



# Weekly Booster

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor

David B. Clark

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### Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

[office@shen.church](mailto: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



## What Are We to Do with Christmas?

Christmas – what are we going to do with it? Some say, “We need to put Christ back into Christmas.” Others say, “Christ was never meant to be in Christmas.” Some celebrate it as a religious holiday. Others celebrate it as a secular holiday. Others do not celebrate it at all. What does God say about it?

God has not authorized the church to celebrate Christmas as an official religious holiday. Paul condemned those who were binding religious holidays (Gal. 4:9-11).

What about individuals honoring Christmas? Paul said in Rom. 14:5-6, “One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his mind. He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord.” Paul is not speaking about honoring the Lord on Sunday, because God has already set aside that day for us to honor Him (1 Cor. 16:1- 2; Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25). This passage teaches that if someone wants to honor God in some way on a day other than Sunday he or she may do so. He has the liberty to do so, but he cannot bind that day on anyone else. Parallel to that special day, if one wants to honor God by remembering Christ’s birth or some other aspect of God on December 25th, he has that liberty, but he cannot bind that to anyone else.

*Continued page 2.*

*“No matter how far away from yourself you may have strayed, there is always a path back. You already know who you are and how to fulfill your destiny.” Oprah Winfrey*

*“A problem is a chance for you to do your best.”  
Duke Ellington*

### Reminders

#### December 15<sup>th</sup>

PK-6 S.S.– After Children’s Message  
Jr/Sr High S.S. – 10:30 a.m.  
Confirmation Class – 10:30 a.m.  
Christmas Program

#### December 16<sup>th</sup>

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

#### December 17<sup>th</sup>

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.

#### December 18<sup>th</sup>

T.O.P.S.  
Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries

**\*\*Worship Assistants are needed  
for January 2025**

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



### Christmas - Continued from page 1.

So, what is the application of all of this? If you want to honor Christmas as a way to honor God, you have that right, but you can't bind that to anyone else (Rom. 12:5-6). The church cannot publicly have Christmas as a special religious holiday because God has not authorized it to be done.

But, there is a practical side to Christmas. Let's promote the spirit that comes from Christmas. It is a time of families getting together. It is a time of giving gifts. It is a time of joy. All of those benefits are needed year-round. Let's also take the opportunity to correct some false teaching that is done about Christ and Christmas. People are more open to learning about Jesus now than probably any other time of the year. Let's teach and correct them in a spirit of love (Eph. 4:15), not in a spirit of condemnation with a "holier than thou" attitude.

I hope that you and your family will have a wonderful Christmas time, however, you decide to use it!

*Story adapted and condensed by Wayne Burger, Broadway Church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY. December 2021, Vol. 40, No. 12, Bulletin Digest.*



### Come Home to Peace This Christmas

Do you have a favorite name of Jesus? GRAMMY-nominated Christian musician Matthew West does Prince of Peace.

"When I say it these days," he writes, "I just feel like I'm exhaling the trouble and anxiety of my life and allowing my heart to be pointed to a humble King who graciously promises the gift of peace, not in some far-off future, but right now in this very moment — in this very Christmas season."

*Continued page 8.*

## 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*
- Robin Hensen - 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.



Through what do we have redemption according to the book of Ephesians?

- a) His name
- b) His blood
- c) His power
- d) His word

Who did the Lord order to pierce their ears?

- a) slaves
- b) lepers
- c) priests
- d) king

After the Ephesians heard the word of truth, with what were they sealed?

- a) the blood
- b) the word
- c) a signet
- d) the promised Holy Spirit

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 15<sup>th</sup> – Craig Foster, Vicki Woodward, Eldon & Loraine Manchester
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Robin Hensen, Michael Williams
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Ron Manrose, Carleen Perry
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Bentley Bowers, Evelyn Lorimor, Charles & Sharon Hall

**\*\*See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added, please call the office, or send an email to [office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)**

**Shenandoah First United  
Methodist Church**

200 Church St.  
Shenandoah, IA 51601

Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail  
[office@shen.church](mailto: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: Rejoice in the Lord always.**

**People: Again, I will say, "Rejoice!"**

**L: shout aloud and sing for joy!**

**P: God is with us. The Lord is near.**

**L: God rejoices over you with singing!**

**P: God is renewing us in love.**

**"The Joy of God"**

**Scripture Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

**Songs**

**Angels from the Realms of Glory #220**

**He Is Born #228**

**PK-6 & Jr./Sr. High Christmas Program**

**Last Week's Attendance**

**In-Person Worship – 77**

**On-Line Worship – 7**

**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 December 8<sup>th</sup> are a) Pharaoh a) Naomi c) Evening  
Quiz hints – Q1) Ephesians Q2) Exodus Q3) Ephesians**



## Food Pantry Monthly Needs

## December 2024

jelly, wide egg noodles and other types of pasta noodles, microwave popcorn, hot chocolate mix, powdered milk, refried, chili style, pork & beans, sauerkraut, spinach, beets, cake, brownie, muffin mixes, mandarin oranges, and pineapple, hamburger, tuna, and chicken Helpers, 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 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.

### 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 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 December will go to **Midwest Mission** to make meal packets.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday  
to Deliver Meals  
Sign-Up Sheet is on the  
Welcome Center Counter**

Over 30 years ago, concerned citizens in the Shenandoah community had a dream of all community families having a happy and healthy holiday and formed the **Adopt-A-Family** project. Our church will provide a local family-in-need with a brighter holiday with gifts appropriate for their age or need. No adult information will be given, this way we can help the children in more families. This year we will be able to ask for contributions of money in the Mission Cans as we have done before. The mission Cans are placed on top of the wooden offering boxes and just inside the middle set of the sanctuary doors. As soon as from the **Adopt-A-Family** committee regarding the size of the family and items on their wish list, that information will be listed in the Booster. This year Jr/Sr High Sunday School and Confirmation classes will take the lead as the go-to for questions. Thanks for your ongoing support for this important community project.



The Hispanic Center is now collecting items for their Christmas Shoe Boxes. There are 16 children, which includes 7 girls ages 7-14 years of age and 9 boys ages 1 ½ -12 years old. Children's lists of ages are on a sheet on the Welcome Center counter. If you plan to purchase for one of the children please bring the gifts to the church by December 15<sup>th</sup>. You may also contact Sue Jones with questions.

**Hat & Mittens Collection** – we are collecting hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves for children in need. Until the hat and mitten tree have been put up, please place these items in the back pew in the Welcome Center near the elevator.



**Christmas** *December 15<sup>th</sup>*  
**9:00 a.m.** **Program**

*Program Practice - Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
 4:00-5:00 p.m.*



Thanks to Heather Weiss, Jamie Burdorf, and Michelle Morelock once again for planning a caroling and soup supper, today, Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The bus will depart from the church at 4:00 p.m. and the soup supper will follow caroling. They have planned to Carol to homes and care centers. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center counter if you are interested in caroling.

There is also a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center counter for those who would volunteer to make soup, bring cheese, crackers, raw vegetables, and dessert, and volunteer to stay at the church during caroling to set up.

Finally, they would ask that you dress warmly and wear your ugly Christmas sweater if you have one in your closet.

**Scholarship applications are open December 1 – March 1 annually.** All applications and required documents, such as essays, references, and transcripts can be submitted through the online portal. Once you click on the application link, you will be brought to a third-party website. Please contact Cassie ([cassie.parks@iumf.org](mailto:cassie.parks@iumf.org)) with questions related to scholarships. Please contact our partner Kaleidoscope ([help@mykaleidoscope.com](mailto:help@mykaleidoscope.com)) with questions related to the application. You can also utilize their [Help Center](#).



The Iowa United Methodist Foundation offers thousands of dollars in scholarships every year to students who demonstrate academic and community excellence. We offer:

- [High School Senior Scholarships](#) for graduating high school seniors
- [Non-Methodist College Scholarships](#) to all students of the church
- [United Methodist College Scholarships](#) for students who will be attending United Methodist colleges
- [United Methodist Seminary Scholarships](#) to students following the call to join the ministry
- [Westmar College Scholarships](#) for students who will attend or are attending United Methodist colleges in Iowa



Acknowledging that the holidays can be a mixture of joy and grief, consider joining us for our Blue Christmas service on Thursday, December 19 at 6:30 pm. Whether it is your first holiday season without a loved one or it is your tenth, it is important to acknowledge the pain and sadness. Sometimes it is a person we grieve, sometimes it is the loss of a job or the loss of a dream. It may be that you live with mental health concerns and the bright lights and celebrations make it all the worse. Christ comes in the midst of our loneliness, pain, and grief. Our Blue Christmas service creates that sacred space where we might encounter the Christ child in the very midst of the dirt and muck of human life.

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**Peace Thisse Christmas - Continued from page 2.**

If you're feeling overwhelmed this Christmas season, Jesus is calling you home: be still and trust in him.

I know I'm probably not supposed to pick favorites when it comes to the names of Jesus. But I just love the name "[Prince of Peace](#)."

When I say it these days, I just feel like I'm exhaling the trouble and anxiety of my life and allowing my heart to be pointed to a humble King who graciously promises the gift of peace, not in some far-off future, but right now in this very moment — in this very Christmas season. You know, the song "Hold Me Jesus" by the late Rich Mullins always moves me. In it he sings about shaking like a leaf, prayerfully appealing to God to be his Prince of Peace.



I wonder if you relate to that sentiment as I can. Has the world left you shaking like a leaf this past year? The great beauty of the Christmas story is not found in the circumstances surrounding His birth; it is found in Him, the Savior who has overcome this troubled world!

## Jesus Is the Prince of Peace

Christmas celebrates the coming of a Savior who the apostle Paul tells us delivers on His promise of peace: “The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” ([Philippians 4:7](#)).

So the peace Jesus offers is found not in a moment or a location or in a special circumstance, but in our relationship with Him — in coming home to Him. Despite the stress, anxiety, and worry our world seems to ramp up around the Christmas holidays, the coming of Jesus on that first Christmas was a story aiming us toward the Source of all peace — one that passes all understanding.

The good news of the first Christmas is that directly into the chaos of human history and human experiences, a Prince of Peace was born. God sent His only Son to offer a peace that transcends whatever is happening in your life, in the busyness of this holiday season, and the greater world all around us. It is a peace that transcends our circumstances.

Peace that passes all understanding requires that we open our hearts, take a deep breath, step back, stop what we're doing, and acknowledge who Jesus is and what He can do. That's right, it means we trust Him to provide it. You see, the peace we long for is as simple as leaning on the truth of [Psalm 46:10](#): “Be still, and know that I am God.” Embracing peace means letting go of our searching, striving, and achieving and making a spiritual trust fall into the arms of a Savior.

## Coming Home to Peace by Trusting Jesus

What if we embraced the truth that peace is not something we have to go and find? Peace is not confined to a certain location, vacation, or vocation.

I love how the apostle Paul explains, “I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength” ([Philippians 4:12–13](#)).

The secret of being content is found in trusting in Jesus. It is in Him that peace resides. We will not find peace in the things we buy, in our status, our relationships, or our financial security. We cannot find it in where we go or what we do. We can only find it in Him. That is why it seems to be so rare in today's world — even during the Christmas season.

## Be Still and Know

What if we set down our search for peace and simply learn to be still and trust the Prince of Peace residing in our hearts? The reality is that we can sleep in heavenly peace because our Savior has arrived. We can be still and know that Emmanuel has come. God is with us in this very moment. We don't have to search for an escape from reality to find that elusive moment of peace because Jesus stepped into our reality to offer us a peace that will never leave us.

We can know peace because our sins are forgiven. We can know peace because death is not something we have to fear anymore. We have peace because we can trust that Jesus walks alongside us. You can be still knowing that Jesus brings peace to you wherever you are — whether that is on your way to the office party, standing in a crazy line at the mall, working to get your church ready for a Christmas Eve service, or going in for your next cancer treatment. He is waiting for you to be still and trust Him with every territory of your heart.

The peace that passes all understanding is as present in our hearts as it was in the manger that first Christmas. When we take a moment to turn our eyes toward the Source of peace rather than trying to find it on our own, peace finds us. “Be still” in [Psalm 46](#) is a reminder that we don't need to stress, strive, go, do, or perform to receive the favor of God. We only need to look toward the manger and open our hearts to Him.

And when our hearts come home to peace in Christ, something supernatural happens: we become peace providers for others. Jesus, in His mission statement sermon, says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” ([Matthew 5:9](#)). Jesus is calling us to share this peace, this *shalom*, that He provides for us with the world.

## Share the Peace

I love the idea that peace on earth begins with God bringing peace into our hearts. It reminds me of a song that has become part of the hymnals in many denominations called “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

I read that Jill Miller, who co-wrote the song, actually wrote it while coming out of a terrible time in her life. In a failed attempt at suicide, she came face-to-face with God's unconditional love. She [explains](#), “I had an eternal moment of truth, in which I knew I was loved, and I knew I was here for a purpose.”

Peace that passes all understanding is truly found in the unconditional love of Jesus. Finding that kind of peace is good news that must be shouted from the rooftops, sung in carols, written on cards, and across wrapping paper . . . but most of all, it must be shared with our family, our neighborhood, and the world.

*Adapted from [Come Home for Christmas](#) by Matthew West, December 9, 2024.*



C. S. Lewis, an Oxford literature scholar, writer of the Chronicles of Narnia, and self-described reluctant convert, wrote in his memoir, *Surprised by Joy*, about the experience of joy as that which led him to believe in God. He defined joy this way: "an unsatisfied desire which is itself more desirable than any other satisfaction." That definition is written in such a way that causes us to pause and think about it for a little while. There is more to joy than merely happy feelings, which are good. Maybe over Thanksgiving, you experienced a happiness just after a family meal and you felt satisfied. Or maybe you felt happy when your football team won a close game. Or you felt happy when you spent the afternoon with dear friends. Happiness is good and God delights when we are happy.

But still, joy is something different. It is adjacent to happiness, it is related to happiness, but as C. S. Lewis said, it is an unsatisfied desire. Happiness, perhaps, is a satisfied desire. But the experience of joy is the experience of desire which goes unsatisfied. Joy draws us into something greater. Think of the feeling you get when you are immersed in nature and the landscape, or the view of the ocean, or the sunrise fills you with much pleasure but you are still left unsatisfied because you are being drawn into a world that is bigger than you. At the birth of your child, you are drawn into an overwhelming experience of joy that seems to keep overflowing as you are pulled into the mysterious wonder of love. During the holiday season and you catch a respite in the glow of your Christmas tree and experience a longing for peace and wholeness. This is joy.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called the Sunday of Joy. It is an invitation for us to open ourselves to the experience of joy. We are so quick to look for instant gratification. Advent is a call for us to pay attention to those deep desires that pull us into something greater. Advent is a call for us to slow down and be surprised by joy.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor David Clark  
308-258-7749 (cell)

This week is photo number 21 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.

#21



**Rev. Daniel J. Herndon** passed away on Thursday, November 21, 2024.

A **Memorial Service** will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 2 p.m. at Threehouse Collaborative Campus Ministries (2422 College St, Cedar Falls, IA 50613).

**Survivors** include his wife, Cindy Herndon (225 Niagara Dr, Waterloo, IA 50701); daughters, Sarah Herndon (Alan V. Takes) and Abby Hendrickson (Trevor) of Cedar Falls; stepsons, Jeff Ensign of Los Angeles, CA and David Ensign of Oswego, IL; grandchildren Jeremy Strueder, McKenzie and Liam Hendrickson, Lucas and Layla Ensign; and great-granddaughter, Aliyah Malave.

A full **obituary** can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3BrYClS>

