How do we talk about gossip without gossiping? James wants to help us tame the tongue. It's true that we don’t take this one all that seriously (see the preaching notes for more), but we’ve all experienced the sting of the tongue as we were growing up, and even as adults. We all know what it is to bear the brunt of rumors or misrepresentations, or words spoken in anger. And just as likely we know what it is to watch our words bring pain to another, intentional or not. How can we get worshipers to take this text seriously? What stories do we tell? What confessions do we make? What prayers do we pray?

Maybe we kneel and ask for God to heal us from sting of words, given or received. Maybe write down the words they used or that were used against them and then fold them up and burn them or leave them at the cross on the altar, or write them on dissolvable paper left in the baptismal font.

We must always T.H.I.N.K. before we speak, and we must not speak words against others to make ourselves look or feel better by comparison.

Adapted from article by Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, as published at UMCDiscipleship.org for September 12, 2021.

“Jesus said: “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). The presence of the light reminds us of Jesus’ coming into our world and into our lives. The three elements of a lit alter candle have symbolism related to Jesus Christ – the wax or oil symbolizes his body; the wick his soul; and the flame his divinity.

The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of Jesus’ coming into the presence of the worshiping community. Many congregations use two candles on the altar to remind us that Jesus was both human being and God. When we bring the light into the place where we are gathered to worship and when we light the altar candles, we are reminded that God is with us-at home, at school, at work, as well as in the worship service. And the lighted candles also symbolize that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world symbolizing that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. And we as believers should follow that light and serve God by serving others.
Please join us for 90 minutes of music featuring SW Iowa community orchestra “Strings, Unlimited,” and local talent including Greg Goodell and his daughter Jenny Burkiser, pianist Terry Stafford, piano duets by Carol Eno and her sister Kay Fast, vocal/violin duet by Kendi Buesing and Becky Kia Mills, and vocal music by Ashleigh (Sons) and family. The Sun family was at work on May 29, 2021, when their home was burglarized and vandalized. Many precious mementos and documents were stolen, college money was stolen, and there was damage throughout their house. There have been no leads and no arrests.

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and calls I received after the passing of my sister and my nephew. Also, for doing the same after I had my nasty fall and was recovering. I am so blessed not only by my family and friends but also for my church family.

Verla Christensen

The Questers Sunday School class with start this coming Sunday, September 12th at 10:30 a.m. Grab something to drink and a snack and bring them to class with you. This class is for adults of any age – Class will meet this week in the study by the pastor’s office, west of the elevator.

The Methodist Men will meet for their monthly breakfast next Sunday, September 22nd at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome.
Greetings Church,

Ever feel like you’re behind the curve? I sure do sometimes. I feel like I don’t quite have a handle on how things work here at Shenandoah First United Methodist Church. I know it’s only been 2 ½ months, but I feel like I should know more. One of the ways I learn, and process new information is through the use of data. I was a database administrator before becoming a pastor, after all. I read the 100th anniversary book, I look at the budget, I look at attendance, I look at committees, I look at community statistics, etc. All these things help me form a picture that I can hold before the Lord and ask, “What do I do next?”

Now you have another opportunity to help me form that picture. We have begun a new software launch which will take the place of ChurchTrac, One Call Now, and our current online giving. This consolidated platform will help me immensely, and I believe it will be good for the life of the church. I think it will be instrumental in helping people make that “Next Connection” whether they’ve been here for a while, or just walking through our doors for the first time – actually even before they walk through the door. I had someone tell me last Sunday how they researched us online before ever physically visiting.

We have more work to do with your YouTube channel and website, but you can get started by going to https://shenchurch.onechurchsoftware.com

Or install the app on your smart phone or tablet:

![QR Code](QR Code)

Blessings,

Pastor Kelly
**Church Office Hours**

**No children or adult Sunday School at this time.**
Ask how you can help

**Bell Choir** – Volunteer needed

**Chancel Choir** –
Wednesday, September 1st
7:00 p.m. Come join us!

The front door to the church will be unlocked during office hours and closed only for errands and lunch.

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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 specially commissioned as Moses’ successor as leader of Israel?**

- a) Aaron
- b) Joshua
- c) Eli
- d) Nehemiah

According to the apostle Paul, godliness with what is “great gain?”

- a) peace
- b) love
- c) contentment
- d) friendship

As a tribute to Jonathan, what descendant of Saul ate at King David’s table?

- a) Malki-Shua
- b) Melech
- c) Micah
- d) Mephibosheth

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 12th – Brandy Pease
- 13th – Phil Grossman
- 14th – Gloria Mauer
- 16th – Jeanne Williams,
  Anniversary Aaron & Michelle Morelock
- 17th – Dan Finlay
- 18th – Duane Rexroth
  Anniversary Brandon & Brandy Pease

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/3sm5IyY (click on the link or copy and paste into your browser). You may also use a QR reader.
*Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: Terry Stafford

Call to Worship
Leader: A good name is to be chosen over riches
People: There is no name higher than the name of Jesus
L: Favor is better than silver or gold
P: Lord grant us your favor
L: The Lord blesses the generous
P: Teach us to be generous with the gifts you have given
L: Faith without works is dead
P: Help us show our faith not in empty words, but in works of mercy and justice
All: All for the glory of God, AMEN.

"Do You Really Believe?"

Old Testament Scripture: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
New Testament Scripture: James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17
Gospel Reading: Mark 7:24-37

Songs
Here I Am to Worship #3177 (Green Book)
Take My Life, and Let It Be #399 (Hymnal)
Here I Am Lord #593
What a Mighty God We Serve #3016 (Green Book)

Last Week’s Attendance
In-Person Worship – 68
Online Worship – 19

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.”