



Weekly Booster

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Barb Cunningham,
Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,
Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,
Jeff Hiser, Jodi Anderzhon



Sometimes you may feel like life is a big gamble. Like the outcome of your life is resting on how the dice roll for you. If they roll right, you get “lucky.” If they roll badly, your life goes down the tubes.

There are times when the stars *seem* to align just right and you find yourself basking in a bundle of blessings. Then there are times when everything seems out of sync and you find yourself drudging through a junkyard of disaster. Some would call this a coincidence. Others would call it pure luck. But another group would say that *someone* is working behind the scenes working out your destiny. And they’d be right! But is more than *just* someone.

Esther would understand. She is minding her own business as her people are captive in Persia. Meanwhile Haman—who has been given great authority by the King of Persia—is developing a hatred for Jews. In particular, he hates Mordecai. It seems Mordecai will not bow down to Haman whenever he parades through the streets of Susa.

Haman decides to teach Mordecai a lesson. He gets King Xerxes to sign a decree that on a certain day all the Jews can be killed. And anyone killing a Hebrew would be allowed to keep the personal possessions of the deceased Hebrew.

To determine the exact day when the Hebrews will be exterminated, Haman rolls the dice. Adar the 13th becomes the target date.

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Reminders

June 18th

Men's Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

June 21st

Ad Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

June 22nd

Women's Bible Study – 11:30 a.m.

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
No choir until fall

June 23rd

T.O.P.S. – 4:30 p.m.

June 26th

Men's Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall – All men welcome

**Worship Assistants are needed
for July

** Fellowship Volunteers needed
sign-up in Fellowship Hall

"The Story" Study Groups
Women-Wednesday-11:30 a.m.
All-Wednesday-6:15 p.m.

** Special Music is needed for the
summer. If you or you know of
someone that would like to charge
their musical talents this summer,
please contact the office

Finishing - Continued from page 1

In the meantime, the king is having some issues with the queen. She refuses the king's summons so she is released of her queenly duties. Then, because he needs a new queen, he holds the first "Bachelor" contest to find a new wife. The short story is that Esther gets the rose and becomes his queen.

Yet Xerxes did not know Esther was a Hebrew. Nor that Esther was kin to Mordecai. The king adds another edict that will allow the Hebrews to defend themselves, which turned out good for the Hebrews and bad for any Persian that attacked a Hebrew on Adar the 13th.

And Haman? Well, in a strange twist of events he wound up impaled on a pole he himself had erected for Mordecai. Not sure he got "the point" of the story, but I hope you do. Oddly enough throughout the book of Esther you will never find the name of God mentioned. Not once.

There are days you may think he is not around either. But the story of Esther reminds us that he is, sometimes behind the scenes, working things out for "good for those who love him" (Romans 8:28). And when you don't feel he is around, that's more your problem than his.

He has put you right where you are, right now, so you can make a difference. You can say the words someone needs to hear. You can be the example someone needs to see. You can help someone find freedom from sin. So let others roll the dice and you let God take care of

the
Adapted from the article about The Story was originally written by Pastor Rick Brown of Christbridge Fellowship in Tomball, Texas.



Next Sunday, June 26th
Fellowship Hall
8:00 a.m.
All men are welcome

Church Office Hours

** Children & Jr.-Sr. High
Sunday School 10:15
Questers (Adults) 10:30

**Chancel Choir –
Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.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

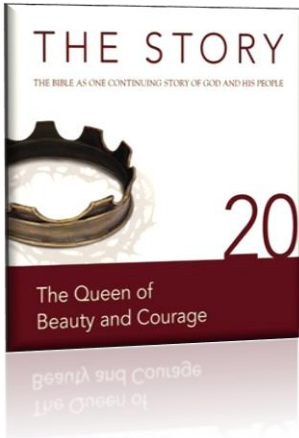
Tuesday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00

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.



*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 it into your browser). You may also use a QR reader.



How old was Jesus when he started to teach?

- a) 8 yrs old
- b) 12 yrs old
- c) 30 yrs old
- d) 33 yrs old

Who ate locusts and wild honey?

- a) John the Baptist
- b) Elisha
- c) Samuel
- d) Jeremiah

What was Peter's occupation?

- a) tax collector
- b) farmer
- c) tentmaker
- d) fisherman

**Check page 4 for answers
in next week's booster**

Birthdays and Anniversaries



19th – Craig Harris, Pastor Kelly & Lanetter Peavey
21st – Macee Blank, Deb Finlay, Jamie Williams
22nd – Dennis Grummert, Kent Hiser
23rd – Kathy Harris, Edi Norris, Sean Skillern
24th – Bev Adamson, Sue Spears, Patty Quimby
25th – Vickie Skinner, Mike & Mary Peterson

**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**

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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>



Go to the addresses by holding down
the Ctrl button and clicking on the links
<http://bit.ly/3skF0p9>

Live streaming of our weekly service is
now on our Youtube channel only.

*Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: *Terry Stafford*

Call to Worship

Leader: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

People: Our souls thirst for God, for the living God

L: Do not be downcast or let your souls be disturbed

P: We put our hope in God!

L: Praise our Savior and our God!

P: We will praise the Lord now and forever!

All: Glory be to God. AMEN.

“The Queen of Beauty & Courage”

Old Testament Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-15

New Testament Scripture: *Galatians 3:23-29*

Gospel Reading: *Luke 8:26-39*

Songs

Shout to the North #3042 (Green Book)

All I Need Is You #2080 (Black Book)

Trust and Obey #467 (Hymnal)

This Is My Father's World #144

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 81

Online Worship – Youtube 12

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 June 12th are a) Deuteronomy b) Bar-Jesus c) Noah



Pastor's Reflections

Greetings, Church! May the Lord's light shine upon you.

I first got the call to consider an appointment change on April 5th of last year, and Lanette and I made our first visit to Shen on April 10. We scheduled the Appointment Introductory Meeting (AIM) on Friday, April 23rd, and the appointment was finalized. Nobody at that meeting knew then, aside from God, how short our time together would be.

But I believe it's been important time. You've walked with us through my mother's cancer battle, our granddaughter's brain surgery, and the death of Lanette's father. I've been honored by the trust I've been shown by those who have met with me for spiritual counseling, and I believe God has blessed that time. I've endeavored to pass along the Gospel that I had received to you over this last year.

We have shared laughter and tears with you. Monday served as another, very poignant, reminder to me of why I was called here to be your pastor. Fred didn't want the focus to be on him during his service, and rightly so, but I believe that we were meant to meet Fred. He was one of the first people I met here (outside the SPRC), and we just clicked. I will carry a bit of all of you with me, but honestly a bit of Fred most of all, I think. We would all do well to remember how he demonstrated the fruit of the Holy Spirit in his daily walk with his master, savior, and friend, Jesus Christ: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

He would desire for all of us to have that fruit. I am grateful for his example.

Blessings,

Pastor Kelly



Even when the Rev. John Stephens quotes the Apostle Paul's writings in Philippians 4:6 that say, "Do not be anxious about anything," the Houston area pastor recognizes the struggle.

"One of the hardest commands is not to worry about anything," says Stephens, senior pastor at Chapelwood United Methodist Church in Chapelwood, Texas. "Worry is constantly deconstructing us, fragmenting us. We are distracted and scattered."

Although anxiety is an understandable byproduct in a world that lives with disease (including a global pandemic for more than two years), disaster and despair, some United Methodist church leaders say it's possible to limit or eliminate the fear and worry that threaten many.

"People think peace is when all things get resolved," Stephens comments. "That's not what peace is. If you're just talking about the circumstances changing, then that's relief. Peace is a state of being and only God can give peace."

Seven tips to combat fear

1. Pray
2. Focus on the positive
3. Find a reason to laugh
4. Take up a new activity
5. Turn off the news
6. Revisit something that comforts you
7. Create a to do list

The Apostle Paul prescribes prayer

So, where does that process begin and how? Scripture tells us, in the second part of verse 6, "...by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

"I think Paul is giving us a prescription for taking the worry and getting us to the peace, the oneness and the unity with God," Stephens teaches.

When Stephens talks to his congregation about prayer, he usually directs them to a couple of types of praying: centering prayer, which can involve praying Scripture (also called Lectio Divina); and contemplative prayer, which involves sitting and listening to God.

The purpose of the prayers, he says, is to “move yourself out of the way.”

In addition to praying, the apostle also suggests, in verse 8, to redirect your thoughts, writing, “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.”

“Paul wasn’t a psychologist, but there is all of this science about (your brain’s) neuropathways and how changing your thoughts can change your neuropathways,” says Stephens, adding that he believes Paul is telling us to think positively.

Look for the beautiful

Focusing on what is beautiful and good is how the Rev. Donna Pritchard chooses to combat worry. Whether that’s a flower blooming in her yard or lines from her favorite poems, the senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon, uses this coping mechanism to stay connected with God.

“These are signs of God’s creative presence in this world right now,” she shares. “Just because we’re experiencing life in a new, strange and difficult way, does not mean that God is not with us. We need to remember that this moment is still God’s moment.”

Just laugh

In addition to looking at the positive in the world, Pritchard finds ways to laugh every day.

“Don’t forget the power of humor. Particularly at a time when people may be acutely aware of the pain in the world, it helps to say there are reasons to laugh,” she explains, adding that laughter benefits a person’s immune system too.

The Rev. Matt Hall comes at this topic through the lens of recovery. As the associate pastor of recovery ministries at First United Methodist Church in Maryville, Tennessee, — and as someone in recovery himself – Hall understands fear and its pitfalls.

“Something that I continuously tell folks is that the opposite of addiction isn’t sobriety,” he says. “The opposite of addiction is community.”

When Hall found himself missing physical community because of pandemic-related state and local government mandates during the past couple of years, Hall worked to keep an emotional connection through online meetings, regular phone calls and other creative means, such as Netflix viewing parties.

Personally, he's come up with his own list of ways to push through the solitude so that it does not lead to fear.

Try something new, revisit something old

"I've taken up cooking," Hall shares, noting the pandemic opened up time he previously didn't have.

"This is a great opportunity to try new things," Hall suggests, saying that trying something new without an audience has advantages. "When's a better time – and safer place – to fail than when confined to your own house?"

While Hall may be taking on new experiences, one way he is combating worry is by eliminating other things.

"I'm being very intentional about not following any news outlets," Hall says. "I feel like any breaking news will come to me one way or another. It isn't healthy for me to be bombarded by it."

Instead, Hall turns to items that have brought him comfort during past difficult times, such as books.

"I'm revisiting Bob Goff's 'Love Does,'" he says. "It's one of two books I own on my Kindle. I've probably read that book 20 or 30 times."

Of course, prayer is part of Hall's prescription too.

"As I've prayed for God to take away the fear, then I do something," Hall shares. "In my own personal experience, I've found that my prayers are better when coupled with actions on my end."

Actions, for Hall, include making a daily to do list, which always consists of a list of 10 people to call.

"If they are in my phone," Hall says, "I believe they are in there for a reason and that reason may be to call and say, 'Hello,' today."

Note: This article and the opinions from United Methodist pastors are not intended to replace medical advice. If you are experiencing depression or prolonged bouts of anxiety, please seek help from medical professionals.

Crystal Caviness works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. This story was originally published on April 20, 2020, and updated September 3, 2021 and June 2, 2022.

