



# 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, Drew Morelock,

Pastor David



## The Year Ahead

*“For who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?” (Ecclesiastes 6:12).*

An issue of *Time* magazine almost thirty years ago gave examples of men who tried to do what man cannot do—predict the future. Here are some of these predictions made in the 1900s as listed in *Time*, Fall, 1992:

Henry Adams, considered to be one of America’s foremost thinkers, said in 1903, “My figures coincide in setting 1950 as the year that the world must smash.”

- In 1901, two years before Kitty Hawk, Wilbur Wright told his brother Orville that man would not fly for another 50 years.
- Not long before the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Admiral William Leary told Harry Truman, “This is the biggest fool thing we have ever done...the bomb will never go off.”
- Some even claimed that scientists would create machines that would be able to read our minds!

*Continued page 2.*

Quote

*“Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive.” Elbert Hubbard*

## Reminders

January 6<sup>th</sup>

Men's Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

January 10<sup>th</sup>

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.

Choir – 5:30 p.m.

Bell Choir – 6:30 p.m.

January 11<sup>th</sup>

T.O.P.S.

Office Closed – A.M.

\*\*Worship Assistant is needed for  
January 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup>

\*\* 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**

**The Year Ahead- Continued from page 1.**

Here we are years later feeling the same curiosity and anxiety about the future. This time, however, the uncertainty is more far-reaching. Our world has changed dramatically. Our laws, our economy, our population, and our entire culture is changing so rapidly that it is hard to make plans for anything.

There is only one way to have peace and clarity in a world that has been turned upside down: hold to God's unchanging hand and trust in His all-seeing eye. Remember that the Lord said, "I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done" (Isa. 46:9-10). God has always known everything in the future. Nothing surprises Him. He saw the Civil War, the Great Depression, and COVID-19 coming long before they broke into history. He knows every detail of the results of each crisis and works all things for the good of His people (Rom 8:28). We will never be able to see what God sees, but that should not keep us from trusting that He does.

The Bible teaches us not to brag about the future or worry about it. Solomon said, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1). Jesus said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its things. Sufficient for the day is its trouble" (Matt. 6:34). We need faith in these turbulent times to keep us from going to either extreme.

The great book of Ecclesiastes gives us wisdom we cannot find anywhere else. It tells us, "That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecc. 1:9). It reminds us of the cycles and phases of life: "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecc; 3:1). One of the best things Christians can do these days is turn off the television, leave social media alone, read the book of Ecclesiastes, and perhaps sing the chorus, of "God Holds the Future in His Hands."

*Article adapted by Kerry Duke, West End Church of Christ, Livingston, TN.*

**\*\* Help needed after church this Sunday to take down and put away all Christmas decorations in the sanctuary.**

Quote

*“Life is hard. After all, it kills you.” Katharine Hepburn*

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

**\*\*Choir –** Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
**\*\*Bell Choir –** Wednesdays, 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**  
**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 brought Absalom back to Jerusalem?

- a) Joab
- b) Nathan
- c) Solomon
- d) Abner

According to the book of 2Peter, what should knowledge be supplemented with?

- a) Godliness
- b) Brotherly Affection
- c) Love
- d) Self-Control

How did the Lord describe the cisterns the Israelites hewed out for themselves in Jeremiah 2?

- a) strong
- b) rubbish
- c) broken
- d) dirty

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



- 7<sup>th</sup> – Judy Ogden
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Verla Christiansen
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Logan Wiebold
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Mary Peterson

**\*\*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**

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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: Rise and Shine! Get up! Wake Up!**

**People: The sunrise glory of God is coming over the horizon.**

**L: Put your face in the sunlight! Look up! Look around!**

**P: The nations are coming; we see the world gathering.**

**L: Look in the distance! Beyond the shadows!**

**P: The light of our Savior is shining on places of pain and ruin.**

**L: Come and worship this God of unrelenting grace!**

**“The Healing Light of Christ”**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:1-9, 17-20**

**Songs**

**“We Three Kings” v.1-3, 5 #254**

**“Shine, Jesus, Shine” v.1, 2 #2173**

**“Jesus Name Above All Names” #2071**

**Last Week’s Attendance**

**In-Person Worship – 53**

**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 Dec 31<sup>st</sup> are d) truth d) Jabez a) Prophet  
Quiz hints – Q1) 2 Samuel Q2) 2 Peter Q3) Jeremiah**



Epiphany - while many know it as the day marking 12 days after Christmas and the time to take down the Christmas tree and decorations, it's a holiday with significant meaning. Let's take a look at the origin and traditions of this holiday today.

## WHAT IS EPIPHANY?

Epiphany means “appearance or manifestation.” Throughout the world, Christians celebrate it on January 6 - 12 days after Christmas Day. Many countries refer to it as “Three Kings Day.” On this day, Western Christianity recognizes Christ’s manifestation to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, represented when The Magi visited the child Jesus and showed how God’s gift of the Good News is for all people. Eastern Christianity observes Jesus’ baptism on this day. His baptism revealed his identity to mankind. In the East or the West, Epiphany celebrates God revealing himself to the world.

## THE ORIGIN OF EPIPHANY

To gain a clear picture of Epiphany’s origin, we need to take a look at the history of the Church Calendar. In the first century, the earliest Christians set aside one day a week as the Lord’s Day. We observe this day on Sunday. In the second century, they established Lent, Easter, and **Pentecost**. Lent was a period of time set aside for penitence and the training of new Christians. Easter observed Christ’s death and celebrated his **resurrection** followed by Pentecost, where the church focused on triumph and victory.

In the third century, the early Church leaders established Epiphany. This holiday celebrates and recognizes Christ’s birth, baptism, the adoration of magi, and the first miracle at Cana. It wasn’t until the end of the fourth century that early Christians began observing Christmas and Advent. Christmas became the time to celebrate Jesus’ birth. Advent is the four-week period of time before Christmas. It is used to prepare hearts to receive Jesus.

As we can see, Epiphany originated from the earliest Church leaders and has a spiritual meaning. The Church Year begins at Advent. From then, through Pentecost, Christians concentrate on the life and work of Christ. For the rest of the year—Pentecost to Advent—the church year focuses on the teachings of Christ and their applications to the Christian life. The ultimate purpose of the church calendar ensured that Christians covered the entire breadth and depth of the Gospel in a year. The six-month period from Advent to Pentecost covers all six major events: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

## HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF EPIPHANY

Since epiphany means manifestation, early celebrations honored any of the four manifestations of Christ. His birth, the adoration of the Magi, Jesus' baptism, and the first miracle at Cana where Jesus turned water into wine.

These four manifestations reveal God to mankind. At his birth, the angels bore witness, and the shepherds, representing Israel, bowed before Jesus. The visit of the Magi revealed Jesus to the Gentiles. At his baptism, the Holy Spirit descended, and God declared Jesus' identity. The first miracle at the Wedding in Cana revealed Jesus' divinity over nature. God disclosed himself to humankind through the person of Jesus. He made himself known so we might know him.

Traditions observing Three Kings Day vary around the world and have changed over time. During the Middle Ages, celebrations focused on the Magi's journey. In 1336 Italy, one would find processions, ceremonies, nativity plays, and carnivals. Some folklore and customs of Epiphany throughout the world include children receiving gifts on this day rather than on Christmas Day. In some Spanish-speaking countries, three kings deliver gifts, not Santa Claus. On Twelfth Night, as it is known in some countries, children would leave a shoe and a bit of straw on their doorstep. They would find their shoe filled with gifts and the straw gone.

Some traditions on Epiphany around the world include eating a "Kings Cake" with a trinket baked inside. Whoever finds the trinket, is King or Queen for the day. Who wouldn't want to be royalty for the day, right? It also points our hearts to our status as royal priesthood as Peter writes in **1 Peter 2**. France calls it the Feast of Kings and in Spanish-speaking countries, it is called Three Kings Day.

In other culture's past centuries, Twelfth Day, or January 6, marked the end of the Christmas season with feasts and masquerades. Eastern Orthodox Christians called it the "Feast of Lights" to reflect their belief that baptism happens because of spiritual illumination. Today, some people use Epiphany to take down their Christmas decorations and store them away for the next year. The Common Book of Prayer has readings for churches to read to mark the Epiphany season. Many of these readings focus on God revealing himself to his creation.

## DO ALL CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE EPIPHANY/THREE KINGS DAY?

Not all Christians celebrate Three Kings Day, but many do. Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, and Eastern Orthodox Christians observe Three Kings Day. Whether someone celebrates Epiphany depends on their personal choice or whether or not their church observes it. Either way, it is a great way to close out the Christmas season and turn our hearts toward keeping Jesus at the center of our lives.

## POINTING OUR HEARTS TOWARD JESUS

One of the many reasons I love this time of year is because of the daily, physical reminders of Jesus everywhere. The twinkly lights on my tree remind me of the angels announcing Christ's birth to the

shepherds. I'm reminded to shine bright in my everyday life each time I walk by my lit tree. The star ornaments point my mind to the star that led the wise men on their two-year journey. This is a gentle reminder that, sometimes, following Christ means I don't know where I'll end up, but if I keep following him, I'll get to where he wants me to be. The tree is in the shape of a triangle which reminds me of the Trinity. The nativity display brings the reality of the stable close to my heart. The music that plays everywhere helps corral my thoughts and fixes them on Jesus. Epiphany, the manifestation of God, is a lovely opportunity to rejoice that Christ has appeared for all men regardless of race or status.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift your eyes and look about you; All assemble and come to you; your sons and daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy," **Isaiah 60:1-5**.

## A PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for revealing yourself to us. We shout for joy and worship you with gladness. We come before with joyful songs and join with the angels as they say, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men." We receive your peace and comfort. We ask that as we continue into the new year we would remember your divinity and revel in your identity. You are a miracle-working God, and so we ask you to do a mighty work of internal transformation in our life. Change us to be more like you. Let our words and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing to you. Just as the wise men followed the star, so we commit to following you. Lead and guide us. Comfort and heal us. Let our hearts be set on you as you reveal more and more of yourself to us. We adore you and give you glory.

In your name, Amen

## A TIME OF REVELATION

Epiphany is a time of revelation. Jesus revealed himself to the Israelites and the Gentiles as represented by the Wise Men. God doesn't play favorites but receives all whose hearts long for him. May we open our hearts to receive revelation from God this year. May we rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. May we reveal the reason for which we have hope and celebrate the epiphany of the Lord in our lives.

Adapted from the original article by *Jessica Van Roekel* first appeared on Christianity Today and can be found at <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/is-epiphany-three-kings-day-a-biblical-holiday.html>. November 30, 2022.

Dear Adopters,



We want to say THANK-YOU for another year of generosity and support to the Adopt-A-Family program in Shenandoah. In 2023, we were able to adopt 66 families and give 174 kids a brighter Christmas while also providing each family with a \$75 grocery gift card for a Christmas meal. Many families expressed how sincerely thankful they

were to be adopted and how much it was going to help their family this holiday season. We could not do this without your support. As we get ready to celebrate with our own families, we hope you enjoy this Christmas week and know how truly thankful we are for your participation. Merry Christmas!

2023 Adopt-A-Family Committee

## January

Peanut Butter and jelly, Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Peaches, Spaghetti Sauce and Spaghetti Noodles, Cake, Brownie, Cookie, and Muffin Mixes, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Sloopy Joe Mix (canned), Soda Crackers, Cereal, Bar Soap, Deodorant.



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.

*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 also 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 January will go to the General Care Packages.