



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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David B. Clark

pastordavid@shen.church

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Pianist

Terry Stafford

Bells & Choir Directors

Dan & Linnea Shook

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Media Booth

Alan Hutchison

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

Facebook Contributors

Pastor David B. Clark,

Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Pastor David

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



Gideon: God's Power Shines in Our Weakness

Gideon is the fourth of Israel's major "judges," or military leaders, who led the Israelites during the chaotic period of time between entering the Promised Land and the rise of Israel's kings. The period of the judges was marked by a tragic yet redemptive cycle in which God's people did evil in God's eyes, God handed them over to their enemies, the people cried out in distress, and God raised up a military leader called a "judge" to deliver them.

Gideon's story is full of interesting episodes that make it a delight to study, teach, and preach on. He begins as a very unlikely choice for Israel's military leader. God calls Gideon to his leadership task while Gideon is timidly threshing wheat in a winepress to hide from Israel's enemies, the Midianites. When God's messenger announces that Gideon will become Israel's leader, Gideon expresses doubt not only in his own ability but also about whether God even cares about his people any longer (see Judges 6:13). Perhaps you, too, have gone through dark seasons in your life where you questioned whether God was still close.

God gives Gideon a dramatic sign, but even this isn't enough to bolster Gideon's courage and prompt him to step up as Israel's leader.

Continued on page 2

“Whether you think you can or think you can’t, you’re right.” Henry Ford

“There are two types of people who will tell you that you cannot make a difference in this world: those who are afraid to try and those who are afraid you will succeed.” Ray Goforth

Reminders

May 31st

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

June 1st

Church Office (open)

June 2nd

June 3rd

June 4th
T.O.P.S.

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

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

Fellowship Volunteers and treats
needed, sign up in Fellowship Hall



Trinity Sunday
May 31, 2026

Matthew 28:16-20

Gideon- continued from page 1.

No, instead Gideon decides to put God’s word to the test with a couple of petty and tedious requests about how the moisture of the morning dew gathers (see Judges 6:36–40). Amazingly, God patiently responds to Gideon’s requests. God can work with slow faith!

Israel’s enemies were described like a swarm of locusts, impossible to count (see Judges 6:5). To face such a formidable force, one would surely want a large army. And for a moment, that’s exactly what Gideon had. But God told Gideon he had too many soldiers. Defeating their enemies with so many fighters would lead them to think they had done it by their own strength, not by God’s miraculous power. So, God led Gideon to pare the army down to a paltry three hundred men—armed with nothing but trumpets and torches.

God, knowing that Gideon was prone to fear, told Gideon on the night of the battle, “If you are afraid to attack, go down to the [enemy] camp with your servant Purah and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp” (Judges 7:10–11). Again, we see the amazing patience of God. Following God’s instructions, Gideon made his way to the enemy camp and overheard a conversation in which two Midianites spoke of a dream about him destroying them.

Encouraged by what he heard, Gideon called his small battalion of torch- and trumpet-bearers to action. He announced, “Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands” (Judges 7:15). On Gideon’s signal, his men smashed jars that were hiding the light of their torches, letting the light shine in the darkness, and at the same time blew on their trumpets. The Midianites were thrown into such confusion that they began to fight one another. Those that fled were chased down by Gideon and his men. God brought victory to Gideon and Israel with only three hundred men facing the Midianite hordes. There was no doubt—such a victory could only be by the hand of God!

Gideon’s story is an important reminder that God can do great things with meager resources. Think of the way Jesus fed multitudes with just a little bit of food, which miraculously multiplied (see Matthew 14:16–21). What a wonderful encouragement this is.

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*
- David Clark - 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 – 4:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir – 5:30 p.m.**

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 curse Israel, but he could only bless them?

- a) Saul
- b) Balaam
- c) Shimei
- d) Balak

Who had a thorn in his flesh?

- a) David
- b) Peter
- c) Paul
- d) Philip

Who prepared his bread on top of cow's dung?

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

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



- 2nd – Jentry Lauman, Dan Weiss*
- 3rd – Jeff Hiser, Elinor Sharp, Paul & Connie Andersen, Dave & Jacque Lashier*
- 4th – Daniel Anderzhon*
- 5th – Bob & Sue Burchett*
- 6th – Molly Wiebold*

****See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added? Please call the office or send an email to office@shen.church**

***Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: Terry Stafford**

**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>

Call to Worship

Leader: O God, how wonderful you are in all the earth!

People: From the mouths of children, you have laid a strong foundation.

L: When I look up at your skies, the moon and stars, they are amazing!

P: What are we humans, that you are mindful of us, O God?

L: You have given us glory and grandeur, letting us care for your handiwork.

P: O God, how wonderful you are in all the earth!

"Go Therefore"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Songs

For the Beauty of the Earth #92

10,000 Reasons (screens)

Here I Am, Lord" #593

God Be with You till We Meet Again #672

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship – 62

Online Worship – 11

Our Vision:

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

Answers for May 24th are c) Sodom b) Gilead a) Job

Quiz hints – Q1) Numbers Q) 2 Corinthians Q3) Ezekiel



June 2026

Pasta (including spaghetti noodles), Spaghetti Sauce, Sugar Free Chocolate and Vanilla Pudding Mixes, Cinnamon Applesauce, Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Hamburger, Tuna, and Chicken Helpers, Pizza Sauce, Pizza Crust, Graham and Animal Crackers, Spices (especially salt and pepper, Adult Toothbrushes, Bar Soap, Body Wash

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 have them contact Jeannine K. Liljedahl at 712-215-2488.



As our Chancel and Bell Choirs prepare for a well-deserved summer intermission, the stage is open and waiting for **you!**

We are looking for talented individuals or groups to fill our sanctuary with "Special Music" during the summer months. Whether you are a soloist, part of an ensemble, or play an instrument, this is your moment to share your gift with our community.

If you're ready to share your talent or have a recommendation, please **contact the office**. We are currently developing our summer schedule and would love to include you in our lineup.

Gideon- continued from page 2.

God can do great things with us. We don't need to be "more" or "better" than we are. Our meager offerings can be used by God for extraordinary purposes. Where have you seen God do great things with seemingly meager resources? Praise God for his miraculous power and provision!

Gideon's story is also a wonderful reminder that God is patient with us when we are slow in faith. Sometimes the best prayer we can eke out is, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief" (Mark 9:24). In God's mercy, we find mercy and acceptance even in our weakness. God comes to us and encourages us, as God encouraged Gideon.

The Gideon saga also reminds us that we need to be humble. When God works in and through our lives, it is God—not us—who makes it happen. We must not become conceited. When God called Gideon, he was cowering in a hole in the ground. We, too, are not spectacular on our own. What matters is what God does through us, not what we can do ourselves. As Christ reminds us, without him we can do nothing (see John 15:5), but with Christ all things God calls us to do are possible (see Philippians 4:13). Our task is to humbly trust and obey God's call upon our lives. Like we see with Gideon—as imperfect as he was—God can do great things through us, and God must receive all the praise!

Adapted from the study material from the NIV Application Bible based on the NIV Application Commentary series. NIV Weekly Blog. All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, May 25, 2026.

**Joseph**

Name: Joseph

Meaning of name: Either "May the Lord add" or "He has taken away."

Ancestry and family life: Isaac, Abraham. Joseph was one of the patriarchs of Israel. Both the tribe of Manasseh and Ephraim descended from Joseph. His father and his brothers were shepherds, like Isaac and Abraham before them. At the time Joseph was sold into slavery, he was the youngest of all his brothers. His father loved him more than all the rest of his children and gave him a special multi-colored coat. This led to much jealousy on the part of Joseph's brothers. His family had a godly heritage and worshiped the true God, though they also committed several serious sins.

When and where he lived: At the beginning of the story, Joseph and his family were living near Hebron. This is just east of the Salt Sea and south of modern-day Jerusalem. He lived approximately 1900 B.C.

Events surrounding birth: Rachel and Leah were in a struggle over who would be loved most by Jacob. Desperately desired to bear children for their husbands. After Leah had already borne several children, God finally opened Rachel's womb, and she gave birth to Joseph. This was while Jacob was still with Laban.

Training and occupation: Joseph appears to have begun as a shepherd and errand boy under his family. Under Potiphar, he was a steward, a manager of Potiphar's estates. He excelled at this both under Potiphar and in jail. Joseph must have been multilingual to carry on conversations with the various people in Egypt. Eventually, he became second-in-command over all of Egypt, making him a world-leader and practically adopted royalty.

Place in history: Joseph holds a huge place in the history of Israel, Egypt, and all believers. Most of Joseph's immediate family would probably have died off unless he ended up in Egypt and was able to divert the famine catastrophe. Through him, much of Egypt was saved from the famine, as well as Israel. If Joseph and his family had died, there would have been no Israel. God used Joseph to keep the line of the Messiah alive.

Special traits: God gave Joseph the power to interpret dreams (40-41). This enhanced his natural gift of shrewdness and discernment. Joseph was also a very emotional man. He was deeply stirred (43:30, 45:1-2) and wept on several occasions. He really cared about family and about life. To me, this demonstrates a softness, which would be an unusual characteristic for someone who had had such a hard life.

Weaknesses: Hard to identify any firm ones. Perhaps a lack of sensitivity, a lack of maturity, and maybe some amount of pride combined to make him keep telling his brothers his dreams about his own dominance over them (37:6-11). This hurt his relationship with his brothers.

It doesn't mention it explicitly, but Joseph did end up marrying a foreign wife, the daughter of a priest of a false god (41:45)

Strengths: Faithfulness, stewardship (39:6,8;21-23) Resisting temptation (39:7-12)

Discernment/wisdom (41:33-37; 41:47-49) Joseph very wisely devised a way to see if his brothers repented from their behavior towards him previously or if they would similarly treat Benjamin (cf. 44:17). Looking at the world and his own situations from God's perspective (45:7-8). Forgiveness (50:17-21).

Important acts and events: Sold into slavery (37:25-28). Put into prison (39:20). Made ruler over Egypt (41:39-43). Visited by his brothers (42:6-7). Reunited with his father (47:29-30). Blessed (49:23-26).

How he died: Joseph died peacefully. He had forgiven his brothers. He had seen God's plan for his life. He had been blessed by his father. He had lived to see his great-great-grandchildren. He died at the age of 110, apparently younger than most of his brothers.

Lessons from his life:

1. Faithfulness- Joseph was a prime example of faithfulness during his entire life. He suffered a lot and was sold into slavery. It would have been easy to react in anger, to grow bitter and lazy, without caring about the world around him. But Joseph didn't do that. Whatever task God gave him, he did it with his whole heart. Everywhere he went, success followed, largely because of his shrewd management and faithful conduct. He was faithful to his master and to the prison where he was unfairly jailed.
2. Resistance to temptation- Joseph is the best example in the Bible of someone who resisted temptation. He was tempted day after day after day. Yet he held firm because he realized it would be sinning against God. When the pressure built up, he didn't give in, but he ran away. His close relationship with God and sensitive conscience helped him escape the lusts of the flesh.
3. God's sovereignty- Joseph's life is also a great example of the sovereignty of God. Several seeming disasters piled up. Many would have pronounced it God's judgment or even ill fate. However, God was so great that He used all the evil actions of man to bring about His perfect plan. Through Joseph, His people were preserved, as well as many in Egypt. Joseph's brothers and he himself learned much from the experience. In the end, God greatly blessed Joseph and didn't abandon him.
4. Forgiveness- Joseph was treated worse by his own family than any of us has almost surely ever been treated or ever will be. He was made a slave in a foreign country. However, he didn't grow bitter. He didn't hold a grudge against his brothers. Instead, he forgave them, recognizing God's sovereignty. Joseph showed true compassion and true forgiveness.
5. Take advantage of opportunities given to us by God- Joseph had a prime opportunity when he met Pharaoh, and he fulfilled what God wanted him to do with it.

Adapted from Study and Obey, Jason Dexter 182 Queen Victoria Ave Saint Johns, FL 32259, May 17, 2026.

First United Methodist Church

**Your
Name**



To help us all connect names with faces, please remember to wear your name tag each Sunday. This is also the perfect time to get back into the habit as we prepare to welcome our new pastor, Pastor Oliver Fabros. Wearing your tag will be a huge help to our new pastor as they work to learn everyone's name.

You can find your tag hanging by the three wooden doors or just inside the chapel door.

If you don't have one or need a replacement, please contact the office.



Elinor Sharp
IS TURNING 99...

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
SUNDAY, MAY 31 | 1:00PM - 3:00PM
VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM
603 W LOWELL AVE | SHENANDOAH, IA

Cards may be mailed to:
109 West Valley, Shenandoah, IA 51601

**CITY-WIDE
GARAGE
SALE**

Thursday, May 28th

Friday, May 29th

Saturday, May 30th

🎵 FREE CONCERT: Voice & Organ 🎵



When & Where

- **Date:** Sunday, June 7
- **Time:** 2:00 p.m.
- **Location:** First Presbyterian Church of Shenandoah

Featured Musicians

- Kendi Buesing & Ethan Bryson

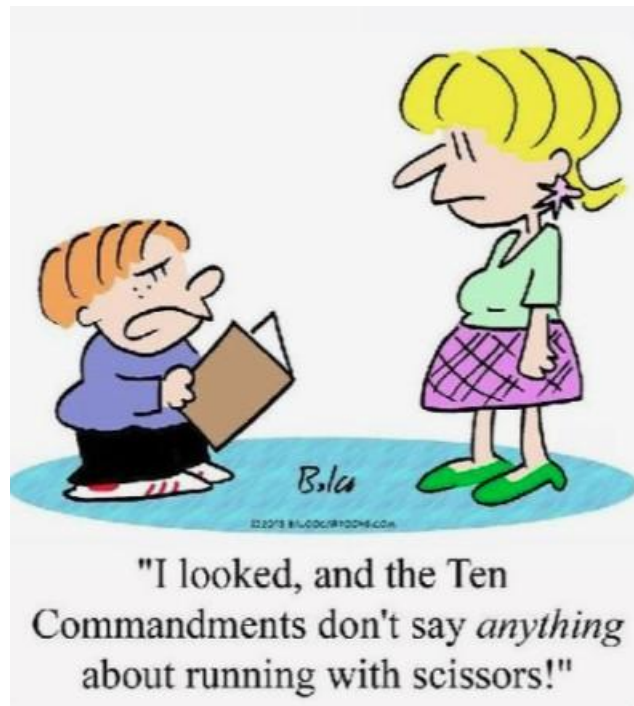
Supporting a Great Cause

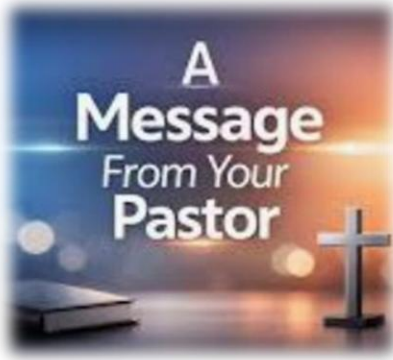
A **free-will offering** will be collected to benefit **Orma's Orphans**.

Your donations directly support 4 feeding centers in Africa, providing essential food, education, and healthcare for nearly 300 orphaned children.

Fellowship After the Music

Stay after the performance to enjoy **free coffee and cookies** and take the opportunity to meet and chat with the musicians!





Dear Church,

At the heart of Jesus's teachings is a message to "go." It's almost a restlessness that urges disciples to spread hope, healing, and love. We have experienced transformation, and we want others to experience the same. But what does that "going" look like? Does it actually mean uprooting your lives and moving across the state, or the country, or even the world?

The early disciples whom Jesus commissioned as apostles actually uprooted their lives and moved throughout the world. Paul's travels throughout the Mediterranean world helped to establish the Church in the vast Roman Empire. But also, there were people who remained in place, rooted in local churches and local economies and connected to their families' land.

As with most of Jesus's teachings, there is more than just on the surface. Surely, his command for us to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19) means something more than physical movement throughout the world. I think that often, the most difficult borders to cross are the imaginary ones that require a passport and a plane ticket, but the borders we have established around ourselves. The borders of our need to be liked, the borders of our need to feel comfortable and secure, the borders of our stuff that help us feel successful, and the borders of our ideologies that prevent us from seeing or hearing the voices of the marginalized of this world.

There is indeed a sentness at the heart of discipleship in the way of Jesus. And it begins with going beyond ourselves to risk becoming the hands and feet of the ever-present Christ.

Grace and peace,

Pastor David Clark
308-258-7749 (cell)