



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Choir Director

Sue Jones

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

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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



God Chooses Unlikely Candidates to be His Messengers

If you saw her backstage, you never would have imagined what fame was soon to come her way. She walked out on the stage in a frumpy dress. Slightly mussed up hair. Bushy eyebrows. Seemingly a bit old and odd for the competition. But the moment she began to sing on *Britain's Got Talent* she took the world by storm. By the final note, she was receiving a standing ovation from the crowd and a broad smile from Simon Cowell. The video of her performance immediately hit YouTube and within a week had been viewed 66 million times.

She eventually won second place in the competition but that did not stop her. An album was released in November of 2009 and by the end of the year, she had the top selling record worldwide of any release, selling a total of 8.3 million copies.

You probably would never have picked him either. One first-century writing describes him this way: "Bald, bowlegged, strongly built, a man small in size, with meeting eyebrows, and a rather large nose."¹

Appearances aside, he had been spending his days with a singular purpose: persecuting Christians. Pulling them from their houses. Throwing them in prison. Even having some killed.

And yet God chose him to take his story to the Gentiles. Jesus arranged a face-to-face meeting with Saul while he was on his way to Damascus to persecute his followers (Acts 9).

“Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out.”

“Let all that you do be done in love.”

Reminders

August 20th

Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

11:00-1:00 – Ad Board Training

August 24th

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
No choir until fall

August 25th

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

August 28th

Blessing of the Backpacks

August 28th

Methodist Men’s Breakfast
8:00 a.m. All men welcome!

****Sunday School is just around the corner consider volunteering**

****Consider joining the choir when it resumes this fall!**

****Worship Assistants are needed for September**

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

Messenger- Continued from page 1

Jesus slammed on the stadium lights and Saul began to see the light. And by the end of the encounter, his name is changed from Saul to Paul as he is given a new purpose and a new lease on life.

The rest is history. Paul, a Jew, took the gospel message to the Gentiles. Paul, the “chief of sinners” spoke as a gracious firsthand recipient of God’s mercy. Paul, the well-schooled expert on the Law, became the most outspoken voice for the principle of grace.

And aren’t you glad he did? Most of us would not know Christ had Paul not traveled the world telling others about him. And most of us would not know Christ if some modern-day “Paul” had not walked across the cul-de-sac or the cubicle or the classroom to introduce him to us.

Susan’s look changed. So did Paul. The description of Paul ends by saying he was “. . . full of grace, for sometimes he looked like a man and sometimes he had the face of an angel.”

An “angel.” The word means “messenger.” God wants to use you to take his message to your world. Your street. Your workplace. Your school. You might not think he’d choose you either. But you might just need to think again, no matter your appearance.

¹ *The Acts of Paul and Thecla*, written in the 2nd century

Adapted from the article about The Story was originally written by Pastor Rick Brown of Christbridge Fellowship in Tomball, Texas. Chapter 29



Methodist Men’s monthly breakfast will be next Sunday, August 28th starting at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome! Join us for breakfast, devotion, and fellowship.



*“To lead the orchestra,
you must turn your back
on the crowd.”*

Volunteers Needed



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.**

****Sunday School & Choir
only during the school
year.**

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 oppressed the people
of Israel for 20 years?

- a) Jabin
- b) Tobijah
- c) Tubal-cain
- d) Nebuchadnezzar

What was the first thing a
king had to do after he
was anointed, king?

- a) get married
- b) gather the crowd
- c) copy the law
- d) make an oath

Which of these men were leading
men in the book of Ezra?

- a) Elnathan
- b) Shemaiah
- c) Nathan
- d) All of the above

**Check page 4 for answers
in next week's booster**

Birthdays and Anniversaries



23rd – LeRoy Whitehill, Derek & Stephanie Howard
24th – Craig & Kathy Harris
26th – Karen Foster

****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**

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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. <http://bit.ly/3skF0p9>

*Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: **Terry Stafford**

Call to Worship

Leader: All creation proclaims the greatness and love of God.

People: God's love permeates even the deepest darkness.

L: The light of God shines on us with new hope.

P: We are called to be people of compassion and justice.

L: Open our hearts, O Lord, to see your light and live in your hope.

P: Prepare us for service to all your people and to this world.

"Making New Paths in the Wilderness"

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7, 16-21

New Testament Reading: Romans 6:3-5

Third Scripture Reading: Luke 5:36-39

Songs

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #89 (Hymnal)

The First Song of Isaiah #2030 (Black Book)

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms #133 (Hymnal)

What A Mighty God We Serve #2166 (Black Book)

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 73

Online Worship – Youtube 6

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 August 14th are a) Gomer a) 400 shekels of silver b) words of flattery

Quiz Hints – Q1 Daniel, Q2 Deuteronomy Q3 Ezra



Step away to a holy place

Find a place of refuge, a sanctuary, where brokenness is welcome, and God's healing is real.

By Laura Buchanan

The noisiness of our world rings in our ears. Our reliance on technology causes us to plug into our devices more hours a day than not. We can't help but notice that our newsfeeds are filled with senseless violence, outrageous discrimination, mounting hardships, crumbling communities... the list goes on and on.

Claiming a desire to stay in the know, I choose to listen to, watch and absorb these endless stories. After a while, or maybe not so long, dark clouds of anger, pain, and sadness settle so deeply that it is sometimes hard to feel anything else. I know the light of Christ is present, but can it overcome the darkness that seems so pervasive? Is God really in control?

Seek refuge to find hope

In moments like these, I seek refuge in a calm place, set apart from the rattling keys that threaten to lock away my hope. Sometimes I take a walk. Sometimes I lay on the floor of my office, breathe deeply, cry and pray. Sometimes I sit in a church pew.

There is something about time spent in a church sanctuary that offers a deeper sense of peace and comfort. For me, it stirs memories of the historic United Methodist church building that felt like a second home during my childhood. I still clearly remember the beautiful stained glass windows, the majestic pipe organ, and the booming voice of my pastor, who sang hymns in a deep baritone as his sermons came to a close.

Beauty in brokenness

Recently, a friend shared a photo of a shard of stained glass that had previously been part of a window in her church's 102-year-old sanctuary, which was destroyed by a tornado. A church member had plucked pieces of glass from the rubble and turned them into art – visible reminders of the place that had meant so much to so many families for generations.

That little piece of glass resonated with me, bringing me back to rows of creaky pews filled with friendly faces, awash in colorful beams of light. But the note attached to this piece of art is what spoke to my soul.

In part, it said, "[This piece of glass] has witnessed many happy times, such as weddings, baptisms, Christmas programs, children's programs, and other joyful events. It has been through sad times like

funerals and honoring young men sent to war. Through it, all God's light has shone through the beautiful stained glass. Many have said if you were having a bad day, just go to church, sit in the sanctuary and look at the beautiful windows and you will feel peace."

What amazing things this glass has seen! What a celebration of this holy place! A place to worship, grieve, heal, seek and find. A place where the Spirit moved, people, connected, and countless memories were made. A place that is being rebuilt so that it can continue to serve as a beacon of hope.

We all have a sanctuary

A holy place just like this one exists for each of us – we can find it wherever we are. Our place, our sanctuary, might not have stained glass windows, or even walls, but it always has God's presence. God invites everyone to pause for contemplative rest. In it, we will find a safe place to bring our fear and frustrations. We can wrestle with the unexplainable, unanswerable, and infuriating. And undoubtedly, if we open our hearts, we will discover endless grace.

Do moments spent in a sanctuary negate the negative noise? No. But time spent drawn away from the world can be the perfect counterbalance to darkness borne through conflict, devastation, hate, and disaster. Whether you step away to a back porch, a bedroom floor, a closet, or an actual church sanctuary, I pray that you'll find holy ground where the Spirit can speak, surround you with the light of God's love and fill you with peace.

**Now go back to the top to the empty picture frame. After reading this article what is your holy place look like that you would place in the empty frame?

Laura Buchanan works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. This story was published on August 8, 2022.



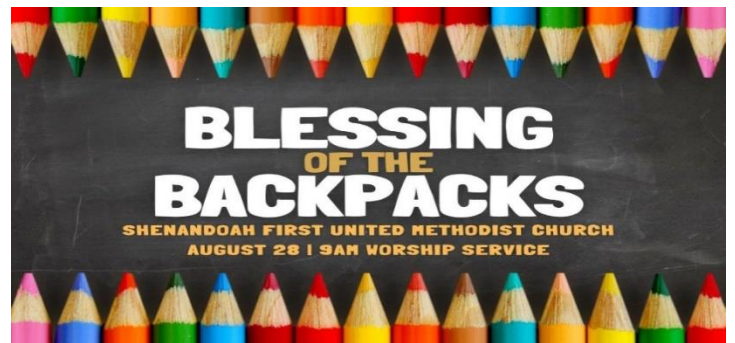
We are nearing the end of our Sunday morning series on following God in the wilderness. We have seen how being in the wilderness calls us to rest and reconnection. And now we come to renewal. Renewal gets us excited, and sparks hope that something new is on the horizon. But if we sit with it long enough, it might start to create tension in us as well. If something new is coming, then does that mean what was before is going away? In the

Gospel of Luke's version of Jesus' parable about old and new wineskins, he acknowledges that most would say that well-aged wine is better (Luke 5:36-39). This is the tension: while well-aged wine is good, God also says through the prophet Isaiah: "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness (Isaiah 43:19)." The last two weeks of August we will explore this tension of renewal and what it might mean for Shenandoah UMC. Grace and peace. Pastor David B. Clark.



Enjoy singing? Here is your chance to join the chancel choir! The first practice of the new choir season will be Wednesday, September 7th starting at 6:45 p.m. downstairs in the choir room. The chancel choir will sing on Sunday, September 11th during the service. The choir warms up at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday morning in the choir room.

Join us on Sunday, August 28 for a Blessing of the Backpacks! This is a way for us to pray for and bless our students and educators in the new school year. If you are going to be a student, teacher, staff, or administrator, bring your backpacks, messenger bags, briefcases, tote bags, purses, fanny packs, and any other bags or packs you use.



Elementary and Jr./Sr. High Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 11th after church service. Bring a friend and learn & grow together with Jesus. Adult Sunday School, to be announced soon.



We are sorry for the inconvenience but there will be no live streaming this Sunday, August 21st. If you are able, please join us in person this Sunday and for fellowship following church service.