



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Kelly W. Peavey

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Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

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Pianist

Terry Stafford

Choir Director

Sue Jones

Bell Choir Director

Volunteer Needed

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Media Booth

Kris Anderzhon,
Alan Hutchison,
Jeff Hiser

Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

Facebook Contributors

Pastor Kelly W. Peavey,
Barb Cunningham,
Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,
Margaret Brady, Eric Whipple,
Drew Morelock, Deb Finlay,
Robin Hensen, Jeff Hiser,
Jodi Anderzhon



It was my ninth-grade year at Robert E. Lee Jr. High in San Angelo, Texas. My student council job was to broadcast the morning announcements. It was the first step in my dream of becoming an on-air personality. My team and I added a little spice to the traditionally droll morning litany of announcements.

For a while things went fine. Then one day Amy Cassles had an idea. Instead of just reading off the list of birthdays, Amy wanted to sing the birthday song. It was my show, and I gave her the go-ahead. We imagined our imaginary ratings soaring. But then, halfway through the song, Amy busted out laughing uncontrollably.

At the end of our program there was dead silence. Until our principal, Mr. Snodgrass, asked to see us. A look of terror struck the eyes of my team. I know because their eyes were staring right at me. In a moment of extreme bravery on my part, I led the way into Mr. Snodgrass' office. Mr. Snodgrass was a retired military commander and we felt like we were going before the judge in a court martial.

Judges elicit a sense of fear, don't they? They never call you in for something you have done right. We think of them as someone who harshly tells us what we did wrong. And they seem to be everywhere these days on television. There's Judge Judy and Hatchett. Mathis and Christina. And my favorite—Judge *Brown*.

Then there are some judges you may not know. They even have a book in the Bible with their name on it. *Judges*. These judges appeared on the scene to help sort out right and wrong. They also helped people get out of trouble.

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*He loves me...
He loves me...
He loves me...
there is no NOT!*

*You can plan your
route, but God
determines your steps.*

Reminders

March 9th

Women's Bible Study
11:30 a.m.
Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
Choir Practice – 6:45 p.m.

March 10th

T.O.P.S.
4:30 p.m.

March 12th

Men's Bible Study 8:00 a.m.

**Worship Assistants needed for
March 20th & 27th

** Fellowship Volunteers needed
sign-up in Fellowship Hall

**Choir members are needed to join
us on Wednesday nights at 6:45
p.m.

"The Story" Study Groups

Women-Wednesday-11:30 a.m.
All-Wednesday-6:15 p.m.

Books & Study Guides still available.
Contact the office.

Before a Judge – Continued from page 1

God's people kept putting themselves into a never-ending cycle of disobedience, discipline, declaration of wrong, and deliverance. Judges like Deborah and Gideon and Samson helped them find their way back to God.

What did the people do that was so bad they needed judges? Two things. First, they failed to put God first in their lives (Judges 1:28). And secondly, they did not teach their children to know God (Judges 2:10). These two "sins" led to their downfall and ruin.

Are you making the same mistakes they made? If so, you have a judge that can help you—Jesus.

The good news is that when he "calls" you into his office after you've messed up, you will look up to see your judge's face and see your savior there.

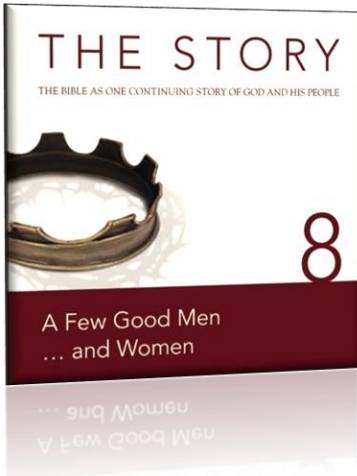


Lent is heavy. Lent is serious. It is a time of reflection and self-analysis and intentional consideration of what we believe and stand for as Christians. But, as dark as this sounds, if we do Lent right, we will emerge in 40 days with a renewed understanding of the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice for us and a renewed trust in God's sovereignty in the light of the greatest spectacle and celebration that the universe has ever known: Easter.

SO, WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting to grow closer to God.

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Books and Study Guides are still available. Contact the office.

Book Your Appointment Online



Would you like to chat with Pastor Kelly, maybe over coffee, tea, or soda? Need to get something on the church calendar or need something brought to our attention? You can book an appointment online with Jeff or Pastor Kelly by going to the following link <https://bit.ly/3sm5lyY> (click on the link or copy and paste into your browser). You may also use a QR reader.



Church Office Hours

** Children & Jr.-Sr. High Sunday School 10:15 Questers (Adults) 10:30	Monday 9:00-11:00 12:00-3:00
** Bell Choir – Volunteer needed	Tuesday 9:00-11:00 12:00-3:00
** Chancel Choir – Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m. Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Wednesday CLOSED
	Thursday 9:00-11:00 12:00-3:00
	Friday 9:00-11:00 12:00-3:00

The front door to the church will be unlocked during office hours and closed only for errands and lunch.

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.



Where in the Bible is the Book of Babel?

- a) Old Testament
- b) New Testament
- c) Not in the Bible

What chapter of Matthew did Jesus say, "Ask and it shall be given you?"

- a) 1
- b) 4
- c) 7

Where in the Bible is the Book of 1st Kings?

- a) The Appendix
- b) Old Testament
- c) New Testament

Check page 4 for a hint, answers in next week's booster, March 13th

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Anniversaries and Birthdays

- 6th – Marlene Bashaw
- 8th – Val Grossman, David Skinner
- 10th – Joel Bashaw, Angella Collins, Connie Loftis, Keith Myers
- 11th – Marsha Stribling

**See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added, please call the office, or send an email to office@shen.church

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We're on the Web!

<https://shen.church>



United Methodist Church,
Shenandoah, IA

www.facebook.com/methodist.
church.shenandoah



Click on the link below by holding
down the Ctrl button and click on
the link <http://bit.ly/3skF0p9>

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

Call to Worship

Leader: *To Noah, God said: "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*

People: *Blessed be the name of the Lord, who keeps covenant with us.*

L: *To Abraham, God said: "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations."*

P: *Blessed be the name of the Lord, who keeps covenant with us.*

L: *To us, God gives a covenant. Jesus said: "For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,"*

P: *Blessed be the name of the Lord, who keeps covenant with us.*

All: *Blessed be the name of the Lord, who keeps covenant with us. God, help us, in return, to keep our covenant with you. Amen.*

"The Time of Judges"

Old Testament Scripture: *Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

New Testament Scripture: *Romans 10:8-13*

Gospel Reading: *Luke 4:1-13*

Songs

When the Saints Go Marching In (words on the screens)

Gentle Shepherd #3096

I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord (words on the screens)

Soon and Very Soon #706

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 68

Online Worship – 20

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 Feb 27th a) Lazarus c) ambassadors d) Midian



The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

As we shared last week, a Zoom meeting was held by the Iowa Annual Conference leadership this past Monday. I am pleased to report that there were 36 people in attendance in the sanctuary, and I know of at least one who joined from home.

Blessings to all who are engaging with the things happening in our Annual Conference, the larger denomination, and with their own convictions. These are challenging times. Rely on the peace and love of Christ and be gentle and charitable towards one another as we have difficult conversations about the future of Methodism and where we all fit into it – or not.

I expect the recording of the meeting to be available soon at the first link. The other links are to help you get informed:

<https://www.iaumc.org/leading-now-iowa-tour> – Iowa Annual Conference

<https://umc.org> – United Methodist Church

<https://www.iaumc.info> – Unaffiliated General Info

<https://globalmethodist.org> - Global Methodist Church

<https://www.gracethroughseparation.com> - The Protocol

<https://rmnetwork.org> - Reconciling Ministries

<https://www.umqcc.org> - UM Queer Clergy Caucus

Blessings,

pk

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WHEN IS LENT?

It's the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. It's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithing of time). Mardi Gras is the day before Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday. This year it's from March 2 - April 14, 2022.

MARDI GRAS? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH JESUS?

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday." It refers to the day before Lent starts. Since Lent always starts on a Wednesday, the day before is always a Tuesday. And it's called "Fat" or "Great" because it's associated with great food and parties.

In earlier times, people used Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. Since they didn't want to be tempted by sweets, meat, and other distractions in the house, they cleaned out their cabinets. They used up all the sugar and yeast in sweet bread before the Lent season started, and fixed meals with all the meat available. It was a great feast! Through the years Mardi Gras has evolved (in some places) into a wild party with little to do with preparing for the Lenten season of repentance and simplicity. Oh well. But Christians still know its origin and hang onto the true Spirit of the season.

SO, THE REAL BEGINNING OF LENT IS ASH WEDNESDAY?

Yes. Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras, usually begins with a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God and re-turn our lives towards Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days so that we might be more like Christ. In an Ash Wednesday service, usually, a minister or priest marks the sign of the cross on a person's forehead with ashes.

WHY ASHES?

In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose, and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

WHERE DO THE ASHES COME FROM?

On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little water (like tears) or oil. It's symbolic.

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WHAT DO CHRISTIANS DO WITH ASHES?

At an Ash Wednesday service, folks are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. The minister will make a small cross on your forehead by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness. It's a powerful, non-verbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

SO, WHAT IS LENT?

At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended, and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Spirit. Where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time there he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterward, he was ready to begin his ministry.

(Speculation)

Maybe Jesus needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe needed to get away from family, friends, and the familiar routine to see God (and himself) more clearly. Perhaps he wanted some intentional time with God as he searched for direction and answers like you. Like Jesus, we may need to take some serious time to pray and listen for God.

WHY "DO" LENT? HOW DO I START?

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not living life with direction, purpose, or passion? It's easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities, or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and God.

Lent is a great time to "repent" -- to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40-day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. You might try one of these practices for Lent:

FASTING: Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that's not the only way too fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, tv, soft drinks, cigarettes, or meat to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some activity like worry or reality tv to spend time outside enjoying God's creation. What do you need to let go of or "fast" from to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear, or do?

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SERVICE: Some Christians take something on for Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to helping a different stranger, co-worker, or friend every day of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

PRAYER: Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God.

Christians from many different traditions celebrate Lent. How will you use the time to grow closer to God?

TOP TEN LIST: THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

10. Try an electronic fast. Give up TV, video games, texting, tweeting, e-mail, and all things electronic for one day every week. (Or every day of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray.
9. Start a prayer rhythm. Say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear an ambulance, or check your e-mail. Before you text someone, pray for them.
8. Read one chapter in the Bible each day. (Matthew's a good book to start with. Psalms, too.)
7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.)
6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea, or coffee. Give the money you save to help others in crisis.
5. Create a daily quiet time. Spend 30 minutes a day in silence and prayer.
4. Cultivate a life of gratitude. Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way.
3. Be kind to someone each day.
2. Pray for others you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.
1. Volunteer one hour or more each week with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home, prison ministry, or a Habitat for Humanity project.

Adopted from Rev. Penny Ford, United Methodist Church, 2017.



Only one week from this coming Sunday until we spring forward. This is an early reminder so you can mark your calendars or put a not on your refrigerator. You won't want to be late to Sunday service on March 13th.