



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,

Barb Cunningham,

Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Drew Morelock,

Pastor David



Understanding the "Prayer of Faith" in James 5

The Prayer of Faith

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Near the end of his letter, James encourages any Christians who are sick to have the elders or leaders of their church community pray for their healing ([James 5:14](#)). Then he writes, "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up" ([5:15](#)). What is this prayer of faith? And does it guarantee the restoration of the health of the person who is sick?

Continued page 2.

Quote

“When I hear somebody sigh, ‘Life is hard,’ I am always tempted to ask, ‘Compared to what?’
Sydney J. Harris

Reminders**January 27th**

Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

January 31st

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.

Choir – 5:30 p.m.

Bell Choir – 6:30 p.m.

February 1st

T.O.P.S.

February 4th

Communion Sunday

German Dinner – 11:00 a.m.

Clarinda Lutheran School

Free Will Donation

****Worship Assistants are needed
for February**

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

Prayer of Faith - Continued from page 1.

To understand better what James means by “the prayer of faith,” we can look to James 1, where Christians are encouraged to ask God for the wisdom they lack, but to do so believing and not doubting (1:5–6). The key to such unwavering faith is not to muster it up out of our own will power. Instead, the conclusion of James 1 highlights the proper focus of our attention: “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights” (1:17). Trusting our God for good gifts (like wisdom), including the gift of healing, contributes to praying by faith.

Another indication of what the prayer of faith is comes in the previous verse, where James notes that the elders of the church are to pray for the person who is ill (5:14). This is a prayer offered by the community—by its leaders or by a single faithful (“righteous”) person in that community (5:16–18).

Yet a prayer of faith should not be a presumptuous prayer, as if to think that God is bound to act in a particular way in response. James counters such a perspective in 4:13–17, where he encourages his audience to base their outlook on the Lord’s will and not assume they are in charge of their future. Again, as in James 1, the focus is on God and what God can do rather than on what prayer can do.

A call to prayer is always fitting, as the church should be a community that turns first and in faith to their loving God to help those in their midst who are ill or struggling. But effectual prayer is always humbly reliant on an effectual God.

Adapted from the NIV Study Bible, Fully Revised Edition. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, January 22, 2024



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



Annual Giving Statements

The annual year-end giving statements were sent electronically. I apologize for not getting a couple of months' deposit into the system. I believe now they are correct. If you see something missing or have a question, please call the office. If you prefer a hard copy, also call the office and it can be printed.

Quote

“I have noticed that even people who claim everything is predetermined and that we can do nothing to change it look before they cross the road.” Stephen Hawking

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 Office Hours

**** Children & Jr.-Sr. High Sunday School – PK-6 during service, Jr/Sr High at 10:30 a.m.**

****Choir –** Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. Sunday 8:30 a.m.
****Bell Choir –** Wednesdays, 6:30 p.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.



How many stones did Daniel collect for his battle against Goliath?

- a) 2
- b) 3
- c) 4
- d) 5

Job's 3 friends saw Job's suffering. How many days did they sit with him, without saying a word?

- a) 3
- b) 5
- c) 7
- d) 10

How did Paul want Philemon's goodness to be?

- a) Of Philemon's accord
- b) Of necessity
- c) By compulsion
- d) Out of respect for Paul

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



28th – Shelly Hamilton
29th – Kathy Bayless
31st – Erika Stevens
1st – Rena Richardson
2nd – Dan Mauer, Cathy Shull
3rd – Libby Ehlers

****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: You are God, and you promise to never leave us.

People: We are God's people; we are not afraid.

L: You will always be just and true; your love never ends.

P: You are our God; we lift our hearts to you.

L: You raise prophets among us to speak truth.

P: Help us to listen.

“Prophets”

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Songs

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #139

Holy Spirit (screens)

Make Me a Servant #2176

Spirit of God #2117

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 52

On-Line Worship – 25

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 Jan 21st are c) Sheshbazzar a) Rebekah b) Apphia
Quiz hints – Q1) 1 Samuel Q2) Job Q3) Philemon**

February 2024

Jelly, Spaghetti Sauce and Pasta (any kind), Potato Flakes, Boxed Potatoes, Cake, Brownie, Cookie, and Muffin Mixes, Hot Chocolate Mix, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Soda & Snack Crackers, Cereal, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Shampoo & Conditioner.



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 with their food items home. 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.

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 also 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

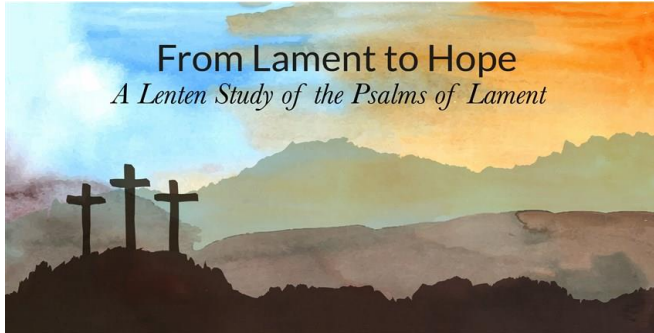
your pockets or purse. The money donated in January will go to the General Care Packages.

The 21st Annual Clarinda Lutheran School German Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024, starting at 11:00 a.m. There will also be a silent auction which opens at 10:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. This is a benefit dinner for the operational expenses of the educational ministry of Clarinda Lutheran School. The cost of the meal is a free-will donation. You can make reservations on their website: clarindalutheranschool.com/german-dinner.



Menu: Marinated Pork Loins, Bratwurst, Bavarian Sauerkraut, Hot German Potato Salad, Green Beans with Bacon, Escalloped Apples, Homemade German Breads, German Chocolate Cake, Peach Kuchen, Lemon Streusel, Balck Forest Cake, and Banana Rum Cake.

Questions call 712-542-3657. Address: 707 W. Scidmore, Clarinda, Iowa.



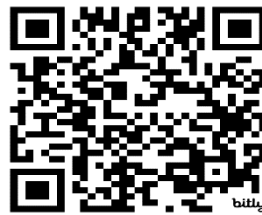
From Lament to Hope: A Lenten Study with Bishop Kennetha of the Psalms of Lament

The psalms were Israel's hymnbook. And psalms of lament were Israel's expression of grief in the midst of trial. For this season of Lent, Bishop Kennetha invites you to join her for a conference-wide online study that will explore both personal and communal psalms as we focus on events impacting our world and our lives. In particular, we will pray for peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, and our own nation. As we move from Lent to Easter, we will see how the psalms can lead us to hope.

This Lenten study will give us the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with each other and with our worldwide United Methodist connection as we invite special guests to share on the topics we address. We will conclude with an annual conference-wide opportunity to worship together and take action for peace.

Sessions will be held over four Tuesday nights (February 27, March 5, March 12, and March 19) on Zoom beginning at 7:00 pm. Participants will have an opportunity for conversation and prayer in breakout rooms.

Register here <https://bit.ly/4bjalA6> or scan the QR code

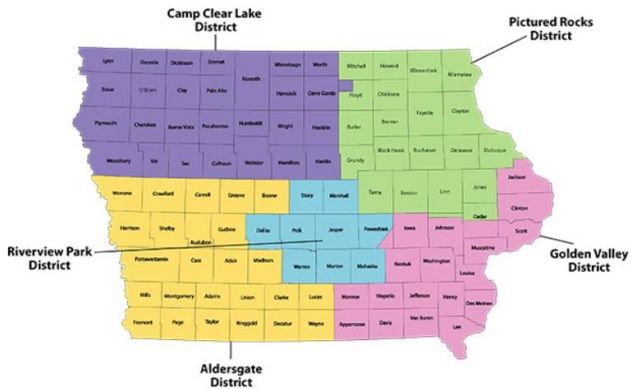


*Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Feed*

*February 13th
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Free Will Donation*

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





Save the date for upcoming District Town Halls with Bishop Kennetha

This winter and spring, you are invited to one of five district town halls as we continue to claim our identity as United Methodists.

The focus of our gatherings will be on our mission, vision, and core values at the Iowa Annual Conference. Bishop

Kennetha Bigham-Tsai will be present at each of these five gatherings for a time of teaching, and together, we will share stories about what it means to be engaged and connected with one another.

Each district will also have a virtual option for joining, which will take place on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 pm. More details will be coming soon, but save the date for the gathering in YOUR district:

February 11 – Riverview Park

March 3 – Aldersgate

March 17 – Pictured Rocks

April 7 – Camp Clear Lake

May 19 – Golden Valley

On Sunday mornings we are in the midst of a series in which we are talking about the different ways God calls us. In this Sunday's passage out of Deuteronomy, the people of God are anxious about emerging from their wilderness wandering and knowing that the time of Moses will not last. And God makes a promise to the people of God: there will always be a prophet amongst them to speak the word of God. As you head into the weekend think about who among us are prophets. Who has spoken truth in your life? Who challenges and inspires you? Who causes you to think in different ways?



Grace and peace,
Pastor David B. Clark



10 resolutions that will strengthen your faith

Whether beginning a new calendar year, a new year after a birthday or starting fresh after a challenging season, setting a goal can be a helpful tool for self-accountability as you move forward. Many of us resolve to find a stronger connection with God in these moments.

Here are ten resolutions that will help you grow your faith:

Deepen discipleship

- **Commit to reading your Bible.** The reassurance found in Scripture can only be discovered by [setting aside time to study and better understand God's word](#). As you read, pay close attention to what God is teaching you, and consider what calling God has for your life.
- **Pray more often.** If you pray rarely, start by praying at least once each day. If your prayer life needs enlivened, explore [new prayer practices](#), such as breath prayers. Finding ways to incorporate prayer into your daily routines will help it become a central point of your faith.
- **Attend church services regularly.** If you need a church home, search for nearby United Methodist congregations on [Find-A-Church](#). If you are a member at a church but haven't been attending consistently, go! Connecting with others and participating in worship are vital parts of a growing faith, whether in-person or online.
- **Join a small group.** This might be a Sunday School class, a community group organized by your church or a Bible study fellowship. Investing in others and building friendships can strengthen your mental and spiritual health. Additionally, you'll be able to share thoughts, beliefs and questions with other Christians who are also on a journey of faith.

Get creative

- **Write in a journal.** Capture thoughts about life and God. Putting pen to paper helps us unload whatever mental weight we are carrying and often brings a new perspective. This can be diary-style writing, but you can also write down prayers, poems or a fictional short story that helps you express your emotions and spiritual outlook.
- **Create something beautiful.** This could be anything from a pencil sketch in the margin of a piece of paper, to a scrapbook page, to a knitted scarf. Using your creativity unlocks your right-brain thinking and helps us tap into new ideas, find calm and let go of anxiety.
- **Make a joyful noise.** Listen to uplifting, worshipful music that stirs your soul and sing along. It doesn't matter if you are the best or the worst singer – lifting your voice in praise to God is an important part of soul-care. Join in congregational singing with a bit more gusto, or simply sing to the heavens while you are stuck in traffic.

Be present

- **Volunteer in the community.** No matter where you live, churches and nonprofit organizations are always in need of helping hands. Find a cause that excites you and consider how you can get involved. This could be a food bank, an animal shelter or an afterschool program, or you can simply ask a neighbor in need how you can help them.
- **Reach out to those you love.** Life can be short and is full of the unexpected. Make a promise to yourself and those you hold dear that you will be present, engaged and devoted to your relationships. Attend activities that are meaningful to your friends and family members. Mend past brokenness. Make an effort to call, text and email people you haven't heard from in a while.
- **Invite someone to church.** There are many people who are seeking deeper meaning in life but are unsure about visiting a church. Think of coworkers, neighbors, friends and family members that are yearning for a loving community in which to grow and find support. Invite them to join you for a worship service or a church event where they can meet members of the congregation.

Adapted from the article by Laura Buchanan. Laura works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. This story was published on December 14, 2023.