



# Weekly Booster

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor

David B. Clark

[pastordavid@shen.church](mailto:pastordavid@shen.church)

### Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

[office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)

### 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

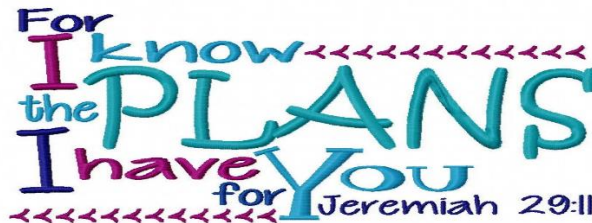
## Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Jodi Anderzhon,

Pastor David



*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. – Jeremiah 29:11*

In his letter to the surviving elders among the Jewish exiles and priests, the prophet Jeremiah assured God’s people that they wouldn’t be captives forever. He encouraged them to settle, marry, and raise families in a foreign land, and he reminded them that God was designing a good plan for them with a hopeful future.

In the midst of today’s trouble and chaos, God is working to design a good future for us as well. He is doing in our generation what he did in ancient Egypt: redeeming a remnant of people. In the final book of the Bible, God reiterates his vision: “A great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:9–10).

This dream drives the heart of God. His purpose from all eternity is to prepare a family to indwell the kingdom of God. “‘I know the *plans* I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘*plans* to prosper you and not to harm you, *plans* to give you hope and a future’” (Jeremiah 29:11, emphasis added). Oh, the beauty of the thrice-repeated word *plans*. God is plotting for our good. In all the setbacks and slipups, he is ordaining the best for our future.

*Continued page 2.*

Question and Answer –

*Q: What did the classmate say when asked why they kept walking next to the same person at school?*

*A: “I was told I’m supposed to walk by Faith!”*

**Reminders**July 29<sup>th</sup>

Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

July 31<sup>st</sup>-August 4<sup>th</sup>

Pastor David -Online Class

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

August 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>

VBS – St. Mary’s

5:00-8:20 p.m.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

\*\*Worship Assistants are needed for August

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



Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday  
to Deliver Meals

Sign-Up Sheet is on the  
Welcome Center Counter

**Plans for You - Continued from page 1.**

Every event of our days is designed to draw us toward our God and our destiny. To the degree that we believe and accept his vision for our lives, we will get through life. When people junk us into the pit, we will stand up. *God can use this for good.* When family members sell us out, we will climb to our feet. *God will recycle this pain.* Falsely accused? imprisoned? Utterly abandoned? We may stumble but we do not fall. Why? God “works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will” (Ephesians 1:11).

Everything means everything. No exceptions. Everything in your life is leading to a climactic moment in which Jesus will “reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross” (Colossians 1:20).

**Apply the Truth of Jeremiah 29:11**

Recall a time in your life when God rescued you and brought good out of your troubles. Ask God who you can encourage with your story and then do it.

*Adapted from an article by Max Lucado drawn from the NIV Lucado Encouraging World Bible, HarperCollins Christian Publishing. 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA. All Rights Reserved, 2023. Guest Post, Bible Gateway Blog, July 24, 2023.*

Parenting with Your Marriage in Mind

A cross-stitched sampler hung on the wall in my growing-up kitchen. “The greatest thing a man can do for his children,” the needlework read, “is to love their mother.”

As a teen, I figured my mother had hung it there like a motivational poster of sorts for my dad, the way I taped signs to the fridge as my birthday approached: “Ten shopping days left.”

Now, more than thirty years later, I realize the power in that one single sentence—and that (as my mom knew) the words cut both ways.

**Continued page 5.**

Question and Answer

*Q: Which Bible character was super-fit?*

*A: Absalom*

**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 Office Hours**

**\*\* Children & Jr.-Sr. High Sunday School finished until September 2023**

**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

**\*\*NO Chancel Choir Until Fall** – 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.

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.

**BIBLE Quiz**

Who lost everything, but after a trial, God blessed his latter days?

- a) Daniel
- b) David
- c) Solomon
- d) Job

What gift did Abraham give to Abimelech when they formed a covenant?

- a) 7 servants
- b) 7 lambs, sheep, oxen
- c) 7 goats & pigs
- d) 1 talent of gold & silver

How many pieces of silver did Judas get for delivering Jesus?

- a) 20
- b) 30
- c) 40
- d) 50

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 30<sup>th</sup> – Donna Robison, Dennis & Darlene Howard
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Loraine Manchester
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Michael Blane
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Emma Bowen, Rachel Hobbie
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lexa Dunkeson, Rebecca Manchester
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Heather Christiansen, Linda Tyler
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Cooper Lundgren

*\*\*See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added, please call the office, or send an email to [office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)*

**Shenandoah First United  
Methodist Church**

200 Church St.  
Shenandoah, IA 51601

Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail  
[office@shen.church](mailto: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: O give thanks to God!**

**People: Remember the wonderful things God has done!**

**L: Glory in God's holy name!**

**P: Sing of God's acts and promises!**

**Leader: We will seek God's presence;**

**People: let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.**

**"Images of the Kingdom"**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

**Songs**

***This Is My Father's World #144***

***How Great Is Our God #3003***

***Seek Ye First #405***

***More Precious than Silver #2065***

**Last Week's Attendance**

**In-Person Worship – 60**

**On-Line Worship – 17**

***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 16<sup>th</sup> are b) Run a) Saul d) Abraham**

**Quiz s hints – Q1) Job Q2) Genesis Q3) Matthew**

Parenting- Continued from page 2.

As dads and as moms, the greatest thing we can do for our kids is to model Christ's love—and put his John 13:34 command into practice—by loving one another.

The thing is, though, most of us don't.

We don't prioritize our marriage relationship—at least not consistently and intentionally—in ways that keep our focus on each other.

Instead, we center our lives around our children. Babies and toddlers demand our physical energy and attention, and then as they grow and become more independent, our kids continue to captivate our hearts and our minds. They can even become idols of sorts—either because they are so cute/talented/smart/athletic that they make us proud, or because their behavior/friendships/lifestyle choices/work habits make us anxious.

**One way or another, our children can fill the radar screen of our devotion, pushing our spouse (and our marriage) to the outer edges of the field.**

I'm not pointing fingers. Trust me, Robbie and I have been the proud/anxious/all-consumed parents more times than either of us cares to admit. We made plenty of rookie (and not-so-rookie) mistakes. But as we look back on our parenting journey, child-focused and neurotic as it often was, I'm convinced we did two things right.

First, we let our kids see us pray.

We knew we didn't have all the answers, and as we openly acknowledged our dependence on God, our children learned to look past our weaknesses and recognize God's strength and provision for our family. **Seeing a weak and flawed earthly parent talking to a powerful and perfect heavenly Parent can give kids a greater sense of security than any family love, friendship circle, or financial wealth could ever provide.**

The second thing we did—the thing that gave our kids a greater sense of security and family stability than anything else—was to ignore them. Not always, of course, but for about ten or fifteen minutes every day. Robbie would come home from work and, after he greeted the children and handed out hugs, he and I would sit on the sofa, talking. The kids were dying to jump all over Robbie—we all were—but they knew better than to interrupt.

And at least three things happened as a result of those handfuls of minutes.

First, I felt special, knowing that whatever I had to say about the day, no matter how mundane, mattered to Robbie. Second, the children got a nightly witness of what prioritizing a marriage looks like. **And Third, in a side effect I did not fully appreciate at the time, they gained the sense that our marriage—and by extension our family—was stable.**



Our kids are grown now, with kids of their own. Like many of their peers, both Mom and Dad work outside the home. This can make “just us” time harder to implement; it’s natural to want to focus on the children instead of each other when you haven’t seen them all day. **But we’re encouraging our adult children to make this one-on-one marriage time part of their family routine**—maybe not right when they get home from work, but at some point during the evening (or on weekends) when the children can see what is happening.

Robbie and I can still picture our four little “monkeys,” giggling and peeking around the corner into the living room and stage-whispering to each other, “Shhh! This is Mom and Dad’s time!” They had no idea what we were talking about; that wasn’t what mattered. **What mattered was that they knew their parents were focused on each other—and they loved it.** And while we didn’t know it back then, what we were doing had a profound impact on both their sense of security as children and their future happiness in their marriages.

Plenty of research points to the link between destructive behaviors in a marriage and the negative impact they can have on a child’s emotional or physical health. But the opposite is also true. **The good things—things like showing honor and affection to your spouse—help kids feel stable and secure and allow them to enjoy “just being a kid.”** Not only that, but when we model such healthy behaviors toward one another—whether it’s through kind words, physical touch, or a genuine interest in what our partner is saying—we provide a barometer for what an eventual spouse should look like. Our kids will be drawn to people who evidence similar qualities because it’s what they know.

In other words, my mom’s cross-stitched sampler was right: as parents, the greatest thing we can do for our children is to love each other.

### Remember

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. (Psalm 145:4)

### Reflect

Take a few moments to reflect on your family habits.

- Do you regularly put your children and their needs ahead of your spouse?
- Do you struggle with the pressure to “get it all right” in your marriage or your parenting? Do your children see you extending—and receiving—forgiveness?
- Do they know you pray?

Ask God to reveal any areas where your family priorities might be misaligned. Surrender your habits and desires to him, trusting the Holy Spirit to help you honor your spouse and release any pressure you feel to be perfect. God longs to reveal his love through your marriage; commit to partnering with him through your prayers as you trust him to bless and protect your family.



The transition to a Single Board administrative structure requires a church vote to adopt the organizational document and guiding principles that we have been reviewing and commenting on over the past couple of months. Our District Superintendent, who is the one who can call a church vote, wants us to include this vote during our Annual Charge Conference (usually scheduled from late October to early November). Knowing that not very many people attend the Charge Conference, we hold a session a couple of weeks before in order to review again the Guiding Principles and what will be voted on so that you can again have an opportunity to provide feedback and allow your voice to be heard.

In the meantime, we will begin working as a Single Board for a trial period (until the vote at Charge Conference). Part of that trial period will be to bring on some new and previously tenured folks to serve on the trial Single Board. The Nominations Committee will provide names to the current Administrative Board which has the authority to approve these nominations contingent upon their official approval at the Charge Conference.

As always, Administrative Board meetings are open to everyone to attend and we will continue to provide avenues for transparency and for your voice to be heard. Thank you for your continued feedback and questions.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor David B. Clark



Next week, July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup>, I will be taking an online class in my office from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. each day. If you need to get in touch with me, please call the office and leave a message or email me [pastordavid@shen.church](mailto:pastordavid@shen.church) and I will get in touch with you as soon as I am able.



### Learning to Listen: Confirmation Bias

In a previous Booster, I introduced the idea that biases are an unavoidable aspect of our human lives that often get in our way of being able to listen to God and to others. We will never be able to rid ourselves of biases, but we can learn to recognize them in ourselves and make the determination as to if they are serving us in our call to listen.

Our first bias is one that is very prevalent in all of us. It is called Confirmation Bias. This bias means that we are predisposed to recognize and take in information that confirms what we already hold true.

We receive and take in an extraordinary amount of information. If we were to process all of it we would become overwhelmed and unable to act or understand our world. We may feel a bit of this just trying to keep up with the news. Too much information creates anxiety. So our brains filter the information we take in. How does it filter the information? It naturally takes in that which we already hold to be true. This natural filter allows us to continue making sense of the world while not being overwhelmed with the amount of information.

The downside to this bias is that if we never get beyond that filter we are dragged into an echo chamber where we are only listening to the voices that confirm what we already believe. There is no growth and there is no real listening to our neighbor when this bias is given the opportunity to control who we listen to.

Our challenge, then, is to recognize this bias in ourselves and to make conscious choices of listening to our neighbors who believe in different ways. This does not mean that we have to agree with them, but our calling as Christians is to show compassion for everyone. And if we are not listening, then it becomes impossible to show compassion.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor David B. Clark



## Food Pantry Needs for August



Peanut Butter & Jelly, Brownie, cake, cookie, & muffin mixes, pasta (any kind), green beans, corn, Mandarin Oranges, cereal, Tuna & Chicken Helpers, microwave popcorn, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper

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.



We are looking for special music for the summer. If you are interested in providing special music or know of someone that might be interested, please contact Mace Hensen or call the office and the message will be forwarded to him.