Jonathan Veres received his Shodan, 1st degree black belt, in Judo in May 2021 from Master Christopher and Master Ronald Pardini. Jonathan began Judo training at the age of four with his family at Kim’s Martial Arts and Fitness in Brentwood, Pennsylvania under Grandmaster Kyu Ha Kim. After an extended hiatus, he resumed Judo training in college while attending California University of Pennsylvania, Cal U. While attending Cal U, Jonathan founded the Judo and Self-Defense club in 2013, under the instruction of Sensei Pamela Russel-where it continues to function to this day.

After graduating from Cal U in 2016 with a degree in History and a minor in pre-law, Jonathan began training under Master Christopher Moore at Spirit Forge Martial Arts and continues to do so to this day. Now with well over a decade of Judo training experience; he deeply loves teaching and passing on the wisdom and knowledge he has been blessed with to new students.

Jonathan has competed in numerous tournaments and inter-club matches over the course of his Judo career. In 2018, he competed in Cal U’s inaugural Judo tournament, where he placed first in his weight division and won Best Technique for his hiza garuma, knee wheel throw, with which he scored an ippon!

Jonathan shares his love of Judo with his fiancé, Caitlin Crall, currently ranked as ikkyu, 1st degree brown belt.

Jonathan graduated from the Franciscan University in Steubenville, in Ohio in 2018 with a MA in Theology. Jonathan later attended the Duquesne University School of Law, graduating in 2021, with a JD and is a practicing attorney.

Jonathan is one of the original members of Spirit Forge Martial Arts.