



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Sunday Facebook Host

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Facebook Contributors

Pastor David B. Clark,

Barb Cunningham,

Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

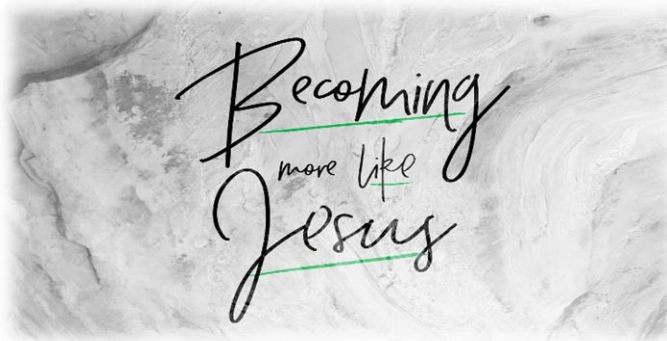
Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Drew Morelock,

Pastor David



How Do I Become More Like Jesus?

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God based on faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining the resurrection from the dead.

[Philippians 3:7-11](#)

Changes in behavior always start with a radically new way of thinking, because what we believe shapes what we do. The same is true of becoming more like Jesus ([Romans 12:2](#)). For us to change our thinking, we must learn about the spiritual treasures that are part of our salvation — things like freedom in Christ, free access to God's rich spiritual resources, the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the immeasurable love of God. The Bible says that as followers of God, we have every spiritual blessing in Christ ([Ephesians 1:3](#)).

A New Creation

Continued page 2.

Quote

“A good rule to remember for life is that when it comes to plastic surgery and sushi, never be attracted by a bargain.” Graham Norton

Reminders**February 3rd**

Men's Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

February 4th

Communion Sunday
German Dinner – 11:00 a.m.
Clarinda Lutheran School
Free Will Donation

February 5th

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

February 6th

T.O.P.S.

****Worship Assistants are needed
for February 18th, 25th**

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

Like Jesus - Continued from page 1.

As Christians we become more like Jesus by drawing on these Christ-given riches to enable us to behave like the new creations that we are ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). We are determined to be humble, loving, pure, grace-giving people. When we make mistakes and bad decisions, we confess our sins and repent, which keeps our relationship with the Lord strong. When we discover our weaknesses, we draw on God's wisdom and power for help.

Growing in Relationship with One Another

No one can become more like Jesus without having close relationships with other believers. As the body of Christ, Christians need one another to grow. We need a church in which fellow believers are speaking the truth in love ([Ephesians 4:15](#)) and in which the Bible is being preached so we know how to do works of service in Jesus' name ([Ephesians 4:12](#)). In addition, Christians have always found that practicing spiritual disciplines — such as regular Bible reading, prayer, fasting, solitude and giving, among others — provide deep insights into their souls and open pathways into Christlikeness.

Disciplined by Our Loving Father

Finally, we must reckon with God's discipline ([Hebrews 12:6](#)). As a loving Father, God sometimes invests in our growth by allowing us to experience painful situations that arrest us in our sinfulness, reveal our weaknesses, and build into our lives a deeper reliance on Christ and his Word ([Hebrews 12:4 – 13](#)).

Adapted from the NIV Quest Study Bible. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, January 29, 2024



Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday

to Deliver Meals

Sign-Up Sheet is on the

Welcome Center Counter

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed

February 13th
5:00–7:00 p.m.
Free Will Donation

St. John's
Episcopal Church
401 Church St.



Quote

“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.” Mae West

Volunteers Needed



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.

LAST PERSON LEAVING
PLEASE TURN OUT LIGHTS
AND LOCK DOORS

First United Methodist Church
Please wear your name tag on Sunday mornings



In the book of Ezra, the letter written to King Artaxerxes was written in?

- a) Hebrew
- b) Greek
- c) Aramaic
- d) Latin

According to 2 Corinthians, why did Paul want to come to the Corinthians first?

- a) to take offering
- b) to impart some spiritual gifts
- c) so that they might have a second experience of grace
- d) to bid them farewell

How long did Sarah live for?

- a) 106 years
- b) 110 years
- c) 127 years
- d) 147 years

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



9th – *Dustin Christiansen*

****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: You are God, and you promise to never leave us.

People: We are God's people; we are not afraid.

L: You will always be just and true; your love never ends.

P: You are our God; we lift our hearts to you.

L: You raise prophets among us to speak truth.

P: Help us to listen.

“RENEWAL”

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Songs

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me #361

Breathe (words on the screens)

On Eagle's Wings #143

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 76

On-Line Worship – 19

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 Jan 28th are d) 5 c) 7 a) of Philemon's accord

Quiz hints – Q1) Ezra Q2) 2Corinthians Q3) Genesis

February 2024

Jelly, Spaghetti Sauce and Pasta (any kind), Potato Flakes, Boxed Potatoes, Cake, Brownie, Cookie, and Muffin Mixes, Hot Chocolate Mix, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Soda & Snack Crackers, Cereal, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Shampoo & Conditioner.



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.

The 21st Annual Clarinda Lutheran School German Dinner will be held this coming Sunday, February 4, 2024, starting at 11:00 a.m. There will also be a silent auction which 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. The cost of the meal is a free-will donation. You can make reservations on their website: clarindalutheranschool.com/german-dinner.



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, Balck Forest Cake, and Banana Rum Cake.

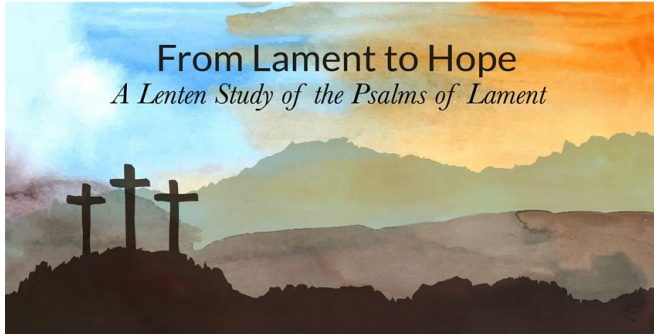
ASH WEDNESDAY

**ash
wednesday**

February 14 | 12:00 - 6:30pm
Open time for individual prayer
Shenandoah, First UMC

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time of preparation for Easter. Lent is a time to focus on your walk in the way of Jesus by taking up new spiritual disciplines or by giving something up.

This Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14), the chapel will be open for personal prayer from 12:00 - 6:30 pm. There will be a prayer guide to assist you and Pastor David will be available for you to receive ashes. Come whenever you are available and spend as much or as little time as you like.



From Lament to Hope: A Lenten Study with Bishop Kennetha of the Psalms of Lament

The psalms were Israel's hymnbook. And psalms of lament were Israel's expression of grief in the midst of trial. For this season of Lent, Bishop Kennetha invites you to join her for a conference-wide online study that will explore both personal and communal psalms as we focus on events impacting our world and our lives. In particular, we will pray for peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, and our own nation. As we move from Lent to Easter, we will see how the psalms can lead us to hope.

This Lenten study will give us the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with each other and with our worldwide United Methodist connection as we invite special guests to share on the topics we address. We will conclude with an annual conference-wide opportunity to worship together and take action for peace.

Sessions will be held over four Tuesday nights (February 27, March 5, March 12, and March 19) on Zoom beginning at 7:00 pm. Participants will have an opportunity for conversation and prayer in breakout rooms.

Register here <https://bit.ly/4bjalA6> or scan the QR code





Save the date for upcoming District Town Halls with Bishop Kennetha

This winter and spring, you are invited to one of five district town halls as we continue to claim our identity as United Methodists.

The focus of our gatherings will be on our mission, vision, and core values at the Iowa Annual Conference. Bishop

Kennetha Bigham-Tsai will be present at each of these five gatherings for a time of teaching, and together, we will share stories about what it means to be engaged and connected with one another.

Each district will also have a virtual option for joining, which will take place on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 pm. More details will be coming soon, but save the date for the gathering in YOUR district:

February 11 – Riverview Park

March 3 – Aldersgate

March 17 – Pictured Rocks

April 7 – Camp Clear Lake

May 19 – Golden Valley

“Do Big Things for God!” Feb 21, 2022

Have you ever heard this encouragement before? Perhaps you were at a conference, in a church service, or involved in some ministry opportunity and you were charged with this grand statement. Perhaps you were even boldly told, “God has big plans for you!”

Chances are you have heard of this challenge before. I heard it countless times growing up in the 90s. It came from well-intentioned people who would observe my zealous heart for God and declare, “God has big plans for you!” While I agree that God calls some people to have a larger sphere of influence in his name, and I know that most of these people were well-intentioned, I found that my youthful heart misconstrued this statement. As a result of hearing this many times and taking it to heart, my flesh and the enemy found real fodder for trapping me in navel-gazing that resulted in alternating bouts of selfish ambition or self-loathing.



This phrase, if not rightly interpreted through the lens of the gospel, can quickly morph into a rallying cry for mere human ambition and misguided aspirations disguised as service to God. It can cause us to overlook truly great opportunities for ministry and instead pursue influence, positions of power, and a larger platform. When this happens, humility is exchanged for self-promotion and the work suffers.

Here is how this reality played out in my life for a good decade. Upon graduation from college, I found myself with an art degree and a desire to be a wife and mom. But I also had a deep desire to be involved in some sort of “big” ministry. After walking across the stage at graduation and realizing that none of these things had materialized, I thought, “What on earth am I going to do with this degree?” So, as it is with many artists who graduate without an immediate plan, I took a job working in retail clothing sales and moved back home feeling not too grand about myself. As the years went by, I worked in many beautiful little shops, but still, in my naivety felt that I needed to be doing something “bigger.” I reasoned with myself that I was not the glamorous boutique owner, the buyer, or a shrewd entrepreneur—I was “just” the sales clerk. My misplaced identity and misguided expectations concluded that this was not the job a college grad from an affluent area should be in. Even more concerning was the nagging question, “What about God’s big plans for me?” and the inability to shake the thought, “Is this all I’m going to be doing with my life?” as I unpacked new shipments, steamed endless garments, spaced hangers, merchandised clothing and cleaned up dressing room floors. But these were the very mindsets that needed to be challenged and these solitary, humble tasks were just the place for the battle to occur.

And a battle it was. Sadly, I truly struggled to appreciate this season for a long time because I had been told my whole life that God had big plans for me, and surely those big plans didn’t involve these simple tasks. Turns out, God’s plan did involve those things! Those early years in retail were some of the most formative of my life. I had to come face-to-face with questions about whose kingdom I wanted to build and where my identity was anchored. Was it in my job title? My salary? How did people treat me or respect my position? My marital status? My ministry status? My motherhood status?

I struggled with these questions for quite a while. After all, these were good gifts to aspire to, right? Yes. All of those things are good gifts, but they all make bad gods. During this time, I was introduced to a wonderful little book called *The Practice of the Presence of God* by a monk named Brother Lawrence. I know you’re probably thinking—like I did—that this monk was an amazing holy man who sought the Lord in his study and was a respected scholar of the day. In reality, Brother Lawrence’s duties involved weeding the garden and cleaning the dirty dishes in the monastery’s kitchen. Despite his humble duties, his treatise in the book was that all things could and should be done out of love for God and with a conscious knowledge of His presence—whether that presence was consciously felt or not.

This concept had revolutionized Brother Lawrence’s life, and it began to revolutionize mine. I began to talk with God as I folded clothes, spaced hangers, merchandised new trends, and interacted with my coworkers and clients. As I did, I began to see my role in a whole new light. I was God’s beloved daughter, and he was always with me and already proud of me.

Every moment was an opportunity to commune with him. I began to realize that I was already “on a mission” with him in those beautiful little shops. I began to experience freedom from the tyranny of the thought that I had to do “big things” in order to have a Christian identity, or any other identity for that matter. As it grew, my identity in Christ began sending down roots into the firm and fertile soil of being loved and called by God indwelt with his Spirit, and commissioned as Christ’s ambassador wherever I went. My title, my salary, and the prestige (or lack of prestige) in my work didn’t affect that identity.

Fast forward a few years and I found God moving me into the occupation of teacher and artist and, I’m happy to say, into the role of a wife (while still waiting on the motherhood piece). Yes, these professions and roles aligned more with my gifts and interests. However, the difference was that with this particular “graduation,” I walked across the stage of life clinging to a different degree—one I would need to use every moment going forward.

This degree didn’t have my name and credentials on it. Instead, it had Christ’s. This diploma included his perfect record, the guarantee of God’s unconditional love through Jesus’ finished work, and his power within me to live and love the life he was calling me to. I found that with this “graduation,” I was more content with the accolade that I was “faithful in the small things” rather than seeking my worth and identity in the “big” things.

But, as with all graduates who have ever walked across a stage know, the real application of knowledge happens after the ceremonies are over. Life is the classroom where knowledge turns into practice. This is where I live today—still seeking to fight the siren call of false identities and faulty kingdoms while I cling to my Savior and rest in his love. I suspect this is *the* great work for every Christian.

Christ is our great example here, as he is in all things. We only need to look at his humble entrance into the very world he created to remember that God does indeed do big things, but often through small people and seemingly insignificant means. He allowed himself to become incarnate, implanted into the womb of Mary, this young virgin from an obscure town. He voluntarily did so in fulfillment of hundreds of years of prophecy so that he could do the truly big work of our redemption. Mary’s response to the angel’s news is recorded in [Luke 1:46-55](#) and is often referred to as “The Magnificat.”

In one of God’s mysterious dealings in my own life, a painting that I created and that I gave the same title found its way to the team at Zondervan—the publishing enterprise responsible for the *Artisan Collection Bible* series. The very fact that I’ve had the opportunity to write this post and have my work featured on the cover of God’s Word can only be credited to the Lord’s generous dealings with ordinary people. And you’d better believe that with this invitation came the old temptation to build my identity once again on temporal things and the accolades of others. But by God’s grace, that temptation is now exposed for what it is — empty.

I have now experienced the greater sweetness of reveling in my everyday call and walking with this great God who loves me unconditionally. And I am hopeful that by God's continued grace, I can also say "I am the Lord's servant" in whatever work he calls me to in the future.

I believe the great work of each of our small lives is to live hand-in-hand with God for his big purpose and fame. My prayer for and encouragement to anyone reading this is that we would be like Mary, Brother Lawrence, and Paul in seeking to "put no confidence in the flesh" ([Philippians 3:3](#)); that we would lay down any temptation we have to build our kingdom, and instead seek to make faithful to progress toward fulfilling God's great work out of our love for him.

Paul says it best:

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining the resurrection from the dead.

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" ([Philippians 3:7-14](#)).

There is so much freedom in letting go of our human version of success, which oftentimes turns into a misguided "Christian" version of success, achievement, and identity. When we let go of these things, we can trade them in for godly contentment and confidence in Christ's work, his loving presence, and his ability to lead us to where he knows we can most effectively serve him. Jesus is the cornerstone around whom we must build our identities and his is the kingdom we must build.

So yes! Go do big things for God, truly "big" things—the things of everyday life—for him, with him, and by his grace.

Adapted from the article by Leslie Kehl Vann. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, February 21, 2022.



The Scripture (Isaiah 40:21-31) for this coming Sunday is a beautiful piece of poetry and I would encourage you to spend some time this week out in the sunshine with this passage.

God stretches out the skies like a curtain,
and spreads it out like a tent for dwelling.

Look up at the sky and consider:
Who created these?
The one who brings out their attendants one by one,
summoning each of them by name.

Don't you know? Haven't you heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the creator of the ends of the earth.
God doesn't grow tired or weary.

Those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles;
they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.

How do you see God at work in creation? Breathe deep and renew your spirits in this beautiful world that God created and called good.

Grace and peace,
Pastor David B. Clark