



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



The Gift I Never Asked For

“What would I have done if I couldn’t have grieved?”

I asked my dad this question when we were sitting in a Chick-fil-A, watching my boys tear around the play area. I honestly don’t know what I would have done if God had not given me grief.

Let me ask you this question: Have you let yourself feel the pain?

Because grief is a door into something I know God wants for you: Himself.

He’s the reward.

Not heaven but Him.

God desires that we desire Him. Heaven is not the goal, it’s the place we get to experience God. And I have never longed for God and more of what He longs for like this. I’m longing for peace. Deep, unaffected, untainted peace and delight. I look forward to laughter. I love laughing. Everything in me wants to see Randy again. But I know that my deepest longing is for someone of whom Randy was an image bearer: Jesus.

Continued page 2.

“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.” Ruth Badar Ginsburg

*“All dreams are within reach. All you have to do is keep moving towards them.”
Viola Davis*

Reminders

October 13th

PK-6 S.S.– After Children’s Message
Jr/Sr High S.S. – 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation Class – 6:00 p.m.

October 15th

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

October 16th

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

October 17th

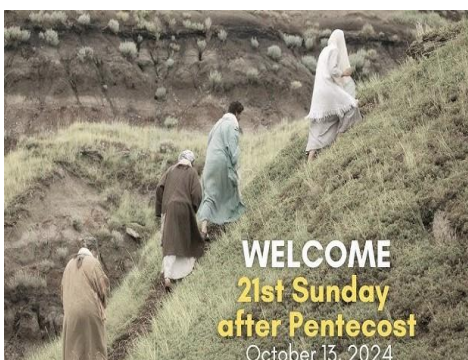
T.O.P.S.
Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries

October 20th

Men’s Monthly Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.

****Worship Assistants are needed
for October 27th & November**

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



The Gift - Continued from page 1.

I’ve never wanted this more in my entire life, and it’s because of my grief. It has drawn me to Him. I needed grief, and I think you do too. In his book *Holy Longing*, Ronald Rolheiser writes,

What we have dreamed for our lives can never be. Thus we have a choice: We can spend the rest of our lives angry, trying to protect ourselves against something that has already happened to us, death and unfairness, or we can grieve our losses, abuses, and deaths and, through that, eventually attain the joy and delights that are possible for us.

Alice Miller states this all in psychological language, but the choice is a paschal one. We face many deaths in our lives and the choice is ours as to whether those deaths will be terminal (snuffing out life and spirit) or whether they will be paschal (opening us to new life and spirit). Grieving is the key to the latter.

There have been dark, hollow times when I’ve leaned toward the terminal. How could anything good come from this? I have to say “my *late* husband,” and I’m in my thirties. I haven’t gotten used to that. Maybe I never will. But, because of God’s mercy, I have experienced new life through grief too. I’m longing for God as I’ve never longed for Him. My boys and I have been lifted in prayer and materially provided for. We’ve seen miracles. Our grief has opened us up to new life and spirit.

But even though this is true, it’s difficult to want grief. I can see everything that God has brought into my life through grief and still do not want it. It’s a gift I never asked for. Even now, I tend to want relief from grief.

God Brings Purpose to Our Pain

I’ll admit something embarrassing. I tried to make a grieving friend laugh while I was working on these thoughts. I’m serious. I was writing about grief, and she walked into my office while grieving, and instead of just being present, or bearing witness to her sadness, I tried to shoo it away with a joke.

Here’s some good news: God doesn’t ever shoo away our pain.

Continued page 7.

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 –
PK-6 during service,
Jr/Sr High 10:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday
**Choir –5:30 pm
Bell Choir –6:30 pm

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.



According to Micah, what will the Lord make the horn of the daughter of Zion?

- a) silver
- b) gold
- c) iron
- d) bronze

Which heaven was Paul caught up to in his vision?

- a) first
- b) second
- c) third
- d) seventh

To where did Jacob go, to escape his brother's fury?

- a) Beersheba
- b) Hebron
- c) Shechem
- d) Haran

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 13th – R'Donya Nelson
- 14th – Al Armstrong
- 15th – LeRoy & Lorene Whitehill
- 16th – Chris & Molly Wiebold
- 17th – Sue Burchett
- 18th – Dennis & Kathy Bayless
- 19th – Bennett Blane, Brian Blank

**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: Come! Come into the place where God listens!

People: Where we need no money, no status, and no fine clothes.

L: Come as you are.

P: Broken or whole, sick or well, satisfied or with deep needs.

L: Come to sing, cry, hear, and see.

P: We are here, and God is here too!

“From Loneliness to Solitude”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22-23

Songs

For the Beauty of the Earth #92

Still #3134

In The Garden #314

Last Week’s Attendance

In-Person Worship – 69

On-Line Worship – 14

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 October 6th are b) blew it away b) his brothers c) Solomon
Quiz hints – Q1) Micah Q2) 2 Corinthians Q3) Genesis**

October 2024



Food Pantry Needs

Pancake Mix & Syrup, Pasta (including Spaghetti Noodles), Spaghetti Sauce, Green Beans, Corn, Mandarin Oranges, Cinnamon Applesauce, & Pineapple, Chunky Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Chili, Macaroni & Cheese, Hamburger, Tuna, & Chicken Helpers, Cake, Brownie, & Muffin Mixes, Ketchup, Mustard, Salt, Pepper, Spices.

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 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 September will go to the **Hispanic Center** for gift cards to give to families at Christmas.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday to Deliver Meals

Sign-Up Sheet is on the Welcome Center Counter



A series of interesting presentations will take this Fall Semester at Iowa Western Community College, Shenandoah. Call 712-246-1499 to reserve your spot. A detailed flyer is posted on the bulletin board inside the glass walk-in doors. The fee for each presentation is \$5.00.

- ✓ Iowans Always Enjoy Talking about the Weather – October 10th, 9:30-10:30 a.m. – Candice Lilejahl of Essex.
- ✓ Winter Holiday Décor First Impressions – October 24th, 9:30-10:30 a.m. – Stacy Burgoin-Burge of Sidney
- ✓ Fashions of Days Gone By – October 31st, 9:30-10:30 a.m. – Teresa Minard of Clarinda



The Gift - Continued from page 2.

It's not that He doesn't want relief for us; He just has greater plans for our pain. He wants us to get to relief, but eventually. In grief, we become more like Him. In our sorrow, we comfort others. We "get it" in ways that nobody else can. As we comfort, we find ourselves comforted too. God draws those who grieve closer to Him. "Blessed are those who mourn," Jesus promised, "for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). Before the relief, He brings purpose to the pain.

Second Corinthians 1:3–5 says, "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 receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ."

We want to be plucked out of the pain, but God wants to be present with us in it.

The Path to Healing Goes Through Grief

If we don't grieve, we'll look for relief somewhere else, and there's a whole host of unhealthy options. Or we'll get stuck at the stage we're in and we'll keep reacting to everyone based on being stuck in depression, denial, or anger. The truth is that we can't heal what we are unwilling to feel. If we don't acknowledge Him in our grief, we'll live out of the stage we're stuck in.

I like the idea that grief is the antidote to trauma. It's a healthy response to loss. Trauma leaves us feeling stuck. Grief has the power to move us. Either downward into our hearts or upward to lament with God, and then ideally outward toward others as we allow them to carry our burden alongside us. Many shy away from grief, fearing it traps us, but avoiding grief is what keeps us truly stuck.

So talk about it. Even if it feels like you're talking about the same thing over and over. God moves us as we talk about it. Research continually suggests that discussing trauma and grief is critical to healing and growing through it. James Pennebaker's groundbreaking studies on the importance of talking about trauma reveal that expressive writing and verbal processing can lead to significant psychological and physical benefits, including improved emotional processing, reduced distress, enhanced immune system function, and greater overall well-being.

Submitting to God in grief meant opening up the grief and letting God use others. Eventually, I did start to give to others again. And it was different from how it had been before. I felt the words of Paul's greeting in 2 Corinthians deeply: I could "comfort those in any trouble" with the comfort I receive from God. If you're willing to go there with Him, if you're willing to grieve, He will use the pain you've been carrying or maybe ignoring.



Women in the Bible

Women in the Bible. I have seen this title used for everything from academic resources to Instagram posts, and I'm usually disappointed.

Why?

Because too often the folks writing these resources are so distracted by their cultural context and agendas that they fail to recognize the cultural context and agendas of the Biblical writers. And failing to *recognize* means that they also fail to *champion* the objectives of the Biblical writers.

As Christians, of course, we want our perceptions shaped by those of the Spirit-directed authors of the Bible. And as a community of faith, we want our *lives* shaped by those same perceptions. Hence the question of the hour: what does *the Bible* have to say about the women preserved in its pages?

Let's begin at the beginning.

Women in Genesis: The Image of God

Unlike the creation narratives of Israel's neighbors in Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Bible is markedly "countercultural" regarding the identity and status of women.

Genesis 1 and 2 communicate that a woman (*'iššâ*) is fully *human* and, like her male counterpart (*'îš*) is *made in the image of the Creator* (Gen 1:26-27, Gen 2:23). Only the Bible places this sort of value on women in the ancient world. And note how far the biblical writer goes to communicate his message — even violating normal grammar and syntax:

Then God said, "Let us make **humanity** (*'ādām*) in our image, in our likeness, so that **they** may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures

that move along the ground. So, God created humanity in his image, in the image of God he created *him*; *male and female he created them*. — Gen 1:26-27

“Humanity” is singular in this passage — one race, one species. But this *one* will be created “male and female” and “they” will rule. The author has made his point: “woman” is human; “woman” will rule; “woman” is made in the image of the Almighty. As with all things in Eden, this is God’s blueprint, his original intent for his perfect world.

The Fall profoundly disrupts God’s good plan for humanity and this planet. **But God’s value of and intentions for his Image-bearers does not change.** Women remain fully human; made in the Image; and co-commissioned to exercise dominion and stewardship over this planet. That is why women, although bumped off the stage of history in the majority of human cultures, continue to drive the plot in the great story of Redemption.

Women in Ancient Israel: Elevated Above the Margins

Let’s consider Israel for a moment. Ancient Israel was a patriarchal, patrilineal, and patrilocal culture — all authority and privilege, all inheritance, and even the family residence rotated around the oldest living male.

This culture that Israel inherited marginalized women at every turn — in both their lived lives and their *reported* lives. As a result, women rarely appear in the history-writing of Israel’s neighbors.

But in the Old Testament, we read about Eve, Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel. Miriam and Zipporah are named and honored. Abigail is a hero, Jael a celebrated assassin, and Huldah a prophetess who garners more attention in King Josiah’s rediscovery of the Book of the Law than Jeremiah does (2 Kgs 22)!

Deborah: An Unlikely Hero

And then there is **Deborah**, the hero of my most recent Bible study in the *Epic of Eden* series. Deborah is not only named among the twelve judges of Israel. She is celebrated as a judge of exemplary integrity and courage — courage that leads to a highly strategic and miraculous victory.

Like Moses, Deborah serves as the commander-in-chief of Israel’s military. When she speaks, her clan commander, Barak, obeys without question.

Like Joshua, Deborah obeys God’s command to engage the Canaanites and leads the tribes of Israel in the epic battle for the Jezreel Valley.

Like Samuel, she is named not only “judge” but “prophet” (*nābî*) — the most powerful office in Israel’s theocracy (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:9-22).

Like Othniel and Gideon, she leads Israel *for over 40 years*.

Every inch an unlikely hero, Deborah is wife and mother, liturgist and prophet, commander-in-chief, and supreme court justice. Because of her God-given authority within the community and her confidence in the God of Israel, Barak and the men of Naphtali find the courage to stand against Sisera’s outrageously well-equipped, professional army... and win! And she does all of this in one of the most morally corrupt and politically divided eras of Israel’s history.

And can we take a minute to talk about **Jael**? Although she is by all definitions a “nobody” in Israel’s world, this woman comes out of *nowhere* and assassinates a warlord with a tent peg! (Judges 4:17–21) Crazy. Crazy.

Women in the New Covenant: Breaking Free of Greco-Roman Culture

When we turn to the New Covenant, we find that women continue center stage in the Great Story. Keep in mind that the events of the New Testament occur amid the Greco-Roman world where women were viewed as not only *inferior* to men but in most contexts, as “sub-human” as well.

Yet Jesus counts women among his disciples.

He talks theology with Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42).

It is a very young Mary, an aging Elizabeth, and the prophetess Anna who are the first to recognize Jesus’ identity as Messiah (Luke 1:39-55, 2:36-38).

It is a woman who is commissioned by Jesus as the first evangelist to the Samaritans... and her testimony turns an entire town upside down (John 4).

It was *women* who had the faith and courage to stand at the cross (John 19:25).

Jesus entrusts the first declaration of the resurrection to *women* (John 20:11-18).

And as the Church moves forward, Priscilla is the master teacher of the book of Acts, Lydia is a church-planter in Philippi (Acts 16:11-25), and Junia is named “apostle” in Romans 16:7.

Women Are Protagonists in God’s Redemptive History

What we learn from the Bible is that women regularly served as the protagonists of Redemptive History. *Even though their stories occurred in cultures that marginalized and dismissed women as insignificant to the great events of the day.*

Just as important, the biblical authors *record* the contributions of these women.

The Bible was written by men. Men who due to the cultural codes of their day would have considered anything a woman did as peripheral to real history. As is common to so many ancient (and modern!) histories, the domestic realm was considered unnecessary to the “real” circles of power in the public realm.

Yet under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the men who wrote our Bibles refused to be distracted by their cultural standards and assumptions. Rather, they were inspired to faithfully *recognize* and *record* the mighty acts of God through the prophetic and miraculous work of women.

In this fashion, the biblical writers set the example, helping us to see past our cultural agendas to understand who “Women in the Bible” were... and who the women of faith and calling in *our* generation can be.

Adapted from Dr. Sandra Richter, Robert H. Gundry Chair of Biblical Students at Westmont College. BibleGateway News & Knowledge, September 30, 2024.



Men's Retreat at Wesley Woods Camp

October 25-26

Pastor David is leading a Men's Retreat (ages 16 and older) at Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Pastor David or check out <https://wesleywoodsiowa.org/mens-retreat/>.



This week is photo number 11 in a series of unique pictures from all over the world. For some pictures, **you may need to squint** and then you will see what the picture represents, others you will see it right away. I have found these amazing and wanted to share them.

#11



IMPORTANT DATES



Sunday, October 20th – Men's Monthly Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, October 20th – Congregational Care Workgroup – 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, October 20th – Family BINGO (at the church) – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 22nd – Ad Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Friday/Saturday, October 25th & 26th – Men's Retreat
Sunday, October 27th – Growing Young Workgroup – 10:30 a.m.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. To recognize Pastor David and his dedication to our church and our congregation, we would like to have a card drive for him. If you feel so inclined, please purchase a card and/or a gift card of any amount. A short note or even a small gift card will show our appreciation and allow Pastor David to explore some of the great businesses and events that Shenandoah has to offer. We would like to gather these by October 20th, without letting Pastor David know, then give them to him all at once during Sunday Worship on October 27th. If you are interested please reach out to Michelle Morelock at (712) 370-2313 or Jamie Burdorf at (515) 520-7641, or pass them to us discreetly at church or fellowship. Thank you!

Jamie and Michelle



PASTOR: DAVID CLARK

