



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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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, Drew Morelock,

Pastor David



High Road Leadership

In life and leadership, people sometimes treat you badly. That is an unavoidable fact. When you are treated in this manner, you have three options.

You can take —

- The low road where you treat people worse than they treat you
- The middle road where you treat people the same as they treat you
- The high road where you treat people *better* than they treat you

Leaders commit to taking the high road when others — intentionally or unintentionally — do you wrong. We all mess up. We all have annoying quirks, and there are times when we're not pleasant to be around. When you recognize your humanness and know you need and have received grace, you are more open to taking the high road and extending grace to others.

No one takes the high road by accident. You must consciously choose that path. The high road is not the easiest— it goes uphill and takes more effort to travel — but it is the only road that leads to the highest levels of living and leading.

Find encouragement in the words of Kent M. Keith, who wrote “The Paradoxical Commandments.” They will help you to choose the high road in your life and leadership:

Continued on page 2

“Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.” Doug Larson

“In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.” Mark Twain

Reminders

March 9th

PK-6 S.S.– After Children’s Message
Jr/Sr High S.S. – 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation Class – 10:30 a.m.

March 11th

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

March 12th

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

March 13th

T.O.P.S.
Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries

****Worship Assistants are needed
March 30 & April 27th**

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

High Road - Continued from page 1.

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.
Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.
Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. *Be honest and frank anyway.*

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.
Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.
Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
Build anyway.

People need help but may attack you if you do help them.
Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you’ll get kicked in the teeth.
Give the world the best you have anyway.

Leaders don’t take the high road because it’s the only available option, but because it’s the best option. High roaders aren’t victims — they’re victors.

The author of Proverbs states, “A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense” (Proverbs 19:11). When you respond to ill-treatment with grace and forgiveness, you display an admirable character that elevates you in the eyes of others and allows you to experience the High Road Principle: You go to a higher level when you treat others better than they treat you.

Adapted from the NIV Maxwell Leadership Bible. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, February 24, 2025.



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
Open - 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 –
PK-6 during service,
Jr/Sr High 10:30 a.m.**

Wednesday

****Choir –5:30 pm**
****Bell Choir –6:30 pm**

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.



Who was the keeper of King Artaxerxes' forest in the book of Nehemiah?

- a) Shealtiel
- b) Sheshbazzar
- c) Mithredath
- d) Asaph

After how many years did Paul go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas?

- a) 3 years
- b) 5 years
- c) 7 years
- d) 9 years

Who was the only disciple of Jesus to walk on water?

- a) Peter
- b) John
- c) Andrew
- d) Judas

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



11th – Marsha Stribling
14th – Jenna Burdorf
15th – Roger & Sonya Jones

****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 we call on the Lord,

People: God will answer.

L: God will be with us in trouble.

P: to rescue and honor us.

L: Let us make the Lord our refuge, the Most High our dwelling place.

P: Let us worship God.

“Challenge #1: Wilderness”

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:28-36

Songs

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God #110

A Wilderness Wandering People #3113

Take Time to Be Holy #395

Last Week’s Attendance

In-Person Worship – 86

On-Line Worship – 18

Ash Wednesday – In-Person-26, On-Line-4

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 March 2nd are c) Samson b) Chloe’s people c) 10,000
Quiz hints – Q1) Nehemiah Q2) Galatians Q3) Matthew**



Food Pantry Monthly Needs

March 2025

Pasta (any variety, especially spaghetti), Chili Beans (canned), Dry Pinto Beans, Pineapple, Cinnamon Applesauce, Mandarin Oranges, Macaroni & Cheese, Tuna & Chicken Helpers, Cake & Brownie Mix, Potato Flakes & Boxed Potatoes, Stuffing Mix, Chunky Style Soup, Shampoo & Conditioner, Bar Soap.

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.

NOISY OFFERING MARCH 2025



Noisy Offering – March

“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 March will go to **Heifer International**.

Anxiety & Self Care

Presented by Pastor Carla Johnson

Join us as we explore God's Word for wisdom, insight and answers to the many questions that surround the topics of anxiety as well as soul & self care.



Saturday March 29, 2025
From 9:00-11:30 a.m.
Fellowship time at 8:45 a.m.

The cost for this event is \$10--for Materials and snacks

Hosted by the Methodist Women in Mission
Clarinda Methodist Church
923 West State Street
Clarinda, Iowa 51632

Registration: Text your name and your church name to (712) 621-1804

Psalm 94:19

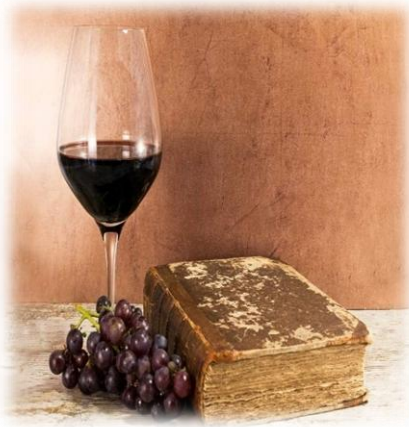
"When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy!"

SOUP & CHILI COOK OFF



St. John's Episcopal Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Community of Christ Church, the First Congregational Church, and the First Presbyterian Church of Shenandoah will host a Soup Cook-Off fundraiser for Heifer International at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Shenandoah on March 16th beginning at 5 p.m. Anyone may bring a crock pot of soup or chili between 4:30 and 4:50 p.m. or you may come and enjoy all of the soups.

People will be able to vote for their favorite soups with cash. A prize will be awarded for the soup that raises the most money. Donations may also be placed in a Free Will donation can. All the proceeds will go to Heifer International.



Wine in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation: A Comprehensive Study

References to wine and wine-related themes abound in the Bible, and yet few understand how deeply the theme of wine is woven into God's story of creation, provision, and redemption. Wine in the Bible is presented as a gift and tangible blessing from God. It is to bring us joy (Psalm 104:15) and help us connect more deeply with God, each other, and the land that God provides for his people.

1 Kings 4:25 presents a beautiful yet humble vision of how God desires his people to live: Israel and Judah, under the rule of Solomon, live in peace and safety, each under their vine and fig tree. It is not a vision of grand landowners but of small farmers with just enough land to provide for their daily needs and a little extra for feasts and celebrations and to share with those in need.

In Biblical times wine was understood not as a luxury or elitist beverage but as the primary drink, a food item, and a daily necessity. Wine is nutritious and was used for medicinal purposes. It had important religious and economic roles, and the enjoyment of wine was deeply woven into the social fabric of God's people living on God's land:

- The Israelites offered wine at the temple as a sacrifice, and it had an important role in religious celebrations such as the Sabbath, the Passover meal, and the Feast of Harvest (Lev. 23).
- It was enjoyed regularly at family meals and celebrations such as weddings, birthdays, and the weaning of children.
- Jesus' first miracle was transforming water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana.
- And in the Lord's Supper Jesus elevates wine to new heights as this tangible and precious gift of wine now speaks of Christ's precious blood shed on the cross.

But to fully understand the complex way the theme of wine is woven throughout the Bible we must go all the way back to the beginning.

Wine in Genesis: God the Master Farmer

The Bible presents God as the Creator of the whole world, including all fruit-growing trees and plants that serve to feed both humans and animals (Genesis 1-2, Psalm 104).

Scripture envisions God as the master farmer who enables all things to grow and flourish upon his earth (Gen. 2:9, Psalm 104:10-16). Agricultural abundance is a sign of God's blessing upon his people who are called to live in covenant faithfulness with him.

This is foundational for understanding the theme and role of wine in the Bible: a gift from God and an expression of God's benevolence upon his people whom he set apart to reflect his presence and character on the earth so that all the nations might be blessed.

Noah, Man of the Earth and the Vine

The first person in the Bible to plant a vineyard and craft wine is Noah, who like Adam, is called a man of the earth (Gen. 9). After the flood, God makes a covenant with Noah and all living creatures and reiterates his command to Noah to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.

It is striking that Noah, rather than planting grains, a fast-yielding crop, plants a vineyard. It takes years before a vineyard produces significant fruit.

Planting a vineyard was an act of faith in God's future. Wine would bring comfort, and joy and elevate simple feasts and the celebrations of an agrarian community weighed down by heavy labor and strenuous life conditions.

Noah is also the first person to get drunk in the Bible, and like all people and cultures had to learn how to handle alcohol and drink wine with wisdom.

Wine in Proverbs: Wisdom and Warnings

In Proverbs, we see how the Hebrew tradition had evolved and gained wisdom and guidelines for how to enjoy wine wisely (Prov. 3:9-10; 9:1-6; 20:1; 23:20-21, 30-35; 31:4-7, 10-20). Proverbs reminds us that wine is a gift and an agricultural blessing from God that we are not to take for granted (3:9-10). Proverbs even compares wisdom to a woman who prepares a feast that includes rich food and wine (9:1-6).

Given that wine was held in such high esteem, it is not surprising that Proverbs includes some stern warnings against drunkenness and the abuse of wine (20:1; 23:20-22). It even describes the state of drunkenness and the consequential hangover to deter the young from getting drunk (23:30-35). It also discourages leaders from consuming too much wine and alcohol lest they are tempted to abuse their position and oppress the poor (31:4-5). But to the dying and those experiencing severe suffering Proverbs commends drinking wine and strong drink as it can bring comfort and some relief (31:6-7).

Finally, Proverbs celebrates the noble, wise, and industrious wife who exemplified wisdom in all she did. Like Noah, she plants a vineyard and invests in God's future for the well-being of her family and community (31:10-20). This is a rather nuanced and wise approach to wine that sets solid boundaries around wine and alcohol consumption.

Wine in Israel's History: The Fruitfulness of the Land

From the time of Noah, wine, vines, and vineyards became regular features in the biblical narrative.

Jacob's Blessings: Washing His Garments in Wine

When Jacob serves game and wine to (deceptively) seek the firstborn's blessing from his father, blind Isaac passes on the family inheritance and God's blessing to Jacob, saying "May God give you of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine (Gen. 27:28,37). For the first time, wine is directly associated with God's blessing upon a family clan.

Agricultural abundance is not a secular matter in the Bible but a gift and direct blessing from God's benevolent hands. When Jacob in turn blesses his son Judah, the abundance of vines and wine gains even more significance: "The scepter will not depart from Judah ... He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of the grapes" (Gen. 49:10-12, NIV). The bounty that his poetic blessing invokes now focuses solely on vines and wine with extravagant visions of tree-like vines with a great abundance of wine flowing like a river in which to wash clothes.

The Valley of Grapes and the Fruit of the Land

When the Israelites arrive at the border of the Promised Land Moses sends out spies — and interestingly this happens during harvest time (Num. 13:20). The spies come across a valley with massive vines and grape clusters on them. They name this valley Wadi Eshkol (Hebrew for 'grape cluster,' Num. 13:24). Surely this land was blessed by God!

When Moses declares God's blessing on the Israelites just before they are to enter the Promised Land, this blessing includes the fruitfulness of the land — especially grain, wine, and olive oil (Deut. 6:11-12; 7:12-13; 8:8; 33:28).

The vision of 1 Kings 4:25 that each tribe was to live in peace and safety with each family under their vine and fig tree was the life that God wanted to provide for his people. At the temple, the Israelites brought sacrificial offerings (Exod. 29:40; Lev. 23:9-14; Num. 15:5,7,10; 18:12,27; 28:14, Deut. 14:22-23). It reminded the Israelites that all the fruit of the land was a gift from God and part of the covenant blessings, not to be hoarded but to be shared. Those that had plenty were to share it with those in need such as the poor, the widows, and orphans (Lev. 19:9-10; Deut. 23:24; 24:21).

The Prophets: Sour Grapes Yield Bitter Wine

The sad oracles of the prophets, however, tell the story of a people unfaithful to God's covenant as they turned justice into violence and self-indulgence and neglected the poor and needy. Here the prophets use the vine, vineyard, and wine to speak metaphorically of God's people as an unfruitful vineyard and vine that only produces sour grapes. God's judgment is compared to a wine press, bitter wine, and a bitter cup of wine (God's wrath). He will remove his protection from his people (a vineyard) and they will have to go into exile (Isa. 3:13-15, 5:1-8,11-13,22, 51:17,22; 63:1-6; Jer. 2:21; 6:9; 8:13; 25:15-18, 27-28, Lam. 1:15; Ezek. 15:1-6; 17:1-12, 19:10, 23:32-34; Hosea 2:8-10, 10:1-2; Joel 3:13).

And yet, the prophets also speak of God's redemption and restoration of his people. God will heal their disloyalty, and his people shall flourish once more like a vine (Isa. 27:1-6; Hosea 14:1,4-7). When the prophets speak of God's future redemption they speak of a new messianic age with a renewed outpouring of God's Spirit. Peace will return and God will restore his people to the land and its fruitfulness. God will bless them once more with abundant harvests of grain, oil, and plenty of wine. Feast and celebrations, and wine flowing in great abundance will be a mark of this coming age (Isa. 2:4, 25:6-8, 55:1-3; Jer. 31:3-6,12; Hosea 2:18-23; Joel 2:18-19, 21-24, 3:18; Amos 9:13-15; Mic. 4:3-4; Zech. 3:10, 8:12-13, 9:16-17).

Wine in the New Testament: The One True Vine

It is to these prophetic expectations that Jesus speaks and acts when he performs his first miracle at Cana and transforms an abundance of water into choice wine (John 2:1-11). On one level this miracle is a profound affirmation of the importance of family celebrations. The Son of God joins in the celebrations of ordinary people, shares their joys, and deepens their joys. Let that sink in for a while.

On another level, this first of Jesus's signs revealed that in Jesus God's presence and kingdom has come once more to his people. Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one, whom God sent to deliver his people. Wine, with its great potential for beauty, complexity, subtlety, and aging, speaks to God's eternal purposes in bringing life, salvation, and blessings in the form of abundant agricultural provision to his people.

Jesus and his family enjoyed wine regularly, like most Israelites, and his ministry was shaped by eating and drinking wine with sinners and saints alike. This was probably the reason his fellow Hebrews accused him of being a drunkard: "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" (Matt. 11:19; Luke 7:34 NRSVUE).

Jesus drew on the world of agriculture — including wine — to teach about the Kingdom of God, using wineskins, new and old wine, and the vine to speak about his own life and mission as he gathered disciples to follow and remain in him (Matt. 9:17; Mark 2:22; Luke 5:37-39, John 15).

The apostle Paul, too, affirms wine as a gift from God and emphasizes the health benefits of wine (1 Tim. 4:3-4) while also warning against drunkenness (1 Cor. 5:11; Gal. 5:21).

Jesus and his family celebrated the Passover annually and enjoyed four cups of wine as the evening unfolded and they retold the story of the Exodus. When Jesus reinterprets the Passover celebrations in light of his own life, ministry, and sacrificial death, he elevates wine to new heights as wine now speaks of Christ's blood shed on the cross (Matt. 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 2:14; John 13:1-4; 1 Cor. 11:23-25).

And just like Jews reserved a cup of wine for Elijah at the Passover celebrations, expectant that God would deliver them once more, so does Jesus use the cup of wine to stir expectations for the future: "I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matt. 26:29 NRSVUE). The future lies in God's hand and Christ will return to complete the work that he has begun.

Adapted from author, Gisela H. Kregliner, *Cup Overflowing*. BibleGateway News & Knowledge, February 28, 2025.





Lent is upon us. This is a season in which we intentionally focus on our spiritual formation. We recognize that in order to grow, a letting go must first occur. The seed must be buried in the earth before the green shoots emerge. Lent is our time to dig deep and let go. On Sunday mornings we will explore some different challenges that are presented to us by Jesus in the gospels. Challenges are also a necessary component of growth. Not only a letting go, but there also must be resistance; something that forces us to get beyond our normal, our comfortable, and the status quo. Our challenges this Lent will be: 1) Wilderness, 2) Taming Your Anger, 3) Repentance, 4) Acceptance, and 5) Foolishness.

In the traditional Ash Wednesday service, these words are proclaimed by the pastor: "I invite you, therefore, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now keep silence before our Creator and Redeemer."

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

**This Weekend
March 9th**



Before you go to bed Saturday Night



*Pastor David will be out of
the office next week,
March 10th - 14th*