



MESSENGER

Vol. 87, No. 3 – March 2026

2026 *Inspirational* Conference

We've moved the date!

Saturday, April 25

CONNECT *time*

Coffee & Doughnut Fellowship

Coffee/Doughnuts
8:45–9:25 a.m.

Conference begins
9:30 a.m.



2026
THE YEAR OF THE PASTOR

"I will give you shepherds according to my heart."
Jeremiah 3:15



HAPPY Birthdays

April Retired Ministers' Birthdays

April 15

Rev. David Bain
521 Linden Avenue
Buena Vista, VA 24416

April 19

Rev. Larry Snider
244 E. Cawson St., Apt. 12
Hopewell, VA 23860



April

3	Good Friday – Office Closed
5	Easter
7	New Ministers' Orientation
10-11	Fine Arts
18	WIN Prayer Revival – Life Changers
25	Inspirational Conference
28-30	Encore Ministries Spring Trip

Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

Vol. 87— March 2026— No. 3

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Board Member – Wes Galford
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Board Member – Todd Porter

Deadline for all script to reach the office:

First of each month for the next month's issue
Email to Sandy Wood at woodsh12@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.appconf.org



Grow Through the Fire

While visiting Sequoia National Park, I picked up a couple of sequoia cones underneath a giant of a tree called the General Sherman. This massive sequoia tree is the largest known tree in the world, with a staggering 275' height and 36' trunk. It is estimated to be at least 2,300 years old.

What I learned is that, like all sequoia trees, its life started out in the fire. The small cones I held in my hand are destined to become mighty giants. However, it will require the heat of a fire for the seeds to be released. Its greatness is locked up! Once adversity releases these

seeds, they find a future and begin to grow and thrive in the ash- laden soil.

These mighty trees will have to endure many forest fires in their lifetime. Its spongy bark can resist forest fires and grows as a 2' thick covering protecting the inner tree. The trees also self-prune lower limbs, thus making its canopy high off the forest floor where the danger of fire lurks.

Peter reminds his readers (1 Peter 4:12) not to be surprised at the fiery trails that come in this life. Our greatness too can be released when we go through hard times! You can stand this "test" knowing that God will give you the strength to endure. Be encouraged today that God is at work in you and through you.

You are wrapped and protected in Christ! The enemy's fire will not reach you because of the blood of Jesus Christ. Continue to self-prune the worldly things in your life and create distance from the world and its consuming desires.

Today, if you are going through a season of hard times in life and ministry, your journey can be like that of the mighty sequoia trees. *The hardships you are enduring today are unlocking the greatness of God within you for tomorrow.*

INSPIRATIONAL CONFERENCE – I am looking forward to connecting with you at our upcoming Conference day on April 25! Come early for our time of fellowship and refreshment. It is a powerful thing for us to come together annually to worship, refreshen our vision and conduct necessary business. As ministers, this is our one required meeting for the year. I look forward to seeing you in the tabernacle!

God is Raising Up Our Sons and Daughters

Lord of the Harvest

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest’” (Matthew 9:37-38 CSB).

We are witnessing a powerful answer to that prayer.

Sunday, February 8, 2026, marked a significant milestone for a local church and for the Appalachian Conference of the IPHC. On that Sunday, Bishop Larry Meadors recognized that 27 individuals from New Life Christian Ministries have completed all the required educational components to obtain their local minister’s license.

This is more than a number; it is a testimony of the goodness of God. Twenty-seven lives have responded to the call of God. They have heard God’s call and echoed the words of the prophet Isaiah when in Isaiah 6:8 he says, *“Here I am. Send me.”* (CSB)

Our God is the Lord of the Harvest. This harvest does not belong to the workers, or one church, or a single conference. It belongs to our Almighty Father. *HE* alone calls. *HE* alone equips. *HE* alone sends. Our role is simple obedience. What we are celebrating is not ambition or academic achievement. We are celebrating the submission to the voice of the King who continues to send laborers into His fields. We are celebrating a response to the voice and calling of God.

Each of these candidates has committed themselves to preparation, discipline, and faithfulness. They have studied theology, Scripture, ministry practice, and the mission of the Church. We know that education does not replace calling, but it does strengthen it. In completing this process, these individuals have demonstrated both obedience to God and accountability to the Church. Not only to their local church, but to the global church. This group of workers is held accountable to the entire body of Christ. And each one, with the unique role they fill in the Body of Christ, is instrumental in the work of the Kingdom.

What makes this moment especially meaningful is the collective response. It is rare to see such a large group within one local church step forward together, united by the same surrender. This group has strengthened and encouraged each other throughout the entire process. They have prayed over each other and proven that iron sharpens iron. We celebrate that these workers do not go alone. They have developed relationships with each other that will help them stand in ministry. And even though their callings may look different, they are all answering the same Lord. The harvest field is vast, and the needs are many, but Christ is still sending workers who are willing to go.

This milestone also reflects the importance of the local church as a place where calling is recognized, nurtured, and affirmed. New Life Christian Ministries is grateful to be part of a conference that values both spiritual formation and ministerial preparation. The support, guidance, and structure provided through the IPHC and the Appalachian Conference have been instrumental in helping these candidates take faithful next steps.

Ultimately, this moment is not about what has been completed, but about what is beginning. Licensing is not the finish line; it is a beginning of stewardship. The Lord of the Harvest is still moving, still calling, still sending. These 27 individuals stand ready and are offering themselves fully to His purpose, reaching the lost and deepening the saved. Some of these have also committed to seeking their minister's licenses and then on to ordination, following a call to pastoral ministry!

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians that when one part of the body is honored, every part rejoices. So we will celebrate together and honor these individuals. Not because of what they have earned, but because of who we serve! We serve the *Lord* of the Harvest, the *God* of all things, the *Head* of the Body, who has called these 27 into the ministry.

As we celebrate this achievement, we do so with humility and expectancy. We trust the *Lord* of the harvest to place His workers exactly where they are needed. And with confidence, we echo the prayer that has shaped generations of faithful servants before us: ***Here I am. Send me.***

Pastor Levi Duff, Discipleship Pastor
New Life Christian Ministries



Let's praise God together for this breakthrough! As a people, we are asking God to raise up this generation to say yes to the call to ministry. I am so proud of Pastor Aaron Tunnell's leadership to invest in weekly classes to teach this group of leaders. To my knowledge this is the largest single presentation of Local Church credentials to have occurred in our conference. The harvest is vast. Let our prayers continue for laborers from across the conference region to be raised up. L.M.

WELCOME REDEEMING GRACE



Redeeming Grace Church began as a non-denominational church plant in Elkton, VA. In the spring of 2012, a body of believers began meeting in the Elkton Community Center. By the summer of 2012, they had moved into a storefront building in Penn Laird, VA, where they would continue to grow both spiritually and in numbers. John and Jessica Bradshaw became senior pastors of the

church in 2015. The Lord worked in a miraculous way to provide the church with an opportunity to move into a church building in McGaheysville, just three miles from their storefront location.

Not long after moving into their new location, RGC became an affiliate church of the IPHC, and on February 8, 2026, the membership voted to become a member church of the IPHC and join the Appalachian Conference. The vision of the church is to *Inspire* all people to seek the True and Living God, *Impart* the truth of the Word of God to all, and *Impact* our families, our community, and our world for Jesus Christ. On February 8, Pastor John challenged the church to be a church that is receptive to all people, to be generous to the lost with our time and resources, and to be compassionate to those who have been rejected and condemned. It is the mission of Redeeming Grace Church to be a missional church that truly are the hands and feet of Jesus to the least, the last, and the lost.



Pastors John and Jessica Bradshaw and family

It is such a blessing to see an affiliate church embrace full membership into the Appalachian Conference! Special thanks to Pastor John Bradshaw for his vision in leading the church family to this important new season. I am convinced that our pastors and churches can have a greater kingdom impact as we pray, minister and walk together in unity. These are exciting days as God is helping us to become one in service and in love. Special thanks to Ron Fredericks, assistant superintendent, for meeting with the church body and presenting the benefits of membership. L.M.



World Missions & Evangelism

Wes Galford



Greetings Co-Laborers in Christ,

What a joyful season we are entering as we anticipate the freshness of spring. I always cherish this time of year; when the chill begins to fade, the days grow brighter, and new life blossoms all around us. It's a beautiful reminder of renewal and hope.

As pastors prepare their hearts and congregations for the celebration of Easter and look ahead to Pentecost Sunday with eager expectation, there is a renewed sense of purpose and anticipation in the air.

I am delighted to share with you some of the exciting developments taking place in Appalachian Conference World Missions & Evangelism.

The Great Commission Meals

Kim and I would like to cordially invite all pastors, missions directors, and their spouses to join us for a special time of celebration, inspiration, and expectation.

Together, we will celebrate the past year's global advancement of the Kingdom of God and the faithful sending and generous giving of the local church. We are grateful for all that God has accomplished through you.

We also believe the Holy Spirit will bring fresh inspiration and vision for how we can advance His Kingdom in 2026 through our continued service and generosity. As we gather, we trust that God will renew our faith and enlarge our expectation for the fulfillment of His plans—both around the world and within our local churches.

When we sow generously into missions, God always brings a return to the local church. He has been faithful, and He will continue to be faithful. As we come together to celebrate and be inspired, we cannot help but leave with renewed expectation for all that He will do.

These celebratory complimentary meals will be held March 16–21. Please see the attached flyer for the specific day, time, and location in your district.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Rooted & Ready

We are humbled and excited to announce the launch of a new ministry initiative, **Rooted & Ready**; rooted in God's Word and ready to serve.

Through the challenges and storms of life, God continues to call young men and women to serve Him with bold, unashamed surrender. *Rooted & Ready* is designed for young adults ages 18–25 who sense a call to ministry. This ministry exists to equip and empower them to deepen their relationship with God, develop their spiritual gifts, build meaningful community, and actively serve within the Body of Christ.

We believe that when they learn together, grow together, and serve together, they will develop endurance together; an endurance that will impact generations to come.

As we gather across our conference in various locations, each meeting will include worship, the Word, prayer, and meaningful fellowship over a shared meal. There will also be interactive Q&A sessions designed to encourage open dialogue, mentorship, and practical insight for ministry life.

Please invite and encourage those you know who would benefit from being part of this group. This will not be wasted time, but a sacred investment in the future of the Body of Christ and the IPHC.

See the attached flyer for dates, locations, and times.

We look forward to what God will do through this next generation.

Internship

As we look ahead to the summer of 2026, we are excited to launch a transformative **Mentorship Program** designed to help shape the future leaders of the Church by intentionally investing in the next generation.

Our goal is to identify and partner with pastors who are full of life, grounded in wisdom, rich in patience, and passionate about sowing into emerging leaders. These mentors will walk closely with interns through a 6–8 week journey spanning multiple demographics and diverse ministry environments.

Throughout the program, interns will experience both the beauty and the challenges of rural and metropolitan ministry. Our heart is to broaden their vision and awaken them to the joy of serving wherever God calls—whether in a quiet countryside or a bustling city. We want them to see that every field is significant, and every assignment matters.

This is more than a seasonal internship; it is a sacred investment. By the summer of 2026, we believe this initiative will serve as a launchpad for a generation of pastors, leaders, and servants who understand the value of faithful presence, authentic community, and confident calling in every context.

Let's build this together, for the future of the Church and for the glory of God. The time is now.

We are now receiving applications at appconf.org.

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE GREAT COMMISSION MEALS MARCH 16 - 21, 2026

Central West Virginia District – Monday, March 16 - 6:00 p.m.

The Dream Center

224 Pinewood Drive, Beckley, WV 25801

Roanoke/Central Virginia Districts – Tuesday, March 17 – 12 noon

Olde Liberty Station

515 Bedford Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523

Shenandoah Valley District – Tuesday, March 17 – 6:00 p.m.

Good News Ministries - Wanda Myers, Pastor

18 Kerry Lane, Staunton, VA 24401

Greenbrier District – Wednesday, March 18 – 11:30 a.m.

Cucci's Pizzeria

566 E. Madison St, Covington, VA 24426

New River Valley District – Thursday, March 19 – 6:00 p.m.

Harbor of Hope - Craig Reed, Pastor

2720 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073

Southwest Virginia District – Friday, March 20 – 6:00 p.m.

Liberty Hill PHC - Josh Graham, Pastor

100 Old School Road, Wytheville, VA 24382

East Tennessee District – Saturday, March 21 – 11:30 a.m.

Golden Corral

3104 Browns Mill Road, Johnson City, TN 37604

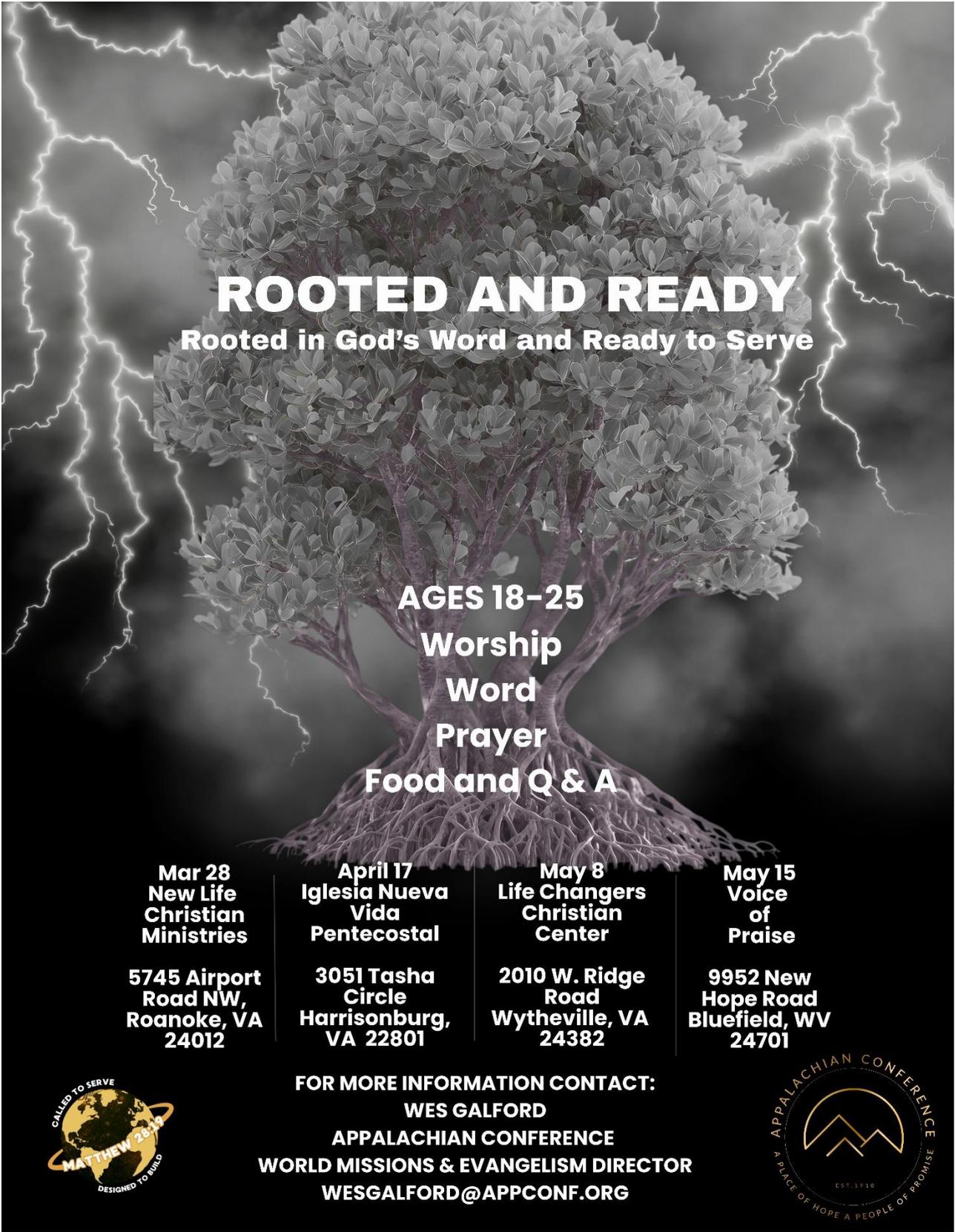
Bluefield/McDowell Districts – Saturday, March 21 – 5:00 p.m.

New Vision - Keith Maxwell, Pastor

120 Redsky Road, Princeton, WV 24739

Please **RSVP by February 26, 2026** to Vanessa Scruggs

at wmeseecretary@appconf.org



ROOTED AND READY

Rooted in God's Word and Ready to Serve

AGES 18-25

Worship

Word

Prayer

Food and Q & A

Mar 28
New Life
Christian
Ministries

5745 Airport
Road NW,
Roanoke, VA
24012

April 17
Iglesia Nueva
Vida
Pentecostal

3051 Tasha
Circle
Harrisonburg,
VA 22801

May 8
Life Changers
Christian
Center

2010 W. Ridge
Road
Wytheville, VA
24382

May 15
Voice
of
Praise

9952 New
Hope Road
Bluefield, WV
24701



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

WES GALFORD

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE

WORLD MISSIONS & EVANGELISM DIRECTOR

WESGALFORD@APPCONF.ORG





PARTNERING WITH YOU!

LOCAL CHURCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
REAL MINISTRY. REAL MENTORS. REAL IMPACT.

APPLY NOW!



FEEL CALLED TO MINISTRY?

AGES 18-25

LEARN, LEAD, AND GROW THROUGH OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
WES GALFORD
MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM DIRECTOR
540-674-4131 EXT. 203
WESGALFORD@APPCONF.ORG

DM DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES





Discipleship Ministries



Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org

DM DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

With a full board once again, Discipleship Ministries continues to move forward planning, promoting, acknowledging God's call to go "Go Make Disciples," declaring and expecting His provision and harvest.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP



FINE ARTS FESTIVAL: April 10 & 11: Appalachian Conference Campgrounds. Get your registrations in! Help your young people not only develop their ministry gifts, but their calling as you provide an opportunity for them to grow, learn, lead, participate. Don't forget BIBLE QUIZ along with Talent. <https://www.appconf.org/junior-amp-teen-fine-arts>



ENCORE MINISTRIES: An opportunity for those 50+. Join us for our spring trip to Charleston SC, April 28 - 30. We still have room for you and your friends! <https://appalachian-conference-discipleship-ministries-469743.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3309494>

Also our 'Gathering' on May 16 with Bishop Chris Thompson and The McKamey Family at the Conference campgrounds!



PINEWOOD DERBY: Sponsored by Boys' Ministries and a great father/son event but there is a division for daughters and dads too! May 2 in the tabernacle at the Conference Grounds. <https://www.appconf.org/pinewood-derby>

TOWER TRAINING: Only able to give an afternoon or two to camp? Come be a part of our Tower Team: training is June 5 & 6.

CAMP MARANTHA 2026: For students and adults. ONE WEEK WILL CHANGE A LIFE! It could be yours.

<https://www.appconf.org/camp-maranatha>



High School Camp Grades

9 - 12



Middle School Camp Grades

6 - 8



Elementary Camp Grades

1 - 5

For more information on any of these events, contact me at the conference office at 540.674.4131 ext. 206 or rfredericks58@aol.com



APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE
FINE ARTS
FESTIVAL
 APRIL 10-11, 2026
 Rev. Wes Comer,
 Conference Fine Arts Director
 304.646.2814
 fineartsac1@gmail.com

REGISTRATION
 DEADLINE:
 MARCH 5, 2026

540.674.4131 ext. 201
 www.appconf.org/events

Register Now: 

DM DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES

JOIN US!
PINEWOOD DERBY
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

- Check-in, Pit time, and weigh in will be 8:00-9:30 AM
- Racing will begin at 10:00 AM
- Register in person or online:
Registration Fee- \$10.00, second car- \$2.00



Freddie Sweet
 Appalachian Conference Boys' Ministries Director
 276) 233-8983
 applaconfbmr@gmail.com
 www.appconf.org/events





 ONE WEEK WILL CHANGE A LIFE

MATTHEW 20:28 "JESUS DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE"

SERVE
CAMP MARANATHA 26

- 
 High School Week (Grades 9 - 12)
 Speaker: Trevon Winfield
 June 14 - 19, 2026
- 
 Middle School Week (Grades 6 - 8)
 Speaker: Woody Burpo
 June 21 - 26, 2026
- 
 Elementary Week (Grades 1 - 5)
 Speaker: Heather Reynolds
 June 28 - July 2, 2026

Early Registration Deadline
MAY 8



 ONE WEEK WILL CHANGE A LIFE

JOIN OUR TEAM!
 Register To Be A Camp Worker Now!

Volunteer For One or All!

- High School Week (Grades 9 - and up):
 June 14-19, 2026
- Middle School Week (Grades 6-8):
 June 21-26, 2026
- Elementary School Week (Grades 1-5):
 June 28 - July 2


REGISTER NOW

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE CAMPGROUNDS
 Dublin, VA 24084
 Questions, call: 540-674-4131 ext. 201

MATTHEW 20:28 "JESUS DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE"

SERVE
CAMP MARANATHA 26

DM DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE
GOLDEN EAGLE ENCORE MINISTRIES



FEATURING
THE
SOUTHERN
GOSPEL
MUSIC OF



SPRING
RALLY



11:00
A.M.



PREACHING
BY
BISHOP
CHRIS
THOMPSON

LOCATION : CAMP MARANATHA TABERNACLE
5847 Oak Grove Ave, Dublin, Va, 24084

FOR MORE INFO CALL : (540) 674-4131



DM
DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES

Core Senior Ministries
Visit
Charleston, SC
April 28-30

STILL LOOKING TO FILL 10 SEATS! COME JOIN US!!

For more information, please
contact N.R. and Sarah Taylor at:
276-620-3214



A weekend of
mentorship,
training and
connection for
those 18 - 25 years
of age who feel a
call of God on their
life for ministry,
missions or music.

August 14 - 16, 2026
Appalachian Conference



**THE
CALL
2026**

For more information
www.appconf.org
540.674.4131 ext. 207

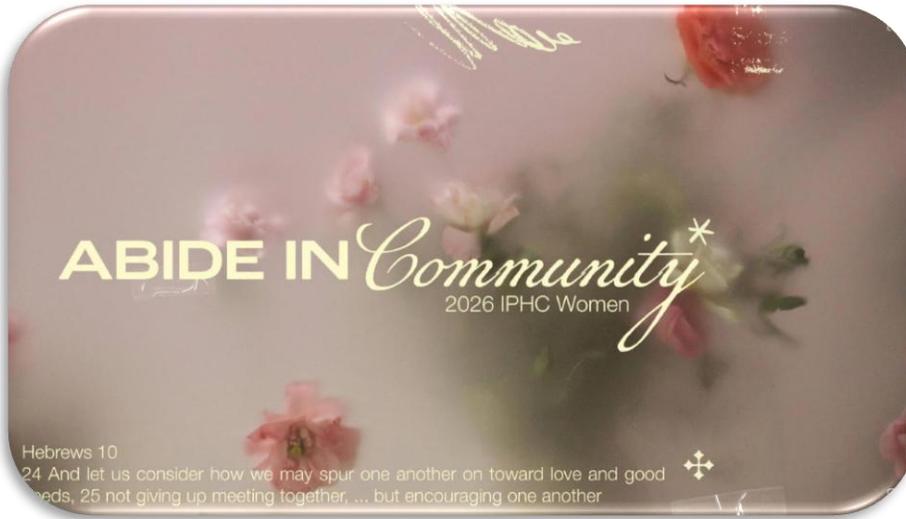


DM DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES



Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



March is Women's Ministries month, and we love to celebrate all that God is doing through women in the Appalachian Conference as well as the IPHC.

We will celebrate Women's Ministries Day on March 8th, 2026. Women's Ministries exists to advance Christ's mission in the local church. We partner with conference and local church leaders to inspire, equip, and support women on their journey to become more like Jesus. This special day is an opportune time to remember the rich history of Women's Ministries in

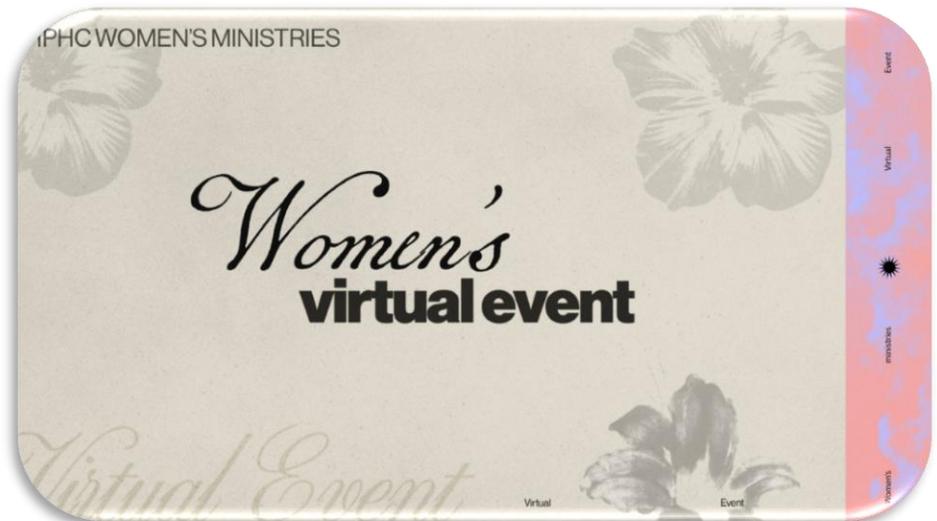
our church. If your local congregation is unable to celebrate on this day, work with your pastor and choose another time to recognize this special day. The General Women's Ministries Department provides a program or resource that can be used that day.

We also encourage churches to take up an offering on this day to help support the local and conference Women's Ministries. Forward half of the offering to your conference office. The local church Women's Ministries will keep the other half to help with their ministry expenses. Any leader may contact women@iphc.org for any questions or assistance with organizing Women's Ministries Day.

VIRTUAL EVENT – March 8

Gather the women in your church and community on March 8, @ 7pm (EST) for a 1-hour virtual event. We will feature a time of worship, stories from women just like you, and teaching from our panel of guest contributors.

We believe this will be a life-changing time as we gather together in all of our unique corners of the world. There is no registration for the event. You will be able to stream live from Facebook, YouTube, and our website. Join us live if you are able. We will post the videos to all the mentioned platforms after the live streaming.



Attention Pastors' Wives



SPEAKER: SHARON ATKINSON



Register Now!



**PIGEON FORGE, TN
MAY 6TH - 8TH**

For questions or more information, please contact Tammy Porter at pastortammy511@yahoo.com or 276-620-7549.

Pastors' Wives Retreat

2026 →

Join us for a time of prayer, devotion, discussion and connection! We will also hear from Dr. Crystal Burton about health tips for ministry and menopause.



DR. CRYSTAL BURTON



If your husband pastors a church in the Appalachian Conference, you are cordially invited to a life-changing retreat.

Over the years we have had pastors' wives approach our Women's Ministries team asking if we could have something special for the wives to come together for fellowship and encouragement!

We have heard you and this year we are making this happen.

Join my team, our First Lady, Gloria Meadors and our special guest, Sharon Atkinson, in Pigeon Forge Tennessee, May 6 through May 8 for an intimate time of food, fellowship, encouragement, prayer and lots laughter as we come together just for you.

We will be staying in a beautiful cabin in the Great Smoky Mountains, with all the amenities, including our own private indoor pool, as well as an outdoor theater space.

We will have a time of prayer, devotion, a panel discussion and also our very own Crystal Burton will be sharing some health tips on ministry and menopause! We will also give you plenty of time to shop and enjoy all that Pigeon Forge has to offer.

We have very limited space, and if this is something you are interested in, please don't hesitate to confirm your spot quickly!

We are so excited to bring this opportunity to our conference.

Being a pastor's wife isn't always easy and not everyone understands the road you walk. We believe this week will be life-changing for you and you will be encouraged and strengthened in your ministry. We want you to know how special you are to the Kingdom of God and to us as well.

We have tried to make this week as affordable as possible with a price of \$300. This includes 3 nights in the cabin and all meals, if you choose to eat in.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Tennessee! Don't let this opportunity pass. Register today!



THE KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE WHO? WHAT? HOW?

“O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely” (Song of Solomon 2:14).

The quest for knowledge is not new. Even in the Garden of Eden the desire for knowledge opened the door for Satan to set a trap. He found the woman away from the man, and he approached her. She was alone and would be a suitable target. Satan was jealous of the man and woman, because of the status that God gave them. Now was his chance to bring evil upon them.

Satan started with a question. “Has God indeed said?” (Genesis 3:1) He encouraged her to eat the forbidden fruit. He told her that it would make her wise. When the woman saw the fruit was good for food and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took the fruit. (Genesis 3:6)

Knowledge can be good if obtained from the Heavenly Father. And knowledge can be evil if received by other means, especially from demonic forces!

DAVID

David made no secret regarding the source of his knowledge. Nine times the Scriptures speak of David inquiring of the Lord. Recall the time that David was asked to fight against the Philistines at Keilah. The Philistines were robbing their threshing floors. (I Samuel 23:1-5) The first thing David did was to inquire of the Lord.

“Therefore, David inquired of the Lord, saying, ‘Shall I go and attack these Philistines?’ And the Lord said to David, ‘Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah” (v. 2). David was known to be a “man after God’s own heart.” (I Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22) He was a man that pleased the Lord.

It pleases the Lord when we turn to Him first. After all, He is to be our First Love. (Revelation 2:4) Our search for knowledge should start with times in the presence of the Lord. As the Scripture states, God longs to hear your voice and to see your face.

Has your voice and face been in the Secret Place of Prayer lately?

If not, return to your First Love!

KING JEHOSHAPHAT

The king received a message that brought fear to him and the nation. He was told that a great multitude was coming against his nation. Like David, the first thing the king did was to seek the Lord.

“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah” (II Chronicles 20:3).

Also, King Jehoshaphat prayed a powerful prayer. In his prayer he acknowledged the need for God’s wisdom. In his prayer he stated, *“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You” (II Chronicles 20:12).* The Lord was pleased to hear his voice and to see his face. Therefore, heaven responded by giving the king a great victory!

KING SOLOMON

King Solomon had seen the importance of seeking God first. He had seen David praying often to God. The child saw the father and did likewise. King Solomon went to the bronze altar before the Lord and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it. And that night the Lord appeared to him in a dream. God said to him, “Ask! What shall I give you” (I Kings 3:5)? Without hesitation, the king asked for wisdom. God was so pleased that he also gave him the things that he had not asked for. (v. 13)

KING SAUL

King Saul was greatly distressed when he heard that an army of Philistines was gathered against him. He wanted answers. In his hour of desperation, he turned to a witch for his source of knowledge. (I Samuel 28:7) He begged her to bring up Samuel from the grave. Not long after this, King Saul lost his life in a battle against the Philistines. (I Samuel 31)

QUESTIONS

WHO do we turn to when we need answers? Our answers will be found in the secret place of prayer.

WHAT do we do in times of distress? Like King Jehoshaphat, we should ask God what to do.

HOW do we win spiritual battles? Like David, we should inquire of the Lord!