



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

David B. Clark

pastordavid@shen.church

Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

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,

Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

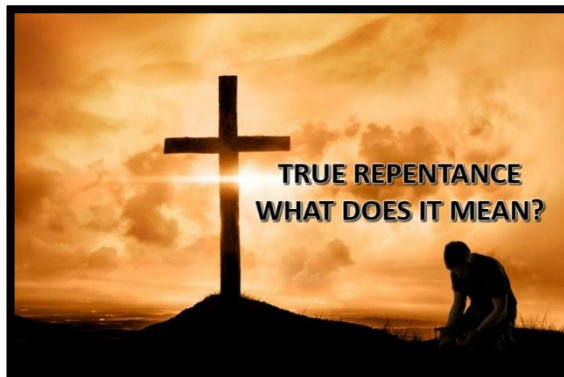
Sunday Praise Team

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.*



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 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.

Continued on page 2

*“If you don’t risk anything,
you risk even more.”*

Erica Jong

*“You’ll never get bored when
you try something new.*

*There’s really no limit to
what you can do.”*

Dr. Seuss

Reminders

February 15th

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.

February 17th

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

February 18th

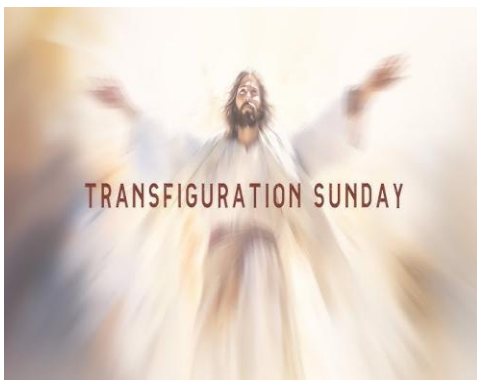
Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.
Praise Team - 4:00 p.m.
Bell Choir – 4:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.

February 19th

T.O.P.S.

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

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



Repent - continued from page 1.

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.

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.



What was Aquila's and Priscilla's occupation?

- a) Fisher
- b) Potter
- c) Cartographer
- d) Tentmaker

Who was Tola?

- a) Judge
- b) King
- c) Prophet
- d) Priest

For whose sake did Paul appeal to Philemon?

- a) Sosthenes
- b) Onesimus
- c) Aristarchus
- d) Mark

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 16th – Faith Dailey
- 19th – Sharon Hiser, Barb Williamson
- 21st – Darin Athen, Larry Cowherd

****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: We gather to remind ourselves of the stories of Jesus.

People: for he received honor and glory from God.

L: God's voice on the mountaintop said of Jesus:

P: "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased Listen to him."

L: Let us tell each other the stories of Jesus again today.

P: It is good for us to be here.

"Revealing God's Kingdom"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

Songs

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise #103

10,000 Reasons (screens)

He is Exalted #2070

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus #2129

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 83

Online Worship – 12

Our Vision:

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

Answers for Feb. 8th are d) Zipporah b) 144,000 d) 276

Quiz hints – Q1) Acts Q 2) Judges Q3) Philemon



February 2026

Mandarin Oranges, Cake, Brownie, and Cookie Mixes, Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce (with any type of pasta), Chicken Noodle Soup, Chili Beans, Tuna and Chicken Helpers, Microwave Popcorn, Hot Chocolate Mix, Chunky Style Soup, Bar Soap

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 **Shenandoah Food Pantry. We also will collect boxes of cereal throughout the month.**

Repent - continued from page 2.

Psalms 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 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 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, February 9, 2026.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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



Coffee Fellowship

**Ladies' Coffee & Fellowship
All Ladies Are Welcome**

February 19th at 2:00 p.m. – Accura – Church Members
If you have questions please contact Gloria Mauer. Please text her at
712-246-8130

**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Feed**

The Little Brick Church with the Red Doors that are open to all!

**Tuesday
February 17, 2026
5-7 p.m.**

Free-will Donation

**The pancakes are back!
Join us! Please enter on north side!**

**St. John's Episcopal Church
401 Church Street
Shenandoah**

The poster features a central illustration of a stack of pancakes with a pat of butter melting on top and syrup drizzled over them. The background is a light, textured color with decorative corner elements.



Will have breakfast in Fellowship Hall



Fellowship Hall will be unavailable for the next two to three weeks for the old carpet to be removed and preparation for installing new carpet in the near future. Fellowship time after service will be held in the Welcome Center upstairs. Thank you for your understanding.



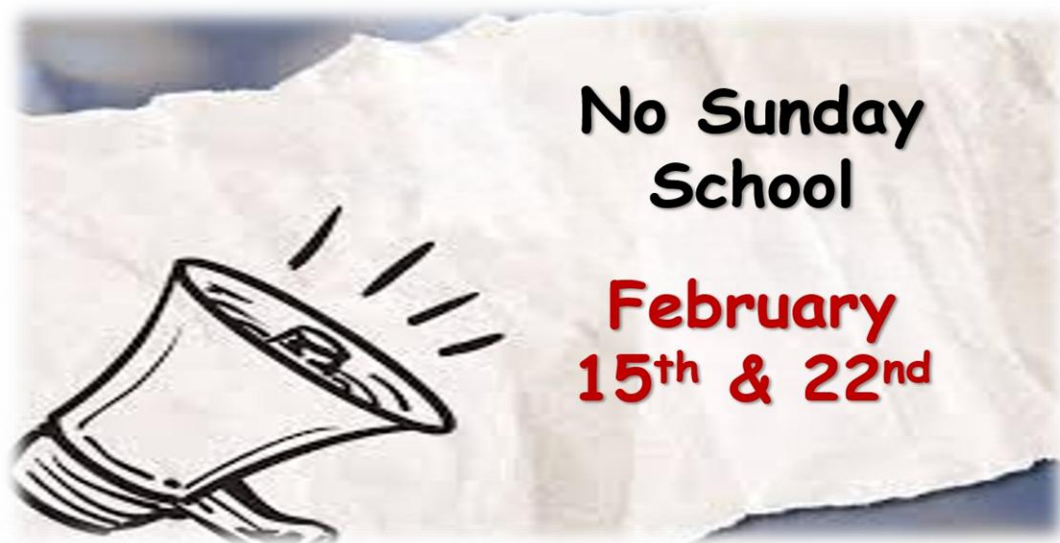
What is True Love?

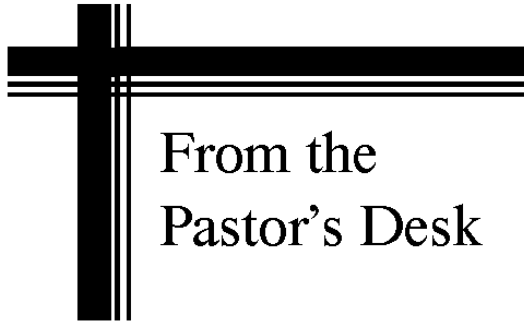
“Love” is one of the most loosely used words in the English language. This creates a lot of confusion about what true love really is. In 1 Corinthians 13:8, the apostle Paul said, “Love never fails.” Yet many times couples will say they have fallen out of love with one another. Such an attitude shows that they never really understood how God defines love.

Most people think of love as a strong, warm feeling of affection for someone or something. Certainly, there is an emotional aspect to love. Between spouses, there are even romantic feelings. But in the Bible, love is not just something one feels, it is a decision of the will to help others even if one must sacrifice of oneself to do so. That’s how God and Christ love us and that’s how we should love others. In 1 John 3:16-18, we read, “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but indeed and in truth.” In Scripture, love is a verb. It is shown in how we live and in how we treat others (1 Cor. 13:4-8).

So it is not enough just to say, “I love you” (although we certainly should say that to our loved ones). We must back those words up with genuine, loving actions. When we consistently treat others with kindness, respect, and love, the right feelings will naturally follow. Let us resolve to be truly loving people.

Adapted from Travis L. Quertemous, Dexter Church of Christ, Dexter, Mo. Bulletin Digest May 2013, Vol. 32, No.5





From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Church Family,

It is with joy, and a little bit of relief (Ok, a lot of relief), that I can announce that I have been approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry to be ordained as an Elder this year at Annual Conference (June 14). This has been a decades-long journey for me, and I am so grateful that you all have walked with me these last few years.

What happens next? First, I still need to complete my Clinical Pastoral Education, which I have been doing for the past several months. I will complete this requirement before Palm Sunday (6 more weeks of driving to Des Moines two days a week). Secondly, there is technically a vote on my ordination from the Iowa United Methodist clergy body right before Annual Conference, but this is, in actuality, a formality.

Functionally, this doesn't change my ministry with you all, but it does solidify the affirmation that I have exhibited the gifts and graces to be in ministry with The United Methodist Church, and that I am taking lifelong ministry vows of service, word, sacrament, and order.

This church has been such an important part of my journey. I cannot say how grateful I am to all of you for walking with me, and I look forward to continuing to minister with you in the years to come.

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

You are invited to join us for an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30pm in the chapel at Shenandoah First United Methodist Church. Together we will enter the season of Lent with prayer, Scripture, and the imposition of ashes—a quiet, honest beginning to the journey toward Easter.

