



# Weekly Booster

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor

David B. Clark

[pastordavid@shen.church](mailto:pastordavid@shen.church)

### Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

[office@shen.church](mailto: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

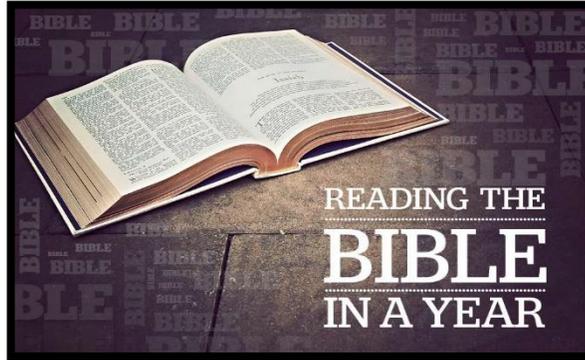
## Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Pastor David

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



## Why Reading the Bible in a Year is Doable (and More Meaningful Than You May Think)

Ever wonder if there's more to reading through the Bible in a year than just checking off a series of boxes on a reading plan? Many people start a Bible reading plan as an act of spiritual discipline, and for them, it becomes a rewarding achievement. While your personal dedication to completing this task may be what initially motivates you, you will soon discover that what God has for you in His Word is so much more than you imagined. His ways are far higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Understanding the deeper significance of the discipline of reading through all of Scripture may give you both the motivation to begin and the courage to finish. Here are a few reasons you might want to set out to accomplish your 365-day Bible reading goal today.

Second, the virgin birth makes it possible for Jesus to be born without original sin. All other human beings have inherited a corrupt moral nature, thanks to our first father, Adam.

## Spiritual Growth

Regular Bible reading helps deepen your understanding of God's Word, providing not only biblical knowledge but also strengthening your faith and personal relationship with God. *Continued on page 2*

*"I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions."*

*Stephen R. Covey*

*"Do the best you can. No one can do more than that."*

*John Wooden*

### Reminders

#### January 11<sup>th</sup>

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

#### January 13<sup>th</sup>

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

#### January 14<sup>th</sup>

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

#### January 15<sup>th</sup>

T.O.P.S.

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

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

## Baptism of the Lord



### Bible One Year- continued from page 1.

He is at work in your mind and your heart, even if you may feel that you are just going through the motions. As you take on the task of reading a portion of God's Word every day, your mind and heart are being influenced and formed by the truths of that Word instead of being conformed to the patterns of this world.

Setting your mind to the task of reading through the Bible and integrating it into your life is one of the foundational building blocks of spiritual growth. Doing so becomes both an inspiring activity and a defensive hedge that protects you from the corrupting influence of anti-biblical teachings.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will. Romans 12:2*

### Consistent Discipline

Committing to daily Bible reading fosters discipline and helps build a lasting routine. Choosing a Bible reading plan to follow before you get started will keep you focused and motivated. Without the structure of a plan, it can be easy to lose momentum, especially when navigating difficult sections of the Old Testament. A good plan guides and informs you through even the more challenging parts of Scripture.

When we study how many times Mary and Joseph are mentioned in each gospel, we find that Luke's account is essentially based on Mary's perspective—in fact, he may well have interviewed Mary or her friends before writing his gospel. For instance, Joanna and Susanna, who are mentioned in Luke 8:3 and 24:10, undoubtedly knew the mother of Jesus.

A great resource to consider using is the *NIV Daily Scripture*. From day one, each reading includes a portion from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and a Psalm or Proverb. Before each day's reading, a succinct applicational overview section helps to set the stage for that day's segment, allowing you to step right back in where you left off the prior day.

*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

*Michelle Morelock - Chair*  
*Mary Peterson - Secretary*  
*Margaret Brady - Vice Chair & Trustee*  
*Roger Jones - Trustee*  
*Bob Lynn - SPRC*  
*Barb Lundgren - Finance*  
*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 will God inflict on those who do not know God and obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus according to 2Thessalonians?

- a) wrath
- b) diseases
- c) fire
- d) vengeance

According to Habakkuk, who shall live by faith?

- a) the righteous
- b) the humble
- c) the kings
- d) the faithful

Whose small jar of oil filled all the jars she could gather?

- a) widow of one of the prophets
- b) daughter of Herod
- c) Sisera's nurse
- d) Abimelech's wife

**Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.**



11<sup>th</sup> – Logan Wiebold

12<sup>th</sup> – Mary Peterson

17<sup>th</sup> – Kris Anderzhon, Claudia McEvoy

**\*\*See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added? Please call the office or send an email to [office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)**

**Shenandoah First United  
Methodist Church**

200 Church St.  
Shenandoah, IA 51601

Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail  
[office@shen.church](mailto: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: God says: "I have called you and taken you by the hand."**

**People: God gives us as a light to the nations.**

**L: The former things have come to a pass;**

**P: God now declares a new thing.**

**L: The voice of the Lord is over the waters and is full of majesty.**

**P: Let us worship our God.**

**"STIRRING the Waters"**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17**

**Songs**

**Holy, Holy, Holy #64**

**Holy Spirit - screens**

**Spirit Song #347**

**Seek Ye First #405**

**Last Week's Attendance**

**In-Person Worship – 66**

**Online Worship – 11**

**Our Vision:**

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

**Answers for 28<sup>th</sup> are b) East d) 2000 d) Andrew**

**Quiz hints – Q1) 2Thessalonians Q 2) Habakkuk Q3) 2Kings**



## JANUARY 2026

Spaghetti Sauce and Spaghetti Noodles, Sauerkraut, Green Beans, Corn, Chili Beans, Pineapple, Brownie and Muffin Mixes, Macaroni & Cheese, Brown and White Rice, Chunky Style Soups, Soda, Graham, Snack, Animal Crackers, Shampoo and 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 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 December will go to the **Sleepy In Heavenly Peace**.

**Bible One Year- continued from page 2.**

You don't even have to wait until January 1<sup>st</sup> to start; the daily readings are not date-specific, so you can begin your 365-day journey at any point in the year.

Accompanying the *NIV Daily Scripture* is the *NIV Daily Scripture Guidebook*. Written by pastor, professor, and popular YouTuber Tim Wildsmith, this guidebook will help you stick to this unique reading plan while also providing devotional insights and space for reflection that will help you comprehend what you're reading and apply it to your life.

There is even a Daily Scripture Podcast where Tim reads each day's Scripture portion. You can learn more here to subscribe and follow.

*For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-9*

**Broader Biblical Perspective**

One of the greatest lifelong benefits of reading through the entire Bible is gaining a broader understanding of its unifying themes. As you take on this beneficial challenge, you begin to see the full story of God's work throughout history. As you study different portions of the Word on the same day, this comprehensive view reveals how the Old Testament prophecy connects to the life and teachings of Jesus. For instance, God made a covenant with Abraham by walking between animal sacrifices as a promise to save and bless his descendants (Genesis 15:8-21), and we now see that promise and covenant fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus for all who believe in him (Galatians 3:10-14).

The Old Testament may sometimes seem difficult to understand but reading it in context with other scriptures reveals the bigger picture. Through this kind of study, you can see how God's enduring love and plan for his people originate in the law and the covenants and continue on through the entire story of the Bible. All Scripture points toward Christ.

Here are two other great resources to choose from:

The One-Year Bible Reading Plan has you read from the beginning in Genesis through the end of the Bible in Revelation.

The Three-Year Bible Reading Plan, like the *NIV Daily Scripture*, alternates between the Old Testament and New Testament. This mixed-reading approach provides variety and reduces the fatigue that might set in from reading long sections of the Old Testament.

## Encouragement and Comfort

Life's challenges can often shake our faith, but staying grounded in daily Scripture reading helps us remain focused on God's Word and how he is instructing, inspiring, and guiding us every day through his Word and Spirit. In our daily readings, we may be surprised to see how God uses ordinary, sinful people and sometimes tragic circumstances to accomplish his incredible purposes. When we learn that God is still faithful even in the midst of trials, we can look at the difficulties we experience in life and turn them into opportunities to get to know the God of the Bible more completely.

We all face hard things in life, and daily Scripture reading can strengthen and encourage us to keep going. It can inspire us and change our perspective on the things that happen to us on a daily basis. Choosing a daily reading plan that incorporates selections from Psalms and Proverbs in addition to passages from the Old and New Testaments can be helpful. Reading the psalmist's direct and honest communications with God and the wisdom of Solomon offers consistent encouragement and perspective during tough times.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

## Power of Praying Scripture

Reading God's Word is a powerful practice, often inspiring you to pray. A reading plan that directs you in praying through Scripture allows you to connect deeply with God as you reflect on his words and promises and integrate those into your daily life. Allow his Word to wash over your heart and transform your prayers.

*This, then, is how you should pray:*

*“Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,*

*But deliver us from the evil one.”*

Matthew 6:9-15

## **Beginning Your Daily Scripture-Reading Journey**

Many people like to start reading through the Bible at the beginning of a new year when resolutions are made as a way to set the tone for the months ahead. However, there's no "right" time to begin. You can start your Bible reading journey whenever you feel ready, and if you feel like you need to take a break, you can pick up where you left off.

As you move through the Scriptures outlined in your chosen book or plan, be open to what God will teach you. You'll gain not only biblical knowledge but also personal insights that will directly apply to your life and circumstances. The Holy Spirit may bring a passage to your attention that you can meditate on or think about at a key point in time, bringing new revelation of how his promises to those who follow him directly impact your life.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16*

## **Deepening Faith**

While completing a year-long Bible reading plan is itself an accomplishment, the true reward lies in how it deepens your faith. As you engage with God's Word, you are planting seeds that will bear fruit in the moments you need them most—whether it's recalling stories of faith, finding words of hope, or embracing encouragement. God is always good, and His Word is always accomplished according to his plan.

*So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11*

Though reading Scripture daily can sometimes feel challenging, especially during difficult times (which is when we need it most!), there are many tools to help you stay focused and grounded in your faith. The NIV offers a variety of reading plans and the following Bibles to support you throughout your journey:

NIV Daily Scripture, NIV Daily Scripture Guidebook, NIV Daily Scripture, Giant Print, NIV Daily Scripture, Audio download, NIV Bible in 90 Days, The Books of the Bible.

*Adapted from the NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, January 5, 2026.*



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday  
to Deliver Meals**

**Sign-Up Sheet is on the  
Welcome Center Counter**



If you have plastic bags that you would like to donate to the church for making mats, those working with the loom are now ready for more plastic bags. If you have plastic bags you want to get rid of, please drop them off in the mat/loom room downstairs. The room is the first classroom on your left at the bottom of the stairs. Thank you in advance.

We're getting ready to install new carpet tiles in the Fellowship Hall, but first, the walls need a fresh coat of paint! We'd love your help to get the job done.

- **Date:** Saturday, January 17
- **Time:** 9:00 AM start
- **Supplies:** Please bring paint rollers (with extension poles if you have them) and brushes. Don't worry if you don't have supplies, we'll have extras on hand!

**Lunch is on us!** We'll be serving pizza and water at noon for all volunteers. Hope to see you there!





Dear Church Family,

When Jesus came up from the waters of the Jordan, something remarkable happened: the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and God's voice proclaimed, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt 3:17). Yet this moment of divine affirmation wasn't the culmination of Jesus' ministry—it was the beginning. His baptism marked the threshold between his hidden years in Nazareth and his public journey of teaching, healing, and ultimately, the cross. In the same way, our own baptisms aren't meant to be the high point of our faith lives, but rather the starting line of a lifelong adventure of following Jesus.

As we remember Jesus' baptism, perhaps it's time to reflect on our own discipleship stories. Where has your journey taken you since that moment—whether you remember it or not—when water was poured, and God claimed you as beloved? Have there been times when you've felt the Spirit guiding you in unexpected directions? Times when you've heard God's voice affirming your belovedness, even in seasons of doubt? Our baptisms remind us that we're already claimed, already beloved, already commissioned. The question isn't whether we're qualified to follow Jesus; he's already said yes to us. The question is: where is the Spirit leading us next?

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

