



Weekly Booster

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Facebook Contributors

Pastor Oliver Fabros,

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.*



When It Feels Like God Is Doing Too Little

In both the story of Jairus's daughter and the story of the woman with the bleeding condition (see Mark 5: 21-43), Jesus allows prolonged suffering, longer than either would have chosen. And yet those delays are not signs of neglect but part of his healing work. By allowing desperation to deepen, he brings healing not only to the body but also to the heart.

When it comes to healing, God often uses two kinds of means: the ordinary and the miraculous. We see both in this passage. For those of us in places like Nashville— sometimes called the “Silicon Valley of health care”— this resonates deeply. Many in our churches and communities labor each day to ease suffering. Thanks to modern medicine, a cardiologist can guide a tiny camera through a heart, place a stent, and send a patient home by dinner. These marvels are ordinary means, yet still gifts from God.

And still even the best medicine has limits. Each Sunday, pastors look into congregations filled with people who, like the woman in Mark 5, have tried everything. After twelve years of suffering, her health has worsened. She has spent all she has. She's exhausted and isolated. Her story mirrors the ache of many today.

Having served as a pastor for thirty years, I've witnessed the toll of unhealed suffering. Often people turn to Jesus only when every other option has failed.

Continued on page 2

*“Success is how you bounce
when you hit bottom.”*
George S. Patton

*“You know you are on the
road to success if you would
do your job, and not be paid
for it.”* Oprah Winfrey

Reminders

July 19th

Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
No PK-6 S.S. & Jr/Sr High
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Men's Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.

July 22nd

Praise Team – 4:00 p.m.
No Bell or Chancel Choirs until fall

July 16th

T.O.P.S.

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

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

Fellowship Volunteers and treats
needed, sign up in Fellowship Hall

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026

Shenandoah First United Methodist Church
Service 9:00 AM

When It Feels Like - continued from page 1.

But here is the good news: Even when we come to him as a last resort, Jesus meets us not with disappointment but with compassion. He welcomes our desperate prayers even when our faith feels tattered and small.

For the bleeding woman, physical suffering is only part of her pain. Her condition has left her ceremonially unclean, cut off from touch, community, and dignity. While Jairus approaches Jesus publicly and with status, she comes in secret—ashamed, unnoticed, and uncertain of her worth. Her faith is real, but hesitant. She doesn't stand tall before Jesus. She reaches from behind, hoping not to be seen.

But Jesus refuses to let her remain hidden.

In a culture where women are often known only by their relationships—daughter of, wife of, mother of—this woman has been known only by her affliction. For twelve long years, she's had no advocate, no voice, no name that carries affection. But Jesus gives her one. With a single word—daughter—he restores what suffering has taken. He names her not by what she's endured but by what she's worth.

This is more than a healing. It's a royal decree.

Her identity isn't explained, earned, or negotiated. It is bestowed. This is how the Mercy King reigns: by restoring what has been stolen and naming those who feel forgotten. He does not merely heal bodies, he reclaims souls. He wields power not to dominate but to mend and make whole.

Jairus's need is no less urgent. His daughter is dying. A respected synagogue leader, he humbles himself before Jesus with a plea that sounds like both a father's anguish and a disciple's hope: "Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." Every second matters. He has rushed through the streets, Jesus by his side. And now, as Jesus stops to tend to another, Jairus waits—helpless, watching the clock.

And then the news comes: "Your daughter is dead."

What must that moment have felt like?

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.



The lineage of Ezra
could be traced back
to?

- a) Moses
- b) Aaron
- c) Joshua
- d) Sheshbazzar

Who made two golden calves
for Israel to worship?

- a) Korah
- b) Absalom
- c) Shimei
- d) Jeroboam

Who were bribed against
Judah during the building of
the temple in the book of
Ezra?

- a) Counselors
- b) Elders
- c) Kinsmen
- d) Young men

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



20th – Don & Rita Rorebeck

21st – Sherri Hiser

23rd – Shannon Harris, Alan Hutchison,
Mike & Vicki Briggs

24th – Terry Stafford

25th – Janie Casteel, Marilyn Bayless

****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

L: We gather today to worship the One who created us,

P: The One who calls us,

L: The One who equips us,

P: The One who loves us without end.

L: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

All: Amen!

"The Parable of the Cocklebur's"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:14-30, 36-43

Songs

Shout to the Lord #2074

Shine, Jesus, Shine #2173

I'll Fly Away #2282

People Need the Lord #2244

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 57

Online Worship – 16

Our Vision:

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

**Answers for July 12th are d) Zechariah d) 8 b) Unclean, unclean!
Quiz hints – Q1) Ezra Q2) 1 Kings Q3) Ezra**



July 2026

Hamburger, Tuna, and Chicken Helpers, Spices and Condiments, Sweet Potatoes (canned), Pasta (any kind), Spaghetti Noodles, Pineapple, Cinnamon Applesauce, Cookie and Muffin Mixes, Cereal, Macaroni & Cheese, Toilet Paper, 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 anyone who would be interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry, please contact Jeannine K. Liljedahl at 712-215-2488.



As our Chancel and Bell Choirs prepare for a well-deserved summer intermission, the stage is open and waiting for **you!**

We are looking for talented individuals or groups to fill our sanctuary with "Special Music" during the summer months. Whether you are a soloist, part of an ensemble, or play an instrument, this is your moment to share your gift with our community.

If you're ready to share your talent or have a recommendation, please **contact the office**. We are currently developing our summer schedule and would love to include you in our lineup.

When It Feels Like- continued from page 2.

The urgency had been real. The hope had been fragile. And now it seemed too late.

But Jesus operates on a different timeline, one in which delays are not denials but designs for deeper healing. By the time they reach the house, mourners are already weeping. When Jesus says, “The child is not dead but asleep,” they laugh. It sounds absurd. But Jesus sees what they cannot: Death is no match for his mercy.

Only a King with cosmic authority can speak to death as though it were sleep. Jesus doesn’t panic; he commands. His calm isn’t indifference, it’s sovereignty wrapped in love. He reigns over time, over decay, and even over the grave.

This scene echoes the grief and disorientation many of us feel in our own seasons of suffering. When God delays, when prayers go unanswered, when hope dims, we wonder whether he cares at all. The silence can feel unbearable. In moments like these we may resonate not with the heroes of faith but with those like Job’s wife. After losing ten children in a single day, she cries out in anguish, “Curse God and die!” Her words are often judged harshly, but who could endure such loss without despair?

Her pain is real. Her lament, raw. And while her words may falter, they reflect a wound that the Mercy King understands.

A surprising and sobering example of feeling abandoned by God in the midst of deep faith can be found in the life of Mother Teresa. Known around the world for her tireless work among the poor in Calcutta, she privately carried a burden few knew about— a heavy and prolonged sense of spiritual emptiness. In letters to her spiritual advisors, published after her death, she describes what she calls a “dark night of the soul,” marked by years of sensing God’s absence.

“I feel that God does not want me, that God is not God, and that he does not really exist,” she once wrote.

For Mother Teresa, the silence wasn’t occasional, it was constant. She longed for Jesus’ presence, yet often encountered only a sense of distance and void. It felt at times as though Christ had hidden his face. And yet in the absence of emotional reassurance, she continued to pray, serve, and persevere. Her life became a quiet, unwavering witness to a faith that often shines brightest not in clarity but in darkness.

Even in her struggle, she found a kind of fellowship with Christ—not through relief or resolution but through shared suffering. Her ache echoed Jesus’ cry on the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Identifying with that cry, she discovered a mysterious solidarity, a deeper connection with the one who bore abandonment for our sakes.

Her story reminds us that faith is not always accompanied by felt assurance. Sometimes it looks like showing up, loving others, and holding on, especially when God feels silent. Mother Teresa's perseverance bears witness to this: that Christ's redeeming love will ultimately transform all sorrow, even when it seems hidden in the moment.

This is the paradox of faith: It endures even when it cannot feel. And the question it leaves us with is this: When we face our own dark nights of the soul, will we press into God, or will we pull away?

To live in despair or to die in unbelief is a tragedy far deeper than suffering itself. When we place conditions on our faith, expecting God to meet our expectations before we extend trust, we risk disillusionment. We begin to relate to him not as children but as consumers.

It's like a child at the doctor's office. Imagine them squirming and crying as a parent gently restrains them so a nurse can administer a shot. In that moment, the child feels confused, maybe even betrayed. Why would someone who loves them allow this pain? But the parent knows this brief sting is a small price for something far greater: health, protection, long-term good.

In the same way, our suffering may feel like abandonment, but often it is love we don't yet understand. God is not indifferent. When it seems like God is holding us down or holding us back, in reality he is simply holding us—often unseen, always securely. What feels like absence will in time reveal itself as a deeper presence.

We may think he is doing too little.

But he is doing far more than we can comprehend.

Adapted from The Mercy King: How the Kindness of Jesus Heals Your Sin, Shame, and Weakness by Scott Sauls. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, July 6, 2026.





Elisha - Miracle Worker

Meaning of name: “God is salvation”

Ancestry and family life: Elisha was the son of Shaphat. Little else is known. He did request from Elijah that he be allowed to say good-bye to his parents so they were still living when he went to begin ministry. He was from the town of Abel Meholah. This was located on the west side of the Jordan river, between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea.

When and where he lived: Elisha lived during the ninth century B.C. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had already split off from Judah for a long time. It had become apostate. The people primarily worshiped Baal, partially because of the influence of Jezebel. Therefore Elisha would have stood out from the crowd and faced danger of persecution and death. His ministry spanned the reigns of Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash of the Northern Kingdom.

Training and occupation: Before Elisha was called to ministry it is evident that he was a farmer. He was plowing, probably on the family farm. However, when Elijah called him, he gave that up completely to follow Elijah and his ministry. From that time forth Elisha was a prophet. This was perhaps the most esteemed role during that time period. Prophets had a lot of authority as they spoke with the authoritative word from the Lord. Prophets counseled kings and individuals, challenged the people to follow the true God, pronounced judgment, performed miracles, and prophesied about future events. Although they were esteemed, their role was also a dangerous one. If they spoke against the king their lives could be in danger.

Elisha was trained by one of the most important figures in the history of Israel, Elijah. For a while after he begins to follow Elijah nothing is mentioned of him. He must have been merely observing and watching, learning by spending time with Elijah. Later, when Elijah was taken up to heaven, Elisha received a double portion of Elijah’s spirit (2 Kings 2:9). Elisha’s ministry was anointed by the power of God and he performed more miracles than any other individual in the Bible except for Jesus.

In addition, Elisha headed schools of prophets (2 Kings 4:38-44, 2 Kings 6:1-7).

Place in history: Elisha is not as well-known as Elijah. Perhaps it is because his character isn’t as brash or outspoken. But Elisha had a very important ministry that lasted from roughly 850 to 800 B.C. He advised four different kings. He was a light for God when Israel was in a very dark time period. His miracles proved Yahweh as the true God when the people were in danger of completely abandoning God and following after Baal.

Also, these miracles serve as an eternal reminder of God’s power. His life portrays God’s love for both the common people (the family with the new son, and the widow with debts) and the rich (Naaman). His name is mentioned fifty-nine times in the Bible. He is one of the most well-known prophets. Much material is devoted to him and his life provides us with many important and practical lessons.

Special traits:

1. Elisha was bald (2 Kings 2:23) – Unlike Elijah, he was not hairy. This was the excuse used by some young men to curse Elisha. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that being bald was not sought after in that culture! Thus we can conclude that he didn't have a handsome appearance.
2. Elisha was not a loner like Elijah – He didn't wander as much, but had a house in Samaria (2 Kings 6:32). He generally worked within the system, becoming the head of the order of prophets and acting as an adviser to the kings. Although at times he incurred their anger, normally they sought out his counsel (2 Kings 3:1-19, 8:1-6). Joash was sorry to see him die (13:14).
3. His ministry reached out to all classes of people, poor and rich, noble and peasants, Jews and foreigners.

Weaknesses:

1. Giving in to the masses (2 Kings 2:17) – In this passage Elijah had gone missing. All the people did not know where he was. Elisha had seen him taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire. And although the prophets believed him, some thought maybe had fallen out. So they tried to convince Elisha to send out search parties just in case. Elisha knew it was unnecessary, but finally he relented. This could be an example of giving in to peer pressure. However, since sending out search parties was not a sin and could give peace of mind to the people it was also reasonable for Elisha to agree to this. So it could be labeled as a "potential area of weakness" rather than an actual weakness.
2. As amazing as all of Elisha's miracles were, these did not come from his own power or ability. He was still a man. And he could accomplish nothing and heal no one unless it was by the power of God (2 Kings 4:27). This is not a sin problem, but it is a reminder that even the most gifted of God's servants are limited and only accomplish what they do by His power. In this aspect, every single one of us are weak and need to rely on God alone.

Strengths:

1. **Faith** – Elisha demonstrated faith in many different ways. When Elijah asked him what he would request, he requested a double portion of his spirit. This was no small thing according to Elijah. Elisha had the faith to ask big things of God (2 Kings 2:9). Elisha also had the faith to do many miracles. He could not have done these without strong faith in God. Many of these miracles were physically and scientifically impossible (such as the ax head). But Elisha believed. He had no doubt whatsoever that they would come to pass.
2. **Able to work within society** – One strength of Elisha's is that he was able to work within the system to affect positive change, but without compromise. There is a time and a place to reject the entire system and do our own thing and there is also a time and a place to work within earthly systems to change them from within. How can we discern between the two choices?
3. **Courage** – (See 2 Kings 6:8-23 and especially verse 16.) Elisha was not afraid of people, even the entire army of Aram when they surrounded the city in order to capture him. The source of his courage was his knowledge that God was in control and protecting him. He knew his very life was in God's hands so he was not afraid of people.

4. Love for the poor – (2 Kings 4:1-7) Elisha ministered to anyone and everyone who came to him for help. He didn't just help those who could help him. He helped the helpless. He helped those who couldn't pay back. This is pure and undefiled religion (James 1:27). He was also willing to help people even with small things. In one case a man came to him because he had borrowed an ax from his neighbor and accidentally lost the head in a pond. Elisha goes with him and miraculously helps him get it back (2 Kings 6:1-7.)

5. Dedication to God – (1 Kings 19:19-21) Elisha showed himself to be completely dedicated to God. See for example Luke 9:59-62. Jesus said that whoever takes his hand to plow, but looks back is not worthy for the kingdom of God. Look at the example of Elisha! He was a farmer. But he sacrificed the oxen he used to farm and burned them along with the yoke! He made a decision and didn't even leave the door open for himself to go back to his former life. What is your opinion about the fact that Elisha wanted to say good-bye to his parents?

6. Loyalty – (1 Kings 19:21, 2:2,4,6) Elisha was intensely loyal to Elijah. He ministered to him from the moment he was called. He stayed with him until the time when Elijah was taken up to heaven. He didn't seek his own glory, but wholeheartedly followed the leader God had put over him.

Important acts and events (all below verses are in 2 Kings):

1. Parts the Jordan River (2:13-14)
2. Makes Jericho spring drinkable (2:19-22)
3. Sends bears to punish irreverent youths (2:23-25)
4. Floods ditches to confuse Moabites (3:1-27)
5. Multiplies widow's oil (4:1-7)
6. Shunammite woman bears a son (4:8-17)
7. Resurrects Shunammite's son (4:18-37)
8. Purifies poisoned stew (4:38-44)
9. Heals Naaman's leprosy (5:1-14)
10. Gehazi struck with leprosy (5:15-27)
11. Floats lost ax head (6:1-7)
12. Gives special sight to the king's messenger (6:16-17)
13. Blinds the Aramean army (6:8-23)
14. His bones resurrect a dead man (13:20-21)

How he died: Elisha's death is interesting for several reasons. First of all, it is clear he was well-respected, even by those who didn't follow God. The evil king, Joash, mourned when Elisha was on his death bed and went to see him.

Secondly, even from on his death bed, he was still doing God's work. When the king came to visit him, he gave him the message from the Lord. He kept serving God right up until the moment of his death. He was a finisher.

Thirdly, even after his death God performed a miracle through Elisha's body, raising a man from the dead who touched Elisha's bones (2 Kings 13:14-21). This is evidence from God that validates Elisha's entire

ministry. The miracles couldn't have been tricks because Elisha was dead and there was still another miracle. They came only through God's power.

Lessons from his life:

1. Elisha is a great example of someone who followed God without looking back. He sacrificed the very things that supplied his livelihood. He didn't hold onto them "in case" his new way of life didn't work out. He didn't hedge his bets. He gave everything to God. What about us? When God calls us to a task, do we do it reluctantly? Do we try to hang on to the past and keep some form of our previous lives?

2. Do not be afraid to ask big things of God –

There was a little boy who was very excited about Christmas. In the weeks leading up to Christmas he saw a train set he really liked. He then begged and begged and begged his mom to buy it. He wouldn't take "no" for an answer. He was persistent even though his mom was reluctant. Christmas morning came and he opened up his gifts. He was very excited to find the train set that he had asked for.

Then his brother told him that his mom had already bought a bigger and much nicer one, but because of his persistence to buy that one, took back the better one and gave him the one he asked for.

Elisha was not afraid to ask for a big thing when Elijah talked with him. He had faith and God answered his request, making Elisha the successor (2 Kings 2:15) and in some ways even more influential than Elijah.

It is good to want to pray in the will of God, but if we know what the will of God is, pray it strongly and persistently without any doubt.

3. See and emulate Elisha's love for the poor (2 Kings 4:1-7) –

God has a heart for the poor and He showed that in Elisha's ministry. We shouldn't reach out just to those whom we like or feel comfortable with, to the educated or elite. As God gives opportunity, we need to reach out to all stratum of society. True religion is helping those who cannot return it or pay back.

4. God's work wasn't magically connected to Elisha's staff (2 Kings 4:31) –

Neither is God's work today magically connected to a church, a book, a religious artifact, a statue, a cross, or anything else. The heart and the attitude is what is important. Gehazi lacked faith and for this reason was unable to help the boy. Elisha had faith and for this reason was able to help the boy. Faith from a pure heart is far more important than any physical thing or outward ritual. Do not think that you are saved just because you go to church, read the Bible, or have been baptized. Do not think that merely taking someone to church will solve their spiritual problem. A book, a church, a cross can't save. God can. Don't put your faith in people or in things.

5. Elisha lived for God and had a large and far-reaching influence (2 Kings 6:1-4 8:7-14) –

Even Naaman, a captain from a foreign enemy, heard about Elisha and came to receive healing. God's work always yields fruit. Sometimes we can't see it and sometimes it may be far from where we thought we

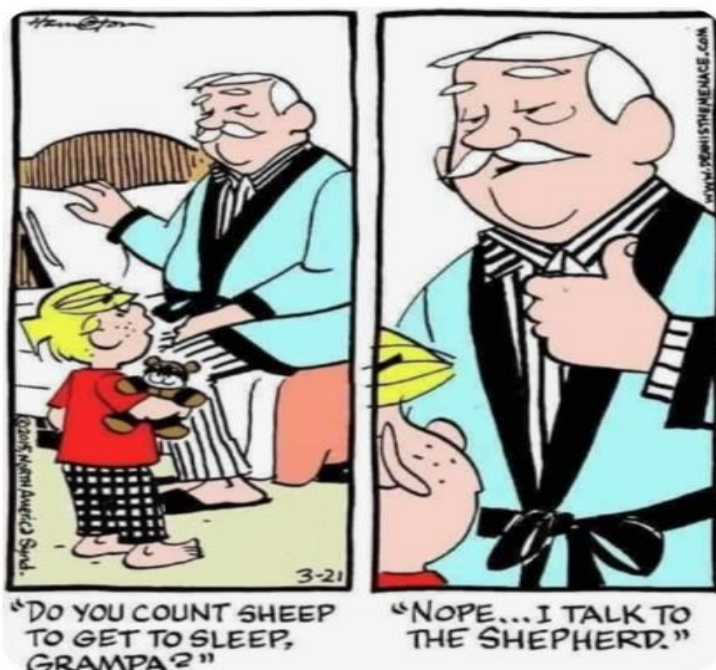
planted, but He will use our work for Him to bear fruit. Naaman is also another example of the fact that God is willing to extend His grace to and save anyone.

6. Elisha was unwilling to take anything from Naaman (2 Kings 6:16) –

Why? Isn't a worker worthy of his wages? Elisha was unwilling to take anything, probably because he didn't want Naaman to think that he had somehow paid for this healing. God's healing is freely bestowed on others. For us, we should be careful not to get into the mindset that we are paying God for salvation, whether it is through money or through time or anything else.

In addition, we need to be careful about accepting money from unbelievers or encouraging them to give money to God, because some may think that through this way they are buying their salvation. We don't want to contribute to anybody making this serious mistake!

Adapted from Study and Obey, Jason Dexter 182 Queen Victoria Ave Saint Johns, FL 32259, July 13, 2026.



"The Ring camera has been working great. I'm going to keep the door unlocked for you, but I have one quick favor to ask:

- **Please ring the doorbell before entering.**

If I am away from my desk, this sends a notification to my phone, so I can see and know someone is coming in. Thanks so much for your help!"

United Methodist Bible Quiz

United Methodist Communications



Here is a short 10 question Bible Quiz you can take to test your knowledge. You can either click the link or copy and paste it into your browser: <https://bit.ly/3RboBFC>



July 19, 2026 – Hebrews 13:16 "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Health and Healing Concerns

Bob Burchett, Sherri Hiser

**** Names will be kept on the prayer list for 3 weeks, or until someone notifies the church that a name needs to remain on the prayer list.**

Families Dealing with Loss

The Family of Marilyn Hoskins (7-6-26) – Visitation at the Methodist Church on Wednesday, July 22nd from 9-10 a.m. with the service to follow at 10:00 a.m.

Accura Health Care Center

1203 S Elm, Shenandoah, Iowa 51601

Cathy Shull

Eiler Senior Living

920 W Garfield St, Clarinda, IA 51632

Della Staples Apt 153

Homestead of Shenandoah

601 Harrison, Shenandoah, Iowa 51601

Chuck Oxenford #202, Jane Foster #203

2425 Corn Dr, Papillion, NE 68046-4208

Edi Norris

Azria Health – 600 Manor Dr.

416 Fairview Hall, Clarinda, IA 51632

Ardyce Giese