



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

David B. Clark

pastordavid@shen.church

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Pianist

Terry Stafford

Bells & Choir Directors

Dan & Linnea Shook

Multimedia & Website

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Sunday Media Booth

Alan Hutchison

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

Facebook Contributors

Pastor David B. Clark,

Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Pastor David

*Our Vision: **Growing** as disciples of Jesus while **connecting** with others and **servicing** our community.*



Jesus: The Judge of the Living and the Dead

“You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.” (Romans 2:1).

Who is this person? It could be anyone who filters God’s grace through his own opinion. Anyone who dilutes God’s mercy with his own prejudice. He is the prodigal son’s elder brother who wouldn’t attend the party (see Luke 15:11–32). He is the ten-hour worker, upset because the one-hour worker got the same wage (see Mathew 20:1–16). He is the fault-finding brother obsessed by his brother’s sins and oblivious to his own.

If you “pass judgment on someone else,” Paul has a stern reminder for you. It’s not your job to hold the gavel. “God judges those who do wrong things, and we know that his judging is right” (Romans 2:2 NCV). The key phrase here is “pass judgment.” It’s one thing to have an opinion. It’s quite another to pass a verdict. It’s one thing to have a conviction; it’s another to convict the person. It’s one thing to be repulsed at the acts of Jeffrey Dahmer (and I am). It’s another entirely to claim that I am superior (I’m not) or that he is beyond the grace of God (no one is).

Continued on page 2

“Hustle beats talent when talent doesn’t hustle.”

Ross Simmonds

“All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.” Walt Disney

Reminders

April 19th

Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
PK-6 S.S. during the message
Jr/Sr High S.S. – 10:30 a.m.
Men’s Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.

April 21st

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

April 22nd

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.
Praise Team - 4:00 p.m.
Bell Choir – 4:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.

April 23rd

T.O.P.S.

Church Office Closed

April 24th

Office Closed

Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries
Sign up at the Welcome Counter

**** Fellowship Volunteers and treats needed, sign up in Fellowship Hall**

**3rd Sunday of
Easter**

For April 19, 2026



Jesus: The Judge... - continued from page 1.

In his book *The Message of Romans*, John Stott wrote: “This verse is not a call either to suspend our critical faculties or to renounce all criticism and rebuke of others as illegitimate; it is rather a prohibition of standing in judgment on other people and condemning them (which as human beings we have no right to do), especially when we fail to condemn ourselves.”

It’s our job to hate the sin. But it’s God’s job to deal with the sinner. God has called us to despise evil, but he’s never called us to despise the evildoer. But, oh, how we would like to.

Is there any act more delightful than judging others? There is something smug and self-satisfying about donning the robe, stepping behind the bench, and slamming down the gavel. “Guilty!”

Besides, judging others is the quick and easy way to feel good about ourselves. A convenience store ego boost. Standing next to all the Mussolinis and Hitlers and Dahmers of the world, we boast, “Look, God, compared to them, I’m not too bad.”

But that’s the problem. God doesn’t compare us to them. They aren’t the standard. God is. And compared to him, Paul will argue, “There is no one who does good, not even one” (3:12).

Application

Is there someone you should give grace to today?

Adapted from author Max Lucado from the Lucado Encouraging Word Bible. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, April 13, 2026.



Pastor David

The Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai and her Appointive Cabinet would like to announce that Pastor David Clark will be reappointed to Denison, First Mapleton and St. John Gray

UMC as their next pastor effective July 1, 2026. The administrative board will be meeting with the District Superintendent soon to discuss Pastor David’s replacement.

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

- Bob Lynn - Chair*
- Mary Peterson - Secretary*
- Darlene Howard – At-Large*
- Roger Jones - Trustee*
- Dave Christensen - SPRC*
- Dan Weiss – Finance/Stewardship*
- 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.**

Monday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00

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

Wednesday
Praise Team – 4:00 p.m.
Bell Choir – 4:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.
Bible Study 11:00

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 to enter 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 on the next business day.

The front door to the church will be locked during office hours. Please ring the doorbell to be let into the church.



Which king gave Haman permission to destroy the Jews?

- a) Manasseh
- b) Belshazzar
- c) Nebuchadnezzar
- d) Ahasuerus

Who did God command to carry the ark of the covenant?

- a) Tribe of Levi
- b) Tribe of Reuben
- c) Tribe of Judah
- d) Tribe of Simeon

What did King Artaxerxes give Ezra unrestrained access to when he was sending him out?

- a) King's throne
- b) King's treasury
- c) King's tributes
- d) King's customs

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 21st – Ron & Hazel Knight
- 24th – Elaine Broermann, Deanna Lambertson
- 25th – Kyle Hiser, Liz Skillern

****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: Rejoice in the Lord,

People: Always!

L: again, I will say,

P: Rejoice!

L: Do not be anxious about anything.

P: but in every situation, by prayer, petition, and thanksgiving, present your request to God.

Leader: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding.

People: will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

“Spiritual Health”

**Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:4-7, 8-9, 1Timothy 1:18-19
Matthew 5:1-2, Psalm 23**

Songs

To God Be the Glory #98

He Is Exalted #2070

I Have decided to Follow Jesus #2086

People Need the Lord #2244

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 91

Online Worship – 13

Our Vision:

“Growing as disciples of Jesus while connecting with others and serving our community.”

**Answers for April 12th are c) humble c) Jacob c) Amittai
Quiz hints – Q1) Esther Q) 1 Chronicles Q3) Ezra**



Food Pantry Needs

Cake, Brownie, and Muffin Mixes, Cereal, Mandarin Oranges, Pineapple, Pasta (any variety), Macaroni & Cheese, Soda or Snack Crackers, Cinnamon Applesauce, Evaporated Milk, Shampoo, and Bar Soap

April 2026

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 home with their food items. 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 anyone who would be interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry, please have them contact Jeannine K. Liljedahl at 712-215-2488.



*Church
Scholarships*

*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 April will go to the **Church Scholarships**.



Do We Really Know What It Means to Repent?

Psalm 51 says something to everybody. It gives hope to people who have blown up their lives by doing something foolish and wrong and are experiencing the consequences of that foolishness.

The psalm also addresses people who think, “This is fine for David, but it isn’t for me. This is for people who really screw up. It’s not like I couldn’t make a huge mistake, I suppose, but I’m not going to. And I haven’t. So while it’s great for people who have really screwed up, it’s not for me.” That is a dangerous line of thought.

David the beloved, the man close to God’s heart, one of the godliest and greatest figures in the history of the world, was capable of life-exploding sin. And so are we. David needed repentance, and so do we.

Here’s what sin does: It plants land mines all throughout your life. Maybe yours haven’t blown up yet. That’s great. But they will blow up if you don’t deal with them. Repentance is the process of minesweeping your own heart. If you think you don’t need to sweep for mines, you are almost guaranteeing that your life will blow up.

But Psalm 51 also speaks to a third group of people: those of us in the middle of those two positions. We’re the people who acknowledge that there are things wrong with us, that we have things that could blow up our life. We know we need to change, and we’re trying to work on them. We’re trying to sweep for mines. Yet it seems like we never truly unearth them.

We never truly fix the problem. We get upset about these sins and sorry about them, especially when they cause little eruptions and create problems for us. When that occurs, we think we repent. We stop sinning for a while, but the next thing we know, we’re back doing it again. We never change.

If that describes you—if you are in this third group—Psalm 51 is for you too. It tells you how to change permanently, how to truly repent. This repentance involves seeing, confessing, mourning, and hating your sin. But there is more we can learn from David's experience.

Repentance means cutting ourselves open to get the malignant growth of sin out—and cutting deep, deep down to extract it. If we find ourselves persisting in sin without any change, we likely aren't cutting all the way. We must imitate two things that David does to cut himself deep enough.

See Sin as God Sees It

First, he makes sure he begins by seeing sin the way God sees it. He insists on it. We see this in verse 4, where he says, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight." Perhaps the most confounding problem humans have is our ability to do evil because we find a way to view it as good.

By way of illustration, most of us have a favorite photograph of ourselves. Why is it our favorite? Because it hides our flaws. Those of us with big noses, for example, know that if we take a picture from just the right angle, we can make the nose look less prominent. With the camera at just the right point of view, the size of the nose diminishes and the face looks wonderful. We can always find a point of view that hides reality.

This is why one ethnic group can wage open war on another ethnic group and argue, "They did something worse to us two hundred years ago. When you look at things from a historical perspective, what we're doing isn't so bad." This is what David did after the killing of Uriah, saying, in essence, "From a certain point of view, I didn't really kill Uriah. It was the Ammonites. It was the war that killed him, not me."

But take a moment to realize what this behavior means. If we go to these lengths to justify any sins in our lives, we can end up doing it to justify atrocities we previously never could've imagined. Human beings have justified anything and everything throughout history—because we can always find a way to look at something that makes it seem not so bad.

We have to have a single point of view that stands apart from our individual ones, one that actually sees things as they are and knows how to deal with them. David found it. Rather than using a flawed, human understanding that leads to messing up again and again, David looked at his sins the way God looks at them.

Throw Away the Excuses

The second thing David does is take full responsibility for his actions. He throws away the excuses. In verses 1 and 2, he refers to what he's done as his "transgression" and "iniquity," both of which indicate

deliberate rebellion. Most interesting is that in verse 6 he says, “You desired faithfulness even in the womb.”

What he is saying is this: “I sinned because I wanted to. I freely chose it, and I take full responsibility. I make no excuses. I can’t blame the pressures of being a king. I can’t blame Bathsheba. I can’t blame anybody. I can’t blame anything. I take all the blame on myself. There wasn’t truth in my inner self, as God wanted—just my own desire.”

The same is true for us. When we sin, it’s not because of our circumstances. It’s not because of someone else’s actions. It’s because of what’s inside us—our inner parts. We wanted to do it.

Don’t ever, ever, tell yourself, “Circumstances made me do it.” Circumstances might shape our sin, but they never cause our sin. Sin is always and only caused by our own inner desires.

We shouldn’t dare blame anybody or anything for our own failure. The temptations, the mistreatment, the things people do to us will undoubtedly change the specifics of our sin. But they don’t give birth to the sin. The sin is birthed in our own hearts.

Failure to realize this is what leads to false repentance, to little more than complaining. We tell God, “I’m sorry for what happened. But my parents did this to me. My stress level did this. I was so tired. My wife did this. My husband did this,” and then we tell ourselves we’ve repented. And yet we still feel bad about what we did, and we even do it again. Unless we cut all the way to our core, we can’t fully remove the sin.

Now, after the incision is made, how do we actually remove sin from our hearts?

Remove the Sin

First, David softens and melts his heart by taking it to the grace of God. A metallic object must be repaired by heating it up and melting it down because that’s the only way you can reshape it and make it whole again. In the same way, instead of hammering his heart, David offers it to the grace and the covenant mercies of God. Right away in verse 1, David says he’s going to God “according to [his] unfailing love.”

Why does David fill his heart with God’s unfailing love? How could that transform him? When David looks at this unfailing love and this (to him) inexplicable, incredible fact that the holy and just God has somehow bound himself to be gracious to us no matter what, no matter the cost, it reveals to David why he sinned in the first place. Because he had lost his first love.

Second, David forsakes his sin. From verse 10 onward in Psalm 51, we see him create a whole new life. It’s a life of obedience: “Renew a steadfast spirit within me” (v. 10). It’s a life of intimacy with God: “Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me” (v. 11). It’s a life of continual

repentance: "My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, O God, will not despise" (v. 17).

Repentance is not reserved for isolated, demoralizing events or for when we blow up our lives. Repentance is a regular, lifelong practice. If we adopt this practice in our own lives, it softens us. As Martin Luther tells us in the first of his Ninety-Five Theses, Jesus "willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." All of life is repentance.

Adapted from What Is Wrong with the World? The Surprising, Hopeful Answer to the Question We Cannot Avoid by Timothy Keller.. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, April 13, 2026.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

Adam Swanson (former member of Shenandoah 1st Methodist Church) will be performing at the Shenandoah High school Auditorium 7:00 p.m. Friday, April 24th. If you buy a season ticket for the '26-27 Shenandoah Music Association concert series, you can attend Adam's concert for free! You may buy a season ticket at the door of the concert, or on our website, www.shenandoahmusicassoc.org





As our Chancel and Bell Choirs prepare for a well-deserved summer intermission, the stage is open and waiting for **you!**

We are looking for talented individuals or groups to fill our sanctuary with "Special Music" during the summer months. Whether you are a soloist, part of an ensemble, or play an instrument, this is your moment to share your gift with our community.

If you're ready to share your talent or have a recommendation, please **contact the office**. We are currently developing our summer schedule and would love to include you in our lineup.



*St. Mary's
Annual Salad Bar Luncheon
Thursday, May 7, 2026
11am-1pm*

Featuring:
*Signature Chicken & Rice Casserole
Spring Salads
Assorted Desserts
Iced Tea & Coffee*

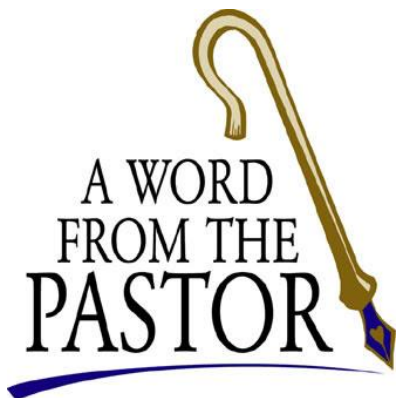
\$12.00 or Free Will Donations

*Parish Hall Dining or Carry Out
512 W. Thomas, Shenandoah*

*Proceeds support the church and community projects.
All are welcome!*



Mark your calendar for the annual E-Cycle Event. The event, in partnership with Pella Corporation, Lloyd Incorporated, and/or Mid-America Energy will take place on Friday, May 1st from 3-5 p.m. More information to come.



Dear Church,

As most of you have heard by now, Bishop Kennetha and her Appointive Cabinet are reappointing me to a pastoral charge that includes Denison, Mapleton, and Gray. This news came as a shock to our church and to me as well. As I commit myself to ministry with The United Methodist Church in Iowa and take my final vows of ordination this June, I do so with the full awareness that at any moment, the Bishop may call to say that I am needed elsewhere. For me personally, this is an opportunity to trust. To trust in the guidance of

others and to trust in the guidance of the Spirit.

I am grateful for the relationships that have been formed while serving you in Shenandoah. These relationships I take with me, because you have shaped me. I am different and in a better place because of you. I hope that the same can be said of my impact on you as well.

God is not done with you. There is still work to be done in Shenandoah as you continue to embody the light and love of Christ.

I trust that you will develop a great relationship with your next pastor as well, because that is who you are. You are a congregation that serves and loves well. You all have been through a lot over the past several years, and I pray that, as God brings you your next pastor, you will grow into your next stage of faith and ministry together. In the meantime, I look forward to continuing to be in community and serving with you for the next two and a half months.

Grace and peace,

Pastor David Clark
308-258-7749 (cell)

First United Methodist Church

Your Name



We've been blessed to welcome many new faces to our worship services lately—in fact, we've created **52 new name tags** in just the last few months!

To help us all connect names with faces, please remember to wear your name tag each Sunday. This is also the perfect time to get back into the habit as we prepare for our pastoral transition. Wearing your tag will be a huge help to our new pastor as they work to learn everyone's name.

- **Storage:** You can find your tag hanging by the three wooden doors or just inside the chapel door.
- **Need a tag?** If you don't have one or need a replacement, please contact the office.



Over A Cup Of Coffee

A Series of Interesting Presentations
CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!
 712-246-1499 - Spring Semester 2026



Iowa Western Community College 1001 W. Sheridan Ave. Shenandoah, IA

What would YOU think of going to China for a year?

Life in the China city of Xi'an

Visiting the Terracotta Warriors and so much more!

Discussion led by Carleen Perry of Shenandoah, IA

Thursday, April 23rd 9:30am - 10:30am Fee: \$5

America's Best Idea: The Story of How Our National Parks came to Be

From John Muir to Theodore Roosevelt to an Iowa Congressman from Oskaloosa,

explore the origins of the National Parks and how these

treasured landscapes came to belong to all of us!

Discussion led by Pastor David Clark of Shenandoah, IA

Thursday, April 30th 9:30am - 10:30am Fee: \$5