



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

David B. Clark

pastordavid@shen.church

Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

office@shen.church

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

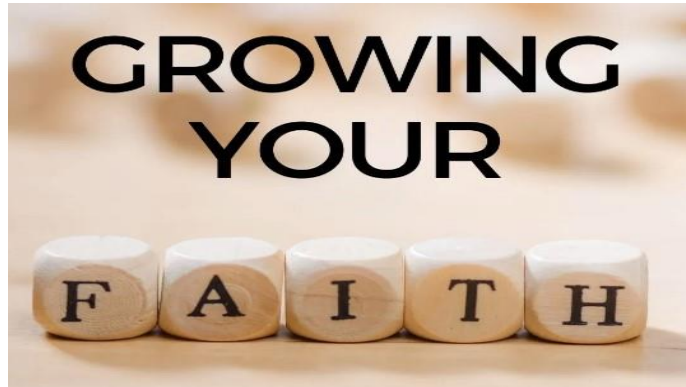
Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Drew Morelock,

Pastor David



How to Grow Your Faith

A lot of people talk about “faith.” But what does that mean for our everyday lives? We offer reflections based on the experiences of historical figures in the Bible whose experiences teach us lessons about growing our faith today.

Faith Involves Action

After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, and she said to him, “Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life, he will be given over to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there. [1 Samuel 1:24–28](#)

Hannah, a woman with a heart for prayer, lived with grief as a barren woman. Eli the priest misunderstood her grief as intoxication, but once he realized her faithfulness, he bid her to go in peace and blessed her.

Continued page 2.

Did you know that President James A. Garfield could write with both hands at once? He could write Greek in one hand and Latin with the other hand. He was also the first presidential candidate to deliver a campaign speech in a language other than English.

Reminders

April 10th

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

April 11th

T.O.P.S.

April 21st

Men's Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.

April 27th

Church Workday – A.M.
More information to come

****No Men's Saturday Bible Study
Until Spring - TBA**

****Worship Assistants are needed
for April 14, 21, 28**

**** 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**

Growing Faith - Continued from page 1.

Hannah promised to give her child wholly for God's service if he would grant her weeping request. God did hear her plea, gracing her with baby Samuel. And she followed through on her difficult promise. She offered Samuel to Eli, to serve God all the days of his life in the tabernacle.

Hannah demonstrated her faith by offering up her firstborn. What does her stunning act demonstrate for us even today?

That faith involves action. Hannah so trusted God that she could offer her child for God's service. She knew he would take care of Samuel.

You may see reflections of the gospel in this story, as God the Father truly did offer up his first and only child, but he did so for us. He entrusted Jesus to this world, and the world thanked him by crucifying him. Yes, Hannah's faith was strong, and she did sacrifice, but nothing compares to the audaciousness of the sacrifice of the cross. Because of the cross, we can have deep faith in a God who gave so much for us.

Reflect & Pray

Who do you know who struggles with or has battled with infertility? How can knowing their trial deepen your understanding of Hannah's faith?

Lord, help me have the kind of faith Hannah exemplified. And thank you for showing me just how much you love me in giving your Son. Amen.

Faith Is Exercised Through Prayer

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you *may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

Continued page 6

Did you know President Richard Nixon was the most musically accomplished President? He played five instruments: saxophone, clarinet, accordion, violin, and piano.

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.



| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Who cured the crippled man in Lystra? | Who became Abraham's wife after Sara died? | Joseph, Reuben, Isaac, and Levi. Who is the odd one out? |
| a) Peter b) Paul c) Stephen d) Jesus | a) Leah b) Hagar c) Keturah d) Rebekah | a) Joseph b) Reuben c) Isaac d) Levi |

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



8th – Blake & Bowen Burdorf
9th – Barb Lundgren, Cindy Nelson, Lexi Williams, Kent & Sherri Hiser
11th – Jane Foster, Richard & Carleen Perry

****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: How good it is to be here this morning!

People: How good it is to be gathered in peace!

L: It is as good as the finest fragrant oils.

P: Our peace together is like gentle rain.

L: In our midst, God will speak.

P: God's blessings will be with us forever.

“Living in Community”

Scripture Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Songs

All creatures of Our God and King #62

Here I Am to Worship #3177

Blest Be the Tie That Binds #557

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 117

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 March 31st are d) Valley of Aijalon b) For he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land c) pig

Quiz hints – Q1) Acts Q2) Genesis Q3)



Supporting the local pantry

April 2024

Pasta (any kind), Jell, Ketchup & Mustard, Pickle Relish, Spices, Green Beans & Corn, Mandarin Oranges, Cinnamon Applesauce, Chicken Noodle Soup, Soda Crackers, Canned Tuna or Chicken, Bar Soap, Shampoo & Conditioner, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste.

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.

Bring Your Change to Make a Change

*Collected each Sunday after
the children's message*



"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 March & April will go to the **Heifer International Organization**.



Growing Faith - Continued from page 2

Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. [James 5:13–18](#)

According to James, when we're in trouble, we should pray. When we're elated, we should sing. When we're sick, we should ask others to pray. Even confession is a form of prayer—we confess our sins so we'll experience forgiveness.

Prayer is an exercise of faith. Prayer reveals that we realize we can't do life on our own, and we need God's help in every area.

James gives us a real-life example of faith-infused prayer by reminding us of Elijah and rain. In an arid, desert land, not having rain meant ruination. For three and a half long years, the nation of Israel struggled under a drought. Then Elijah prayed, and the clouds burst forth with life-giving rain.

What James wants us to realize, though, is not that Elijah had supernatural powers. He wrote, "Elijah was a human being, even as we are" (verse 17). No, it was Elijah's faith in a supernatural God that informed his prayers.

Ordinary people demonstrate their faith when they pray to an extraordinary God, believing him for impossible things.

Reflect & Pray

What is one of your longstanding prayers? How has God built your faith through waiting for an answer to that long-term request? In what ways has he begun to answer your prayer?

Lord, help me realize I don't have to be extraordinary to have my prayers answered. I simply need to have faith in extraordinary you. I entrust today's concerns to you, and I believe you hear me. Amen.

Faith Is Personal

After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. They forsook the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the people around them. They aroused the LORD's anger because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. [Judges 2:10-13](#)

After Joshua's death, the people of Israel became complacent. The passage says they "forsook" the Lord (verse 12), which means they turned away from him. But their turning away wasn't toward nothing;

they turned to other gods. As a result, they suffered. Why? Because they turned from the living, available God toward false gods, who only bring emptiness and loss.

The truth? We cannot borrow faith. Nor can we rely on our parents' or grandparents' faith to save us. Although the Israelites who entered the promised land with Joshua saw great deliverance and worshiped God with abandon, the next generation failed to do so. They didn't personalize their faith; they chose not to pursue God for themselves. This led to a vacuum of belief.

It is a privilege to actively put our faith in God. Whether you've had faith examples through your family or you have no spiritual heritage, right now you have the opportunity to love and worship God with your whole heart.

Ask him to come near, even if you have ventured far. God loves to answer the prayers of those seeking him. He loves you.

Reflect & Pray

Who in your life has chosen to walk away from God? What happened? Write a prayer for them here, asking God to rescue them.

Lord, I want the kind of faith that keeps me continuing to chase you all the days of my life. Forgive me for straying. I need you today. Keep me close to you. Amen.

Adapted from NIV Radian Virtues Bible Devotionals. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, April 1, 2024.



Jesus Never Had an Obituary

Many of us often make it a habit of reading the obituaries to see which one of our classmates, co-workers, friends, and family have gone on to meet their reward. Obituaries tell us about where a person was born, and lived, one's immediate family history, one's occupation, hobbies, and many other things, as well as times of the funeral and burial location. These notices of death are a daily reminder that our life on earth is not permanent. Obituaries have a finality to them, they become a permanent record and reminder that a loved one is not present with us in this life anymore.

Now as one reads the Bible it becomes very clear that Jesus never had an obituary. We read about His birth in Bethlehem (Mt. 1:18 – 2:6). We can learn about His family (Mt. 1:1-17). We can learn about much of His life and ministry in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We can also learn about the events leading up to His death and His actual death upon the cross in these same passages of the Bible. But the one thing no one can find in the Bible is Jesus' obituary.

First Corinthians 15:1-4, explains it this way, "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the Gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures....".

First Corinthians 15:20-23 continues to teach, "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ, all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the first fruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."

Because Jesus, by the power of God, was raised from the dead, His death was not the end. The Bible also makes it clear that not only did Jesus rise from the dead, but all people will be raised at Jesus' second coming, some to a resurrection of life; others to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:28-29). Those who obey Jesus' doctrine which "reenacts" the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ through faith, repentance, and baptism (Romans 6:1-4, 17) are cleansed from their sins, can continue to be faithful to Christ, have the hope of being raised at His second coming to be with Christ forever in heaven (1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).

Jesus' death was not permanent; His grave was not final; the tomb was not Jesus' final resting place. Jesus does not have an obituary because Jesus did not remain in the grave. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection are the "good news" of the Bible. Jesus does not have an obituary. He came not to have an ending but to bring a new beginning. What will your obituary say? Will it tell how you lived because you followed the One who arose from the grave and never had an obituary? Have you been saved? You can be if you'll respond to Jesus on His terms.

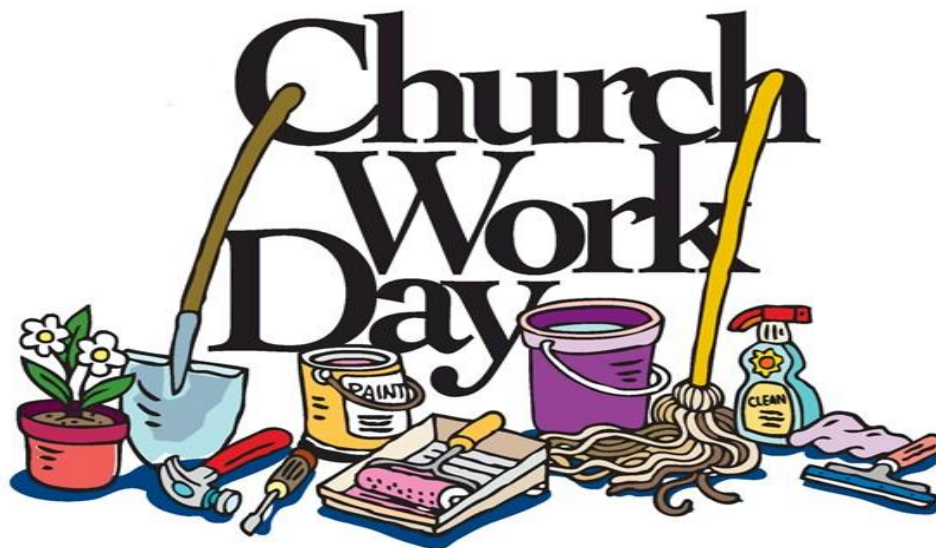
Think about it!

Adapted from Bulletin Digest. PO Box 831, Judsonia, Arkansas 72081, USA, Vol. 36, No.11, November 2017.

Villisca United Methodist Church
is hosting a
SPRING Women's Conference
on **Saturday, April 13**
from **9am to 3pm.**

Everyone is invited!
To secure your spot, please call the
church office at 712-826-3132

Cost is \$30 per person
which includes a light breakfast and lunch



There will be a church work day on the morning of Saturday, April 27th.

More information to come. Please save the date!