



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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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



Shining Bright: God's Plan in Dark Times

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:15-20

Fall is a beautiful season. We can see God's beauty outside as the leaves change color and transform our neighborhoods. Our streets are no longer just black asphalt; they are covered with leaves that are shades of orange, red, and brown. We feel a nice, crisp, cool breeze as we go outside. It is a wonderful time to sip hot drinks and cozy up with a blanket as we read.

Fall is also a season of transition; the old is passing away while the plant life and trees make way for the new and prepare for winter. Bare trees, flowers no longer in bloom, and increased rain can make the season seem dark and gloomy. We may begin to miss the longer days marked by the sun lighting up our surroundings. Whether we love fall or prefer summer, every season comes to an end and has a purpose.

Continued page 2.

“It is never too late to be what you might have been.” George Eliot

“When you put love out in the world it travels, and it can touch people and reach people in ways that we never even expected.” Laverne Cox

Reminders

October 20th

Men's Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.
PK-6 S.S.– After Children's Message
Jr/Sr High S.S. – 10:30 a.m.
Family BINGO – 3:00 p.m.
Confirmation Class – 6:00 p.m.

October 22nd

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

October 23rd

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 24th

T.O.P.S.

Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries

October 25th & 26th

Men's Retreat

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

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

Dark Times - Continued from page 1.

The reality of seasons is just as true spiritually as it is naturally. Something interesting takes place during the physical season of fall; spiritual darkness seems to brood and is even celebrated by many. In Ephesians 5, we read that “the days are evil.” This will not surprise us, yet we should be keenly aware of what God is doing despite this. As Christians, we are told not to fear and to focus instead on God. We can make the most of every opportunity when we understand what He is doing during this time.

Even if our culture partners with the darkness, Christians can partner with God to see His light shine through us. As we read God's Word, we learn and understand His will, plans, desires, and agenda. Ephesians 5 shows us that God is not moved by a seemingly dark season.

Through this Scripture, we can glean four ways that we can make the most of every opportunity, no matter the season:

1. Understand the Lord's will—Spend more time in the Bible and less time on the internet. Understanding God's will is more important than knowing every detail of what is going on in our world. God's will is for us to be more like Jesus. We cannot control everything in our world, but we can do our part by allowing God the Father to conform us more to the image of His Son.

2. Be filled with the Spirit—We have a choice. We can be filled with the ways of the world or with the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit, we must simply ask Him to fill us. And as He fills us, we must remember to depend on Him and not to try to do things in our power.

3. Worship—We don't worship God to get something; we worship God because He is worthy. As we worship, though, God often moves. He enthrones Himself on our praises. As we go about our day, let's sing songs of worship to our beautiful God. We don't have to be loud and boisterous, but we also don't need to wait for a church service to worship. We must learn to lead ourselves in worship and make music from our hearts for the Lord every day.

Continued page 7.

Sunday
Service

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Hebrews 13:1-2

October 20, 2024

9:00 a.m.



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.



Where is Hagar (Sarah's servant) from?

- a) Damascus
- b) Egypt
- c) Hittite
- d) Amorite

To where was Obadiah's vision directed?

- a) Israel
- b) Edom
- c) Egypt
- d) Judah

Where did the sons of Israel settle down in Egypt, after they had followed Joseph?

- a) Land of Ramses
- b) Land of Etham
- c) Land of Goshen
- d) Land of Midian

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 20th – Andrea Robison Kelso, Paige Wiebold, Dennis & Sandra Bailey
- 21st – Brielle Blank
- 22nd – Al & LuAnn Armstrong
- 23rd – Justin Brink, Jake Williams
- 25th – Toni Graham, Darlene Howard

****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: We gather in the peace of Christ.

People: We lay aside our hostility and anger toward others.

L: Receive others as though you are receiving Christ.

P: For how we treat the least among us, is how we treat Christ.

L: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,

P: for by doing so, we have entertained angels unaware.

"From Hostility to Hospitality"

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13:1-2

Songs

God Is Here #660

Come, Now is the Time to Worship #3176

Let There Be Peace on Earth #431

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 67

On-Line Worship – 15

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 13th are c) iron c) third d) Haran
Quiz hints – Q1) Genesis Q2) Obadiah 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



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://wesleywoodsowa.org/mens-retreat/>.



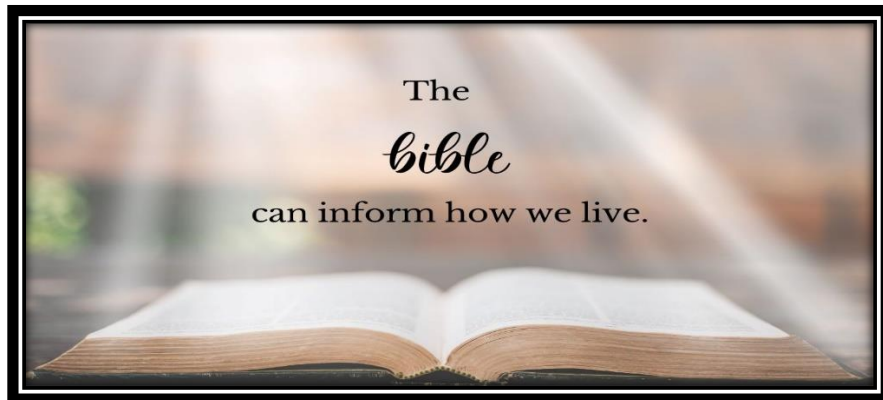
Dark Times - Continued from page 2.

4. Give thanks to the Father for everything—Instead of complaining about all that is wrong around us, we must look for opportunities to thank God. The more we look at Him, the more thankful we will become. And even our culture recognizes that the fall is a beautiful season to count our blessings and thank God for all He has provided.

As the trees dig their roots deep in preparation for winter, they make way for new life in spring and summer. While our world may look dark and gloomy, and we see evil all around us, we can dig our roots deep into the Lord and press into Him like never before. We are in a season, and every season comes to an end. One day, we will look up in the sky and see our King coming on the clouds. Evil will be destroyed, and we will be in His glorious presence forever. New life is coming!

Be encouraged; in all the darkness, our God shines bright, and His light never goes out. In the meantime, focus on Jesus and get into the Word like never before. He is the King over every season of our lives.

Adapted from Keely McCartney, contracted writer for Biblica. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, October 4, 2024.

**How to Live the Bible — Why Believing Makes Sense**

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash”
(Matthew 7:24-27).

The gospel writers make it clear that one of the outstanding features of Jesus’ ministry was that he freely and naturally exercised this authority. People sensed that they were under the immediate influence of God. Jesus’ words struck at the heart; they were clear, strong, unequivocal, simple, and mysterious. They both wounded

and healed and when they did wound, they offered immediate healing as well. His words still stick in people's minds and keep moving across the landscape of history like a cyclone. That's why almost everybody, including even proponents of other religions, shows respect for the thunder and lightning of Jesus' teaching.

But showing respect is one thing; responding is another. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus talked about one man who built a house on a rock foundation and another whose house rested on a bed of unstable sand. The house-on-sand person hears Jesus' words only, whereas the house-on-rock person hears and practices. Respect plus response. It was right after this tale of two builders that Matthew mentions the people's astonishment at Jesus' authority. The people were not saying, "Did you hear what this fellow is trying to assert?" They were swept up in the power of the Word himself. His authority carried them, and it carries us still. It summons us not just to listen, but to act.

House building is a metaphor for life. Christ does not assert authority so that he can push his weight around. God doesn't impose commands so that he can have a bevy of mindless followers. His is an act of grace. These authoritative words come to us because God knows there's so much we need to learn about life. Ignorance may not be a sin, but it's an extraordinarily dangerous way to live.

When someone asks, "Why should I believe what Christianity teaches?" or "Why should I believe the specific things taught about personal ethics, life after death, God's providence in history, and angels, and failure?" the answer he or she deserves is that followers of Jesus Christ believe such things (knowing and trusting) because they believe they have heard an authoritative voice on the matters. Christ summons, and the oracles of prophets and the writings of apostles are Holy Scripture—the exhalation of God's own Spirit.

I participated once in a discussion with someone about psychic knowledge, and the person commented, "I could believe that." I wondered, what does that mean, "I could believe that"? Thinking, "I could believe that," is a short step from "I want to believe that," which is one more short step from "I choose to believe that." "But why believe something just because you think you could?" Isn't the question, *should* I believe that?

That's the reason why we need authority.

I *could* believe that once there was a land called Atlantis; the romanticism and mystery of it is titillating. I *could* believe it just because I wanted to believe it. I *could* believe that intelligent beings from other galaxies are living in my community right now. I *could* believe that cancer is caused by cold winters because someone wrote a book claiming it once. But what *should* I believe? Shouldn't my beliefs line up with reality?

Frighteningly, many people today don't care whether their beliefs line up with reality. If their beliefs have a pleasing or useful effect in life, then they go ahead and hold onto them. They don't worry about whether they're grounded in truth or not. It's too much of a hassle to conform beliefs to the form of reality, and certainly inconvenient to risk conflict with someone else's beliefs. Besides, these people ask, is there any such thing as truth, anyway?

But we all know that we *can't* live that way. We *don't* live that way. When we receive a bank statement on our accounts, we assume the transactions line up with the reality of our actual deposits and withdrawals. We assume they line up precisely, that the balance is not a whimsical number a bank official decided to put on the statement. When someone is on trial for murder we assume the careful process of deliberation will produce a true verdict. If a doctor tells you he believes growth in your abdomen is completely benign and thus does not require surgery, you want to know that this is not an arbitrary opinion on his part because his schedule is too booked to fit in another surgery. You don't want the doctor thinking, "I *could* believe it's benign."

But, some will argue, that it's different with religious beliefs because they're not as objective as legal and medical and financial matters. We shouldn't go looking for religious authority because no one should dare call anybody else wrong or have the audacity to say that you've found spiritual truth.

But if we're honest, we've got to say there is a Creator or there isn't. And if there is a God and that God is perfection and goodness, then we believe because we *must* believe. It's the only intelligent thing to do.

Adapted from author Mel Lawrenz, Minister at large for Elmbrook Church, and director of The Brook Network. BibleGateway Blog, October 7, 2020.



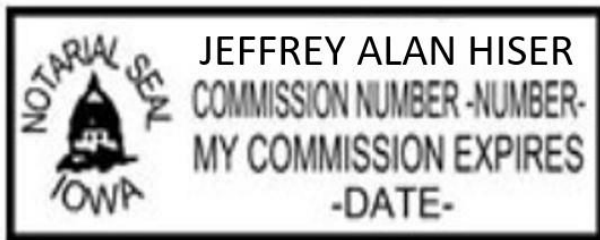
From Pastor David

There is a tension in the season of Fall. In the natural world a scurry of activity is underway in preparation for winter while at the same time, there is a slowing down as the days become shorter. We wear winter clothes in the morning, and summer in the afternoon. The Fall brings a ramping up of activities in our families and in the fields. But in the busyness, we might feel a draw to just gaze at the leaves turning yellows and reds and maybe a yearning to just sit around a fire pit and gaze at the stars.

In our activity, receive an invitation from trees. Dig deep and breathe. In our Bibles, the Spirit of God is translated from the Hebrew "ruach" and the Greek "pneuma." Both "ruach" and "pneuma" mean "breath." To live the spiritual life as we are called in the way of Jesus is to do the good and faithful work that is laid before us, but we must not forget to breathe. Even the simple act of stilling our bodies and minds for a minute to just breathe connects us with the Spirit of God. It centers us, reorients us, and gives us a meaning for the work that we are doing.

When you are busy. When you are anxious. When you are worried. When you are in grief. And even when you are filled with joy . . . Don't forget to breathe.

Grace and peace,
Pastor David B. Clark



I have been asked many times if I knew someone who is a notary. I thought I would mention that I have been a notary since 1995. If you need something notarized please let me know. I carry a notary stamp and certificate with me at all times. My notary service is free.

Join the fun each Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. making mats out of plastic bags using a loom. No experience is needed just come and learn and enjoy the fellowship. Also, if you have plastic bags you want to get rid of bring them to the church and put them in the plastic tote located at the top of the stairs as you walk into the sanctuary on the southside. The loom room is located downstairs to the left by the men's bathroom (former Quester's room)





The Chancel Choir had a going away celebration for Mace and Robin Hensen who will be moving to Des Moines in just a few weeks. Robin is transferring with the Brown Shoe Fit Co. Thank you both for all you have done and for lending your voices to the choir over the years. You will be missed but not forgotten.

This week is photo number 12 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.

#12



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.