



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Pianist

Terry Stafford

Choir Director

Sue Jones

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Media Booth

Kris Anderzhon,

Alan Hutchison,

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

Facebook Contributors

Pastor David B. Clark,

Barb Cunningham,

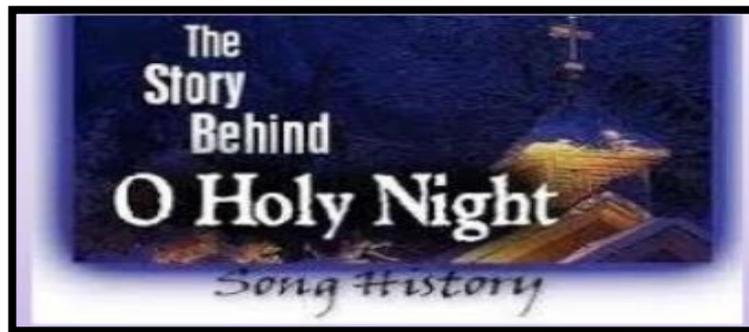
Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Jodi Anderzhon



The story of “O Holy Night” is as dramatic as when the popular Christmas carol crescendos to the verse that rings out, “Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!”

Scandals, politics, and ground-breaking moments power the history of the popular Christmas song. While sorting out fact from fiction may leave a narrative less spectacular than legend, the popularity of “O Holy Night” has never waned across the centuries.

Just the facts, more or less

Concerning the facts, the when is a bit fluid but the where the who and the why are generally undisputed. In 1843 or 1847 in the small French town of Roquemaure, a local poet named Placide Cappeau was asked by the priest to write a Christmas poem to commemorate the renovation of the church organ. After composing the poem, Cappeau asked Adolphe Adam, a popular composer, to set the lines to music. History claims the song titled “Cantique de Noel” debuted in 1847 at a midnight mass and became a favorite among French congregations.

What follows is a story of intrigue that makes for good reading though scholars place doubt on its accuracy. Cappeau allegedly was not a religious man and, after writing the lyrics to “O Holy Night,” is said to have denounced the church to join a socialist movement.

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“If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life ut still the same amount of snow”

Reminders

December 24th

No Men's Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

December 25th

No Church Service

December 25th

No Activities

Sunday School All Ages, 10:30 am

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

HS Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

December 28th

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.

Choir – 6:45 p.m.

December 29th

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

December 31st

New Year's Eve

****Worship Assistants are needed for January**

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

Holy Night History- Continued from page 1

Likewise, many publications report that Adam was Jewish. Having a popular Christian church song whose authors either weren't religious or who didn't celebrate the birth of Jesus was unacceptable to the Catholic Church in France, so the song was banned for more than two decades. In recent years, however, the story of Adam's Jewish heritage has been disputed.

From France to America

As the song gained popularity in France, an American writer, John Sullivan Dwight, discovered "O Holy Night" in 1855. Inspired by the lyrics about Christ's victory over sin and our shared humanity, Dwight slightly revised the third verse to read, "Truly, he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother; and in his name, all oppression shall cease."

He published the updated version in his magazine, "Dwight's Journal of Music," which propelled the song to popularity in the United States and, particularly, in the North during the Civil War as abolitionists related to the anti-slavery sentiment.

A radio hit across the world

Another bit of trivia about "O Holy Night" is the claim that it was the first song ever broadcast live. Canadian inventor Reginald Fessenden, a protégé of Thomas Edison, was an early pioneer of radio broadcasting. He alleges that on December 21, 1906, he broadcast a recording of Handel's "Largo," followed by his reading from the Gospel of Luke and then playing "O Holy Night" on the violin. This exciting placement in history, though, has been questioned. Some records say that Fessenden played "Adore and Be Still" and misremembered it in the retelling.

Even if "O Holy Night" can't claim the distinction, the song has been recorded hundreds of times throughout the world by the likes of Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Josh Groban, Lauren Daigle, the cast of "Glee," Martina McBride and Tommy Drennan and the Monarchs who reached No. 1 on the Official Irish Singles Chart in 1971 with their version.

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“Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of wait.”

Volunteers Needed



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.



Adam had many sons & daughters, but who below was not his child?

- a) Abel
- b) Enoch
- c) Seth
- d) Cain

With what did Solomon say his bride captivates his heart?

- a) with her clothes
- b) with her heart
- c) with a glance of her eye
- d) None of the above

What was Esau's occupation?

- a) Tanner
- b) Fisherman
- c) Hunter
- d) Smith

Check page 4 for answers in next week's booster

Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 23rd – David & Vickie Skinner
- 24th – Dixie Daley
- 26th – Marcia Allely
- 30th – Matthew Hobbie
- 31st – Todd Lundgren, Beth O'Hara, Amy Zollars

****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>



Services are now on our Youtube
channel only.

<https://www.youtube.com/@shen.church8192/streams>

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

Call to Worship

There will be no response needed from the congregation on Christmas Eve. The scripture readings and songs listed will be used Christmas Eve.

“The Light has Come”

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:27

New Testament Reading: None

Third Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Songs

*O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1-3) #234
It Came upon the Midnight Clear (Vv. 1, 4) #218
Angels We Have Heard on High #238
Silent Night, Holy Night #239*

Last Week’s Attendance

In-Person Worship 100
Online Worship – 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 Dec. 18th are c) Eli a) 12 years c) Areopagus
Quiz Hints – Q1) Genesis Q2) Solomon Q3) Genesis

Holy Night History- Continued from page 2

Whether Cappeau was an atheist, Adam was Jewish or Fessenden marked the first broadcasted performance with the popular Christmas song seems not to matter. More than 175 years later, at Christmas Eve services throughout the world, congregations rejoice in the promise brought by Jesus' divine birth by singing the words, "With a thrill of hope, a weary world rejoices."

"O Holy Night" is not included in the United Methodist Hymnal but a hymn version is provided by Discipleship Ministries.

Crystal Caviness works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Contact her by email.

This content was published on December 7, 2022.



Do you have winter coats and winter clothing you no longer wear and are taking up space in your closet or storage? If you answered yes, consider donating them to the Hispanic Center. All sizes are accepted. "Share the Warmth!"



Dixie Dailey will celebrate her 85th birthday on December 24th. Her family will honor her with a card shower. If you would like to send a card to help her celebrate, her address is 600 S. Center, Shenandoah, Iowa 51601.



Join us on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. Celebrate this holiday through Christmas carols, sharing in communion, and singing Silent Night by candlelight. We hope to see you there! Reminder: there will be no in-person worship on Christmas morning.



Jesus: He Came As one of Us

Most families keep their family secrets a secret. Most don't talk about the swindling uncle or the streetwalking great-aunt. Such stories remain unmentioned at the family reunion and unrecorded in the family Bible.

That is unless you are the God-man. Jesus displays the bad apples of his family tree in the first chapter of the New Testament. You've barely dipped a toe into Matthew's Gospel when you read Jesus' lineage and realize he hails from the Tilted Halo Society. Rahab was a Jericho harlot. Grandpa Jacob was slippery enough to warrant an electric ankle bracelet. David had a personality as irregular as a Picasso painting—one-day writing psalms, another day seducing his captain's wife.

But did Jesus erase his name from the list? Not at all. You'd think he would have.

Why did Jesus hang his family's dirty laundry on the neighborhood clothesline? Because your family has some too. An uncle with a prison record. The dad who never came home. The grandparent who ran away with the coworker.

If your family tree has bruised fruit, then Jesus wants you to know, "I've been there."

The phrase "I've been there" is in the chorus of Christ's theme song. To the lonely, Jesus whispers, "I've been there." To the discouraged, Christ nods his head and sighs, "I've been there."

Questionable pedigree. Raised in an over-looked nation among oppressed people in an obscure village. Simple home. Single mom. An ordinary laborer with ordinary looks. Can you spot him? See the adobe house with the thatched roof? Yes, the one with the chickens in the yard and the gangly teenager repairing chairs in the shed. Word has it he can fix your plumbing as well.

He's been there.

“For this reason, he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” (Hebrews 2:17-18).

By Max Lucado, devotional found in the *NIV Lucado Encouraging Word Bible*.



Sincere thanks from the Community Food Pantry for your continued support! We are able to assist those with food insecurities because of your generous help!! **Jeannine K. Liljedahl**

Suggested Donations - January 2023

- ✓ Mandarin oranges, cinnamon applesauce, pineapple
- ✓ Chunky style soups, chili
- ✓ Microwave popcorn
- ✓ Cake, brownie, and cookie mixes
- ✓ Potato flakes, gravy packets
- ✓ Spaghetti O's
- ✓ Hamburger, Tuna, and Chicken Helpers
- ✓ Granulated sugar, flour
- ✓ Laundry detergent
- ✓ Toothbrushes, toothpaste

Join us this Thursday evening, December 22nd at 6:30 p.m. for “The Longest Night Service.” The merriment, excitement, and joy of the Christmas season do not always express the complexity of feelings experienced throughout the holidays. This Longest Night Service creates a sacred space for those who are in a place of loss, pain, loneliness, and doubt. Through a time of reflective prayers, songs, and silence we will seek to encounter a God that meets us in the depths of our life.





Are you on a committee? Are you on a committee that you didn't know you are on? What committees do we have at the church? What work is being done by our committees? Sometimes we get to the point where there is enough confusion in answering these questions that we need to take a closer look at how the church organizes itself for the work of ministry and who is involved and who is not involved but could be.

Committee work does not bring about feelings of joy and affection and excitement, but maybe there is a way that it could. Committees/ministry teams/workgroups/volunteers are the avenues for the church being the church. This is how we as a diverse group of people organize to be a community that has an impact in Shenandoah. This work ranges from budgets to being present at BBQ competitions, from making sure an old building stays in good condition to embodying the love of Christ to children.

It's all important work that needs to be done in order for the church to be the church. After the first of the year, on **January 12 at 6:30 pm**, we will have an All-Committee meeting to begin organizing for the work of the church. If you are a committee member (even if your committee hasn't met in a while), or if you would like to be a member of a ministry team that maybe doesn't exist yet -- please come!

According to the CAT Survey, from earlier this year, 44% of you agreed with this statement: "I often feel like I have something to give the church, but don't know how to give it." This is your opportunity to create avenues and maybe even new ways of organizing so that the church and the broader community can benefit from your gifts.

You are invited to participate on the ground floor of organizing our church to be the good news in Shenandoah!