



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

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Pianist

Terry Stafford

Choir Director

Sue Jones

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Media Booth

Kris Anderzhon,
Alan Hutchison,
Jeff Hiser

Sunday Facebook Host

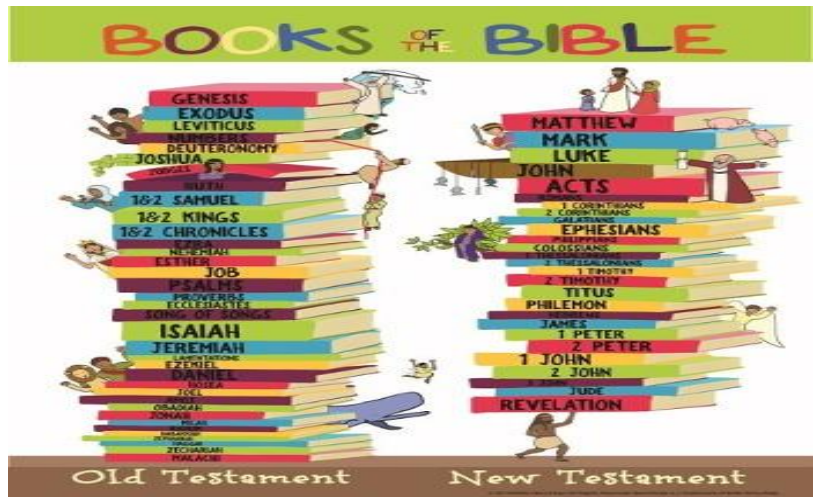
Craig Harris,

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, Jodi Anderzhon



Where Did the Order of the Books of the Bible Come From?

The Bible isn't a single book. It's a collection of many books that were written, preserved, and gathered together so that they could be shared with new generations of readers. Reading, of course, is not an end in itself. Especially in the case of the Bible, reading is a means of entering into the story. Overall, the Bible is an invitation to the reader first to view the world in a new way, and then to become an agent of the world's renewal. Reading is a step in this journey.

Book Order

Those who wrote the books of the Bible chose to put them in particular forms, using the literary conventions appropriate to those forms. Many different kinds of writing are found in the Bible: poetry, narrative, wisdom collections, letters, law codes, apocalyptic visions, and more. All of these forms must be read as the literature they are, or else misunderstanding and distortion of meaning are bound to follow.

Take, for example, the books of Samuel–Kings and Chronicles–Ezra–Nehemiah. The first tells a covenant history, how the kings who led Israel kept violating the covenant God made with his people.

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“Life is good because God is great!”

*“Looking for a lifeguard?
Ours walks on water.”*

Reminders

December 10th

Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.
Baptism – 6:00 p.m.

December 11th

Sunday School All Ages, 10:30 am
Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.
HS Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

December 14th

Advent Study - Noon
Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
Choir – 6:45 p.m.

December 15th

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

****Worship Assistants are needed
on December 24th & January**

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

Books of Bible- Continued from page 1

This helped the Jews in exile in Babylon understand why they were in exile. The second tells a royal history, how certain kings took care of the temple and the worship of God before the people were sent into exile. This account barely mentions the evil kings, but it still faithfully and completely tells the story of Israel for its purpose: it encouraged the exiles they would return to their land and a king would rule them again. So taking whole accounts such as Kings and Chronicles and merging them into chronological order would destroy the specific narrative they are trying to tell.

On the other hand, there are full books in the Bible that would make sense to rearrange into chronological order. Take Paul’s letters, for instance. In the current traditional order, they are in order from longest to shortest. They are badly out of historical order, and this makes it difficult to read them with an appreciation for where they fit in the course of his life or how they express the development of his thought.

The Prophets are also placed generally in order of length. But it was not always this way. In ancient times, the keeper of the scrolls in a synagogue would place the “books” of the Bible in cubbyholes in a case. He kept them in the order he was taught or the one he chose. For many centuries, there was no fixed order of scrolls among the synagogues or churches around the world. Even when the codex (an early type of book) was created, the books in the Bible were not in a particular order.

The traditional order of the biblical books can also encourage misunderstandings of what kind of writing a particular work is. For example, the book of James has strong affinities with other biblical books in the wisdom tradition. But it’s typically placed within a group of letters, suggesting that it, too, should be read as a letter.

Verse and Chapter Numbering

For some time now, the Bible has been printed in a format that hides its literary forms under a mask of numbers. These break the text into bits and sections that the authors never intended. The present system of chapter divisions was devised in the thirteenth century, and our present verse divisions weren’t added until the sixteenth. [Go to page 5](#)



Heather Weiss and family thank all of you for your thoughts, messages, and prayers over the last month. We are so thankful to belong to a loving church family

“Every time the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.”

Volunteers Needed



Saturday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m.
Evan Lee Kelso will be baptized at the church surrounded by his family and friends. Evan is the son of Andrea Robison and Wyatt Kelso.

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.

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.



What did Solomon say is under his bride's tongue?

- a) honey and milk
- b) fragrance
- c) choicest fruits
- d) spices

After the flood, how long did Noah live?

- a) 150 years
- b) 200 years
- c) 350 years
- d) 450 years

Who saw Elijah's ascension?

- a) Elisha
- b) Samuel
- c) Eli
- d) Jezebel

Check page 4 for answers in next week's booster

Birthdays and Anniversaries



13th – Don Rorebeck
15th – Craig Foster, Vicki Woodford, Eldon, and Loraine Manchester
17th – Ron Manrose, Michael Williams

****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: God's Spirit has led us here.

People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is PEACE.

L: God's Spirit has led us here.

P: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is HOPE.

L: God's Spirit has led us here.

P: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is JOY.

L: God's Spirit has led us here.

P: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LOVE.

L: The Spirit is in this place,

P: And we know that it's the Spirit of the Lord!

“Are We There Yet? Joy”

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

New Testament Reading: James 5:7-10

Third Scripture Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

Songs

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice #224

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #218

Away in a Manger #216

Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow #2096

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship 80

Online 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 Dec. 4th are b) Their words b) darkness c) Third
Quiz Hints – Q1) Song of Solomon Q2) Genesis Q3) 2Kings

Chapters and verses have imposed a foreign structure on the Bible and made it more difficult to read with understanding. Chapter divisions typically don't correspond with the actual divisions of thought. They require readers to make sense of only part of a longer discussion as if it were complete in itself, or else to try to combine two separate discussions into one coherent whole. Moreover, because the Bible's chapters are all roughly the same length, they can at best only indicate sections of a certain size. This hides the existence of both larger and smaller units of thought within biblical books.

When verses are treated as intentional units (as their numbering suggests they should be), they encourage the Bible to be read as a giant reference book, perhaps as a collection of rules or as a series of propositions. Also, when "Bible verses" are treated as independent and free-standing statements, they can be taken selectively out of context and arranged in such a way as to suggest that the Bible supports beliefs and positions that it doesn't.

The Order of the Books Is Not Sacred.

For a while, the biblical books were printed in several different orders. Gradually, the order we know today became more and more common until virtually all editions used that specific order.

Some Bibles have been produced that keep the books that were intended to be whole as whole books, but they put those whole books in a more helpful order. One example is the *NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project*. To help readers overcome the aforementioned difficulties, the editors of this Bible sought to order the books so that their literary types, their circumstances of composition, and the theological traditions they reflect are more evident.

Specifically, the *NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project* differs from the most common current format in several significant ways:

- Chapter and verse numbers have been removed from the text
- The books are presented instead according to the internal divisions believed to be what their authors have indicated
- A single-column setting is used to present the text more clearly and naturally, and to avoid disrupting the intended line breaks in poetry
- Footnotes, section headings, and any other additional materials have been removed from the pages of the sacred text
- Individual books that later tradition divided into two or more parts are put back together again
- The books have been placed in an order that we hope will help readers understand them better

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Many readers will gain a deeper appreciation for, and a greater understanding of, the sacred texts using an edition like this which frees the reader from some of the inherent obstacles in our current commonly used format.

*This article was compiled from the article, "Why is the Bible Not in Chronological Order" by John Dunham at Biblica and the Preface of the **Sola Scriptura Bible Project**.*

Article drawn from the [NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project](#).

Join Pastor David each Wednesday through the Advent Season, and journey in the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus on a virtual pilgrimage through the Holy Land. Utilizing resources from St. George's College in Jerusalem, we will engage with the gospels in a new and fresh way.



Do you have winter coats and winter clothing you no longer wear and are taking up space in your closet or storage? If you answered yes, consider donating them to the Hispanic Center. All sizes are accepted. "Share the Warmth!"

Please join us Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**December 24
7:00 PM**



Our Advent journey has begun. We are on the way to where God would have us be, and we're not there yet. But how shall we go? We shall go together, as one body, living and trusting in one another. We shall go as this community of faith, working side by side, and leaning into the grace of God every step of the way. Are we there yet?

December 18, Sunday Morning Worship

The children's Sunday School class will be leading our service.

December 22 at 6:30 pm | The Longest Night

We will host a contemplative service for those who are in a place of loss, pain, loneliness, and doubt.

Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm

Join us for this celebration of the birth of Christ through song and communion.

Christmas Day

There will be no in-person worship on Christmas morning. Worship resources and videos will be available for use at home.

Grace and peace,
Pastor David B. Clark
308-258-7749



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