



Weekly Booster

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Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Pastor David

*Our Vision: **Growing** as disciples of Jesus while **connecting** with others and **servicing** our community.*



Jacob Character Study on the Life of Jacob

Part I -Introduction

Jacob – Heel catcher or deceiver.

Israel – God’s struggle, or did he struggle with God?

Ancestry and family life: Jacob was the second son of Isaac, the son of Abraham. He was the last of the patriarchs from whom all Israel descended, as after him Israel split into twelve tribes. Jacob was two generations removed from Abraham, who came from Mesopotamia. That is the branch of the family Isaac went to get his wife, and also Jacob. God had made a special covenant with Abraham and Isaac; one he would also extend to Jacob.

Not much text is devoted to Jacob’s father, Isaac. We see that he is characterized by passive acceptance. In some cases, this is good, such as when he allowed Abraham to attempt to sacrifice him, and agreed to the marriage Abraham’s servant arranged for him. Yet this very submissive nature also may have contributed to the family problems we see surrounding Jacob and Esau. Because Isaac didn’t seem to have a strong will to lead, Rebekah moved in to take control of what she could (back to the curse where women want to control).

Rebekkah had problems. When her twins are born, she shows partiality to Jacob, the non-hairy, weaker looking one. Genesis 25:27 says Jacob spent most of his time at home.

Continued on page 2

“The question isn’t who is going to let me, it’s who is going to stop me.” Ayn Rand

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day-in and day-out.” Robert Collier

Reminders

May 17th

Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
No PK-6 S.S. & Jr/Sr High

May 19th

Mat Making (Loom Room) 1:00 p.m.

May 20th

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.
Praise Team - 4:00 p.m.
Bell Choir – 4:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.

May 21st

T.O.P.S.

Worship is needed each Sunday,
sign up at the Welcome Center
counter

Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries
Sign up at the Welcome Counter

Fellowship Volunteers and treats
needed, sign up in Fellowship Hall



THE SEVENTH
SUNDAY OF
EASTER
May 17, 2026

1 Peter
4:12-14
5:6-11

Jacob- continued from page 1.

So Rebekah takes over his life and arranges everything for him. She teaches him how to cook. She arranges for him to steal the blessing. And she arranges for his deliverance from Esau by sending him to her brother Laban, telling him everything will work out fine.

The first thing that we learn about Esau is that he was a skillful hunter. I’m not sure this is such a great compliment, though. Henry Morris points out that hunting was unnecessary because with the large herd of sheep, there was plenty to eat. This may mean that Esau was always away hunting as opposed to being at home helping with the chores and the sheep. We might conclude that he was irresponsible.

We do know that Esau was impulsive. He didn’t take his birthright seriously. He lived for the moment and married foreign women who didn’t honor God. Esau later married a daughter of Ishmael to try to please his father (not God). But it was too late. Esau would not be in the chosen line, and he would not receive the covenant.

So I think we can see that Jacob came from a fairly typical family. His mother tended to want to take control. The father let her. His brother was a natural and worldly man concerned with the things of this world.

In Jacob’s own family, he had two wives and two additional maids given to him as “wives”, who were really surrogate mothers to Leah and Rachel. This polygamy caused much jealousy between his wives and sons. He made the same mistake as his father in showing favoritism to some children over others.

When and where he lived: He lived alternatively between the land of Canaan and Aram, which is modern-day Syria. As Abraham and Isaac before him, he was a sojourner, meaning he didn’t settle down in one place exclusively. In addition to the needs of feeding large herds, the circumstances of his life at times prodded Jacob to keep moving. Esau’s threats, Laban’s angry countenance, and the likely revenge of the Canaanites for killing the people of Shechem all caused Jacob to move at various times.

Genesis 28:4 – May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!”

When Isaac blessed Jacob, he prayed that God would give him the land of his sojournings. Many cities, such as Mizpah, Bethel, Shechem, and Beersheba, stand out as important cities in Israel, 500 years or more later, after Jacob traveled through them.

Continued on page 6

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 Ad Board Members

- Bob Lynn - Chair*
- Mary Peterson - Secretary*
- Darlene Howard – At-Large*
- Roger Jones - Trustee*
- Dave Christensen - SPRC*
- Dan Weiss –
Finance/Stewardship*
- Dave Lashier - Treasurer*
- Craig Harris - Lay Member to
Annual Conference*
- Connie Anderson - Memorials*
- Linda Haldane - Membership*
- David Clark - Pastor*

Church Office Hours

**** Children & Jr.-Sr. High
Sunday School –
PK-6 & Jr/Sr High
resumes in the fall**

**Wednesday
Praise Team – 4:00 p.m.
Bell Choir – 4:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.**

The front door to the church will be locked during office hours. Please ring the doorbell to be let into the church.

Monday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00
Tuesday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00
Wednesday
Office Closed
Bible Study 11:00
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 to enter 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 on the next business day.



Who was the great-grandfather of prophet Zephaniah

- a) Gedaliah
- b) Cushi
- c) Amariah
- d) Eliab

What happened to Daniel when he was cast into the lion's den?

- a) he was injured
- b) he lost one of his arms
- c) he was unharmed
- d) he died

Who was the keeper of King Artaxerxes' Forest in the book of Nehemiah?

- a) Shealtiel
- b) Sheshbazzar
- c) Mithredath
- d) Asaph

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 17th – Rain Mayer
- 18th – Dennis Bayless, Oliva Livengood
- 19th – Darrell Jones, Anna Peterson
- 20th – Shelly Hutchison
- 21st – Sue Kinney
- 22nd – Amanda McIntosh

****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: Sing songs of praise to the Eternal God!

People: God is a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows.

L: God makes a home for those who are alone.

P: God frees the prisoners and leads them to prosper.

L: God led his enslaved people from Egypt,

P: and has journeyed with us through the wilderness.

"Stand Firm"

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Songs

How Firm a Foundation #529

Shout to the Lord #2074

I Surrender All #354

God Be with You till We Meet Again #672

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 75

Online Worship – 25

Our Vision:

"Growing as disciples of Jesus while connecting with others and serving our community."

Answers for May 10th are d) women of the neighborhood c) Sherebiah b) cherebum

Quiz hints – Q1) Ruth Q) Ezra Q3) Ezekiel



May 2026

Cereal, Mandarin Oranges, Cake, Brownie, and Muffin Mixes, Macaroni & Cheese, Soda & Snack Crackers, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles, Microwave Popcorn, Rice or Pasta Side Dishes, Brown Rice, Bar Soap, Shampoo

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 home with their food items. 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.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Community Food Pantry. We exist totally on donations; we couldn't assist those in need without your help!

If you or anyone who would be interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry, please have them contact Jeannine K. Liljedahl at 712-215-2488.



As our Chancel and Bell Choirs prepare for a well-deserved summer intermission, the stage is open and waiting for **you!**

We are looking for talented individuals or groups to fill our sanctuary with "Special Music" during the summer months. Whether you are a soloist, part of an ensemble, or play an instrument, this is your moment to share your gift with our community.

If you're ready to share your talent or have a recommendation, please **contact the office**. We are currently developing our summer schedule and would love to include you in our lineup.

Jacob- continued from page 2.

Events surrounding birth: There are many interesting births taking place in the Bible, and this is one of them. Rebekah was barren, and only after Isaac prayed for her to conceive did she conceive, highlighting the fact that her children were a gift from God, the giver of life.

Genesis 25:21-26 – And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided;

The one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.” When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. Afterward, his brother came out with his hand holding Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

Rebekah could feel the struggle of the babies even in her womb. In a time with no ultrasounds, she already seemed to expect that she would have twins and wanted to know why they were struggling so within her.

And she received a very accurate prophecy from the Lord stating that the nations coming from these two babies would have conflict, but that the older (Esau) would serve the younger (Jacob). This is yet another of many prophecies that come true in the Scriptures.

Training and occupation: Jacob was a shepherd. He evidently learned this occupation by helping out with his own father’s flocks, who likely also learned it from Abraham. Jacob was evidently a very skilled shepherd, as Laban continuously begged him not to leave. God blessed Jacob’s herds and also Jacob’s agreement with Laban by causing more and more striped/speckled animals to be born. Jacob also showed that he was a very astute shepherd through his skillful management of the flock and extensive knowledge of breeding. Jacob’s own sons later took care of his flocks as well. This job lent itself to lots of traveling, as you need large pastures to feed the large flocks.

Place in history: Jacob was the most immediate forefather of the Israelites, and his name itself was later changed to Israel. It was with Jacob that the family of the Israelites first started expanding and also first moved to Egypt, where it would really develop into a large nation.

Special traits: Good fighter. He was able to struggle with the angel at Peniel all night without losing, likely because God wanted to teach him some lessons.

Part II

Weaknesses:

1. Liar (Genesis 27:18,20,24) – Jacob twice claimed that he was Esau, a direct, willful, and blatant lie. He also deceptively answered that God allowed him to make the soup so fast, implying that he had actually killed wild game. There is no sugarcoating this, nor is there any excuse for his actions.

His mother commanded him to do this, yet Jacob is still responsible for his own actions. Perhaps his mother had told him of God’s prophecy, so Jacob and his mother felt the need to help God along by getting this

blessing. Yet helping God is not necessary. God could have used any number of ways to cause Isaac to bless Jacob rather than Esau, including, for example, Esau's sinful and pagan wives.

This is the same problem Abraham and Sarah had when they didn't wait for the Lord to have a son but tried to help God out. Jacob should have waited on the Lord and his timing (like David did to get the throne after he was anointed king by Samuel). Another interesting fact is that this deception to steal the blessing immediately led to Jacob having to leave the Promised Land. The fact that he had to leave the Promised Land because of the way he got the blessing is another indicator that he went outside of God's will.

2. Deceiver/manipulator – In addition to outright lying, Jacob often practiced deceit, scheming, and manipulation to reach his desired ends.

Reflection: What is the root reason people practice deceit to achieve their desired ends?

It demonstrates a reliance on self instead of on God.

Below are some examples of Jacob's scheming and/or deceit:

- A. *Genesis 25:27-34 – Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore, his name was called Edom.) Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So, he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus, Esau despised his birthright.*
- B. In this amazing story, Esau sells his birthright to Jacob. A birthright is the inheritance rights of the firstborn, including a double portion of all the inheritance and the title as head of the family after the passing of the father.
- C. Jacob sees that Esau is desperately hungry, perhaps after a long hunting trip without success. Instead of kindly offering to give him some food, Jacob's scheming mind is churning, thinking about how he can take advantage of this opportunity.
- D. Evidently, from some previous conversations, he knows that Esau doesn't highly value his birthright, so he asks Esau to sell it to him (it was legitimate to buy/sell/trade birthrights). Esau foolishly agreed, showing his irreligious and disrespectful heart as well as a hasty and undisciplined character.
- E. B. The scheme to steal the blessing (Genesis 27) – Rebekah and Jacob conspired to trick blind Isaac into blessing Jacob instead of Esau. It was disrespectful to Isaac and cruel to Esau, who reacted in kind. Esau's anger drove Jacob away, and a wedge was driven between them that took twenty years to heal.
- F. C. Jacob's vow to tithe to God if He would protect him –

Genesis 28:20-22 – Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house. And of all that you give me; I will give a full tenth to you.”

This could be another example where Jacob is kind of manipulating God, saying, if you bless me and take care of me, then you will be my God, just like you are Isaac’s and Abraham’s. Or it could be translated “since”, and in that case, it would be an affirmation of faith in God’s promise. Based on what we see of Jacob’s character at this point, the first seems more likely.

D. The scheme to get Laban’s flock – It seems half trusting in God to bless him through this agreement and half his own cunning mind figuring out how to breed the sheep a certain way to generate a favorable outcome for himself.

E. Jacob secretly leaves Laban (Genesis 31:1-17) – In this story, Jacob decides not to tell Laban the second time that he is leaving but just leaves on his own. He is afraid that Laban will use force to restrain him or take away his wives and herds. So, he secretly leaves, and it is three days before Laban finds out. Laban blamed Jacob for sneaking away instead of bidding a proper farewell.

Genesis 31:27-28 – Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre? And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly.

This is another case where Jacob relies on his own wit instead of on God. It nearly caused a violent reaction by Laban and his family.

F. When Jacob returned to his own country/family, he was afraid of Esau’s wrath. He hatched a plan to divide his family into several companies, sending gifts in front and his most loved family members coming back. Again, it is not sinful to prepare, but it shows Jacob’s bent towards relying on his man-made schemes.

3. Favoritism – Jacob favored Rachel over Leah (this was at least a bit understandable since he was deceived into marrying Leah, but he should not have continued with this attitude for so long till the point when Leah said several times, she was unloved 29:31-35). This is a very likely result of polygamy and one of many reasons it should be avoided.

He also favored Joseph and Benjamin over the rest of his sons (Genesis 37:1-4). Favoring one child over another was largely responsible for causing the rift between Esau and Jacob, and it would do the same with Jacob’s children.

While there is no specific command about loving all children to the same level, there are many commands against favoritism. It is clear from this story that showing favoritism to children is a bad idea and likely to result in many family problems/rifts. It doesn’t promote harmony. Parents should make sure they treat all children with the love of Christ. Unfortunately, Jacob didn’t appear to learn his lesson as he treated Benjamin with favoritism as well.

Part III

Strengths:

1. He valued the birthright and blessing – This blessing is shown to be more than words in Genesis 26, where we see God's blessings raining down on Isaac's life. The blessing from Isaac was directly tied to God's covenant with Abraham and Isaac. The fact that Jacob wanted this blessing and birthright shows us that he did seek God's blessings.
2. He agreed to tithe ten percent of everything he got (Genesis 28:22) – At this point, tithing wasn't yet commanded. Jacob was willing to do it completely voluntarily. This verse shows us that the practice had already begun, and likely true believers in God had already begun doing this. Jacob was willing to act on his faith in God by returning one-tenth of all that he got.
3. Jacob finally recognized his weaknesses and placed his faith in God to protect him.

Genesis 32:9-12 – And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,' I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps. Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children. But you said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

This was a long time coming. We see in verse 10 that Jacob admits he is unworthy of all that God had done for him. Although he often relied on himself in the past, he realized that the good things in his life were solely because of God's blessing and God's faithfulness to keep His promise.

About to enter a dangerous situation, Jacob throws himself on God's mercy and claims God's promise to protect him. It is often when we face the greatest dangers that we will finally humble ourselves and turn to the Lord for help. This chapter does seem to be the turning point where he puts himself into God's control and humbles himself.

4. Jacob tenaciously wanted God's blessing for him –

Genesis 32:22-32 – The same night, he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." The sun rose upon

him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. Therefore, to this day, the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

Jacob was left alone. It is often when we are alone that we truly can encounter God more deeply. All alone and without any resources left, the night before the greatest potential danger Jacob had faced, the Lord came to him.

We see this in the struggle with the "man", which was likely the Angel of the Lord (pre-incarnate Jesus) appearing as a man. The whole fight is somewhat mysterious and very unique. He could have beaten Jacob instantly but allowed the struggle to continue throughout the night. Certainly, the Lord would have wanted to teach Isaac some lessons.

Perhaps he was teaching Jacob that he shouldn't fight God's will after this anymore. Perhaps it was that he should hold on to God and His blessings and never let go.

In this encounter, Jacob's personality is laid bare. He tenaciously holds on, asking for God's blessing. He knew this was no normal man, and therefore, the blessing he gave would be real. When this "man" changed Jacob's name (actually, we see throughout the Scripture that God changes the names of His people, often to mark important changes in their own character), he called him Israel. This means "God's fighter" or "he struggled with God."

Evidently, God wanted Jacob to use this willful, strong nature for serving Him, rather than for Jacob's own ends.

5. Jacob commanded his family to get rid of idols –

Genesis 35:2 – So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments.

Jacob acted well as the leader of his family to command them to get rid of all foreign gods and purify themselves. Jacob was taking responsibility as the leader of the family to lead them in the right direction. These outward actions of cleansing portrayed their new dedication to the Lord. Interestingly, in the verses right after this (Genesis 35:9-15), right after this God appears to Jacob and extends the Abrahamic covenant to him. This passage illustrates both God's sovereign grace and man's responsibility.

6. Jacob was a good provider for his family.

Genesis 42:1-3 – When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die." So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.

When the famine came, he knew what to do. Jacob acted decisively to ask his sons to go for help.

7. Jacob had faith –

Hebrews 11:21 – By faith, Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.

Because this passage is a narrative, we don't always see Jacob's faith, but this verse in Hebrews tells us clearly that Jacob did have a lot of faith. He had faith in God's promises for him and his descendants, even though he didn't see them fulfilled during his lifetime.

Part IV - Conclusion

Important acts and events:

1. Trading for the birthright.
2. Stealing the blessing.
3. Leaving his family.
4. The dream and vow on the way to Aram.
5. The deal to marry Rachel.
6. The new deal to marry Rachel.
7. The new wage agreement.
8. The departure to his own family and country.
9. Meeting the angel and struggling for the whole night.
10. Reconciling with Esau.
11. His sons slaughtering the Shechemites.
12. Birth of Benjamin and death of Rachel.
13. The betrayal of Joseph by his sons.
14. Discovering Joseph is alive.
15. Moving to Egypt.

How he died: He died of old age in Egypt at a little more than 130 years old. He described his days as few and unpleasant (Genesis 47:9). They were marked with troubles. But Joseph was able to see Joseph again before his death, which brought him great happiness.

Lessons from his life:

1. God is sovereign and uses even man's own schemes and plans, sometimes sinful, to accomplish His plans. Examples include Jacob's way to get the birthright and blessing. We see that Jacob himself faced the consequences of his actions. God didn't condone them. I'm quite confident that if Jacob had waited on the Lord as he should have, God would still have given him these things and maybe much better.
2. You reap what you sow. Jacob's deceit and manipulation caused tension between him and Esau, him and Laban, and him and his father. Although God still chose to bless Jacob despite his sinful flaws, this blessing didn't take away all the consequences of his sin. Jacob's actions sowed mistrust and deceptive scheming. With Laban, he finally met his match. Laban cheated Jacob many times, most famously by

giving him the wrong wife. This, in turn, led to many more problems in Jacob's family life. Also, his favoritism caused similar problems between his own children.

3. God blesses and takes care of those whom He chooses. If he chooses to bless us, the worst schemes of man cannot stop it. It is very possible, humanly speaking, that someone would have gotten fed up with Jacob and killed him or robbed him blind. Possible culprits would include Esau, Laban, and the Canaanites. Yet God protected him.

Did God protect Jacob only when Jacob obeyed? No, we see that even when Jacob doesn't seem close to God, God was protecting him, caring for him, and blessing him. This is comforting to know that God won't abandon us if we do wander away from him somewhere during our sojournings.

4. We should be humble like Jacob in his prayer in Genesis 32. He was very rich at this point, but he didn't take credit for it himself. He realized everything he had was from God. This prayer does show us a good example of how to be humble, give the glory to God, and show our dependence on God even during troubles.

5. Like parents like son – Jacob had some of the worst flaws of his parents, including scheming (like Rebekah) and showing favoritism (like both of his parents). A lot of times, we would think, "I will never be like my parents." But it is not the case. Most people are far more like their parents than they would like to admit. And many weaknesses are passed down to the next generation. It is important for parents to be good models for their children and to be aware that children easily emulate them.

5. God is gracious, forgiving, and merciful. To be honest, when I look at the life of Jacob, I find a lot of sins and a lot of weaknesses. But the fact is, God loved Jacob. God chose Jacob to be an ancestor of Christ and a recipient of the Abrahamic covenant. God forgave Jacob for his shortcomings and used the lessons in Jacob's life to help him change step by step. No one is perfect.

Reflect: Which of Jacob's weaknesses do you struggle with most? Which lessons from his life stand out to you? What principles can you apply to your own life this week?

Study & Obey All Rights Reserved. Jason Dexter 182 Queen Victoria Ave, Saint Johns, FL 32259. October 23, 2024.

First United Methodist Church

**Your
Name**



To help us all connect names with faces, please remember to wear your name tag each Sunday. This is also the perfect time to get back into the habit as we prepare for our pastoral transition. Wearing your tag will be a huge help to our new pastor as they work to learn everyone's name.

You can find your tag hanging by the three wooden doors or just inside the chapel door.

If you don't have one or need a replacement, please contact the office.



MEN'S
Breakfast

This coming Sunday
May 17th at 8:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall
All Men Are Welcome!

SHENANDOAH **2026**
Citywide Cleanup

May 14th 10-5

May 15th 8-5

May 16th 8-12



 **1207 W Ferguson Rd**
Shenandoah Sanitation

Shenandoah **residential utility customers only**. Residents must present **driver's license or city utility bill** for entrance.

Loads will be inspected and may be denied.

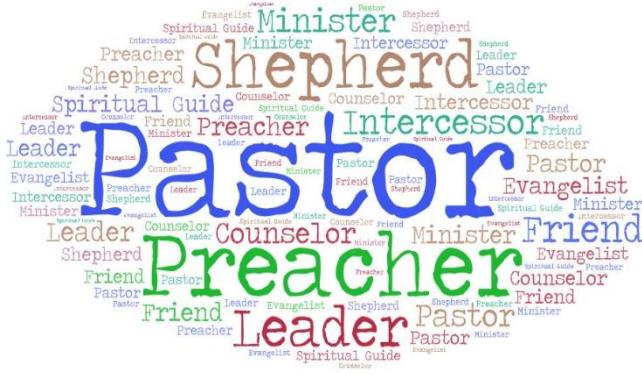
Residents are asked to **remain in vehicles**. Staff will be onsite to unload.

Some loads require driver self unloading, including trailers, C&D, and multiple load deliveries.

Items Not Accepted: Oil, Wet Paint, Tires, Batteries, TVs, Asbestos and Monitors. Residents may be requested to remove items.

Questions? Call Shenandoah Sanitation (712) 246-3350

This **FREE** service is provided by The City of Shenandoah, Ia



Dear Church Family,

Over the past couple of months, we've had some people join our church. They have come and found Shenandoah, First UMC as a home. When a person becomes a member, they make certain promises, and the congregation, in turn, makes promises to them. Church membership is something altogether different than the individualism that pervades

American culture. In the church, we become interdependent. Our personal growth and vitality is intertwined with the growth and vitality of others that we are in relationship with.

When a person becomes a member of our church, we open to the front pages of our hymnal and find words that are embedded in The Baptismal Covenant. Our membership, participation, and belonging is an extension of our baptism.

This week, I would encourage you to reflect on the questions asked as part of our baptismal covenant. Perhaps these questions were asked of you as one who could answer for yourself. Perhaps they were asked of your parents. Regardless, these questions are foundational to our Baptismal Covenant with God and with others. What might these questions mean for you now?

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

Grace and peace,

Pastor David Clark
308-258-7749 (cell)



Elinor Sharp
IS TURNING 99...

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
SUNDAY, MAY 31 | 1:00PM - 3:00PM
VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM
603 W LOWELL AVE | SHENANDOAH, IA

Cards may be mailed to:
109 West Valley, Shenandoah, IA 51601



Jell Pen Artwork

Join us for a special Art Showcase! Following this morning's service, please join us in the Fellowship Hall to view a collection of beautiful gel pen artwork by **Elinor**. These pieces are available for you to take home and enjoy. While not required, any free-will donations placed in the basket will go directly toward our **Church Scholarship Fund**. Come support Elinor and our students!