



# 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,

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 Letters in the New Testament

Did you know that of the 27 books in the New Testament, 21 of them are letters written to communities of Jesus' followers, and they were spread throughout the Roman Empire? Most of the letters, (also known as epistles), are attributed to Paul – Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. The remaining letters are Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude.

Letters can be thought of as a conversation you might have with a friend. And like a conversation with a friend, a lot of background information is assumed but not stated directly in the letters. As you read the New Testament letters, it's helpful to keep in mind –

## The Cultural Context

- The churches receiving the letters were under strict Roman rule. Because Roman society was hierarchical, Paul's message might have sounded different to people of varied social status.
- Men who were Roman citizens had some ability to raise their social status, while women, enslaved people, and the poor were considered inferior and had little hope of doing the same.

*Continued page 2.*

*Did you know Paul Revere was also a pioneering dentist, Ben Franklin invented a musical instrument used by Mozart and Beethoven, Thomas Jefferson wrote his epitaph but didn't mention being president, and George Washington lost more battles than he won?*

### Reminders

#### May 15<sup>th</sup>

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.  
Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.  
Choir – 5:30 p.m.  
Bell Choir – 6:30 p.m.

#### May 16<sup>th</sup>

T.O.P.S.

#### May 19<sup>th</sup>

Men's Monthly Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.

\*\*No Men's Saturday Bible Study

\*\*No PK-6 or Jr/Sr High  
Sunday School until Fall

\*\*Worship Assistants are needed for  
May 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

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



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

### Letters - Continued from page 1.

Jesus' message that God cares for everyone might threaten and convict those in high places but be liberating for those looked down upon in their societies.

- Jesus' followers were viewed as radical because they threatened the dominant social order. Jesus' love was for all, and his death and resurrection meant the creation of a new humanity—one without divisions based on race, gender, or social class. As you read, look for these countercultural moments.
- In the beginning, the author often provides us with context about the letter. For example, it's easy to read a letter like Romans as one long essay on theology, but Paul is addressing the division between Jewish and non-Jewish followers in Rome. Some higher-status Christians were treating Jewish Christians with disrespect, but Paul wants the church to realize they're all members of God's family now. As you read, think about how the message might apply to the specific issues in the church receiving the letter.

While our context today looks different than these early church communities, we can see in these letters our tendencies to create division and fail to love one another as beloved siblings in God's family. But the gospel of Jesus Christ can transform our communities just like it did theirs.

### How They Were Created and Communicated

Have you ever found yourself imagining the writers of the New Testament while reading them? If so, what were they like? Did you picture them alone or with others? The authors of the New Testament were probably rarely alone. Paul was a missionary traveling throughout the Mediterranean, preaching the gospel, and starting new churches. He had companions and cowriters who helped him craft his letters, probably drawing from speeches, prayers, and poems, all pieced together and written down by a scribe.

Whoever delivered the finished letter to the church community would read it out loud like a speech. Since the community would have heard the letter read from beginning to end, it's helpful for us to read it that way as well.

*Continued 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
- Gary Milstead - Trustee
- Roger Jones - SPRC
- Robin Hensen - 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 – will resume in the Fall. Have a safe summer!**

**\*\*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.



Of what is Apostle Paul not ashamed according to the book of Romans?

- a) The gospel
- b) Being a Benjaminite
- c) The law
- d) His apostleship

Who did John refer to as someone who likes to put himself first?

- a) Demetrius
- b) Demas
- c) Diothrephes
- d) Achaicus!

Who took from the spoils dedicated to the Lord which resulted in Israel's defeat?

- a) Jerubbaal
- b) Achan
- c) Ussa
- d) Korah

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 12<sup>th</sup> – Jessica Lashier
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Danny Shook
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Jean Stribling
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Rainn Mayer
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Bayless, Olivia Livengood

**\*\*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

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:** *Let the righteous be joyful; let them be jubilant before God.*

**People:** *Sing to God, sing praises to the name of the Lord.*

**L:** *Lift up a song to the Lord, who rides upon the clouds.*

**P:** *God is the parent of orphans and the protector of those who mourn.*

**L:** *Awesome is God in the sanctuary; the Lord gives power and strength to the people.*

**P:** *Blessed be the Lord!*

# "In-Between"

## Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-14

### Songs

*Crown Him with Many Crowns #327*  
*I Was There to Hear Your Boring #2051*  
*I'll Fly Away #526*

### Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 61  
On-Line Worship – 6

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> are d) Pharisee b) Esther c) Coriander  
Quiz hints – Q1) Romans Q2) 3John Q3) Joshua



## May 2024

Pasta (any kind), Jelly, Ketchup & Mustard, Barbecue Sauce, Spices, Green Beans & Corn, Brownie, Cake, and Muffin Mixes, Pineapple, Cinnamon Applesauce, Boxed Potatoes, Rice Side Dishes, Microwave Popcorn, Soda Crackers, Shampoo & Conditioner, Toothbrushes.

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 May will go to the **Student Scholarship Program**.



Letters - Continued from page 2.

## The Literary Context

Ancient letters have a specific format. They begin with an opening that gives the name of the author, followed by thanksgiving for the community receiving the letter. The body of the letter addresses particular issues in the church, and the conclusion includes additional greetings, travel plans, final requests, and prayers.

Although most New Testament letters follow this format, they are sometimes adjusted to suit a purpose. For example, you might notice Galatians skips over thanksgiving as Paul jumps into a heated critique of the Galatians turning away from his teaching to a different gospel.

Also, note that the big idea of the letter is usually stated right after the greeting. Each paragraph generally has its main idea, and sections are joined together with transition phrases such as “therefore,” “so then,” and “because of this.” Keep the big idea in mind and watch for these transitions to see how the author builds the argument.

As you think about the situations the New Testament letter writers sought to address, consider how their words relate to us today.

*Adapted from study features in the NIV, The Telos Bible. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, May 6, 2024.*



- ✓ Has your address changed?
- ✓ Do you have a different phone number or no longer have a landline?
- ✓ Do we have your birthday?
- ✓ Do we have your anniversary date?
- ✓ If you have children do we have their birthday?
- ✓ Do we have a picture for our records? Remember it has been two years since we took pictures.

Help us keep our church records updated. You can check your church information in two different ways. First, you can log in to OneChurch Software at <https://shenchurch.onechurchsoftware.com/> to check your information and make any necessary changes. If you choose to update your information and have not logged in before you will need to create your log-in. You can even upload your picture. If you prefer you can call the office and Jeff will let you know what information you have on your profile. You can catch him after church or stop by the office. We appreciate you helping us update our church records.



MOTHER'S DAY APPRECIATION

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>



Methodist Men's  
Monthly Breakfast  
Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 a.m.



After serving almost 34 years as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Shenandoah and participating in our community in many ways, Pastor Rick Sleyster is retiring at the end of May.

The public is invited to a retirement reception for Rick on May 26<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. (Note this is Memorial Weekend). An elevator is available from the lower Clarinda Street entrance, or zero entry is available from the alley off Tass Street at the side of the church.

If people cannot attend but would like to send a note, please address it to Pastor Rick Sleyster c/o First Presbyterian Church, 200 W. Clarinda, Shenandoah, IA 51601.

Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> will be the last Sunday the choir will be singing until September. We are looking for special music for the summer. If you are interested in providing special music or know of someone that might be interested, please contact Mace Hensen or call the office and the message will be forwarded to him.



# Class Of 2024

At Shenandoah High School, **Jenna Burdorf** was involved with softball, volleyball, basketball, track, band, jazz band, student council, HOSA, spring musical, and the National Honor Society. She plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa to study Communication Disorders with a minor in American Sign Language with the intent to earn a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology.



### Achievements & Honors

Optimist Character Award; Softball Hawkeye Ten 1st Team All-Conference; Softball All-District Team; Softball 2nd Team All-State; Southwest Iowa Herald All-Summer Sports Team; KMA Hawkeye Ten Sophomore of the Year (Softball); KMA Hawkeye Ten All-Offense (Softball); KMA Hawkeye Ten All-Junior Team (Softball); KMA Hawkeye Ten All-Sophomore Team (Softball); Student Body President

At Shenandoah High School, **Macey Finlay** has been involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, track, student council, and HOSA. After high school, she will attend Iowa Western Community College, majoring in general education. She then plans to transfer to a four-year university to continue her education.



### Achievements & Honors

Multiple varsity sports letters; Hawkeye 10 All-Conference Honorable Mention (2x); Miss Defense Award (2x); Hawkeye 10 All-Conference Academic Award (4x); Academic Scholar varsity letter; Student Council varsity letter (2x); IGHS AU Distinguished Academic Achievement (7x); Academic Achievement Certificate; Student Council Perfect Attendance Certificate; HOSA Participation Certificate



**Devin Morelock** will be graduating from Kansas State on May 11th with a degree in Agricultural Economics with a Specialty in Production. He will be returning to the Shenandoah area after graduation.