God’s pathway for our lives that God is more than open to having a relationship with us. Not only does he say through the prophet Jeremiah, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart,” ([Jeremiah 29:13](#)), he also indicates that he pursues us as well:

“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me;
I was found by those who did not seek me.
To a nation that did not call on my name,
I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’ ([Isaiah 65:1](#), also quoted in [Romans 10](#))

For those who seek out an experience with God in their lives, the apostle Paul has these reassurances:

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, ‘Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.’ For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly

blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” ([Romans 10:9–13](#))

Remembering God’s Promises

So how do those who have had an experience with God remember what he’s promised us in his Word? How do we keep those promises in the forefront of our minds when our lives are busy and we’re distracted with everything going on—and everything going wrong—in the world today?

First, we need to be aware that nothing happening in our personal lives or in the world today escapes God’s notice. God has a plan for his people and his kingdom, and the events of this world—even the most chaotic and seemingly unfair—have been allowed by God to weave into the tapestry of his greater Story for humanity. God is not surprised or shocked as the events of our lives unfold. He stands ready to help and support us in our joys and sorrows through his Word, through his followers, and through the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

All that said, what are some practical helps for people who are wanting more daily reminders of God’s love for us?

- *Sign up for [daily inspiration from God’s Word](#).* When these daily verses pop up in your email or on your phone, take the time to read them as a daily reassurance of God’s love for you.
- *Embark on a [daily Bible reading and devotion](#) that highlights God’s goodness and promises to you.* Engaging in some light personal Bible reading and devotional time will whet your appetite to find out more about God’s presence and power in your life.
- *Make a habit of attending a worship service in your local church.* There’s no better way to position yourself to receive a constant reminder of God’s love for you than to sit under the teaching of a local pastor and participate in the ministry of a local congregation.
- *Keep your favorite passages in front of you.* Have you already come across verses that intrigue you? Write them out and post them in locations where you know you’ll see them regularly. Bathroom mirror? Car dashboard? On a wall in your house? All great places to help keep those passages in mind.
- *Spend time in daily prayer.* Do you have a spouse, friend, sibling, or significant other that you talk to regularly? As we saw above, God desires to have a similar relationship with you. He wants you to come to him in prayer. Talk to him. As you do, notice how and through whom he may be speaking to you. Ask for his direction. Invite him to be a part of your daily decision-making processes. Ask for his help and wisdom as you face difficult decisions. Pray that his love will flood your daily life.
- *Study God’s Word.* The passages listed above are just a small sampling of the kind of instruction and affection from God that you’ll begin to understand as you decide to dig more deeply into the Bible.

Yes, there is truth in Samuel Johnson's statement. Maybe we as Christians do need to be "reminded more than we need to be instructed." Beginning to understand the most complex concepts in the Bible starts with the three simple realities demonstrated above:

1. God's love and presence in our lives casts out fear
2. When we look for God, we will find him
3. "God is love" ([1 John 4:8](#)).

This is an adapted article, by Mike Vander Kipp, Senior Editor in the Zondervan Bible Group of, HarperCollins Christian Publishing, 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, July 11, 2022.

[1] Philadelphia, PA: American Bible Society (April 2022)

[2] Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic; Revised edition (April 1990).



While I have lived in many different places, I do have roots in this part of the country. My great great-great Grandfather Clark, after being wounded and captured by the Confederate army in the battle of Chickamauga, escaped and came to Fort Dodge, IA where he married his wife. They then moved to Atchison, KS (118 miles from Shen) where he was an architect and built

many of the buildings and bridges in that town. My Dad grew up on a small farm in northwest Missouri near Martinsville (90 miles away). I grew up in Papillion, NE (60 miles away) where I went to middle and high school. While my siblings and parents are spread throughout the country from Nashville to Tampa, one of my sisters lives in the Des Moines area. Molly's side of the family has deep roots in Syracuse, NE (50 miles away). This is where both of her parents went to high school and her grandparents still live. I look forward to being a part of this wonderful town of Shenandoah. Grace and peace, Pastor David B. Clark, 308-258-7749.



Methodist Men's Breakfast is this coming Sunday, July 17th. Breakfast starts at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome! Come and enjoy devotion, fellowship, and breakfast.