

THE Keystone PA DISTRICT UPCI

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT, UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

“Jesus doesn’t see ‘small church, big church’ — He just sees HIS CHURCH. Let’s not limit ourselves ... hell cannot stop the forward movement of HIS CHURCH. PA ... MARCH!”

PA District Superintendent: **REV. MICKEY CLUSTER**

PRESS ON!

“I press on ...” Philippians 3:14 NASB-95

When “the bottom falls out” what do you do? Blame others? That only makes you bitter. Wallow in self-pity? That only paralyzes you and alienates others! When David returned from battle and found his home burned to the ground and his family taken prisoner, he cried until he had no tears left. But then we read, **“David strengthened himself in the LORD his God”** (1 Samuel 30:6). That’s it! We’ve got to learn how to get alone and give ourselves a “God-talking to!” We’ve got to learn how to pray for ourself and to quote God’s promises to ourself! Here’s one: **“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning”** (Psalm 30:5). Did you hear that? **“Joy comes!”** Certainty! Change is coming! Learn how to rise up and say, **“I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord”** (Psalm 118:17). Come on, start talking to yourself! When Joseph recalled the worst time of his life, he said, **“You planned evil against me; God planned it for good”** (Genesis 50:20 CSB). Note also, the woman with a “blood issue” — **“She had said to herself, ‘If I can just touch his clothes, I will get well’”** (Mark 5:28 CEV). And she did! The word for us today is: PRESS ON ... into victory, healing, revival, all that God has for us! PA District — PRESS ON!



TONY MANSINHO / Keystone Editor

KNOWING THE ONE WHO KNOWS IT ALL

The prophet Daniel (12:4) took pen to parchment and wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit that **“... in the last days many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”**

It is something we all deal with regularly — **that gnawing desire to know, and to know now!** We are living in a conditioned culture where waiting longer than a few minutes for anything can feel unbearable.



Knowledge, and access to knowledge, has become readily available through AI systems, social media, and countless web-based platforms. The text box in the ChatGPT app literally says, “Ask anything.” However, simply knowing things, having answers, or finding information is not the issue. The real issue arises when we do not **FIRST know the One who knows it all.**

The studious Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2 that he “...**determined to know nothing except Jesus Christ** ...” This does not mean Paul rejected learning or believed intellectual pursuit was totally useless. Rather, he understood that **the lens through which we properly understand anything is through the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.** And we cannot know the person of Jesus Christ, our precious Savior, by searching Him in the latest AI chatbot. “To know” God, in Scripture, refers to **an approved, intimate relationship** with Him — not merely an abstract intellectual understanding. Within that relationship we are able to search “the deep things of God” by His Spirit.



This is the lane of knowledge I desire to travel in throughout this life, for it is the only path that leads to life, and that more abundantly. Proper, objective perspectives are impossible without proper relationship with Jesus!

PrayPA exists to promote a passionate, perpetual pursuit of & relationship with Jesus Christ, throughout the PA District. Please help us do that more effectively by scanning the QR code below and taking a short PrayPA survey. Pennsylvania, LET’S PRAY!



KRISS THOMPSON / PA District Prayer Coordinator

SINGLE, NOT SIDELINED

Who’s in the room but sometimes goes unnoticed?

Single adults!

Our churches are full of ministries — youth, children’s, men’s, women’s, hyphen — and yet singles can feel invisible. Some are single by choice; others by circumstance. Whatever their story, singleness is not a gap or a problem — it is a season, and these believers are fully part of the Body of Christ. Scripture is clear: every member matters. 1 Corinthians 12 reminds us that the body has many parts, each essential. Worth is not tied to marriage. Even Jesus lived a single life, showing that purpose, fruitfulness, and



SHAWNE BARNABY / River of Life Church, Pastor T. Truckenmiller



kingdom impact do not depend on a spouse.

Church life often assumes marriage as the default. Singles can feel sidelined or overlooked. Being seen is simpler than we think: acknowledge their gifts, invite them to serve, celebrate their contributions. Avoid assumptions that marriage defines maturity or ministry potential. Whether by choice or circumstance, singles must hear this message: you belong. When we see, value, and include singles, the whole church thrives. As leaders, let’s be intentional — look for opportunities to engage singles in ministry, invite them to serve, and publicly celebrate their contributions. Let’s make sure no one in our flock feels unseen.

INTERESTED IN A PA SINGLES MINISTRY? LET US KNOW.
email: pastortm@gmail.com

ON MINISTRY ... THE SIMPLE, FAITHFUL ACT OF SERVING

One of the first things Pastor Betterley taught me was — the only ministry you truly have is the one people give you. Also, that ministry is a deeper call to serve. I have carried this mindset with me as I continue to pursue the call of God on my life. Ministry is not about personal recognition; it is about the church and about reaching lost souls beyond the four walls. It is about serving and helping build the Kingdom of God wherever He has planted us. When we look for opportunities to serve, we will find they are abundant. And when our time on earth is complete and we have finished our course, our desire is to hear the words, **“Well done, thy good and faithful servant.”** I am grateful that God has called me and entrusted me with the privilege of serving the church. Serving alongside my pastor has been life-changing. If you feel a stirring to ministry, don't be afraid to ask your pastor how you can help them. You may discover that your call to ministry is found in the simple, faithful act of serving.



CALEB SMITH / Living Hope UPC, Pastor Mike Wright

“BETWEEN CHOICE AND TRANSFORMATION”

There is a moment where we come to the end of ourselves — a moment of tremendous frustration, desperation, or brokenness. We are brought to a decision: something must change. But there is something that troubles me about transformation. **There is a built-in delay between choice and transformation.**



We pray. We cry. We frequent the altar. Yet, the change we are looking for rarely seems immediate. Frustrating, I know. Why can't we quickly see the change? I have learned that God cares about the formation process just as much as the final product.



Friend, you are the product of grace exercised by a sincere faith. It is the gift of God (see Ephesians 2:8-9). There is a measure of faith that has brought you to this moment (see Romans 12:3). Take a moment to reflect on God's gracious influence on your journey thus far with gratitude. Realize: **the delay is intentional.** The interim is where inward transformation is born. Though you may not see outward results, rest assured, there is an inner working of the Spirit.

So what do you do between choice and transformation? Hold on to the faith that led you to the decision. That same faith will sustain you through the transformation. Do not let go.

TRENT TYLER / First Church Reading, Pastor Stacey MaGee

SOAR Sectional Summits / OCTOBER 10, 2026

SECTION 1: REV. KENNETH KRAMER

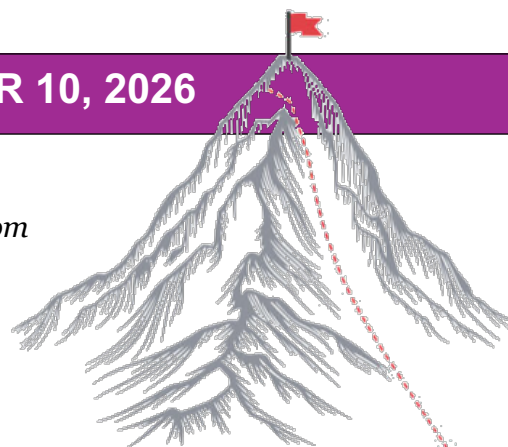
Apostolic Faith Church, Mechanicsburg / 10am-12:30pm

SECTION 2: REV. JASON GANN

UPC Lewisburg / 10am-12pm

SECTION 3: REV. TONY MANSINHO

Calvary Apostolic Church, Swissvale / 11am-1pm





LESSONS I'VE LEARNED IN CHURCH PLANTING...

1. Most people step into the field expecting a harvest without labor. The field needs laborers.
2. Unless God builds the house, we are laboring in vain. Maintain your spiritual disciplines and stay close to God. Human effort without divine interruptions will end in failure.
3. A vision is worthless without faith-filled work.
4. There is no substitute for anointing. Get it, keep it, grow it, and let it flow in every conversation.
5. Teach home Bible studies. If a family will let you share the Word of God with them in their home, it is a short step until the Word of God is in their heart.
6. Learn to love. Love God, love truth, and love people.
7. Expect people to be people. They will question your intentions, character, wisdom, plans, etc. It is what people do. If you are in the people business, get used to it.
8. Show more grace than you think is needed.
9. When you think you have overcommunicated, have the conversation again.
10. Shepherds smell like sheep. Walk slowly through the flock and connect with as many people as possible every time you get.
11. Preach every message as though it is your last.
12. You can't build a church without building relationships.
13. Kill the wolves, love the sheep, and nurture the lambs.
14. If you pray for the will of God, then don't get discouraged when the answer is not what you wanted.
15. Make disciples and grow leaders if you want a healthy church.
16. Invest in the things that matter even when they are not cool. For instance, your sound system, music equipment, website etc. These things are used all the time.
17. Expect saints to serve with excellence, not perfection.
18. Don't compromise truth and expectations for talent.
19. Never stop reaching for souls even when the church starts to grow.
20. Your reputation in your community is a crucial element of ministry effectiveness.
21. Finally, never attempt to do ministry without Jesus.

JASON & LISA UPTON / Pastor, House of Prayer Church, Somerset





2026 NEW LIFE TENT REVIVAL

This year's "tent revival" was an incredible weekend of ministry, connection, and God's presence. **Pastor Aaron Wright** preached beautifully and reached the hearts of guests with the power of God's word. Throughout the revival, about **20 people were baptized in Jesus' name, multiple people were filled with the Holy Ghost, and we witnessed several powerful healings, including one woman whose hearing was restored.** Beyond what happened in the services, we were able to make meaningful personal connections with many of our guests and introduce them to the New Life family. One of the greatest victories has been seeing the impact continue beyond the tent. Approximately a dozen new people have

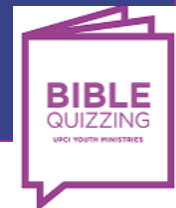
already connected with our discipleship classes and Life Groups, giving us an opportunity to build relationships and help them continue growing in their walk with God. We closed the weekend with our **Celebration Sunday** service and meal, where approximately **15 revival guests joined us for Sunday morning worship and fellowship.** It was a wonderful weekend, and we are **thankful not only for what God did during the revival, but for the doors that have opened for continued ministry afterward.**



TIM ROBERTSON / Associate Pastor, New Life Tabernacle

READY. ALWAYS.

BIBLE DOCTRINE | BQ26



The **2026 BIBLE QUIZZING** season focused on providing each quizzier a knowledge base of Bible verses pertaining to **key doctrinal teachings of the Church.** Upon finishing their material, quizzers could provide multiple Scripture references to verses pertaining to baptism, salvation, the oneness of God, prayer, faith, the Holy Ghost, Jesus, and holiness. The goal was for them to embody the words of **1 Peter 3:15** —

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

PENNSYLVANIA BIBLE QUIZZERS were up to the challenge. This year, about **70 Bible Quizzers** participated in one of five different divisions: Toddler, Beginner, Junior, Intermediate, and Experienced. **Eleven Pennsylvania churches had at least one quizzier participate.** Seeing these quizzers recite God's Word with confidence was a joy to see! **Pennsylvania** represented well in both regional and national quizzes this year. Our **Pennsylvania 1** combined team from Lewistown and Homer City even came home as **National Champions!** Here are some other highlights:

NORTHEAST BIBLE QUIZZING EXTRAVAGANZA

- **Bennett Zeek, Sally Tipton, and Arianna King** made the Beginner All-Tournament Team.
- The combined **Lewistown/Homer City** Junior team received 3rd place.
- **Ryleigh Lutz** was the second highest scorer in Juniors.
- **Rachel King** and **Hudson Beitz** made the All-Tournament Team in Juniors.
- The **York 1** Intermediate team received 3rd place.
- **Mary King** and **Tianna Lutz** made the All-Tournament Team in Intermediates.
- **Christopher Louis Jean III** and **Nicolas Jean** made the All-Tournament Team in Seniors.

NATIONALS

- The **Watsonstown** Junior Team received the New Team Merit Award.
- The **York** Beginner Team received fourth place.
- **Ryleigh Lutz** received Junior Highest Scorer and Junior Quizzer of the Year Awards.
- **Sally Tipton** received Beginner Highest Scorer and 3rd Runner Up for Quizzer of the Year Awards.
- **Yahaira Tipton** received 1st Runner-Up Beginner Coach of the Year Award.
- **Mark** and **Krystal Beitz** received 3rd Runner-Up Junior Coach of the Year Award.
- **Dwayne** and **Talina Lutz** received 1st Runner-Up Junior Coach of the Year Award.
- The **Lancaster** Senior Team tied for 7th Place.
- The combined **Lewistown/Homer City** Intermediate Team and the **York** Intermediate Team each tied for 17th place.



PENNSYLVANIA BIBLE QUIZZING continues to equip our young people with a firm foundation. In 2027, quizzers will memorize portions of the book of Psalms. **ANY CHURCHES INTERESTED IN THIS MINISTRY ARE ENCOURAGED TO REACH OUT TO SHARALEE VENNE, Junior Bible Quizzing Coordinator, and REV. BRAD GERHARD, Senior Bible Quizzing Coordinator.**

KRISTIN ZEEK / Home Chaple, Pastor Ryan Zeek

FALL HARVEST CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 5-7 / NEW STANTON, PA

New Life Tabernacle, Pastor R. Keith Smith



Rev. Rodney Shaw



Rev. Tim Greene



The **KEYSTONE** is the place to tell your story! We would love to collaborate with you. Tell us what God is doing in your church, your district, your life! Send to **pastortm@gmail.com** — tagline: **KEYSTONE**.
Thank you ... can't wait to "read all about it."