



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Terry Stafford

Choir Director

Sue Jones

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

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Kris Anderzhon,
Alan Hutchison,
Jeff Hiser

Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

Facebook Contributors

Pastor Kelly W. Peavey,
Barb Cunningham,
Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,
Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,
Jeff Hiser, Jodi Anderzhon



Verizon Wireless created one of the most memorable marketing campaigns ever in 2005. In their commercials a so-called "test man," accompanied by a crowd of network engineers, travels the country asking the simple question, "Can you hear me now?" in an ongoing exercise to determine the reliability of the mobile phone carrier's network.

The "catch phrase" caught on. The company's market share went up and employee turnover went down. It seemed people could relate to the struggle to connect. Folks were tired of dropped calls and unreliable communication systems. And Verizon sent a message that they wanted desperately to connect with its subscribers and wanted its subscribers to be able to connect with each other.

At the risk of selling Him short, God has done the same. Even when the Kingdom had split in two, He kept sending His message. He gave the people of the Divided Kingdom some 208 years to decide whether they would "accept" or "reject" His call. He sent His own "technicians" to get the message out. We call them "prophets."

The job of the Verizon technician is unique. But not nearly as unique as the task given Hosea. Hosea, himself a prophet, appeared in a down time in the nation of Israel. The reality is that people often hear best when things are at their worst. So, Hosea signed on with God. But God gave him a most unusual assignment. Hosea's life would be his message. He was to marry a prostitute named Gomer and love her. What an incredible request! (Just imagine a young man with a seminary degree in hand trying to explain that one to a pastor search committee.)

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*Too much complaining
leaves little time for
doings.*

*You can plan your route,
but God determines your
steps.*

Reminders

May 15th

Methodist Men's Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
All Men Welcome

May 17^h

Ad Board Meeting
6:30 pm Fellowship Hall

May 18th

Women's Bible Study
11:30 a.m.
Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
Choir Practice – 6:45 p.m.

May 19th

T.O.P.S.
4:30 p.m.

****Worship Assistants needed
for May & June**

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

"The Story" Study Groups
Women-Wednesday-11:30 a.m.
All-Wednesday-6:15 p.m.

Hear Him - Continued from page 1

The tough assignment was made even more difficult as Gomer left Hosea. She would conduct her 'transactions' with customers and all the time in her mind believing they were the ones supporting her. In reality, though, it was Hosea who continued to care for her and provide for her necessities even during her times of unfaithfulness.

God tells Hosea to go and demonstrate his love for her, so he does. Now picture this scene, as ugly as it is: Hosea pays some Hebrew "pimp" for some time with his wife, Gomer. When she enters the room expecting her next customer, she comes face-to-face with her husband. It is then that Hosea tells her again he loves her and wants her to come back home.

It's the lived-out message that Hosea later gives in words. And it's the same message God sends today. He loves us—even in our extreme unfaithfulness. And he wants us to come back home, even though we have abandoned him. But much like a call on your cell phone, you can hit the "accept" button or the "reject" button. You have the power to send God to voicemail and make him wait. Or you can answer his call today. The people of Israel had 208 years to pick up and they never did. The network is clear. The message is reliable. Can you hear him now?

Adapted from the article about The Story was originally written by Pastor Rick Brown of Christbridge Fellowship in Tomball, Texas.

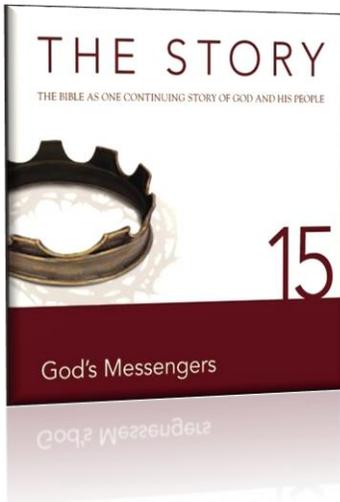


Who Wrote the Gospels and Why They Wrote Them?

A correct, biblical understanding of how the Gospels were written enables us to handle many supposed contradictions within the books. The most important statement in this regard can be found in the introduction to the gospel of Luke:

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. [Luke 1:1-4](#)

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Books and Study Guides are still available. Contact the office.

Book Your Appointment Online



Would you like to chat with Pastor Kelly, maybe over coffee, tea, or soda? Need to get something on the church calendar or need something brought to our attention? You can book an appointment online with Jeff or Pastor Kelly by going to the following link <https://bit.ly/3sm5lyY> (click on the link or copy and paste it into your browser). You may also use a QR reader.



Church Office Hours

**** Children & Jr.-Sr. High**
 Sunday School 10:15
 Questers (Adults) 10:30

****Chancel Choir –**
 Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
 Sunday 8:30 a.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.



Who was blind but still killed many with his death?	Whose life was completely transformed on the road to Damascus?	From what ailment did Naaman the Syrian get cured?
a) Samson	a) Pontius Pilate	a) fever
b) Bartimaeus	b) Paul	b) leprosy
c) Eli	c) Herod	c) blindness
d) David	d) Caiaphas the High Priest	d) discharge of blood

Check page 4 for answers in next week's booster

Birthdays and Anniversaries



16th – Jean Stribling
 17th – Rainn Mayer
 18th – Dennis Bayless, Olivia Livengood
 19th – Darrell Jones, Anna Peterson
 20th – Shelly Hutchison
 21st – Sue Kinney

****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>



Go to the addresses by holding down
the Ctrl button and clicking on the links
<http://bit.ly/3skF0p9>

Live streaming of our weekly service
now on our Youtube channel only.

*Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: *Terry Stafford*

Call to Worship

Leader: Who wants to hear a message from the Lord?

People: We come to hear what the Lord has to say to us.

L: Do you come with open ears?

P: We come with open ears and open hearts.

L: Will you follow and be obedient to what the Lord says?

P: We desire to please the Lord more than any other thing.

All: Lord, lead us in the paths of righteousness for your glory.

“God’s Messengers”

New Testament Scripture: Acts 11:1-18

New Testament Scripture: *Revelation 21:1-6*

Gospel Reading: *John 13:31-35*

Songs

There’s Within My Heart a Melody #380 (Hymnal)

You Who Are Thirsty #2132 (Black Book)

Open Our Eyes #2086 (Black Book)

Wonderful Words of Life #600 (Hymnal)

Last Week’s Attendance

In-Person Worship – 54

Online Worship – Youtube 12

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 May 8th are c) Joppa a) to bless them a) Baruch

Clues for May 15th Q1) Judges, Q2) Galatians, Q3) 2 Kings



Pastor's Reflections

To all those who are called to be the Church of Jesus Christ,

This week in The Story we read about God's messengers. Sometimes the message from God is a hard one to hear. Sometimes the message is encouraging. Sometimes it's a little of both. Sometimes what we get out of the message depends on what we bring to it ourselves. Will we listen with humble hearts, or will we listen defensively? Will we hang on through the tough parts of the message and make it to the encouraging parts?

As I was in worship this weekend, I heard some hard things and some encouraging things. I'm going to share a couple of the things that I took away from the messages I heard.

Victory has a name, and it's Jesus. God's people are empowered by Jesus' name. What will you do in Jesus' name?

If we picture the body of Christ (that's us) as an orchestra, we find the Jesus is the conductor of many, often squeaky, instruments – like an elementary school orchestra conductor. We must develop our gifts and talents, never stop practicing, so that we can bring glory to the conductor. One of the ways we do that is with rich, spiritual disciplines. Daily be in the Word, in prayer, in service.

Maybe we should leave the back pews open for the new folks who come to see what, or should I say who, our worship is all about. Wouldn't you be more comfortable in the back when going someplace new? Let's love our neighbors like ourselves.

Blessings,

Pastor Kelly

p.s. I have spoken to the men's Bible study group about C.S. Lewis. You may know him as the author of The Chronicles of Narnia, but he also wrote several works about Christianity. I just became aware of a *free* course that might be worth checking out. You can find it here: <https://lp.hillsdale.edu/cs-lewis-christianity-preregister/>

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What does Luke say about his book?

1. There were many stories written about Jesus before Luke wrote his Gospel.
2. Luke was not an eyewitness, but eyewitnesses who were with Jesus from the very beginning “handed down” the accounts to Luke about what Jesus did and said.
3. Luke shows he was concerned with history.
4. Luke was not writing the story in chronological order; he was writing an “orderly” account. Sometimes he arranged his material chronologically and other times thematically, pulling stories from different historical settings and presenting them together.
5. Luke had a specific purpose in mind—namely, to assure Theophilus that what he had been taught was historically accurate.

The gospel of John also contains an explicit purpose statement:

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. [John 20:30–31](#)

What we read in John’s gospel is not everything he knew, but only some of what he thought would help his readers understand and believe that Jesus is the Messiah, that the Messiah is the only Son of God, and that a belief in who Jesus is leads to eternal life.

Mark has a purpose statement as well, but it’s not as obvious. The title to his book (or at least to the first part of his book) states, “The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God” ([Mark 1:1](#)). Mark is telling the story of Jesus so that people will see who he is—the Messiah, the Son of God.

The point is that the gospel writers knew much more than what they wrote about, and their specific purposes in writing controlled both their selection and the arrangement of the accounts that eventually became their gospels. Armed with this information, you’ll find that many of the apparent contradictions are resolved. Following are a few examples.

Some claim that the Bible is not clear about what happened with the thieves on the cross. All four gospels say that Jesus was crucified with two insurrectionists ([Matthew 27:38](#); [Mark 15:27](#); [Luke 23:32](#); [John 19:18](#)). However, only Luke tells the story of the repentant rebel:

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” [Luke 23:39–43](#)

Is it a contradiction for Luke to say that one of the thieves repented? No. The gospel writers don’t claim to tell us everything; they’re being selective. All four gospels report there were two insurrectionists, and Luke adds that one of them repented. Perhaps both thieves “hurled insults at him” at first. What do you think Jesus did on the cross? Is it reasonable to think he said nothing? Luke reveals that he talked with the thieves, and one came to change his mind about Jesus.

Others may say, “The Bible contradicts itself in reporting how many angels were at the tomb.” Two gospels tell us that an angel met the women at the tomb to tell them that Jesus had risen ([Matthew 28:1–2](#); [Mark 16:5](#)). However, Luke and John say there were two angels ([Luke 24:4](#); [John 20:11–12](#)). Is this a contradiction?

If I tell you I went on a vacation with my son Hayden and only later mention that my wife, Robin, was there as well, is that a contradiction? Is it a contradiction to talk about one person without mentioning all the people present? Of course not. If I had said that only Hayden went on a vacation with me, then yes, that would be a contradiction, but that is not the case here.

In addition, consider that the gospel writers report differently about who went to the tomb. Matthew tells us that Mary Magdalene and Mary were there ([Matthew 28:1](#)). Mark tells us that Salome was one of the women ([Mark 16:1](#)). Luke says it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and others ([Luke 24:10](#)). John mentions only Mary Magdalene ([John 20:1](#)). Is this a contradiction? No. The gospel writers were selective in what they wrote.

The Gospels don't tell us everything, only what they want to tell us in order to meet their goals in writing. The recording of partial information does not necessarily create a contradiction.

Article drawn from [Why I Trust the Bible: Answers to Real Questions and Doubts People Have about the Bible](#). NIV News, HarperCollins Christian Publishing April 25, 2022, 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214.



THIS SUNDAY!

Why update the church directory? It's four years old and...

1. People come and go
2. People's information changes
3. Technology changes

What do you want the church to do?

1. Update your contact information. You can do this yourself (see how-to video here: https://youtu.be/3NGE7Ec5_jA), or we can help you.
2. Tell us what info of yours we can share in the directory, even if it's none. It's your decision
3. Be ready for your close-up this Sunday 😊



What's different this time?

1. We're doing this all ourselves
2. A printed directory will be available, but the main directory will be online through our One Church software (see printed format in Example 1).
3. One Church software only has places for individual photos, but we are happy to take a family photo for you, too.
4. We are using a green screen, so you will have a choice of background (see Example 2). Avoid wearing that color of green.
5. We will offer two make-up days. Monday, May 16th at noon, and a second date after May 25th to be determined.
6. You can provide your own photo. You can upload it yourself, or we'll help you do it.

Demo Church
Directory

Alexander Family

12973 SW 112th Street #240
Miami, State 33186

 Alexander, Richard Adult (361) 026-7524	 Campbell, John Child (361) 511-9319
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Baker Family

11200 SW 8th
Miami, Florida 33199

 Baker, Joseph Adult (361) 636-7453	 Kelly, Mary Spouse (361) 077-9011
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Example 1 - Family listing in printed directory



Example 2 - Group photo, before/after