



Weekly Booster

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Facebook Contributors

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Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Pastor Oliver

*Our Vision: **Growing** as
disciples of Jesus while
connecting with others and
serving our community.*



Why the Bible Still Matters in a Modern World

The question of whether the Bible still matters in modern life is one many people continue to ask—especially in a world shaped by rapid technological change, shifting values, and constant noise.

At first thought an ancient text might seem disconnected from today's realities. Yet, for millions the Bible remains deeply relevant because it speaks to core human experiences that have not changed: belief and trust in an all-knowing higher power, salvation from sin, ultimate purpose in life, one's identity in the eyes of God, and the power of being in a right relationship with the Creator, among many other factors that span our modern experience.

The apostle Paul shared a message that is central to the Bible's teachings, and it is just as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago:

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." —Romans 10:9–11

Continued on page 2

"There is a powerful driving force inside every human being that, once unleashed, can make any vision, dream, or desire a reality."

Anthony Robbins

"The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus." Bruce Lee

Reminders

July 19th

Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
No PK-6 S.S. & Jr/Sr High
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 22nd

Praise Team – 4:00 p.m.
No Bell or Chancel Choirs until fall

July 16th

T.O.P.S.

Worship Assistant is
needed each Sunday,
sign up at the Welcome Center

Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries
Sign up at the Welcome Counter

Fellowship Volunteers and treats
needed, sign up in Fellowship Hall

Why the Bible Still Matters - continued from page 1.

Coming to a saving belief in the power of Jesus' resurrection from the dead and integrating the truths surrounding that sacrifice into your daily life is the key to implementing the Bible's key principles into our lives. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5:1, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." The NIV Quest Study Bible helps clarify the meaning of this verse:

God created us for a relationship with him. So he took the initiative to make the relationship right. God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, who did for us what we could never do for ourselves: Jesus lived a wholly righteous life—a perfect life in line with the law and in total relationship with God the Father. Even more than that, Jesus took on himself all the punishment our disobedience deserves (see Romans 3:24). At the cross he fulfilled all that righteousness demanded. His life was given in exchange for ours; his blood paid the price for our justification.

The results of Jesus' sacrifice are personally available to us simply by faith. God has done everything required to justify us. All that remains is for us to receive the grace of God shown on the cross. We are justified through faith when we stop trying to justify ourselves and depend completely on the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Understanding that there is a God who offers his limitless wisdom and love through being in relationship with him and accepting the salvation offered in Jesus is and always has been the foundation of the Christian faith.

But how does the Bible speak to some of today's most pressing issues?

Anxiety

The Bible has much to say about anxiety, a concern of epic proportion today. Modern life often brings pressure, uncertainty, and comparison, all of which can fuel worry.

Continued on 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

Bob Lynn - Chair
Mary Peterson - Secretary
Darlene Howard – At-Large
Roger Jones - Trustee
Dave Christensen - SPRC
Dan Weiss –
Finance/Stewardship
Dave Lashier - Treasurer
Craig Harris - Lay Member to
Annual Conference
Connie Anderson - Memorials
Linda Haldane - Membership
Oliver Fabros - Pastor

Church Office Hours

**** Children & Jr.-Sr. High
Sunday School –
PK-6 & Jr/Sr High
resumes in the fall**

Wednesday

Praise Team – 4:00 p.m.
Bell Choir – again in fall
Chancel Choir – in the fall

The front door to the church
will be locked during office
hours. Please ring the
doorbell to be let into the
church.

Monday

9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00

Tuesday

9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00

Wednesday

Office Closed

Bible Study 11:00

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 to
enter 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 on the next
business day.



What was the reaction
of all those who heard
news about what King
of Assyria do, in the
book of Nahum?

- a) clap their hands
- b) shake their head
- c) envious
- d) sing

According to the book of
Amos, who sells the
righteous for silver and the
needy for a pair of sandals?

- a) Judah
- b) Tyre
- c) Israel
- d) Damascus

The shield of...(fill in the
blank)

- a) salvation
- b) peace
- c) God's word
- d) faith

**Check page 4 for answers from
the previous week.**



26th – Lesley Ehlers, Ron Knight, Keith &
Marcia Allely

28th – Roger Jones

29th – Macy Marie Finlay

30th – Donna Robison, Dennis & Darlene
Howard

31st – Loraine Manchester

1st – Michael Blane

****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: Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear.

People: Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

L: Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

P: Can any of us by worrying add a single hour to our span of life?

L: Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

All: Let us seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting that all these things will be given to us as well!

"Worry? What, Me Worry?"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

Songs

How Great Thou Art #77

King of Kings #2075

God Will Take Care of You #130

People Need the Lord #2244

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 55

Online Worship – 13

Our Vision:

"Growing as disciples of Jesus while connecting with others and serving our community."

Answers for July 19th are b) Aaron d) Jeroboam a) Counselors

Quiz hints – Q1) Nahum Q2) Amos Q3) Ephesians



July 2026

Hamburger, Tuna, and Chicken Helpers, Spices and Condiments, Sweet Potatoes (canned), Pasta (any kind), Spaghetti Noodles, Pineapple, Cinnamon Applesauce, Cookie and Muffin Mixes, Cereal, Macaroni & Cheese, Toilet Paper, Bar Soap.

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 home with their food items. 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.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Community Food Pantry. We exist totally on donations; we couldn't assist those in need without your help!

If you or anyone who would be interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry, please contact Jeannine K. Liljedahl at 712-215-2488.



"The Ring camera has been working great. I'm going to keep the door unlocked for you, but I have one quick favor to ask:

- **Please ring the doorbell before entering.**

If I am away from my desk, this sends a notification to my phone, so I can see and know someone is coming in. Thanks so much for your help!"



Stay connected with us! If you haven't visited our Facebook page lately, take a moment to drop by. Pastor Oliver has posted some wonderful new content that you won't want to miss.

Click the link below to take a look:

<https://www.facebook.com/methodist.church.shenandoah>

United Methodist Church, Shenandoah, IA

Why the Bible Still Matters - continued from page 2.

The Bible doesn't ignore these feelings; instead, it recognizes the universal nature of this reality and addresses it directly with both honesty and hope.

Philippians 4:6–7 reads, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” This passage doesn't deny anxiety, but it offers a practical response: turn worries into prayer and trust in something far greater than immediate circumstances—God's intimate knowledge of our concerns and fears and his ability to provide peace amid difficulty.

Similarly, 1 Peter 5:7 encourages, “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” In a fast-moving culture where people often feel like they are constantly striving to carry the weight of a stress-filled life and can't ask for help, this verse presents a different perspective—that burdens can be shared, and that care is available that extends well beyond human limits. These teachings resonate today because anxiety remains a universal human experience, regardless of the era in which one lives.

Purpose

Finding purpose in life is another area where many people struggle. With countless choices at our fingertips and all of the self-imposed expectations we have in our quick-fix culture, it's easy to feel unsure about direction or meaning.

The Bible offers a grounding perspective by suggesting that purpose is not solely self-created; rather, it is best discovered in pursuing a deeper relationship with God. Jeremiah 29:11 is often cited in this context: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” While originally written to a specific group of people who were displaced from their homeland in exile, the broader message—that life has meaning beyond immediate human circumstances—continues to encourage people today.

Additionally, Micah 6:8 provides a simple yet powerful summary of purposeful living: “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Rather than defining purpose through achievement alone, the Bible emphasizes inquiring of the God who understands each one of us and can greatly influence character, relationships, and values.

Loneliness

Despite the sharp increase in digital connectivity, loneliness has become a major issue in modern life. The Bible addresses this by consistently highlighting the importance of community. From the very

beginning, Genesis 2:18 states, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” This foundational idea reflects a broader truth: Humans are designed for connection.

In the New Testament, this emphasis continues. Hebrews 10:24–25 encourages believers, “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together ... but encouraging one another.” In a time when isolation is common, this call to intentional gathering in community remains highly relevant. The Bible doesn’t just acknowledge loneliness—it offers a vision of shared life as the antidote. The modern church, in its services and practices, is the beginning of the solution to this deeply felt issue.

Overarching this need for human connection is the desire of the heavenly Father to connect with each of his children who believe in him: “Come near to God and he will come near to you” (James 4:8). Weekly attendance and participation in a local congregation will bring God closer through the experience of intentional Christian community.

Guidance

When it comes to decision-making, the Bible provides guidance not through specific instructions for every situation but through principles that shape how people think and act. Proverbs 3:5–6 advises, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” This passage encourages personal humility and trust in God for guidance and direction rather than relying on impulsive or purely self-reliant decisions.

Another practical verse is James 1:5: “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” In a world full of complex choices, the idea that we have access to God and his eternal, all-knowing wisdom offers reassurance and direction.

Identity

Identity is another deeply relevant topic today. Many people wrestle with questions about who they are and what defines their worth. The Bible presents identity as rooted not in achievement or social approval but in being known and valued by God. Psalm 139:13–14 reflects this beautifully: “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” This perspective, when deeply integrated into one’s life, can provide stability in a culture where identity often feels uncertain or externally shaped.

In the New Testament, 2 Corinthians 5:17 adds another dimension: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” This speaks to personal transformation through being in relationship with the Savior of the world. It also speaks to the near-limitless possibility of renewal, which continues to resonate with people who are seeking change and growth in their lives.

Relationships

Relationships is another area where the Bible offers enduring wisdom. Whether in friendships, family, or romantic partnerships, its teachings emphasize love, patience, and forgiveness. One of the most well-known passages, 1 Corinthians 13:4–7, describes love in practical terms: “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” These qualities and many others in this chapter remain widely recognized as foundational for healthy relationships.

Ephesians 4:32 further highlights relational values: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” In a world where conflict is inevitable, the emphasis on kindness, forgiveness, and compassion remains highly applicable.

The Bible’s Principles Still Apply—and Always Will

So, is the Bible relevant and useful in modern life? For millions of believers, the answer is yes—not because it provides instant solutions, but because it addresses the deeper questions underlying human nature, God’s care and concern for his people, and many everyday challenges.

The Bible’s teachings on salvation, anxiety, purpose, loneliness, decision-making, identity, and relationships continue to resonate because they speak to timeless aspects of the human experience. The Creator who made each of us has given guidance through his message to all of us who experience the complexities of life on this earth and who have chosen to follow him. He provides wisdom, perspective, and care for all who love him and trust him for protection and guidance.

While cultural contexts have changed, the need for meaning, connection, and guidance has not. The Bible’s relevance today lies in its ability to meet those needs with both honesty and hope, offering insights that continue to shape how people live, think, and relate to one another in the modern world. Overarching all of this is the Bible’s encouragement to connect deeply to the God who cares about each individual and who loves us like no one else ever could.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! —1 John 3:1

Adapted from The Mercy King: How the Kindness of Jesus Heals Your Sin, Shame, and Weakness by Scott Sauls. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, July 6, 2026.



Ruth - The Foreigner

Name: Ruth

Meaning of name: Elimelech (my God is King), Naomi (pleasant, lovely), Mara (bitter), Mahlon (puny), Chilio (pining, sickly), Ruth (friend)

Ancestry and family life: Ruth was a Moabitess. She was a Gentile, hated by most Jews since they worshiped foreign gods and were unclean. Generally when a foreigner married a believer the foreigner dragged the unbeliever down into idolatry. Ruth was the opposite and she assimilated into Jewish culture and accepted the true God as her own. She gave up her own country, people, and gods in order to follow her mother-in-law back to Israel. Later she married Boaz and became an ancestor of both David and Jesus.

When and where she lived: She began her life in Moab, an enemy of Israel. These two countries often fought together. Eventually she moved to Israel. Ruth lived approximately 1000 B.C. She lived during the time of the judges. This was a tumultuous time in Israel. There were wars continuously. No king or authority ruled over the land. It was as if there was no law and everybody did what was right in their own eyes.

During this time period the people followed the custom of Levirate marriages. This meant that if a woman's husband died, leaving her childless, the husband's brother or closest male relative had the responsibility of marrying her to raise up an heir for the deceased. Land rights were also passed on under this custom and land was supposed to stay in the family from generation to generation.

God also had laid down laws for the provision of the poor. Those with fields were to leave the corners unharvested so that the poor could come and harvest a small portion for food. This provided for the poor and also made it so they had to work for their own food.

Events surrounding birth: No info.

Training and occupation: No specific info. Ruth was probably a housewife as most were at the time and the death of her husband forced her to go out in the fields and glean for a living.

Place in history: Ruth is known as one of the most godly women in the Bible. God honored her decision to leave her own country and she is one of the most prominent women in David's and Jesus' genealogy.

Special traits: No special abilities are mentioned, but it is special that she was one of a very few Gentiles in the entire Old Testament that gave up their own lifestyle, people, country, and idols in order to follow God.

Weaknesses: There are no weaknesses in her life recorded in text though she obviously must have had some/many.

Strengths: Numerous strengths can be seen in Ruth's life. In 3:11 Boaz said, "for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence". See Proverbs 22:1. Ruth was respected for being a godly woman, which is better than being famous or wealthy.

1. **Loyalty** (1:16-17)- This proclamation is probably the deepest expression of loyalty in the Old Testament. Ruth was willing to give up everything she knew in order to follow Naomi into a foreign country: her family, her people, her home, her country, her gods, her position in society (Gentiles were normally looked down on in Jewish society), and her chance to be re-married.
2. **Obedience** (3:1-5)- Ruth followed her mother-in-law's advice down to the letter. She didn't trust herself, her own opinion, or her feelings, but followed the older and wiser Naomi, even in such an important matter!
3. **Love** (2:10-11, 4:15)- Ruth showed great love to her mother-in-law. At any point in time she could have left Naomi and pursued her own goals. But she didn't. She cared and provided for Naomi to such an extent that it was well-known throughout the town. The people even said Ruth was better than seven sons to Naomi!
4. **Diligence** (2:3)- Ruth was a very diligent young woman. She went out to the fields to harvest food both for herself and Naomi. She worked hard throughout the days to sustain them. She didn't sit and wait for help to come to her and Naomi, even though they were poor.

Important acts and events: Important acts/events in her life were leaving Moab, marrying Boaz, and giving birth to Obed (the grandfather of David).

Lessons from her life: Of course, we can learn from all of the strengths in her life, but there are other lessons we can learn as well.

1. God always cares for believers and always honors their decisions to follow Him and put Him first. Ruth made a huge sacrifice to do what was right. God blessed her for that. These blessings don't always come on this earth, but for her and Naomi they did. God never forgets His children or forsakes them!
2. Skin and race is not important in God's sight. Historically many people, even believers, have placed a high emphasis on skin color and ethnicity. It is not important in God's sight. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. Don't let people's outward appearance affect our judgment of them.



A list of grade-level school supplies can be found on the Welcome Center counter, inside the front glass doors on the bulletin board, or on the school website, www.shencsd.com



We Need You!

Help us lead worship on Sunday mornings by joining our Praise Team! We practice on **Wednesdays at 4:00 PM** (right before Bell Choir) and on **Sunday mornings** before the service.

Looking for even more ways to get involved? It won't be long before both the **Bell Choir** and **Chancel Choir** resume weekly practices. Come join the fun—feel free to sing, ring, or do both!