



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



Choosing Love in the Midst of Evil and Violence

If God is good, why isn't he intervening to bring peace and healing? People have wrestled with questions like this over the centuries.

While we won't be able to untangle all the deep mysteries about God and evil in this short devotional, the ministry of the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk provides us some insights into the source of earthly suffering and the solution that God provides through his people.

Habakkuk was a prophet to the tiny nation of Judah during the closing moments of its survival. His home was surrounded by enemies, some less than a day's walk away. His nation had strayed from God, worshipping the idols of surrounding nations and sacrificing their children to them. The discovery of the Book of the Law during the reign of King Josiah caused great fear and mourning as the people of Judah realized the extent of their disobedience.

Habakkuk challenged God about the evil and violence he saw in his nation:

"How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?"

Continued page 2

“They invented bugs to let people know you love them without saying anything.”
Bill Keane

“All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn’t hurt.” Charles Schulz

Reminders

January 19th

PK-6 S.S.– After Children’s Message
 Jr/Sr High S.S. – 10:30 a.m.
 Confirmation Class – 10:30 a.m.
 Men’s Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.

January 21st

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

January 22nd

No Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.
 Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
 Choir Practice – 5:30 p.m.
 Bell Choir Practice – 6:30 p.m.

January 23rd

T.O.P.S.

Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries

****Worship Assistants are needed
 February 2025**

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

Choosing Love- Continued from page 1.

Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore, the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.” – Habakkuk 1:2-4

The Hebrew word *תפוג* (*tapug* or “paralyzed”) is used to describe what had happened to the law in Habakkuk 1:4 means to have grown cold or become numb. When the law is unable to do its work, injustice, wrongdoing, destruction, violence, strife, and conflict abound.

Jesus used similar words to describe the last days before his return. Love, which fulfills the law (Romans 13:18-10), would grow cold: *“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”* – Matthew 24:12-13

How does love become numb? It happens gradually over time. Imagine you move to a new home and want to meet your neighbors. Maybe you take a home-baked cake and knock on their door. They open it, scowl at you, and slam the door. How would you feel? Confused and rejected? Would you risk being hurt again? Or would you build a protective barrier around yourself and choose not to put yourself in that situation again? That protective barrier desensitizes a part of your heart. It becomes numb.

So, what’s the alternative? Even in the darkest circumstances, we can choose to continue showing love. The light shines brighter in the darkness.

Corrie Ten Boom and her family chose love during the dark days of the Second World War. They helped many Jewish people by hiding them behind a false wall in Corrie’s bedroom. Eventually, Corrie’s family was betrayed and sent to a concentration camp in Germany. Even there, Corrie and her sister Bettie continued to love:

“Do you know what hurts so very much? It’s love. Love is the strongest force in the world, and when it is blocked that means pain. There are two things we can do when this happens.

Continued 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

Michelle Morelock - Chair
Mary Peterson - Secretary
Margaret Brady - Vice Chair & Trustee
Gary Milstead - Trustee
Roger Jones - SPRC
Open - Finance
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 during service,
Jr/Sr High 10:30 a.m.**

Wednesday
****Choir –5:30 pm**
****Bell Choir –6:30 pm**

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.



According to Jesus, why are the peacemakers blessed?

- a) they shall see God
- b) the kingdom of heaven is theirs
- c) they shall be called sons of God
- d) they shall be comforted

What did the Lord liken how he made Ezekiel's forehead to be against the house of Israel?

- a) like a hammer
- b) like Emery harder than Flint
- c) like a rock
- d) like an arrow

How many days did Elijah take to travel to Horeb where he neither ate nor drank?

- a) 14
- b) 28
- c) 40
- d) 50

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



18th – Aaron Morelock
19th – Jack Brady
20th – Dalton Weiss
23rd – Hernan Rengifo
24th – Ashley Lundgren, Torrey Nelson
25th – Addison Blane, Aiden Hobbie

****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: O God, we eat and are full at your table.

People: We drink from the river of your overflowing kindness.

L: Your light has opened our eyes,

P: and awakened our souls.

L: May your love continue to grow deeply in the lives of all who know you.

P: May your salvation reach every heart.

“The Signs of Jesus”

Scripture Reading: John 2:1-11

Songs

Great Is Thy Faithfulness #140

Open The Eyes of My Heart #3008

Spirit of God #2117

Last Week’s Attendance

In-Person Worship – 63

On-Line Worship – 14

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 January 12th are c) Shimei c) Gideon d) Caiaphas the High Priest
Quiz hints – Q1) Matthew Q2) Ezekiel Q3) 1 Kings**



Food Pantry Monthly Needs

January 2025

Pancake Mix & Syrup, Cake, Brownie, and Cookie Mixes, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Pasta (any variety), Spaghetti Sauce, Microwave Popcorn, hot Chocolate Mix, Crackers (sods, graham, snack), Macaroni & Cheese, Potato Flakes & Boxed Potatoes, Toilet Paper, 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.

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday

to Deliver Meals

**Sign-Up Sheet is on the
Welcome Center Counter**

Choosing Love- Continued from page 2.

Amid all the angry Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, a friend of mine was convicted when the Holy Spirit asked her, “What is your plan to love your enemy?” She pondered that question and began praying for others like her who admitted they didn’t have such a plan.

While the evils of the Second World War and the violent conflicts in the world today might seem far removed from our peaceful homes, your “enemy” could be anyone who fills you with anger or fear.

Does anyone come to mind? What is your plan to love them? How can we keep our love from growing cold?

Adapted from Wendy Halloun, Creative Communications Officer MENA, Biblica. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, January 13, 2025.



Living out Christ's teachings in our modern day

On the path of following Jesus, *knowing* is not enough. What we *do* with what we *know* is where our faith comes alive; where it matters and counts.

Christ’s teachings aren’t meant to be metaphorical or theoretical. They are a *practical* invitation to embody love, kindness, and justice. The United Methodist Church has always embraced a faith that integrates both personal and social holiness — personal faith and communal action go hand in hand. Here’s a reflection on some teachings of Christ:

“Love Your Neighbor as Yourself” (Luke 10:27)

In this chapter, Jesus is asked about the afterlife. Jesus shifts the attention on what happens *after* we die to what we can do while we are still alive. He emphasizes this point by talking about the importance of loving our neighbors and ends with the wise advice of “go and do likewise.”

This story challenges us to love and care for others, particularly those who are in need. Many United Methodist congregations demonstrate this love of neighbor through ministries that help meet the needs of their communities: Food pantries, community gardens, and meal programs for the food insecure. These are just *small* examples of churches being good and faithful neighbors.

On a personal level, loving one’s neighbor might mean reaching out to a lonely coworker, volunteering at a local shelter, or advocating for social policies that protect the vulnerable. Each act of kindness reflects Christ’s love in the world.

“Happy are people who make peace” (Matthew 5:9)

Jesus declared that peacemakers will be called children of God. The “peace” that Jesus talked about isn’t an absence of conflict, noise, or discord, but instead is a form of completeness; and wholeness.

This teaching challenges us to enter in spaces to provide harmony, wholeness, and/or completeness. It urges us to pursue reconciliation and healing.

Many UMCs are engaged in the work of creating wholeness, from addressing conflicts within their local communities to promoting global initiatives to bring about completeness and harmony. For instance, some local churches host interfaith dialogues or racial reconciliation groups to foster understanding in hopes of bringing about healing and unity.

On a personal level, being a peacemaker might mean forgiving someone who has hurt you, mediating conflicts within your family, or speaking out against hate speech and discrimination. Peacemaking is about creating environments where love and justice prevail to bring about wholeness.

“When you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Matthew 25 can be a bit scandalous because of who Jesus identifies with: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, and the imprisoned. He teaches that serving those in need is the same as serving him (and ignoring those in need is the same as ignoring Jesus).

United Methodists have always been deeply committed to social justice and care for the marginalized. Through missions like the United Methodist Committee On Relief, they respond to natural disasters, poverty, and global crises. On a local level, many churches run (or are part of) prison ministries -- supporting not only the incarcerated individuals but their families as well with compassion and dignity.

On an individual level, Jesus’ words call us to look beyond our “self” and beyond our comfort zone. We’re compelled by love *to love* which can manifest in many forms: volunteering at a local hospital or rescue mission; supporting refugee families; or simply being present for someone who feels forgotten. Being a source and presence of love are powerful ways to live out our faith.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

The Mission Statement of the United Methodist Church is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” This echoes the Great Commission: Jesus’ invitation to share the Gospel and make disciples.

United Methodist churches live out this teaching by offering inclusive spaces where people can encounter Christ’s love. Many churches focus on outreach to young people, the unchurched, and those who feel disconnected from faith. Programs like Vacation Bible School, community events, and digital ministries make discipleship accessible to modern communities.

I keep coming back to the words of St. Francis of Assisi: *Preach the Gospel. Use words when necessary.* Our actions do weigh more than our words. An authentic witness of love and faith rooted in Christ not only speaks louder than our words but also can be contagious and inspiring.

We *must* understand that living out Christ's teachings is not a solitary journey. It's always been — and always will be — a communal one. We rely on one another — church families, Sunday school classes, small groups, and wider faith communities to both inspire and support one another. Through worship, service, and fellowship, we are continually reminded of our call to live as Christ taught us.

In the words of John Wesley, "The gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness." Our faith calls us not just to believe, but to act. By loving our neighbors, making peace, serving the marginalized, sharing our faith, and shining our light, we bring Christ's teachings to life in a world that desperately needs them.

May we, as individuals and as the body of Christ, continue to live out His teachings with courage, compassion, and unwavering faith.

Adapted from author, Joseph Yoo, When the Saints Go Flying in. United Methodist NOW, United Methodist Communications, 810 12th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203.



YEAR END GIVING STATEMENT

The end-of-the-year giving statements will be coming out soon. They will be sent electronically by email. Those without email will be included with your weekly booster. If you would like your copy to be mailed to you, please contact the office, at 712-246-2081, to make sure that your mailing address is correct. If you live in an apartment the address must include your apartment number for mailing purposes.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Sunday, January 19th
8:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hall
All Men Are Welcome!**



**22nd Annual Clarinda Lutheran School
German Dinner
Sunday, February 2, 2025
Starting at 11 a.m.**

Menu

Marinated Pork Loins
Bratwurst
Bavarian Sauerkraut
Hot German Potato Salad
Green Beans with Bacon
Escalloped Apples
Homemade German Breads
German Chocolate Cake
Peach Kuchen Lemon Streusel
Black Forest Cake Banana Rum Cake

**Clarinda Lutheran School
707 W. Scidmore
Clarinda, Iowa**

Silent Auction opens at 10:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m.

**This is a benefit dinner for the operational expenses of
the educational ministry of Clarinda Lutheran School.
Cost of the meal is a free will donation.**

**Make your Reservations on our website:
clarindalutheranschool.com/german-dinner**

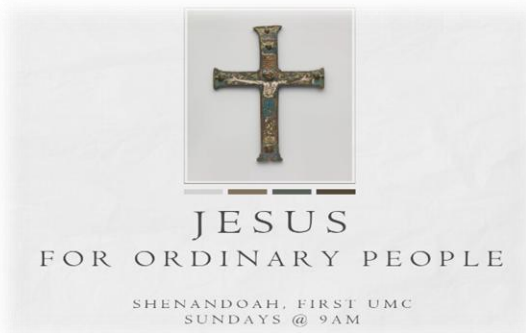
Questions? Please call (712) 542-3657



Thank you to all who stayed after church last Sunday to help take down the Christmas decorations and get them stored away. Also, thank you to the Weiss family for providing the food for lunch after the decorations were put away. The questions that comes to mind after looking at the pictures, is how many people does it take to get the Christmas tree over the rail and how many people does it take to watch those people put the tree away? Great teamwork and fellowship!



The Noisy Change Offering for the month of January is going to Sleep In Heavenly Peace! There are 350 chapters in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and Bahamas building and delivering beds for kids in need. The goal is to make sure no kid sleeps on the floor. The goal is helping children get the safe, comfortable sleep they deserve. Please bring your change on Sunday mornings and help make sure kids have a bed instead of sleeping on the floor.



This coming year, we will be spending a lot of time in the gospel of Luke on Sunday mornings. This is my favorite of the 4 gospels. It has in it some of our most beloved stories that are not found in the others such as the story of the shepherds and angels at the birth of Jesus and the Prodigal Son. The Gospel of Luke also centers the experience of the poor and outcast, highlights the importance of women in the Jesus movement, and gives us glimpses of the importance of eating together. I would invite you

over the next week or so, to read through the entirety of the Gospel. This is a great gospel to ask the question while reading: Where do I see myself in this story? In January and February on Sunday mornings, we will see several scenes from the beginnings of Jesus' ministry. These opening scenes help us to realize that Jesus was not hanging out with the educated, wealthy, powerful, pious, elites. Jesus hung out with ordinary people who struggled in life and didn't always have everything put together.

Grace and peace,

Pastor David Clark
308-258-7749 (cell)

This week is photo number 26 in a series of unique pictures from all over the world. For some pictures, you may need to squint and then you will see what the picture represents, others you will see it right away. I have found these amazing and wanted to share them.

#26

