



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Terry Stafford

Bells & Choir Directors

Dan & Linnea Shook

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Media Booth

Alan Hutchison

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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.*



The Paradox of God's Kingdom

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible keeps coming back to one idea: God is in charge — reigning as both creator and sustainer of everything that exists.

But Adam and Eve had other plans. Their rejection of God's authority threw the whole world into chaos, and ever since, God has been patiently working to restore his rule over the earth — not by abandoning humanity, but by redeeming it.

A King Was Always Part of the Plan

Long before Jesus showed up, God was already setting the stage for a king. When Israel became a nation, God established David as king and made him the founder of an enduring dynasty.

A significant moment came when David captured Jerusalem and brought the ark of the covenant into the city — a partial joining of David's kingdom with God's own (2 Samuel 6–7). David's son Solomon extended that connection by building a temple for God right next to the royal palace (1 Kings 5–8). As the one who built God's house, the king took on a special role in establishing God's reign on earth.

Continued on page 2

“You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of knowledge, but a lack of will.” Vince Lombardi, Jr.

Reminders

August 23rd

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

August 26th

Praise Team – 4:00 p.m.
No Bell or Chancel Choirs until fall
Practice begins September 2nd

August 27th

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



The Paradox- continued from page 1.

But that reign was contested from the start. Psalm 2 makes clear that nations stood in open opposition to both God and his anointed king. Still, the hope persisted that a future king from David’s line would restore God’s rule over the whole earth, bringing justice and peace (Psalm 72; see also Isaiah 2:2–4; 9:2–7; 11:1–12).

David’s successors did not remain faithful however, and the Old Testament story moves from the height of his reign toward catastrophe with the defeat of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple by the Babylonians in 587/586 BC. Although this was a major setback to establishing God’s reign on the earth, the hope endured. Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream captures it well — a kingdom that God himself would establish, one that would outlast every empire before it: “the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed... it will itself endure forever” (Daniel 2:44).

Jesus Shows Up and the Story Turns

The Old Testament hopes associated with the Davidic monarchy gave rise to the concept of a messiah, a Hebrew term for “anointed one.” By the time of the New Testament, the word carried specific weight: the long-awaited king who would fulfill what God had promised through David’s line.

Despite having power over nature itself, Jesus deliberately shuns establishing God’s reign by military power. In fact, the self-giving, sacrificial death of the king creates God’s kingdom. Turning everything upside down, it is by dying, not conquering, that Jesus ends Satan’s rule over the earth and frees those held under it (Matthew 12:25–29).

That’s the announcement Jesus keeps making throughout his ministry: the kingdom of heaven (or kingdom of God) has arrived, so repent and believe the Good News (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15). And through a string of parables, Jesus provides important insights into the nature of the kingdom (Matthew 13):

- The kingdom will grow gradually, starting as something exceptionally small but eventually reaching great size.
- During this growing phase, the devil will actively seek to hinder the kingdom’s expansion.

Continued on page 5

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.



Whose shadow healed
the sick/ill?

- a) John
- b) Paul
- c) James
- d) Peter

Who did God command to lie
on his side and siege
Jerusalem for many days?

- a) Hoshea
- b) Isaiah
- c) Elijah
- d) Ezekiel

Jesus cured a blind man in
two attempts. What did the
man see other people as after
the first attempt?

- a) stones
- b) temples
- c) sheep
- d) trees

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



23rd – LeRoy Whitehill, Derek & Stephanie Howard
24th – Craig & Kathy Harris
26th – Karen Foster
27th – Bryston & Jessica Dunkeson
28th – Pat Perkins, Marcia Goodrich Volker
29th – Buck & Sally Mueller, Glen & Tammy
Braymen
30th – Annalise McIntosh

****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: There is one body and on Spirit.

People: We are called to one hope in Christ.

L: There is one Lord, on faith, one baptism, one God who calls us together.

P: Though we have many gifts, we belong to one body.

L: God gathers us to grow in love, to serve one another, and to build up the body of Christ

P: Together we seek to live a life worthy of our calling.

L: So, come, people of God. Let us worship as one body in Christ.

P: By the grace of God, we are better together

ALL: We are one in Christ. Let us worship God together!

"Better Together"

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16

Songs

Power of Your Love

The Church's One Foundation #545

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love #2223

God Be with You till We Meet Again #672

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 73 Online Worship – 16

Our Vision:

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

**Answers for August 16th are d) Pharisee b) Peter d) 99 years old
Quiz hints – Q1) John Q2) Acts Q3) Genesis**



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 Paradox- continued from page 2

– Those who become members of the kingdom will face persecution from both Satan and those who knowingly or unknowingly side with Satan.

Even Jesus himself faces the temptation to claim universal kingship without the suffering required and must refuse (Matthew 4:8–9).

Eventually, Jesus says, he'll come back — not as a suffering servant this time, but as universal judge, separating the righteous from the wicked and destroying evil once and for all. At that time, God's kingdom will become all that it was meant to be from the beginning.

Until then, membership in the kingdom carries real weight: some who claim to belong will be shown by their actions not to (Matthew 7:15–23), while others will discover that the kingdom is worth more than everything else they hold (Matthew 13:44–46).

And crucially, this kingdom is not bound by national borders; it exists wherever people acknowledge Jesus as king, and this is why his followers are sent to make disciples among all nations (Matthew 28:19–20).

A Kingdom You Can't Force

Even after the cross, the fight isn't over. Paul is direct about the nature of the opposition: not "flesh and blood," but "the powers of this dark world" and "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12). Christians must therefore equip themselves with appropriate spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:13–17).

As God's chosen king, Jesus comes as a king of peace, deliberately rejecting power and violence as the means to rule, and allowing himself to be executed as a common criminal. It is precisely this path — suffering and death — that leads to his being exalted to rule over all things (Philippians 2:7–11), with death itself eventually counted among the enemies he destroys (1 Corinthians 15:24–26). As God's true vice-regent, Jesus stands apart from every human king who has claimed the same role through force.

History shows that Christ's followers have not always understood this. Christians have, at times, taken up arms in Christ's name, believing it to be God's will — but doing so simply models God's kingdom on the kingdoms built by ambitious human rulers. The Bible emphasizes that people cannot be forced into God's kingdom but must be persuaded in love.

So What Now?

The world remains divided — some welcoming God's reign, others resisting it. For now, the call to Christians is to persevere through that opposition, understanding that the conflict between good and evil will end when Jesus returns in glory. Until then, the mission is to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom and to keep praying as Jesus taught:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9–10).

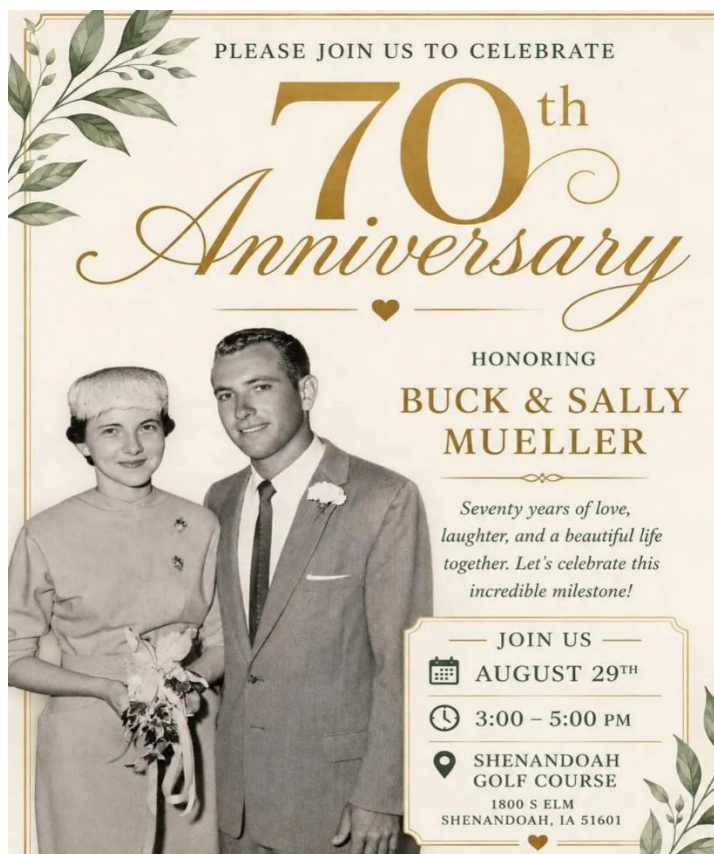
Adapted from "What Is the Kingdom of God?" by T.D. Alexander in the NIV Biblical Theology Bible. August 17, 2026

Join us for a
**Blessing of the
Backpacks!**

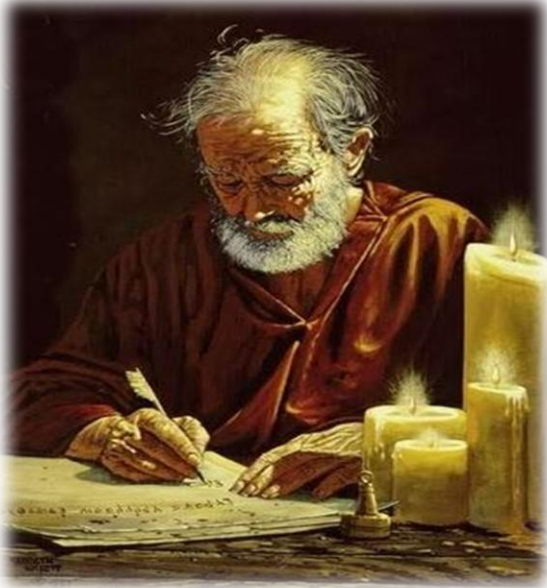
Sunday, August 23rd
9:00 a.m.

All students, teachers,
and educators are
encouraged to bring
your backpacks to be
blessed for the new
school year.





Practice for the Bell and Chancel choir will start on Wednesday, September 2nd. See the times on the flyer. Join the fun and fellowship.



Samuel

Meaning of name: Literally means “name of God”, but sounds like “heard by God.” She named Samuel this because God listened to and answered her prayers.

Ancestry and family life: Samuel was born into an interesting family where his father was married to two women. However, he did not grow up with his family. He grew up serving the Lord in the tabernacle in Shiloh. From a very young age it was known that he was dedicated to the Lord. Eli watched over him and clearly taught him the ways of the Lord. As a young boy in the tabernacle, it is likely he would run errands and do various tasks to serve the priests.

When and where he lived: He was born in around 1100 BC. He lived in the time when Israel was still a unified nation. At the beginning of his life Israel was led by judges, but became a unified kingdom with a king later under Samuel's guidance. The time period of David to Solomon was Israel's golden age when it was the most prosperous and and powerful. Samuel grew up in Shiloh and later lived in Ramah (1 Samuel 7:17). However, his job as prophet and judge took him from city to city so he traveled a lot. (1 Samuel 7:15-17)

Events surrounding birth: Like many other women in the Bible, Hannah was barren. Although she attempted many times to get pregnant she could not. This issue at that point was almost life defining for her. Her husband's other wife, Peninnah, continuously scoffed and tormented her because she bore many children, but Hannah hadn't had any. It often happens in the Bible when a woman is barren and then gives birth that this is a sign the child will be very special.

Hannah prayed earnestly to the Lord for a child. One of her prayers (she likely prayed many times about this) is recorded in the text. It shows her sincerity and her strong faith. She made a special vow to God that if He would give her a son, she would dedicate this child to serving the Lord his entire life.

We should take note that a husband had the right to overrule his wife's vow (Numbers 30:6-15). Also the vow to not cut his hair is phrased the same as Samson who was a Nazarite. This was a special kind of vow of dedication to the Lord for a period of time. In Samuel's case it was to be applied to his entire life. Clearly when Samuel grew up he willingly devoted himself to the Lord and took up this promise made by his mother as his own responsibility.

Training and occupation: Samuel was trained as an apprentice at the tabernacle. His lineage was from the family of Levi, but his father lived in Ephraim (1 Chronicles 6:16-30, 33-37). While just a boy, he was called by the Lord to be a prophet. His first message was to be delivered to Eli as a word of judgment from the Lord. As he grew older (1 Samuel 3:19-21) it was clear to everyone that Samuel was a prophet, probably because Samuel acted as a messenger of the Lord and because of his upright character and God's divine blessing on him.

Samuel is recognized as the last judge of Israel, prior to the establishment of kings. As priest, judge and prophet he settled disputes and unofficially led the nation. He was also God's appointed kingmaker. His anointing of Saul and David would have given legitimacy to these kings in the eyes of the people and showed that it was God's doing.

Place in history: Samuel was the last judge (and perhaps most upright) of Israel. He was very important to Israel's transition from a loosely knit tribal alliance to a strong kingdom. He lived during a very corrupt era for leaders. The head priests, Eli's two sons, were extremely corrupt and immoral. On the outside they kept running the tabernacle as normal, but inside they lived decadent lives and carried out their system of corruption and greed behind closed doors. As the head priests, they were very influential and foolishly counseled Israel to take the Ark to fight the Philistines (leading to its capture). Samuel stood out as a man of integrity and uprightness.

Weaknesses:

1. Failed to raise his children well. (1 Samuel 8:1-5) – Sadly, this seems typical of many great leaders in the Bible. It was also true of Eli, but Samuel did not learn from Eli. Instead he made the same mistake that Eli did. Its true that it is not necessarily Samuel's fault that his children didn't follow God. Even a perfect parent could have prodigals. But there is generally a strong correlation between parenting and how the children turn out.

Perhaps Samuel was too busy doing ministry, so didn't have enough time for his family. Perhaps he just left the raising of his children to his wife or to hired help. We don't know the exact reason his children turned out this way, but these are both poor excuses. The responsibility falls finally on the head of the family, the father/husband.

Application: Do not become so involved in serving God that you neglect your own family. A parents first ministry is to his family and after that to the whole church of God.

2. Samuel seemed to take it personally that Israel wanted a king. Perhaps this was due to pride or feeling that he was losing "his" following. (See 1 Samuel 8:1-9.)

God told Samuel that they were rejecting Him and not Samuel. Why did God feel the need to tell Samuel this? It seems to be out of a desire to comfort Samuel and not become discouraged that his hard work in leading them has gone to waste. It is not hard to imagine how Samuel felt.

For any of us who have done much ministry, it is easy to feel a personal stake in it and feel under-appreciated if those we invest in reject the Lord (and therefore us too).

This is perhaps a bit like the feeling of betrayal Samuel had and the one we might have as well if those we minister to ultimately reject us. What should our response be during these times? How can we avoid this feeling of rejection? (See John 15:18, Matthew 10:22.)

We need to realize at all times that the work we do is for God's glory, not our own. When people reject it, they reject God not us. When people accept it, they are accepting God and all the glory and credit is to God, not us.

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



A SINCERE THANK YOU

TO THE METHODIST WOMEN'S
BREAKFAST COMMITTEE

With deep gratitude, the United Methodist Men wish to express their thanks to the incredible ladies pictured here.

Your delicious breakfast and hospitality made the Methodist Men's Monthly Breakfast on Sunday, August 16th, a truly special and memorable event. We appreciate you more than words can say!



AUGUST 16th



Back-to-School Routine...For Everyone!

For families with children, summer is the highlight of the year—at least for the kids! If summer could last for 12 months, there would be great celebrations in some households! Nevertheless, as happens every year, summer comes to an end and it's time to go back to school.

One of the challenges of going back to school is getting back into a routine. Summer is a little more relaxed, not as structured and usually does not have much "routine" to it. But, school on the other hand requires more structure and a definite routine—from getting up in the morning, to leaving the house, to doing homework, to getting to bed on time, etc. Thus, it is that time of year when some of us are trying to get back into (or maybe start for the first time) a regular routine for our days and weeks.

Now, some people have already stopped reading. They thought this article was about families with kids and they bailed out shortly after seeing the title. However, the back-to-school routine was only the launching point for the main thrust of this article. This article really is *for everyone!* Here's the primary aim of this article: we all need to have a routine for our spiritual lives.

Runners have a routine. Athletes have a routine. Soldiers have a routine. Farmers have a routine. Teachers have a routine! Since Christians are likened to all of these persons, then we must also have a routine.

Unfortunately, too many Christians are stuck in a summer vacation. Some of us have allowed the “things” of this life to interfere with our Christian lives and we’ve lost the “routine” that we once had in our spiritual lives. We’ve slipped into a summer vacation (spiritually) and need to get back on track.

Sometimes Christians will set New Year’s Resolutions for themselves when it comes to their Bible reading, prayer lives, etc. May I suggest that we not wait until January 1st to end our summer vacations. As so many folks are getting back into their school routines, let us, as children of God, get back into our heavenly “routines.”

Find at least one time every day when you can talk to God. This needs to be a time (even if just 2-3 minutes) when everything around you is on mute. Find at least one time every day when you can listen to God, by reading His Word. Even if it is only three verses or a paragraph, let God speak to you every day. Find at least one thing to be thankful for every day. Count your blessings. Find at least one person you can encourage every day. Make the church’s assemblies a priority. Open your eyes to the souls all around. Let’s get back into our heavenly “routine” with God!

Adapted from author, David Sproule, Bible Digest, PO Box 831, Judsonia, AR 72081. August 10, 2026.

