



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

David B. Clark

pastordavid@shen.church

Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

office@shen.church

Pianist

Terry Stafford

Bells & Choir Directors

Dan & Linnea Shook

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Media Booth

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, Drew Morelock,

Pastor David



Female Champions in Scripture

Let's start by being clear here: women in Bible times had few liberties and few opportunities. They knew their place and kept to it . . . except for those few exceptional exceptions. Sprinkled throughout the biblical story are women who bravely stepped outside of their cultural norms and restrictions and became not only servants of God but also champions of their people.

Miriam

Let's start with Miriam. Moses' and Aaron's sister joined her brothers in leading Israel out of bondage in Egypt. "I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam" (Micah 6:4). God called Miriam to be part of Israel's deliverance leadership team—not a common thing in either Egyptian or Hebrew culture. Perhaps her position encouraged the Israelite women to follow along on those frightening first days out of Egypt. As "the Red Sea roars in front of the Israelites, and the Egyptian army thunders up behind them"¹, it doesn't take much to imagine Miriam being the first woman to bravely step down on the pathway God provided. Arriving on the other side of the sea, "Miriam the prophet . . ." (Did you catch that?

Continued page 2.

Did you know that people use to say “prunes” instead of “cheese” when getting their pictures taken? In the 1840s, a cheesy grin was seen as childish, so a London photographer told people to say “prunes” to keep their mouths tight. Now you know why people never smiled in old photos.

Reminders

July 31st

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
No Bell or Choir Practice until Fall

August 1st
T.O.P.S.

August 4th
Communion Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

****No PK-6 or Jr/Sr High
Sunday School until Fall**

****Worship Assistants are needed for
August**

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

Women Champions - Continued from page 1.

She's the first female prophet, a spokesperson for God, in Scripture.) led a glorious dance of victory and praise (see [Exodus 15:20](#)). Miriam wasn't perfect (see [Numbers 12](#)), and neither are we. But God used her as his champion. She provides a reassuring example that God can use us too, despite our failings.

Deborah

Next, consider Deborah, wise and judicious, a leader of all Israel (see [Judges 4:4](#)). She even had a tree named after her. (I love these biblical details inserted into the story.) She held court as a judge under “the Palm of Deborah” ([Judges 4:5](#)). Life was hard in Israel at this time. The cruel Canaanite general Sisera had oppressed Israel for twenty long years. The caravans—the trains and trucks of that time—could not make their way safely across Israel. Sisera and his army ransacked small villages, destroyed their crops, and killed their people. Israel needed a strong leader, and Deborah rose to the challenge, riding into battle with Barak and the Israelite army. “God doesn't necessarily see [Deborah's] gender. He sees [her] reverence for him and uses [her] to bring relief to weary Israel”². When God calls people today to do his work, he doesn't see gender now any more than he did back in Deborah's time. As the Apostle Paul put it so succinctly in his letter to the Galatian church, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” ([Galatians 3:28](#)).

Abigail

Later in Israel's history, God used another female champion—Abigail—to protect his chosen king from doing wrong. Abigail ignored her foolish husband Nabal's orders and loaded up donkeys with all the food he had denied David and his men. (Check out [1 Samuel 25:18](#) for the interesting list of foods she supplied. Sometimes the minute details provided within the biblical story are astounding.) Not one to let others do what she saw as her obligation, brave Abigail mounted her donkey and hurried to meet David and his men, who were out to extract vengeance for Nabal's snub. She bowed with her face to the ground before the future king, a position of humility and danger.

Continued 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

- Michelle Morelock - Chair*
- Mary Peterson - Secretary*
- Margaret Brady - Vice Chair & Trustee*
- Gary Milstead - Trustee*
- Roger Jones - SPRC*
- Robin Hensen - Finance*
- Dave Lashier - Treasurer*
- Craig Harris - Lay Member to Annual Conference*
- Connie Anderson - Memorials*
- Linda Haldane - Membership*
- David Clark - Pastor*

Church Office Hours

**** Children & Jr.-Sr. High Sunday School – will resume in the Fall. Have a safe summer!**

****Choir – No choir until Fall.**

****Bell Choir – No Bells until Fall**

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.



How many Assyrians were struck down by an angel in one day?

- a) 2,000
- b) 18,000
- c) 35,000
- d) 185,000

Who did Paul describe their gentleness among the Thessalonians?

- a) nursing mother
- b) nursing father
- c) faithful steward
- d) good care-taker

The sword of the Spirit which is ____ (fill in the blank)

- a) salvation
- b) God's Word
- c) peace
- d) righteousness

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 28th – Roger Jones
- 29th – Macy Marie Finlay
- 30th – Donna Robison, Dennis & Darlene Howard
- 31st – Loraine Manchester
- 1st – Michael Blane
- 2nd – Emma Bowen, Rachel Hobbie
- 3rd – Lexa Dunkeson, Zane Langrer, Rebecca Manchester

****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: Life is found in the cross.

People: The path that Jesus leads us on is death and resurrection.

L: Jesus calls us to take up our cross every day and follow him.

P: If we try to avoid danger and risk, we will lose everything.

L: If we let go and risk all, then we will be made whole.

P: What good does it do us if we gain everything, but our own life slips through our fingers?

The Cost: "Take Up Your Cross"

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:23-27

Songs

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross #298

Still #3134

Cares Chorus #2215

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 73

On-Line Worship – 13

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 21st are d) Cana d) Jephthah a) Abimelech, king of Gera
Quiz hints – Q1) 2 Kings Q2) 1 Thessalonians Q3) Ephesians**

Champion - Continued from page 2.

“Then, in a bold and rather cheeky move, she reminds David that he has always been obedient to God’s call. Killing her and Nabal would be disobeying God’s hand on David’s life”³. Abigail’s courage proves to be the end of her husband’s life, the beginning of a new path for her as David’s wife, and the rescue from the wrongdoing of God’s chosen king of Israel. Abigail’s choice to do what was right makes her a champion in Israel and a noteworthy example for generations of women to follow.

Esther

Esther. Dear Esther. Her story is often told like a modern-day romance. However, the reality of her life was far from that. She was taken from her home—surely, not willingly—as a young Jewish virgin, beautified with all the other chosen virgins, then brought to the king for him to have his sexual way with her. Esther must have impressed the king with more than her beauty for “she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins” (Esther 2:17), and he made her his queen. “But God has more in mind. One of the king’s officials plans to kill all the Jews in Persia. Esther’s moment of destiny arrives”⁴. She used her position as queen to go to the king and save her people, fulfilling her calling. God had put her in her “royal position for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). Esther’s story and those words—for such a time as this—have resonated throughout history for men and women who have done the difficult, the dangerous, the seemingly impossible, because they are at their particular point in time to fulfill their destiny and God’s purposes.

Anna

Let’s end with Anna. Another prophet of God, she is not as well known as the others. She lived her life in obscurity. Her husband died after only seven years of marriage, and she never remarried or had children. Rather, for the rest of her days, until the ripe old age of 84, “she never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying” (Luke 2:37). The story could end there with a life well lived. But God again had other plans. One day Anna and baby Jesus, with his parents, cross paths in the temple. One look at Jesus, and she began to prophesy, proclaiming to all those listening that the long-awaited Messiah had arrived! God used Anna to announce not just to Jesus’ parents, but to all those gathered in the temple, who this baby was and will be. Anna smiled with gratitude as “she has seen her Redeemer in the face of a baby”⁵.

So where does this leave us? Are we champions? Could we even be champions? God’s call for each person is as different as each person. Some are called to leadership in dangerous times. Some are called for battle. Some for turning evil intent into good. Others are called to obscurity. The truth is that we’re all called to live our best lives where God puts us, just as each of these women did. The truth is we’re all champions. We’re part of the “great cloud of witnesses” who “run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus” (Hebrews 12:1-2), finishing the race as champions.

¹From the *NIV Kingdom Girls Bible*, p. 89. ²From the *NIV Kingdom Girls Bible*, p. 277.

³From the *NIV Kingdom Girls Bible*, p. 345. ⁴From the *NIV Kingdom Girls Bible*, p. 589.

⁵From the *NIV Kingdom Girls Bible*, page 1191.



Food Pantry Needs

August 2024

Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta (all varieties), Crackers (any variety), Green Beans & Corn, Brownie, Cake, and Muffin Mixes, Mandarin Oranges & Pineapple, Microwave popcorn, Cereal, Salt, Pepper (any kind of spices), Toilet paper, Shampoo, Conditioner.

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.



Hispanic Center School Supplies

The Hispanic Center needs backpacks for several students. Sue has students in different grade levels (PK-8) who could use a backpack and school supplies before school starts in late August. If you would like to donate a backpack and/or supplies you can drop them off at the church and put them in the back pew, in front of the office door. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation or gift cards, it is always helpful and greatly appreciated. If you have questions, please contact Sue.

There are supply list for each building elementary, middle, and high school printed out and placed on the counter of the Welcome Center (also attached to the booster). Supplies for any grade level are welcome and will get to the appropriate school before school starts. As always your support is always appreciated and a blessing in helping those that may not be able to purchase the needed supplies to start the school year.

It won't be long before practices will begin for both the Bell & Chancel Choirs. New members are always welcome and encouraged to join. Practice start date will be announced soon. Join the fun!





What Is the Presence of God?

What is the presence of God? Christians often talk about “seeking God’s presence” or praying for God “to be present with us in this place.” But what exactly does that mean?

Psalm 16:11 says, “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.” It’s in God’s presence that we find the fullness of joy. And, as Nehemiah 8:10 tells us, “The joy of the Lord is [our] strength.” It’s in

God’s presence where we receive correction, direction, comfort, and assurance. God’s presence brings clarity to our confusion, and hope in place of despair. God’s presence is everything to us. He shows up in surprising ways in our stories. And even in seasons of silence, we can learn from Him.

God’s Presence Is Dynamic

God is not subject to our formulas. He won’t fit in our boundaries or boxes. He’s not limited by our small thinking. Isaiah 55:8–9 says God’s ways are higher and His thoughts are deeper, and His love is far greater than our minds can fathom. His Spirit moves like the wind, and we’re wise to catch sail when He breathes fresh life into us.

There’s nothing like God’s presence. Maybe that’s why we sometimes chase the sensational but miss the supernatural. We want to experience again what we experienced then. But in the process, might we rush right by the nuanced, miraculous ways God is showing up in our stories?

Christians sometimes say it’s unbiblical to ask for more of God’s presence because He’s omnipresent. Yet what about the psalms that cry out for more of God? And what about the verses that speak of God’s movement? When God intervenes in the affairs of men, everything changes. He sometimes draws near. Other times He distances Himself. Why? And what about His movement in your life? He occasionally lifts you up. Other times He tucks you in. Sometimes He establishes you. Other times He hides you.

God’s presence isn’t a static, unmoving entity stuck in inertia. His presence is a force. It’s powerful, moving, flowing, and breathing life into all creation. The God who put the stars in place is, right now, writing a story with your life that will take your breath away.

God’s Presence Is Power

When God made Himself known in the Old Testament, even the most righteous souls were at once terrified. Though these men and women faithfully obeyed God and sought hard after Him, they were undone when they encountered Him.

In the New Testament, it’s quite the same. Peter, James, and John saw Jesus transformed before their eyes. Matthew 17:2 tells us that when Jesus was on the mountain, His “face shone like the sun, and his

clothes became as white as the light.” When God’s voice thundered from heaven, the men fell facedown and were terrified.

Later, in [John 18](#), we see that when the Roman soldiers came to arrest Jesus and He asked who they were looking for, they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” Jesus stepped forward and said, “I am he.” And the sheer power that flowed from those words knocked a large contingent of soldiers off their feet. Jesus proved that they weren’t taking His life; He was freely giving it.

God’s presence is power. He has no rival. [Psalm 73:26](#) says God is the strength of our hearts and our portion forever. So why doesn’t everyone long for more of His presence?

God’s Presence Is Healing

When Jesus ministered healing and wholeness to the broken and hurting, some of the townspeople begged Him to stay, while others begged Him to leave. Why such different responses? I’ve noticed in Scripture that whenever God revealed His majesty and power, people had to make a choice: to move toward God or away from Him.

The fact that our star-breathing God looks upon this pebble of a planet and takes great care to know about every detail of our lives is invitation enough to seek Him in ways you and I never have before. As we pursue the heart of God, through the Word of God, we more clearly understand the presence of God.

God is omnipresent—meaning He’s here, there, everywhere all at the same time—so no matter what you’re going through today or worried about facing tomorrow, He is closer than you can imagine, and His presence changes everything.

The God of creation cares deeply about every detail of our personal lives. He’s in charge of every galaxy and has named every star. He also knows about the hurts in our hearts and the hairs on our heads. He’s near and far. His glory fills the universe, and yet He’s up close and involved.

Though we believe in our minds that God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present, sometimes we don’t feel his closeness. How can we walk boldly in our faith, expecting Him to draw near to us as we draw near to Him, as promised in the book of James? In [*Closer Than Your Next Breath*](#), bestselling author, speaker, and radio host Susie Larson helps readers experience God’s trustworthiness and love—even when they feel far from Him. In this book, readers will explore these questions and more:

- How do I know if I’m hearing the voice of God?
- Is feeling good the same as feeling God?
- Is there anything I can do when God seems silent?
- How should God’s presence impact me?

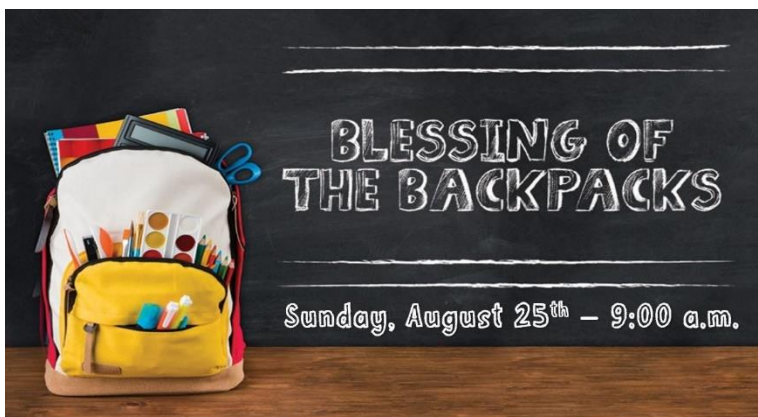
There's nothing like God's presence in our lives, but sometimes we chase the sensational and miss the supernatural. Worship services, retreats or conferences, and mountaintop experiences are great, but too often we rush right by the nuanced, miraculous ways God shows up in our story every day. When we pursue the heart of God through the Word of God, that's when we experience the presence of God—and it makes all the difference in our lives.

Adapted from Closer Than Your Next Breath: Where is God When You Need Him Most?. By Susie Larson, published by HarperCollins Christian Publishing, the parent company of Bible Gateway. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, August 15, 2023..

We all experience darkness in our lives. It is generally something we try to avoid. We avoid the literal darkness with artificial light so that the view of the stars at night is diminished even in my backyard, in a small town. Our reliance on artificial light changes our body's natural rhythms, and it is usually not for the overall betterment of our health. The same is true in our spiritual lives. When we encounter dark moments, we rely on the artificial fixes of "happiness" through our various addictions from alcohol to TV to shopping. When Jesus calls us to follow him, he calls us to take up our cross and follow him. The cross is where human mortality, brokenness, sickness, confusion, agony, and loneliness have been embraced. To truly live and find redemption is to go through the night of the cross with Christ and with others. Do you have the courage to follow Jesus?



Grace and peace,
Pastor David B. Clark



Join us on Sunday, August 25th 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.