



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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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, Pastor David

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

What is the Church?

When you hear the word church, what do you think of? A building with stained glass windows or maybe a steeple? Singing on Sunday mornings or listening to a sermon? Those things might all be part of your experience, but the church isn't just a building or a meeting. Simply put, the church is the people of God. It's made up of people around the world and throughout history who have devoted themselves to Jesus Christ as their Savior. It's best described as a family of brothers and sisters who have all been adopted by God and are participating in God's mission to restore creation. That means when you decide to give your life to Jesus, you are adopted into a global family that has been growing throughout all of history. You're a part of the same church as Moses, Peter, and Mary.

A Family of Christ-Followers

As a family of believers united in Christ, the church is expressed in many different local congregations. It doesn't matter what denomination you're a part of or whether your congregation meets in a church building, a school gym, or someone's house. All believers are united in Christ.

Continued on page 2

"You can get everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want." Zig Ziglar

*"Inspiration does exist, but it must find you working."
Pablo Picasso*

Reminders

September 7th

12th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
PK-6 S.S. during the message
Jr/Sr High S.S. – 10:30 a.m.
Communion Sunday

September 9th

Mat Making (Loom Room) 1:00 p.m.

September 10th

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.
Bell Choir – 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.

September 11th

T.O.P.S.
Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries
Sign up at the Welcome Counter

****Worship Assistants are needed
October**

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

Sunday Service

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Shenandoah First United Methodist Church

September 7, 2024

9:00 a.m. – Communion Sunday

Exodus 14:5-14

Church continued from page 1.

And just like any other family, we might disagree on some things, but we don't walk out on one another. First Corinthians 12:27 describes the church family as the body of Christ, made up of many members who all work together. A body won't fully function if it's missing an arm or a leg, or a nose; everyone is needed.

We were not meant to walk the Christian life alone. In John 13:35, Jesus told his disciples that everyone would know they were his followers by the love they had for one another. We're meant to love and encourage one another, hold one another accountable, and work together meeting each other's needs through the good and bad times and through it all, demonstrating God's love at work in our lives.

For Reflection

- What does being part of God's family mean to you?
- What can you do to actively love, encourage, and serve a fellow brother or sister in Christ this week?

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Who Were the Very First Christians?

Following Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, thousands of Jews became believers. The period from roughly A.D. 30 to 100 saw the glory of the first Pentecost, the struggle of the church to organize for mission, the conversion of Saul (Paul), the mission to the Gentiles, and the spread of the faith to Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch, the three greatest cities of the Roman Empire.

The day of Pentecost came 50 days after the offering of the first grain (Leviticus 23:10, 15, 16) at the Passover observances.

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

*Michelle Morelock - Chair
Mary Peterson - Secretary
Margaret Brady - Vice Chair & Trustee
Roger Jones - Trustee
Bob Lynn - SPRC
Barb Lundgren - 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 –
Starting September 7th.
PK-6 during service
Jr/Sr High 10:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday
Praise Team – 5:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.
Bell Choir – 6:30 p.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

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.



How long did Ishmael
(son of Abraham) live?

- a) 100 years
- b) 112 years
- c) 137 years
- d) 150 years

From under whose table did
70 kings pick up scraps?

- a) Gideon
- b) Sisera
- c) Adoni-bezek
- d) Solomon

Who did God command to lie
on his side and siege
Jerusalem for many days?

- a) Hoshea
- b) Isaiah
- c) Elijah
- d) Ezekiel

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



7th – Dixie Major
8th – Dennis Bailey
11th – Doug McElroy, Zack Zwickle
12th – Brandy Pease
13th – Phil Grossman

****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: When fear rises and the way forward is unclear,

People: God is our refuge and strength.

L: When the past calls us back with its false promises of safety,

P: God is our deliverer and guide.

L: Come, beloved people of God, stand firm and be still.

P: For the Lord is with us, making a way through the wilderness.

“What Are We Leaving Behind?”

Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:5-14

Songs

O God, Our Help In Ages Past #117

Still #3134

Be Still, My Soul #534

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 49

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 August 31st are c) Beth-shemesh b) Jordan c) 3rd
Quiz hints – Q1) Genesis Q2) Judges Q3) Ezekiel**



September 2025

Cinnamon Applesauce, Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Apricots, Pasta (especially spaghetti noodles), Soda or Graham Crackers, Microwave Popcorn, Muffin, Cake, and Brownie Mixes, Macaroni & Cheese, Chunky Style Soup, Potato Flakes & Boxed Potatoes, Canned Chicken or Tuna, Shampoo.

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 know of anyone who would be interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry, please have them contact Jeannine K. Liljedahl at 712-215-2488.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday
to Deliver Meals
Sign-Up Sheet is on the
Welcome Center Counter**

First Christians continued from page 2.

It was a celebration of the wheat harvest, with pilgrims gathering from various nations of the Roman world. The crowd included Jews living outside of the Holy Land, as well as Gentiles who had accepted the Jewish faith. Luke lists their homelands beginning in the East, then in Asia Minor, and on to other Mediterranean areas—North Africa, Rome, and Crete (Acts 2:9-11).

The Pentecost was quickly followed by the birth of the church, as distinct from a mere Jewish sect. The Good News also spread beyond Jerusalem with believers meeting in the temple courts, Jewish synagogues, and in private homes.

Philip and the Samaritan

The Samaritans were the first non-Jews to be evangelized by the early church. Philip “proclaimed the Messiah” to the Samaritans (Acts 8:5), and their reception of Philip’s message about the kingdom of God and about Jesus Christ was a significant step in the spread of the gospel. Samaritans were considered heretics by orthodox Jews, and they were receiving the gospel. Perhaps the Samaritans accepted the gospel more readily than Jews because they did not have to unlearn previous misconceptions about the coming Messiah. As the apostles continued to preach in many villages of Samaria, Samaritans became an accepted part of the church (Acts 8:25).

Kandake’s Ethiopian Eunuch Believes

Luke gives us much information about the person that Philip evangelized and eventually baptized. The man was from Ethiopia, was a eunuch, served a queen as her treasurer, and had gone to worship in Jerusalem (Acts 8:27). This new convert’s background makes his conversion to Christianity significant.

God himself made it clear that Gentiles should be included in his church. Ethiopia was an area south of Egypt. Because Ethiopia (Cush) and Egypt were so close geographically, they are often mentioned together in Scripture (see Psalm 68:31; Ezekiel 30:4; Nahum 3:9). But Ethiopia is not close to Jerusalem, so Kandake’s eunuch had traveled from a distant location.

Kandake is not a personal name but a title, like pharaoh. As the pharaoh was king of Egypt, so the Kandake was queen of Meroe, a kingdom on the Nile River south of Egypt. From Acts 8:27, it appears that “Kandake” could be used as a name for Meroe’s queens just as “Pharaoh” was used as a name for Egypt’s kings. The eunuch worked for someone of high authority.

His position added to his status since, as the queen’s treasurer, he exercised great authority. It was common in Eastern countries for eunuchs to hold positions of high authority in a queen’s court. This eunuch was an important person.

Nevertheless, he was a eunuch, and eunuchs were excluded from religious service in Israel (Deuteronomy 23:1). The law prohibited them from serving as priests, who were required to have a whole body, free from blemishes (Leviticus 21:17–20). The eunuch could worship in Jerusalem and read the sacred Scriptures (Acts 8:28), but could not be a full member of the Jewish religion.

This eunuch represents a significant conversion to Christianity. With him, the Christian faith reached out to a distant land, to someone in the service of a queen, to someone who himself had a high position. More importantly, it reached out to one who was previously an “outsider” to Israel’s religion.

The God-Fearing Cornelius

Caesarea Maritima, the home of Cornelius, served as the capital for the province of Judea. The city contained the residence for the Roman governor of Judea, as well as a regular Roman garrison (Acts 10:1). A legion of the Roman army comprised of ten cohorts; five cohorts of about 600 soldiers each were stationed at Caesarea, while another cohort remained garrisoned on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Centurions like Cornelius commanded units, called centuries, that generally averaged 80 men. In contrast to high-class Romans who aspired to higher offices, centurions usually began as regular soldiers and worked their way up through the ranks. Army service for males usually began around age 17, and roughly half of the enlistees who survived the required 20 years of service were highly rewarded.

The devout Cornelius (Acts 10:2) was a member of the “God fearers,” a class of religious people named in many ancient Jewish sources. God-fearers, while not full converts to Judaism, did respect Israel’s God and his teachings. Inscriptions reveal that many soldiers were interested in foreign religions like Judaism.

Roman custom expected members of a household (whether wives and children or servants) to follow the religion of the head of the household. It was thus natural for Cornelius to have spread his faith to “all his family” (Acts 10:2).

It’s not exactly clear who was part of Cornelius’s household since Roman regulations prohibited soldiers from marrying. Officials usually looked the other way while soldiers stationed in various places held illegal concubines, but centurions, who were moved more frequently, probably developed fewer relationships even with concubines. Unless Cornelius was retired or, as often happened, was breaking official rules, his household may have consisted primarily of servants (Acts 10:7).

Peter’s ministry to the Gentile household of Cornelius was accepted by the Jerusalem church only after Peter convinced them that the Gentiles had become believers in the same sense as had Jesus’ followers, who were filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 11:1– 18).

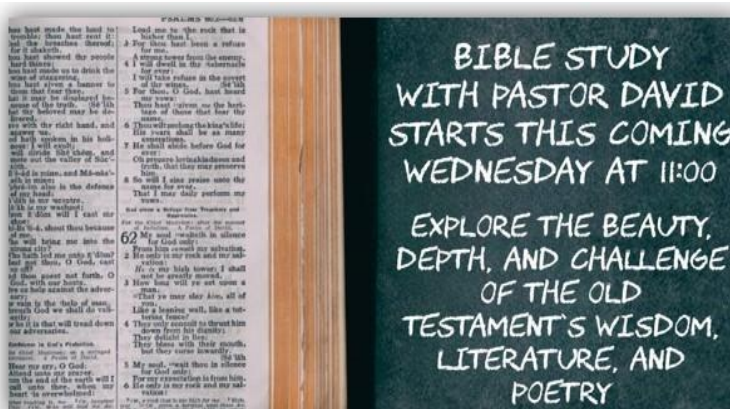
The First Gentile Church

The first church to include Gentile Christians was the church at Antioch (Acts 11:26). More innovative than the Jerusalem church, Antioch became the center of missionary outreach to Gentiles, yet still maintained close ties with Jerusalem. Eventually, the Jerusalem church acknowledged acceptance of Gentiles (Acts 11:18), and Antioch became a center of the Gentile church.

It was in Antioch that the disciples were identified with the term “Christian” (Acts 11:22-24), a term appearing only twice elsewhere in Scripture (Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). The term “Christian” likely originated with the Gentile population in Antioch, rather than with the followers of Christ themselves. The

Gentiles, being unfamiliar with Jewish religion, could have thought “Christ” was a name, rather than recognizing it as a title for the Messiah. Thus, by about A.D. 46, the Antiochan Gentiles had distinguished the “Christians” from both Jews and pagans.

Adapted from the study notes in the NIV Chronological Study Bible. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, August 25, 2025.



Come join in the fun!
Each Wednesday
Chancel Choir - 5:30 p.m.
Bell Choir - 6:30 p.m.

There are 15 individuals each week that need the booster delivered to them because they have no email account. Two of the delivery spots have multiple people so there is not 15 individual stops. Bill Dawson has been delivering some of the boosters but will not be able to continue. If you would be interested in delivering the booster each Thursday or if two people would be interested and split the 15 individuals please contact the office. Your help would be greatly appreciated.



*Bring Your Change
to Make a Change*

*Collected each Sunday after
the children's message*



Each of you should GIVE what you have decided in YOUR HEART to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for GOD LOVES a cheerful GIVER.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

The Noisy Offering is one more way to do ministry for those in need and teach your children the importance of giving and serving. Each Sunday a new opportunity for mission giving will take place after the Children's Message. Sunday School students will walk around the congregation, collecting your loose coins and currency in their colorful metal pails. This

would be a good time to clean out the loose change from your pockets or purse. The money donated in September will go to the **Shenandoah Community Schools – School Nurses**.

Dear Church Family,

This Sunday, we begin a new sermon series: “Questions in the Wilderness.” The wilderness is more than just a desert in the Bible—it is the place of testing, discovery, and growth. God’s people often found themselves there with more questions than answers. And if we’re honest, so do we. Times of uncertainty, change, or struggle often bring us to ask: “Where is God? What comes next? How will we make it through?”



Our first story comes from Exodus 14:5–14. Trapped between Pharaoh’s army and the Red Sea, the Israelites cry out in fear: “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?” It’s a question born of panic, but also of honesty. And into that moment, Moses speaks a word of trust: “The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

In our own wilderness seasons, God meets us too—not always with quick solutions, but with presence, courage, and the promise of deliverance.

As we begin this journey together, may we bring our questions honestly before God, and may we find, even in the wilderness, that God is leading us through.

Grace and peace,
Pastor David Clark - 308-258-7749 (cell)