



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Bells & Choir Directors

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Multimedia & Website

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Sunday Media Booth

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Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

Facebook Contributors

Pastor Oliver Fabros,

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.*



Jonathan

Meaning of name: Jehovah's Gift

Ancestry and family life: Jonathan was a prince, the son of the first king of Israel, Saul. As such he was a leader in Israel and part of the royal line. He was of the family of Benjamin, a tribe noted for its heroes and warriors. Jonathan ended up in the middle of a conflict involving Saul and David. He was about thirty years old when first introduced in the book of 1 Samuel.

When and where he lived: Jonathan lived in Israel at about 1000 B.C. Towards the beginning of his life it was a difficult time and Israel was subject to the Philistines and other foreign powers. Saul was crowned the first king over Israel and under his rule Israel became a local power in the region. It was the beginning of the "golden years" for Israel.

Training and occupation: As a prince, Jonathan likely had a higher education than most of the people. He was skilled in war and lived at the royal court. He had great leadership abilities and all the people looked up to him.

Place in history: Jonathan was the first prince of Israel. He was in line to become the second king.

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“Do today what others won’t and achieve tomorrow what others can’t.” Jerry Rice

“The distance between insanity and genius is measured only by success.” Bruce Feirstein

Reminders

August 2nd

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

August 5th

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

August 6th

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



Jonathan - continued from page 1.

Yet because of Saul’s unfaithfulness this never happened and instead Jonathan is remembered as a loyal friend to David and a devoted leader of his country.

Special traits: Strong warrior, skilled with a bow, leader of the people.

Weaknesses:

There are very few weaknesses mentioned about Jonathan in the Bible. We know that everyone has sin. There is one borderline questionable practice when Saul confronted Jonathan about David’s whereabouts.

Jonathan did not speak the truth about the real reason why David didn’t go or at least not the whole truth. Since this would have incriminated David, he could have kept silent.

Strengths:

Unselfish love (1 Sam 18:1-4)- Jonathan truly kept the command to “love thy neighbor” as yourself. Most people would have considered David to be Jonathan’s enemy. Jonathan was heir to the throne, but God appointed David instead. Saul fought against this with all his might, but Jonathan was willing to forget his own self-interest in his love for David. Jonathan and David represent a picture of true friendship. Not only did Jonathan not bear animosity towards David, but he made a lasting covenant with him! He went so far as to protect his future rival for the throne.

Courage (1 Sam 13-14) – Jonathan was famed for his courage. He didn’t let numbers deter him. Because of his deep trust in God he wasn’t afraid to go up against enormous opposition.

Submission to the will of God (1 Samuel 20:31, 42, 1 Sam 23:17) – Jonathan humbly submitted himself to the will of God, even when it meant giving up his future kingdom. He didn’t pursue his own interests or push for his own way. When he realized that God wanted to establish David and not himself, he humbly bowed out of the picture and submitted to God’s hand.

Loyalty – Jonathan was extremely loyal. He saved David’s life on more than one occasion and was a loyal friend. However, he was also a loyal son and didn’t reject his own father. They remained “undivided even in death” (2 Sam 1:23). Jonathan even said that Saul did nothing without discussing it with him (1 Sam 20:2).

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.



Who was asked to go to
the ant in order to be
wise?

- a) adulteress
- b) drunkard
- c) sluggard
- d) unorganized people

How did Jesus make his
parents feel when He stayed
behind in Jerusalem?

- a) sad
- b) angry
- c) excited
- d) distressed

Who was King David's
commander?

- a) Rehoboam
- b) Gad
- c) Shimei
- d) Joab

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



2nd – Emma Bowen, Rachel Hobbie

3rd – Lexa Dunkeson, Zane Langrer, Rebecca
Manchester

4th – Heather Christiansen, Linda Tyler, Bob &
Robin Lynn

5th – Cooper Lundgren

6th – Richard & Pat Perkins

8th – Sue Jones

****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: As we gather and as we disperse, as we rise and as we sleep, as we eat and play and work,

People: We offer God praise.

L: As we wash our car, scrub the dishes, rinse the grime of the day from our hands,

P: We offer God praise.

L: As we feel the tips of the grass on our feet, the wind against our face, the sun on our backs,

P: We offer God praise.

L: Come, let us worship God who creates, redeems, and sustains us to live out our praise in all we do!

P: We come as people formed by grace to offer God praise with our whole selves now and in all the ordinary moments of our lives! Amen.

“How Can We Make the World Better?”

Scripture Reading: Micah 6:8, Matthew 5:14-16

Songs

How Great is our God #3003

My Life Is In You, Lord #2032

God Will Take Care of You #130

People Need the Lord #2244

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 52

Online Worship – 14

Our Vision:

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

**Answers for July 26th are a) clap their hands c) Israel d) faith
Quiz hints – Q1) Nahum Q2) Amos Q3) Ephesians**



August 2026

Ketchup, Mustard, Spices and Seasonings, Brownie, Cookie, and Muffin Mixes, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Jelly, Pasta (any type including spaghetti noodles), Powdered Milk, Microwave Popcorn, Corn and Green Beans, Bar Soap, Body Wash, Toilet Paper.

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

Jonathan - continued from page 2.

Important acts and events:

1. He smote the garrison of the Philistines and starting the war to free Israel from their power (1 Sam 13:3).
2. Attacked the Philistines with only his armor bearer and started a route that drove the Philistines before them.

How he died: Jonathan died by the hand of the Philistines in a war. He was killed in battle fighting for his country.

Lessons from his life:

1. We can learn from Jonathan how to be a true friend (cf 1 Sam 23:16). Jonathan loved David as himself. He was willing to give everything that belonged to him to David. He encouraged David in the Lord. He protected David. This wasn't friendship with the purpose of gaining something as so many friendships are in the world. In the world people say, "I will be your friend if you do these things for me." Jonathan was selfless and this is how we should relate to our friends.
2. We learn about the person God uses from Jonathan in 1 Samuel 14 –

I. The person God uses is willing to go.

While everyone else is hiding or "staying," Jonathan had a different attitude. Jonathan was active where they were passive. Jonathan says "Come, let's go." Others were afraid. Others were waiting for someone else to do something. Others were waiting for something to happen. Jonathan takes initiative. No one made him do it. But he sees what needs to be done, and he does something about it. Throughout the Bible we see that the primary characteristic God is looking for in His messengers is willingness.

In Isaiah 6:8-9 it says, "8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

9 He said, "Go and tell this people."

God doesn't always choose the most educated people, the people with the highest IQ, or the most talented. He is looking for people who are willing. He says, "who will go?" Jonathan was willing to go.

So, each of us needs to answer two questions:

1. Are you willing? Are you willing to be used by God?

Sometimes we are reluctant. We may think that we don't know enough. We may think that we are not good enough yet. We may think that no one will listen to us. But God can overcome all these issues. The real question is are we willing to say "yes" to God and to be used by Him. If we are willing, then He will help us. Moses made many excuses to God about not going. One of them was that he wasn't good at talking. Another is that he was afraid people wouldn't listen to him. Finally, he said, "send someone else." To all of these, God's answer was "I will be with you." If you are willing to be used by God, then He promises to be with you each step of the way.

2. Will you go?

Not only should we be willing, but we should also take action. How many of you have ever had someone knock on your door and say, "Please share the gospel with me. I want to believe in Jesus." This is very rare. Jonathan said, "let's go." In Isaiah God asks, "who will go?" The Great Commission says, "Go!" God wants you to take initiative.

We go out of our houses. We go out of our comfort zones. This means we take initiative to start conversations. Ask your friend, "Would you like to meet me for lunch? I would like to share about the Bible with you." Share your testimonies. Go to your sick friend and say, "may I pray for you?"

I had a co-worker who was going through a hard time. She had never expressed any interest in Christ. But I asked her, "can I pray for you?" She let me and she was so touched that I would be willing to pray for her. Tears were streaming down her face. I had to leave my comfort zone. I was afraid "what if God did not answer according to what she hoped for?" I knew God wanted me to go out of my comfort zone and take initiative to pray for her.

If you are willing to be used by God, would you just pray silently in your heart to Him now and say "God I am willing to be your tool. I am willing to go. Just show me where."

II. The person God uses has a big vision.

William Carey once said, "Attempt great things for God, expect great things of God."

We see that Jonathan is doing that in this passage. Jonathan had a big vision; he had a high goal. He wasn't out to catch a straggler or perhaps steal a sheep or carry a raid and get a few weapons. He wanted to take out a fortified outpost defended by many men. What do you think Saul would have said if Jonathan had told him this plan? Probably something along the lines of "your crazy!" Apparently, there is a reason Jonathan didn't tell him about it. Most people's goals were very low "survive, live." Jonathan attempted something that most people would laugh at.

But he didn't attempt this in his own strength. He didn't think his own military prowess would give him the victory. Instead, he places his faith in God. He says, "perhaps the Lord will act on our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving." He believed that God would be with them and give them the victory. He knew it

was God's power.

Our view of God is directly correlated to the steps of faith we take. Let me say that again. Our view of God is directly correlated to the steps of faith we take. What does that mean?

If you believe in a big God, you will attempt big things for God. If you believe in a little God, you will be afraid of trying in fear that He will let you down.

For example, some of you have relatives who are hostile to the gospel and seem very hard hearted. Do you believe God is big and powerful enough to change their hearts or are they a lost cause? If you believe in a big God, you will keep praying and you will keep sharing with this person. If you believe in a little God, you will give up and say, "you don't know my uncle, there is no way someone like him would ever believe the gospel."

Will you believe God is big enough to do something great? God is big enough to change the heart of the most skeptical unbeliever. God is big enough to help you start a Bible study on a campus where there are no other believers. God is big enough to reach your school for the gospel, to reach your city, to save your government leaders.

Do you have goals for how you can be used by God? If not, then setting goals is a good first step. But maybe today is the day we need to set our goals higher. Are you praying for one person to trust Christ in your school? Maybe you need to pray for 5, for 50, for 5000. Are you hoping that one Bible study will start in your district? Maybe we should pray for 100 or 1000 or 10000.

Jesus told the disciples that even faith as small as a mustard seed can grow into a great tree. Will you have that faith to set what to you might seem like a huge goal and then to work toward it and pray toward it and believe that perhaps, maybe, God will do the impossible?

III. The person God uses has great faith.

One of the most memorable phrases in this chapter is Jonathan's amazing statement of faith in God where he says, "Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few." Jonathan knew that it wasn't about the number of soldiers. It was all about God's power. He had an almost insurmountable challenge, but he believed in God's power to bring about victory.

Likewise, God has given us a huge task, telling us to make disciples of all nations, to reach the world for Christ.

The current population of the world is roughly 7,699,102,112. That is increasing by about 82 million per year, which is about 224,000 per day.

There are 17,703 distinct groups of people in the world. Over 7000 of these are unreached, which is about 40% of the world. That means that they need outside assistance to reach them with the gospel.

This is a big task. But God can use one willing person in a great way. Through Jonathan Israel's enemies were defeated. Just the twelve disciples "turned the world upside down." Through the efforts of William Wilberforce, the slave trade was ended.

When Adiniram Judson started sharing the gospel in Burma there was no church, no Bible, and virtually no believers. When he died there were 100 churches, 8,000 believers, and a finished Bible in their language.

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. The good news is that God can use only a few to accomplish great things. He is not restrained to save by many or by few. In today's world people seek ease, comfort, safety, convenience and avoid trouble, worry, difficulty. God does not call us to a life of ease. God does not call us to a life of comfort! God does not call us to a life of pleasure! He calls us to make disciples. This is not easy. This is not comfortable. This is not safe.

There are two kinds of people. Zealous goers. And the disobedient. Which kind of person are you?

IV. The people God use have their own unique role.

We have focused on Jonathan so far. Jonathan stepped up. He took initiative. He took the lead. He served as a model. At the same time, there are two key people in this story. The armor bearer is also very important. He is not as famous. We don't even know his name.

But he too was willing to go. He too was brave. He too had faith. Sometimes you may be the first one to step out and take initiative to build God's kingdom and that is good. Other times you may see others step out and follow them. That is good too.

Every person has a role in building God's kingdom. Our roles are not necessarily the same, but they are important and we work together in unity for a common person.

Do you know what your role in building God's kingdom is? Are you willing to take it up? I hope that at the end of the day today, the answer to both of those questions will be a resounding "yes."

V. The person God uses recognizes it is God's victory.

In verse 12 Jonathan claims that "*the Lord has given them into the hands of Israel.*" In verse 15 we see that God sends a panic which engulfs the entire Philistine army.

These verses remind us of the fact that God is the one who gives victory.

Proverbs 21:31 – The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD.

Jonathan gave all the credit and all the glory to God who is the one who deserved it. Whenever and wherever we serve God, we need to embrace that same attitude of humility. Once we start becoming prideful and start trusting in ourselves, our own logic, our own reasoning, our own strength, we will not be effective.

Can you persuade someone to believe in Jesus? I have tried before. I gave the best evidence and arguments I could (the other guy was a lawyer). In the end, as far as I know, he never believed. Knowing that we cannot persuade people forces us to rely on God and to pray for His Spirit to work in their hearts. At the same time though, I find it is very calming. If I say the wrong word or stumble over my words, it is not going to be my fault that a person goes to hell. God can overcome my own weaknesses. This is not an excuse not to share the gospel, but it does give us a calm confidence in the Lord.

VI. The person God uses can be a catalyst for a movement.

Before Jonathan took action the people were hiding in caves and resting under trees. No one was doing anything. Everyone was waiting for someone else to do something. Into this vacuum of vision, Jonathan steps up. He doesn't wait for someone else to make the first move.

That takes a lot of bravery!

There is an Asian idiom “di yi ge chi pang xie de ren?” It means “the first person to eat a crab.” The first person to eat a crab must have been quite brave. After all, they look kind of ugly and have hard shells and sharp claws. But now crabs are one of the world's favorite delicacies. Someone was the first person to be bold enough to try eating one.

When Jonathan stepped up, God gave the victory. But then notice what happens to the rest of the Israelites. They all come out of their caves and join the fight! They are inspired. They are motivated. A movement starts which sweeps through the land. And the Philistines are swept away.

Luke 10:2 – “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”

My hope is simple. I hope that each one of you will become a worker in God's harvest field. I hope that you will be a person that God uses. I hope that you will work in the harvest field around you. I pray that movements will start with you which will change the world.

Application: If you are willing to make a commitment before God pray right now and tell Him, “I am willing to be a worker for you” then pray in your own heart that God will make you into a person that He uses. Pray that He will help you be willing to go and show you where to go. Pray that He will give you a big vision, a giant vision, His vision. Pray that He will give you faith. Pray that He will show you your role. Pray that you will always rely on Him and not your own strength. Pray for a movement.

Adapted from Study and Obey, Jason Dexter, 182 Queen Victoria Ave, Saint Johns, FL 32259, July 27, 2026.



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!



A Thirst Only Christ Can Satisfy

Few things are more refreshing on a hot summer day than a cold drink of water. Yet physical thirst always returns. Jesus offers something far greater—the living water that satisfies forever. “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). Only Christ can truly satisfy the deepest thirst of the soul.



Bible Quiz: Matthew 27:51-56

1. The veil of the temple was torn in _____ from top to bottom.
 2. The earth _____ and the rocks were split.
 3. **True or False:** The centurion declared, “Truly this was the Son of God.”
 4. Many women followed Jesus from _____, ministering to Him.
 5. Among the women were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of _____ sons.
-

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A fisherman came home with an empty bucket, and his wife asked, “Didn’t the fish bite today?” He smiled and said, “Oh, they bit all right. They just had the good sense to let go before I could reel them in.”

Two friends were fishing from a small boat when one said, “I don’t think I’ll ever remember this spot.” The other replied, “Don’t worry—I brought a permanent marker. I’ll just put an X on the side of the boat.”