



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Sunday Media Booth

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Sunday Facebook Host

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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, Pastor David



Psalm 23: The Shepherd's Psalm

This beautiful, brief psalm is one of the most often memorized and recited texts in the entire Bible. It sits at the beginning of a book that is widely recognized as having been the hymnbook for the ancient people of Israel. It has also given deep comfort to many who find themselves in difficult circumstances, as it is often used in the context of funeral services.

In short, billions of people around the world have found comfort and the reassurance of God's provision and protection in the words of David, whose long experience as a shepherd—first of actual sheep, and then of the people of Israel—uniquely qualified him to write this picturesque song.

A Deeper Look at Psalm 23

The different phrases of this psalm lead us to a greater understanding of the Lord's great love and care for us, his followers:

"The LORD is my shepherd."

When David proclaimed that God was his shepherd, he described to us the wonder of God reaching out to the individual. Indeed, this is the only place in the Bible where the author describes God as his personal shepherd. Though God's flock numbers in the billions, he still cares for each one of us (1 Peter 5:7).

Quote

“The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.” Vince Lombardi

RemindersNovember 11th

Men's Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

November 12th

Adam Swanson – 2:00 p.m.
Gladys Wirsig-Jones Auditorium

November 15th

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.
Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
Choir – 5:30 p.m.
Bell Choir – 6:30 p.m.

November 16th

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

November 19th

Methodist Men's Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

November 19th

Ad Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

****Worship Assistant is needed for
November 19th & 26th**

**** 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 Shepherd- Continued from page 1.

Also, in claiming God as his personal shepherd, David recognized God's authority over his life. And because God is gracious and cares for each one of us, we also submit to his authority and care. God knows what is best for all of us; he sees the end from the beginning, and his will for us is an outgrowth of his shepherding care and sovereignty over our lives.

“I lack nothing.”

In a society where food and water were scarce, the shepherd's main job was to find fresh grass for the sheep to eat and safe water for them to drink. Sheep, as is commonly known, are not very bright. They can get themselves into trouble very quickly, and quite often do. So the shepherd had to lead them to the right supplies, always with an eye toward keeping them safe and healthy. This was what David had to do as a young man out in the wilderness, so he knew firsthand what God's gracious provision looked like.

This short phrase points to David's contentedness with God's care. Whatever he doesn't have outside of God's provision, he doesn't need. He's perfectly supplied with the things that God wants to give him—no more, no less. That same contented attitude is encouraged in the New Testament as the apostle Paul reflects on his own circumstances (Philippians 4:12).

“He makes me lie down in green pastures.”

As the shepherds watched over their flocks, they sometimes literally made their sheep lie down to get them to rest so that the flock would settle and so that they could digest what they had eaten.

How often do we experience this in our own lives? God stops our plans for our lives and makes us sit on the sidelines. In the midst of a busy season at work, we have to have an emergency surgery and sit still and recover; the offer we made on the house we wanted isn't accepted, so we start looking at other neighborhoods (which incidentally shows God's direction for our families' associations and our kids' friends); a global pandemic changes our lives dramatically for a full two and half years, and we sit and wait.

Continued page 5.

Quote

“Whatever you do, always give 100%- unless you’re donating blood.” Bill Murray

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.



Which woman’s husband’s name means that he is a worthless fellow?

- a) Bathsheba
- b) Ruth
- c) Deborah
- d) Abigail

All the vessels of gold and silver that Sheshbazzar brought up in the book of Ezra?

- a) 410
- b) 1000
- c) 5200
- d) 5400

In what will the Lord Jesus come with His mighty angels according to the book of 2 Thessalonians?

- a) Rushing winds
- b) Thunders
- c) Flaming fire
- d) Earthquake

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 12th – Randall MacDonald
- 13th – Keith Allely
- 14th – Drew Bayless, Sallie Brownlee, Derek Howard, Ginger Vermillion
- 16th – Jack Murren, Jimmy John Scott
- 18th – Jason Manrose, Heidi 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: Our ancestors have led us here.

People: We are witnesses of their faith.

L: The wisdom of the ages has called us here.

P: We are children of its call.

L: The Lord of life has called us here.

P: We are here to worship the Lord.

"A Life of Resurrection"

Gospel Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Songs

Blessed Assurance #369

10,000 Reasons (screens)

Seek Ye First #405

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #89

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 87

On-Line Worship – 15

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 Nov 5th are c) Jerusalem d) Nebuchadnezzar c) 10
Quiz hints – Q1) Abigail Q2) Ezra Q3) 2Thessalonians**

The Shepherd- Continued from page 2.

Yes, sometimes God “makes us lie down.” When he does, we need to realize that the pastures we lie in are still green, and still a part of his provision. And we can then focus on what he wants to teach us in our season of waiting.

“He leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.”

Sheep tend to be timid creatures. A rushing stream will intimidate a sheep, and one who falls into such water will find itself struggling to get back to safe ground because of the weight of the water soaking into its wool. Not only was it important for the shepherd to find fresh water for the sheep to drink, but it was also important that this water be still.

David, as a shepherd in ancient Israel, looked for calm, safe waters for his sheep to drink. He knew that a sheep refreshed by these waters would be content in the shepherd’s care and less prone to wander.

Are you drinking from a fire hose in your life today? Remember that God offers times of refreshing for his people in the form of worship at one’s local church or online congregation. Pastors all over the world offer this kind of peaceful reflection and reassurance to God’s flock at regular intervals. Be sure you take advantage of these times to bring your family into a quiet place to drink from the well of God’s Word. It is truly soul-refreshing and rejuvenating.

The writer of Hebrews said it well: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

“He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.”

The role of the shepherd guiding the sheep in the right paths seems obvious, but how is God’s name involved in this?

David was careful to exalt the name of the Lord as he wrote this psalm. This phrase speaks to God’s appeal to his people to follow in his ways and in so doing honor who he is. While he was imperfect in doing so, scripture tells us that David’s daily motivation was to do exactly that.

God’s directives are not meant to keep people from “doing what they want to do” and so somehow restrict their lives and keep them closed in. Rather, “All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant” (Psalm 25:10); “The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does” (Psalm 145:17). When we follow the loving directives that we find in the Bible, we honor God’s very name and expand his kingdom.

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Most people remember this as describing the “valley of the shadow of death” (which the NIV footnote indicates). For sheep in the ancient world, dangers lurked all around. The rod was a club that David carried on his belt; it was used as a weapon against predators and sometimes thieves; the staff was a walking implement that David used to guide and direct the sheep to follow the right path, but it could also be used as a weapon.

The image here is one of the shepherd’s caring protection. Like sheep, we walk through “the valley of the shadow” every single day. There are a million ways that we can be tripped up, diverted, distracted, and taken away from the path that we should be on. That shadow takes many forms: greed, addiction, chronic illness, danger from human predators (both online and in real life), poor financial decisions, and many other things...the list is virtually endless.

In all this, God is our protector. He provides guidance and relief in miraculous ways through the work of His Spirit in the world, and he uses human hands and feet to protect us in all kinds of different ways. Like sheep, we have no idea of the dangers that lurk in and around us during the course of our days. But God knows, and he sees all. Only in heaven will we know the extent to which God has protected us from our own foolish choices and from others who sought to do us harm.

As David wrote in this verse, the knowledge of God’s protective oversight should give us comfort each day as we try to follow God’s will and his way.

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.”

This is a very poignant image. First of all, imagine the shepherd preparing a safe, secure place for the sheep to live in the visible presence of predators and thieves. Only the shepherd’s calm and care can reassure the sheep that they are safe and can rest.

Second, David’s identity as a warrior makes this phrase take on a very different tone. For David, being in the presence of his enemies was a harrowing position—one he experienced time and time again. Yet here he declares that God has set a peaceful space for him to exist and be fed and refreshed even though his enemies are literally in view.

When he wrote this, was David thinking of a specific time in which this happened? How about when he faced a giant on the field of battle (1 Samuel 17)? Or when he was being tracked by King Saul, who was out to kill him (1 Samuel 23:7—24:22)? How about when he had to flee to the Philistines and take sides against Israel (1 Samuel 27)? Or possibly when he had to run when his son Absalom tried to take the kingdom away from him? (2 Samuel 15-19)?

Understand that this image was very real to David, the warrior King. He had been in peril of his own life too many times to know that rescue didn’t come from his hand. He knew that he was in God’s hands the whole time—safe and secure and provided for.

How wonderful is this same assurance for us today?

“You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”

Anointing with oil in ancient times held significance for many reasons. It was used in indicating God’s chosen rulers in ancient Israel (1 Samuel 16); was used as a salve to heal wounds (Luke 10:25-37); and it was used as a sign of favor for guests in situations where hospitality was required (Luke 7:36-50), among other things.

Shepherds used oil to rub into the wounds and scrapes and cuts of their sheep. They knew that an infection among some sheep would slow down the entire flock, so they were vigilant to make sure that each sheep was inspected regularly. The oil brought comfort and healing to the sheep; even though they may not have liked the process of being inspected and treated, ultimately the shepherd knew what was best for their overall health and happiness.

God does the same for us. He has the foresight to understand where our wounds—physical, mental, emotional—cut us the most. While we can’t understand the depths of his healing treatment and care for us, he provides for us when and where we need it most: through technological advances in medicine, skilled doctors and nurses, and trained and sympathetic counselors and advisors.

Indeed, the Spirit himself is the one who brings comfort and healing to us when we need it most (Acts 10:38). In that way, our cup truly does overflow (John 7:38-39).

“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

David pointed to God’s pervasive goodness and love even in the midst of a tumultuous life. As a husband, father, king, and warrior, he was able to take a look at his life in the context of all of its complexity and thank God for his sure and secure love and goodness. Whether he found himself lying in green pastures or facing the shadows of life’s valleys, David found solace in knowing that the Lord was and always would be his shepherd, filling every need he could imagine.

As was David, we can be similarly confident of God’s love in our circumstances. When we rest in that reassurance, we truly know what it is to “dwell in the house of the LORD”—both now and in the future. Perhaps this phrase sums it up best: “Psalm 23 essentially says that the best thing about having the Lord as shepherd is having the Lord as shepherd.”¹

Jesus, Our Shepherd

Jesus, the creator of the world, the author of our salvation, and the one who inspired David’s words says this of himself in the Gospel of John:

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” John 10:11-18

With these words, we can find the same comfort and encouragement as David found in the midst of his tumultuous life.

Have you given your life to Jesus? Do you know him as your Savior? Do you also know him as your loving shepherd, the One who teaches and guides you every day along the way? Your good Shepherd is eager to bring you into the fold and care for you. Talk to him today and surrender your life and your future into his hands. It's the very best path you can follow to honor God with the life that he's given you.

¹Jerome Creach, Psalm 23 commentary: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revise-common-lectionary/fourth-sunday-of-easter-2/commentary-on-psalm-23-3>

Article adapted from author Mike Vander Klipp, senior editor with the Zondervan Bible Group. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, NIV Weekly Blog, November 6, 2023.

Orders are now being taken for poinsettias to help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. If you are interested in purchasing one “In Honor” or “In Memory of” please fill out a POINSETTIA ORDER FORM that is located on the Welcome Center information desk. Each poinsettia is \$16.00. Please put your prepaid check or cash and order form in the envelope provided with the form and place it in the wooden offering boxes. We encourage you to order early (only 30 poinsettias were ordered) and appreciate your kindness in helping make our sanctuary colorful for the Christmas season.



Join us this coming Sunday, November 12th, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for our Harvest Dinner. The menu will consist of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, green bean casserole, and rolls. Drinks will also be provided. We ask that you bring a salad or dessert to share and your table service. **Volunteers are needed to help set up before dinner and to help clean up after the meal.** This will be a free-will offering.

“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 November will go to Adopt-A-Family.



NOISY OFFERING



November

Peanut Butter and jelly, Green Beans, Corn, Stuffing, Potato Flakes, Boxed Potatoes, Sloppy Joe Mix (canned), Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Pasta (any variety), Soda, Graham and Animal Crackers, Cake, Brownie, Cookie, and Muffin Mixes, Shampoo, Conditioner, and 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 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.

**This coming Sunday
November 12, 2023 - 2:00 pm
Gladys Wirsig-Jones Auditorium
1000 Mustang Dr, Shenandoah, IA**



Shenandoah native Adam Swanson is one of the world’s foremost performers of vintage American popular music, including ragtime, early jazz, the Great American Songbook, and more.

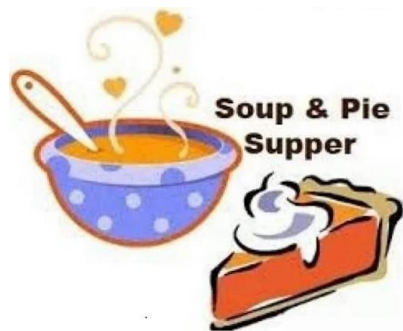
Adam has been a featured performer and lecturer at ragtime and jazz festivals across the United States and abroad, and he is the only four-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest. He lives in Durango, Colorado, where he frequently performs in the Diamond Belle Saloon at the Historic Strater Hotel.

Tickets can be purchased at the door: Adults \$15, Seniors \$12, and students free with a paying adult.

Over twenty-nine years ago, concerned citizens in the Shenandoah community had a dream of all community families having a happy and healthy holiday and formed the **Adopt-A-Family** project. Our church will provide a local family-in-need with a brighter holiday with gifts appropriate for their age or need. No adult information will be given, this way we can help the children in more families. This year we will be able to ask for contributions of money in the Mission Cans as we have done before. The mission Cans are placed on top of the wooden offering boxes and just inside the middle set of the sanctuary doors. As soon as I receive the information from the **Adopt-A-Family** committee regarding the size of the family and items on their wish list, I will put the information in the Booster. Thanks for your ongoing support for this important community project. *Edi Norris*

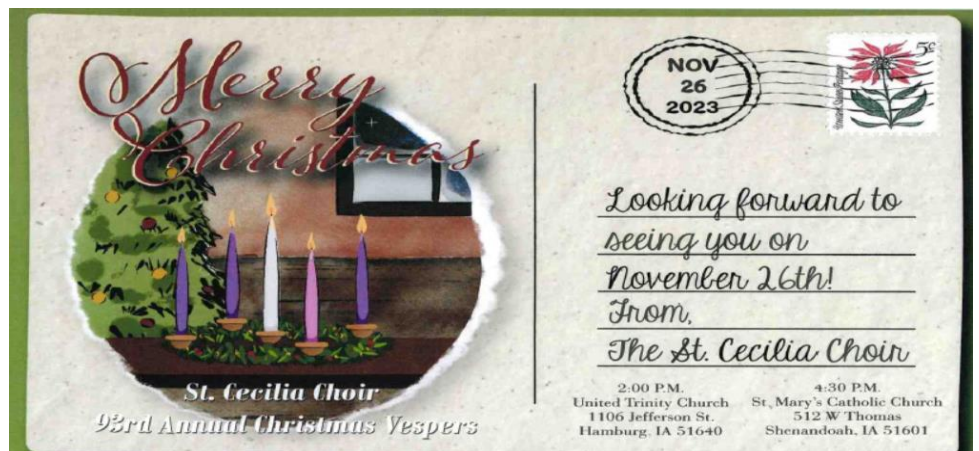


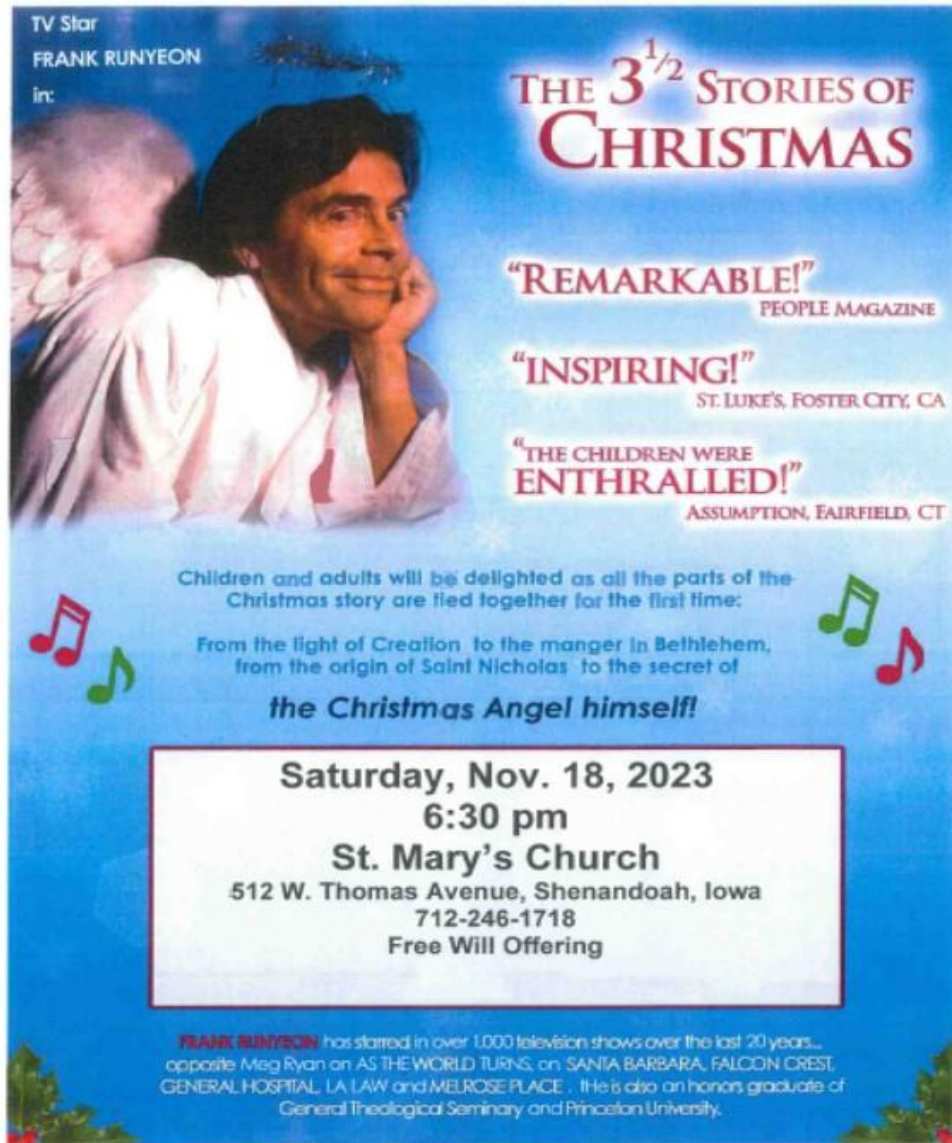
Hat & Mittens Collection – we are collecting hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves for children in need. Until the hat and mitten tree have been put up, please place these items in the back pew in the Welcome Center near the elevator.



F.Y.I. the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 406 East Pioneer Avenue, will be holding a "Soup and Pie Supper" with entertainment on Saturday, November 18, 2022, with supper from 5:00-7:00 p.m. followed by Red Oak Mennonite Youth Group Concert at 7:00 p.m. This is a free-will offering and no cost to attend the concert. If you can't get to the supper, you are welcome to come for the musical program.

On Sunday, November 26th the St. Cecilia Choir will be performing their 93rd Annual Christmas Vespers. This year they will perform in Hamburg at 2:00 p.m. at the United Trinity Church and at 4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shenandoah.





TV Star
FRANK RUNYEON
in:

THE 3^{1/2} STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

"REMARKABLE!"
PEOPLE MAGAZINE

"INSPIRING!"
ST. LUKE'S, FOSTER CITY, CA

"THE CHILDREN WERE ENTHRALLED!"
ASSUMPTION, FAIRFIELD, CT

Children and adults will be delighted as all the parts of the Christmas story are tied together for the first time:

From the light of Creation to the manger in Bethlehem, from the origin of Saint Nicholas to the secret of **the Christmas Angel himself!**

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023
6:30 pm
St. Mary's Church
512 W. Thomas Avenue, Shenandoah, Iowa
712-246-1718
Free Will Offering

FRANK RUNYEON has starred in over 1,000 television shows over the last 20 years... opposite Meg Ryan on AS THE WORLD TURNS, on SANTA BARBARA, FALCON CREST, GENERAL HOSPITAL, LA LAW and MELROSE PLACE. He is also an honor graduate of General Theological Seminary and Princeton University.



Thanksgiving

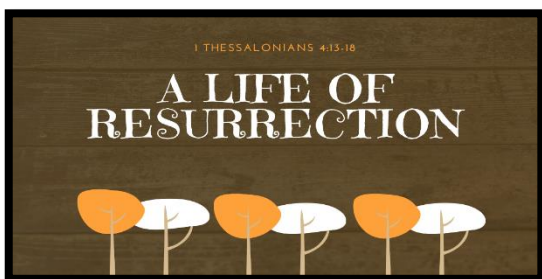
EVE SERVICE

Presbyterian Church

You, your family, your friends, and your neighbors... are invited to the Wednesday, November 22, 2023, 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service at the Presbyterian Church, 200 W Clarinda Ave. Join others to experience a meaningful way to begin the holiday season.



The Hispanic Center is now collecting items for their Christmas Shoe Boxes. There are 15 children, which includes 8 girls ages 6-14 years of age and 7 boys ages 2-14 years old. Children's lists of ages are on a sheet on the Welcome Center counter. There also slips of paper for you to write you Shoe Box child's information and then take with you. You may also contact Sue Jones with questions.



All through November we will continue looking at the Apostle Paul's letter, 1 Thessalonians, and see what wisdom we can gain for living with hope. This Sunday's passage addresses hope in the face of death. Death is a reality that touches us all and perhaps it is the one reality that forces us to think beyond ourselves and ask questions of hope and faith.

Resurrection meets us in death, and if we are paying attention, it meets us even before death and invites us into a life of possibility and newness. Much more than just a doctrine to believe in, resurrection is a life to participate in here and now.

Grace and peace,
Pastor David B. Clark