



The Shenandoah First United Methodist Church
200 Church St.
The “Booster” Newsletter- September, 2020
(Printed) August 27, 2020

Church News:

ATTENTION- We **ARE** having live “In-Person” worship service in the sanctuary now on Sunday’s at 9 a.m. Please do not come before 8:50 a.m. 6 foot social distancing needs to be maintained between everyone at all times, we recommend everyone wear a mask, (if you don't have one, we will provide one for you), hand sanitizer stations are available. There is **NO** Welcome Center or Fellowship time. If you are an “at risk” person due to age or underlying health issues, take care of someone with underlying health issues, or just don't feel comfortable to come out in any group setting yet, please do not feel that you **have** to come to the live services. We will continue to live-stream the service on our church Facebook page. If you have any concerns or questions please call or email the church office.

***Notice-** Pastor Luke **NOW** does a “Prayer” Time & update on Wed.'s at 7 p.m. on our church Facebook page and a “Study” Time on Friday at 6 p.m. about “Discernment”, also now on our new YouTube link: www.youtube.com/channel/UC_zapfZGHY4G5FFYD6NKA

***REMINDERS-** All church news and information is posted on our church website (be sure to check out all the different links and activities that are there). And note the church Google calendar is available so any current happenings and/or changes are there and our website. **We are working on embedding our Facebook Page into our website.*

***Church Office-** The doors to the church remain locked at this time for safety & health precautions during business hours, M-F from 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. If you have a need to get in the church please call ahead and we will make arrangements. Thank you.

Church Connections:

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Media Jeff Hiser:

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***Offering/Giving-** You may put your offering in the “Offering Boxes” on Sunday mornings, or mail them to UMC, P.O. Box 394., Shenandoah, IA 51601. **Or** by going to our church website and look for the word **GIVE** at the top right hand side of your screen or the bottom right hand side of your screen and clicking on to it and following the prompts. Thank you.

***SPECIAL- PLEASE READ-** We are currently providing our live-streaming with media equipment that is “doing the job”, but as we progress with our abilities to provide better quality and more in-depth ways we will need to update our equipment. So If you would like to donate to this special cause, you may go to our website page to do so. (\$4000 is our goal). **(You may also mail your donations or put them in the offering boxes).*

***Attention-** If you have a church-related photo you think others might enjoy seeing here in the Booster Newsletter, please email it to the church office. Thank you.

***REMINDER-** In honor of our church “Sesquicentennial” (150 year anniversary) we are making a special new cookbook. Please send in your recipes by October 15, 2020. Each person may put up to 10 recipes in. Christmas is the official anniversary day & we want to have the book out by then. Thank you.

***NOTICE-** *With continued numerous COVID-19 cases in Page County, please be sure to maintain social distancing and wear a mask when out and about and in group settings for yours and others safety and well-being. - Page County Public Health*

***NOTE-** Please go on to www.iaumc.org to see the Iowa Annual conference of The United Methodist Church Crisis Response Re-Entry Plan. If you do not have internet availability to see this please contact the office & we can arrange for you to come by & pick up a copy, as it is rather lengthy to send in the regular mail once printed out. Thank you.

***Special Notice-** Next Thursday (Sept. 3) & Friday (Sept. 4), “Communion” for those who worship at home by Facebook will be available for pick-up from the church elevator (as Sunday, Sept.6 will be Communion Sunday).

***Please Note-** *The Fall Sunday School & New Small Groups (Ps. Luke is introducing these this Sunday during the announcements) are set to “Kick-Off” on Sunday, September 13th, but are subject to change based on several variables, one being the re-opening decisions of the Ad. Board at the September 8th meeting. So be sure to watch for more details. Thank you.*



Want to try to 'STUMP' Pastor Luke ??????????????????????

~Last Week's Record
Live (In Person) Worship- 19
“Live” On-Line- 40 views
Online/Facebook- 224 views

~Total Budget Offering:
\$101,353.89

~Total Expenses to Date:
\$126,070.78

~Total Budget Expenses for 2020: \$192,773.00

~Birthdays & Anniversaries:
August 28- Pat Perkins & Marcia Goodrich-Volker
August 29- *M/M Buck Mueller
August 30- Annalise McIntosh
Sept. 1- Sandy Bailey, Charles Hall, & *M/M Todd Maher
Sept. 2- Bob Burchett
Sept. 3- Ed Bonefas, Dave Lashier, & September McElroy

~Church Mission:
Know & Serve God by Sharing Christ's Love.

~Church Vision:
We will grow in holiness, our community will thrive, & we will make a difference in our World.

Welcome to the Pastor's stump! Thanks for writing in and giving us all some stuff to chew on. Here's what we have for this week to ponder and reflect upon and I hope you enjoy the questions our congregation has put forth.

Why does God call Ezekiel "son of dust"?

The Bible is a collection of stories, lessons, rules to live by, family trees, and sayings that all point to the majesty of God and his love for all of creation, us included. One of the great things about scripture is not that it is from many different points of view but also that it's not some dry and boring text, but that it uses evocative and beautiful language to explain truths that are hard to put into words.

Take for example this "son of dust" passage from Ezekiel 3:1. In other translations (because the original words were in Hebrew) we have phrases such as "O mortal", "Son of man", or "human one"; the original Hebrew, however literally says "*ben-adam*". Now, you can get all of these translations from that phrase (and you'll notice that we as Americans use Ben and Adam as names!) and this is the beautiful thing: all of those translations are faithful and true. Because what this phrase should do in your mind is help you recall that not only back in Genesis 1 and 2 did God take us from dust and breathe life into us, but that we are all connected to Adam, one another, and the dirt. And, I believe, that is why God says what he does, to remind Ezekiel of not only his mortality but also of his status as one filled with humanity and the breath of life.

The Bible is a beautiful book full of wonderful and mysterious language, and it is speaking about things that oftentimes are hard to put into words. So, the best approach I've found is this: keep asking questions, ponder on and wrestle with the words, and return again and again to scripture. Because in the seeking we will find God, and in the mystery we will be awestruck.

What countries, in biblical times, border the Dead Sea to the west and the east?

First we have to define what biblical era we mean. In the ancient world this land was controlled by the kings of Egypt (west) and the Midianites (east), while in the time of David it was the Moabites (southeast), Edomites (south), and the Israelites surrounding the rest! Of course, going further, eventually into the New Testament, things get tricky; was it the Assyrians? The Babylonians? The Persians? The Greeks? The Romans? Or was it the people who were actually "living on the land" as opposed to the ones who were "occupying the land" that were the ones who owned it?

Regardless, sometimes we forget that borders change, people migrate, and life (in many ways) is constantly in flux. Just look at the Honey War of 1839 between Missouri and Iowa to get a sense of it; even our Iowa state lines to the east and west are dictated the meandering Mississippi and Missouri. But what can we take from all of this when we step back to survey where we are? We find, I think, that despite all of this change God's promises are still true and eternal. God was with his people in the good times and in the bad, when they were living in their lands or when they were in exile, and those promises, for the Christian, extend to us as well. No matter what changes life brings (social norms, traditions, or otherwise) the core and essence of who we are remains the same.

We are a people who have been redeemed and forgiven, who are called to love and care for everyone and all creation, and at the end of it all we will be reunited with God and each other, whatever the borders may be.

Thanks again for writing in! If we haven't gotten to a question you submitted don't worry, we will. And again, any questions are fair game, just send them to either Cindy or myself through email or the post and we'll answer them as best as we can. God bless and we'll see you all next week!

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August 30, 2020

***Order of Service**

*Prelude:

Greeting & Welcome:

+ Call to Worship:

L: Good Morning, we invite you to pause, stand as you're able or center your hearts at home. And join us in the call to worship.

L: Jesus walks through death to life

P: from the grave to resurrection.

L: Will you pick up your cross as well?

P: With God's help & the power of the Spirit

L: God will lead us!

ALL: We go with God!

*Opening Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" #451

+Prayer of Connection+

*Song: "Lord of the Dance" #261

+Old Testament Scripture: Exodus 3: 1-15

Chuck Oxenford

+Prayers of the People+

+New Testament Scripture: Romans 12: 9-21

Chuck Oxenford

*Offering/Song: "See Ye First" #405

+Prayer of Gratitude+ & "The Lord's Prayer"

+Gospel Reading: Matthew 16: 21-28

+Message: "We Walk Together"

*Closing Hymn: "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" #2158

Announcements:

+Benediction+

Pastor- Luke Fillmore/ ****Pianist-*** Terry Stafford/ ****Keyboard-*** Linda Haldane/ ****Song Leaders-*** Jodi Anderzhon, Deb Finlay, Jeff Hiser/ ****Media-*** Pastor Luke Fillmore, Jeff Hiser, & Jodi Anderzhon/ ****Facebook Greeter-*** Craig Harris.