



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Jeff Hiser

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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,

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 **serving** our community.*



How to Make Bible Reading Meaningful (Not Just Consistent)

For many, Bible reading falls into one of two categories: something we *want* to do regularly, or something we *feel like we should* do regularly. Both motivations can get us started, but neither on its own guarantees that our time in God's Word will be meaningful.

You're not alone if you've ever closed your Bible and thought, "*I'm not sure what I just read.*" You can read the Bible every day and still feel disconnected. You can finish a reading plan and wonder how much actually stayed with you.

The good news is that meaningful Bible reading is not reserved for scholars, pastors, or people with a ton of extra time. It's available to anyone willing to approach Scripture with intention, curiosity, and openness. After many years of teaching the Bible and reading it alongside others, I've learned that the difference between simply *reading* the Bible and truly *engaging* it often comes down to a few subtle shifts in posture and practice.

Meaningful Bible Reading Begins with the Right Expectations

One of the most common obstacles to meaningful Bible reading is unrealistic expectations. Many people assume that every time they open Scripture, they should experience a breakthrough moment or immediate clarity. When that doesn't happen, discouragement starts to set in.

Continued on page 2

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

Jane Goodall

“I choose to make the rest of my life the best of my life.”

Coco Chanel

Reminders

March 8th

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

March 10th

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

March 11th

**No Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.
Praise Team - 4:00 p.m.
Bell Choir – 4:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.

March 12th

T.O.P.S.

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

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

Bible Reading - continued from page 1.

But the Bible doesn't always work that way.

Some passages comfort us right away. Others confuse us (this is, in fact, an ancient collection of writings from cultures that were very different than our own). Some challenge our assumptions. Others quietly shape us over time, almost without us noticing. Scripture forms us the same way most important things do: slowly, patiently, and faithfully.

The apostle Paul reminds us that *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”* (2 Timothy 3:16). Notice that his definition of usefulness doesn't mention anything about how inspired we *feel* in the moment. God's Word is at work even when the impact isn't immediately obvious.

Meaningful Bible reading begins when we release the pressure to “get something big” every day and instead commit to showing up consistently, trusting God to do the forming work in his time.

Read the Bible as a Unified Story, Not Isolated Verses

Another key shift is learning to read the Bible as a unified story (a phrase I first heard from the good folks at BibleProject) rather than a collection of disconnected passages. While individual verses can certainly speak powerfully on their own, they make the most sense when we understand how they fit within the broader narrative of Scripture.

The Bible tells one sweeping story: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. From Genesis to Revelation, we see God at work in the lives of his people. Despite their flaws, he remains faithful and ultimately brings salvation through Jesus Christ.

When we read the Bible in a way that keeps this larger story in view, difficult passages begin to make more sense, and familiar ones gain new depth. We start to notice repeated themes like covenant, faithfulness, justice, mercy, and hope.

Jesus himself read Scripture this way. After his resurrection, he explained to his disciples how *“Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms”* (Luke 24:44).

Continued on page 6



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.	Wednesday Office Closed Bible Study 11:00
	Thursday 9:00-11:00 12:00-3:00
	Friday 9:00-11:00 12:00-3:00

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

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.



Who was the king of Judah with whom Mordecai was carried away captive?

- a) Ahab
- b) Jeconiah
- c) Manaseeh
- d) Rehoboam

Who did Mary think the gardener was?

- a) Jesus
- b) John
- c) Peter
- d) Lazarus

Who stole Micah's priest and gods?

- a) Ephraimites
- b) Philistines
- c) Canaanites
- d) Danites

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 8th – Val Grossman, David Skinner*
- 11th – Marsha Stribling*
- 14th – Jenna Burdorf*

****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: Come, let us sing to the Lord!

People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

L: In God's hands are the depths of the earth;

P: the heights of the mountains are God's also.

L: Come, let us worship and bow down.

P: Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

“Transformation of Worship”

Scripture Reading: John 4:5-26

Songs

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing #400

Here I Am to Worship #3177

Christ Beside Me #2166

A Wilderness Wandering People #3113

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 77

Online Worship – 22

Our Vision:

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

Answers for March 1st are b) Jacob b) Peter c) 15 years

Quiz hints – Q1) Esther Q) John Q3) Judges



MARCH 2026

Mandarin Oranges, Cereal, Pasta or Rice Side Dishes, Mandarin Oranges, Cake, Brownie, and Muffin Mixes, Macaroni & Cheese, Any Variety of Pasta, Microwave Popcorn, Chicken Flavored Ramen Noodles, Bar Soap, Toilet Paper

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.

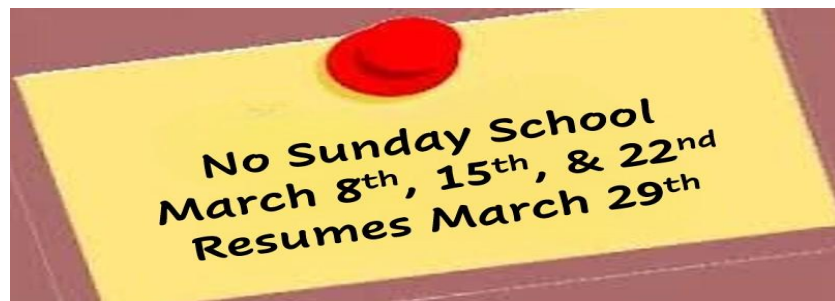
Bring Your Change to Make a Change

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 February will go to the **Church Bible Camps**.



Bible Reading- continued from page 2.

Meaningful Bible reading grows when we read each passage as part of God's unfolding story.

Slow Down Enough to Engage the Text

In a culture of busyness shaped by speed and efficiency, it's easy to approach Bible reading as a task to complete rather than a text to engage. But Scripture invites us to linger.

Psalm 1 describes the blessed person as someone "*whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night*" (Psalm 1:2). Meditation, in the biblical sense, is about dwelling in God's Word, returning to it, reflecting on it, and allowing it to sink in.

This type of thoughtful engagement can take many forms:

- Asking simple questions like, "*What does this teach me about God?*"
- Writing down observations or questions
- Noticing repeated words or phrases
- Sitting with a verse that stands out rather than moving on immediately
- Taking time to pray before and after you read

Some of the most meaningful encounters with Scripture happen not when we read *more*, but when we read *less with more attention*.

Let Scripture Shape Your Prayer Life

One of the most transformative practices I've seen (both personally and through conversations with readers of my book and listeners of my podcast) is allowing Bible reading and prayer to inform one another. Rather than treating them as separate spiritual disciplines, Scripture can become the starting point for prayer, or vice versa.

A psalm may give language to your gratitude or grief. A teaching of Jesus may prompt confession or resolution. A passage from the Old Testament may spark praise for God's faithfulness across generations.

When we pray in response to Scripture, the Bible stops being something we merely analyze and becomes something we respond to. We begin to hear God's Word not just addressed to ancient audiences, but spoken into our present lives.

Likewise, when we pray before reading the Bible, the text meets us in the midst of whatever we're facing. Prayer surrenders our hearts to what God is doing, and His Word responds to our prayers.

The psalmist models this beautifully, praying, “*Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law*” (Psalm 119:18). Meaningful Bible reading flows naturally from a posture of prayerful openness.

Consistency Matters More Than Intensity

Many people assume meaningful Bible reading requires long, uninterrupted periods of study. While extended study can be valuable, it’s not the only way Scripture forms us.

What matters most is consistency.

Jesus compared the kingdom of God to seeds planted and tended over time (Mark 4:26–29). Growth happens gradually. In the same way, daily or regular exposure to Scripture shapes us steadily, even when individual moments feel somewhat small.

Ten faithful minutes each day often does more than an occasional hour-long session. Over time, patterns emerge. Connections form. Familiar passages speak in new ways because of what we’ve read before and after them.

Meaningful Bible reading isn’t about intensity. It’s about returning to God’s Word again and again, trusting him to work through that faithfulness.

Read the Bible With Others When You Can

While personal Bible reading is essential, it was never meant to be read in isolation. From the earliest days of God’s people, Scripture has been read, discussed, and interpreted *in community*.

Reading alongside others (whether through a church group, a reading plan, or shared discussion) adds layers of insight we might never see on our own. Other people notice details we overlook. They ask questions we wouldn’t think to ask.

As Proverbs 27:17 says, “*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*” Meaningful Bible reading deepens when we allow Scripture to shape us not only individually, but communally.

A Lifelong Invitation

The Bible is not a book we should read once and set aside. Each time we return to it, God invites us to find something new... to listen, to learn, to be challenged, and to be fed.

Meaningful Bible reading doesn’t depend on perfect understanding or uninterrupted discipline. It grows through humility, curiosity, consistency, and prayer. It develops when we return to Scripture not simply to check a box, but to encounter the living God who still speaks through it.

As we do, we discover that the Bible doesn't just inform us, it *transforms* us. It shapes our hearts and lives over time according to God's purposes.

Adapted from author Tim Wildsmith, pastor, writer and Bible teacher.. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, March 2, 2026.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

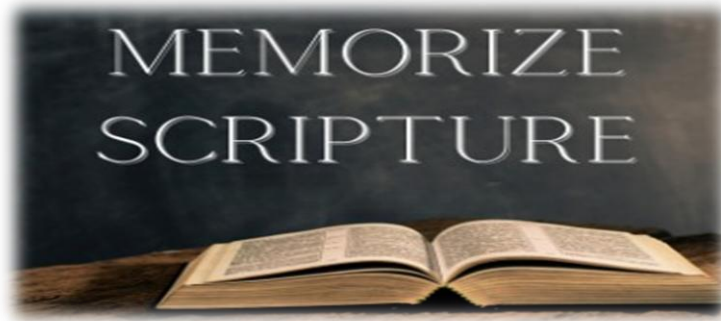
Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday

to Deliver Meals

Sign-Up Sheet is on the

Welcome Center Counter





10 Tips for Memorizing Scripture

Believe it or not, our brains have an almost unlimited capacity for remembering things. Research by Paul Reber, professor of Psychology at Northwestern University, shows that our memory storage capacity is about 2.5 petabytes (or a million gigabytes).

This means that, theoretically, humans can memorize large portions of the Bible (if not the whole thing). Famed hymn writer Fanny Crosby could effortlessly recite the Pentateuch, the Gospels, most of the Psalms, and Song of Songs. In fact, she worked at memorizing five chapters a week!

For the Spirit to use the Bible to transform us, we need to know what's in it. And memorization is an incredible way to make us intimately familiar with Scripture. Making memorization a discipline can have a life-changing impact on our spiritual maturity.

Here are 10 Tips for Committing Scripture to Memory:

1. Start small and memorize incrementally

As the old saying goes, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time, of course." It's the same thing for memorizing passages of Scripture. If you want to memorize a chapter of Ephesians, start with two verses. When you have those down, add two more. You'll have the chapter memorized in no time!

2. Say it out loud

Nothing helps you memorize like recitation. Throughout the day, recite the verses you're memorizing to yourself. Sometime during the week, take a walk and recite longer sections you've memorized to keep them fresh in your mind.

3. Write it down

Keep a notebook and handwrite verses multiple times. Handwriting helps to cement things in your mind. Alternatively, you can also open up a Word or Google document and type out what you're memorizing, too.

4. Draw it

If you're an artistic Bible journaler, you already know how conceptualizing and drawing out a verse can help you understand and internalize it. The time you invest in drawing, shading, and coloring a verse is time spent meditating on it.

5. Listen to it

Hearing things repeatedly can aid memorization. Listen to recordings of the Bible, or create your own recordings of verses you've memorized and listen to them regularly.

6. Take it with you

Some people swear by the Post-It Note® method. Write the verses you're memorizing on notes, and put them up everywhere: your bathroom, fridge, car, desk, and computer monitor. You could even make it the background on your phone!

7. Use flashcards

Students have used flashcards for memorization for decades—because they work. Create some of your own with the verse numbers on one side and the actual verses on the other. You can use these to quiz yourself, or invite someone to help you.

8. Get a memory partner

Memorization takes a lot of work, and it can be hard to stick to it without discipline. Having someone else memorizing with you will provide the motivation you need to see it through. It's helpful to work alongside someone else. Try practicing as if you were running lines for a play.

9. Use a Bible memory app

There are a lot of mobile memory apps that can help you set and meet memory goals.

For instance, check out:

- Bible Memory: Scripture Typer which helps you memorize Bible verses by focusing on three areas: audio, visual, and touch memory.
- Bible Memory: BibleMe helps with Bible memory by utilizing a learn and test method.

Since you probably have your phone on you at all times, use it as a tool to get Scripture into your heart.

10. Translate the verse into another language

If you're bilingual, translating verses from the language you're memorizing into another language can be a fun way to become more familiar with what you're memorizing. And the more acquainted you are with a passage, the easier it is to remember.

Remember: When you memorize Scripture, you'll be tempted to use it to impress others. Fight that temptation. You're not memorizing the Bible as a parlor trick to impress other Christians, you're doing it so that Scripture can transform you from the inside out.

Adapted from Paul Reber, professor of Psychology at Northwestern University. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, March 2, 2026.



Soup Cook-Off

When: March 15, 2026

Time: 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Where: Emmanuel Lutheran Church

What you need to Know

- Bring a crockpot of soup and/or money to vote for your favorite
- An appetite
- All proceeds go to Heifer International

****Free will offering taken at the door**

Sponsored by: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, First Congregational church, First Presbyterian Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, Community of Christ Church

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