



THE NED CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT C & MA

GRACE AND PURPOSE

David B. Linn, Superintendent

Over the years I have done at least half a dozen events, both for church and community, where absolutely no one came. We have all done many things where attendance was dreadful, and even frightening: What does it mean when even the leaders of the church don't show up? It is easy to have an emotional crash at a moment like that.

Or worse! It is a moment when we are vulnerable to give in to the spirit of fear and self-condemnation. The Accuser of our souls issues his opinion gleefully: Loser. And in a moment of self-doubt, we may find ourselves agreeing.

Paul's words to his beloved protege Timothy give us a reason to evaluate that moment differently: **"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity..."** (2 Timothy 1:7-9 NAS).

God has committed to us, from before the foundation of the world, his eternal purpose and his grace. This does not remove from us the experience of discouragement, such as when we fill out the numerical annual report on our church or ministry and it is not going the way we want.

But if we have served faithfully by laboring in the Lord's vineyard and extending the message of Christ's saving grace to people, then you and I have a way to climb out of the valley of discouragement. We are instruments of God's eternal purpose and we live in a state of grace—even when the results of our efforts are disappointing to our eyes.

This truth also applies to other end of the human results scale. What if you have the privilege of being used by God in a way that causes a visible increase for the kingdom? I remember having a conversation with a dynamic young pastor whose church was growing by leaps and bounds. He was glad, of course, but he also said this: "It could blow apart at any moment."

Even when we are apparently succeeding, the human factor is not the basis for our spiritual well-being—and can never be! We use human results to make many important decisions about how to gain traction for the kingdom of Christ in our particular place and time. This is the critical factor of strategic vision. But I have lived long enough to see strategic visions which have remarkable fruitfulness also become unfruitful over time--often for reasons we cannot explain.

So be glad, my friends for the privilege of being God's instruments. You are agents of the redeeming purpose of your heavenly Father, and his grace rests upon you. The world's purposes and usages are not yours. **"...Kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you."** You have been given **"a spirit of love, power, and a sound mind."** The world has nothing to compare with the precious gifts of a God who cannot be stopped from blessing us. You always have a reason to be about your Father's business, and a reason for gladness.



NED NOTICES

NOVEMBER

OPEN CHURCHES

SENIOR/LEAD PASTORS

- ⇒ Macedon, NY
- ⇒ Ohio, NY
- ⇒ Saranac Lake, NY
- ⇒ Schodack, NY
- ⇒ Sidney, NY
- ⇒ Syracuse, NY
- ⇒ Tonawanda, NY

STAFF POSITIONS

- ⇒ Corning, NY -Beartown Road
(Dir. of Student Ministries)
- ⇒ Rome (Associate Pastor)
- ⇒ Rome (Dir. Communications/Connections)
- ⇒ South Glens Falls - Pine Knolls Alliance
(Discipleship Pastor)

GREAT COMMISSION FUND

2025 giving to the Great Commission
Fund from our District churches of \$1,172,922 is
106.1% compared to this time in 2024!

ORDINATION CONGRATULATIONS !

11/23/25

Rev. Justin Fischer

Family Life Pastor

Pine Knolls Alliance Church

South Glens Falls, NY

11/16/25

Rev. Tae Bong Hur

Pastor

The Village Chapel

Candor, NY



NORTHEASTERN
DISTRICT C&MA
UPSTATE NEW YORK

Hymn Reflections: Come Thou Fount



Melanie Thornton
Northeastern District



Come, Thou Fount

Robert Robinson (1758) Copyright: Public Domain

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

Coming into the season of Thanksgiving, my husband and I have been taking our kids through scriptures focused on blessing and giving thanks, with one particular scripture taking “center stage”:

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

It's easy to give thanks when things are good, easy, and going our way. But how do we give thanks when things aren't going well, when things are hard, and not at all the way we want them to go?

The first stanza of this hymn speaks volumes to me as I reflect on thankfulness in the midst of trials. In those times of despair and weariness, this hymn reminds us to surrender and keep looking up.

In choosing to fully surrender to God's good and perfect will and let go of trying to hold it all together, we place our complete trust in our Creator. While we can't force people and circumstances to go “our way”, we can choose lift up our hands and lay our lives at the foot of the cross. We can trust Him. We can rest in Him because He cares for us (*1 Peter 5:7*).

While we may not always know the outcome, we fall back on what we do know: God is good, and He has a plan to tune our hearts to turn to Him. Just like a musical instrument, tuning our hearts involves pulling, pushing, tightening, and careful listening to be sure that our tune perfectly matches that of the Author of our faith. The process may be painful at times, but is necessary for us to be God's instruments of praise in our families, churches, and communities.

God will put a song in our mouth when we can't find the words to praise. He will teach us a new song to sing *even* in the midst of trial. After all - His mercies are new every morning (*Lamentations 3:23*). We fix our eyes on Him, and keep looking up as David did in *Psalms 3:1-3*:

“O LORD, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me. Many are saying of my soul, “There is no deliverance for him in God.” But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head.”

In choosing to surrender, God will provide all we need to give thanks in all circumstances. It's only from this place that we can see the abundance being poured out upon us from the Fount of every blessing. The blinders of bitterness and weariness will be removed, and we can sing of God's redeeming love in every circumstance.

TRAINING GROUND

» **SAVE ^{THE} DATE** «
January 30-31, 2026
9:00am-4:00pm



Keynote Speaker: Jeff Vanderstelt
“Becoming Gospel Fluent”

Youth Track Speaker: Clint Bieri
“Maximizing youth contributions”



Kids Track Speaker: Ann Weimer
“Connecting the Alpha generation with Jesus”

Kids Track Speaker: Sande Paul
“Connecting the Alpha generation with Jesus”



Kenmore Alliance Church
175 Bonnett Ave, Tonawanda, NY 14150
traininggroundned.com

Sponsored by Northeastern District of CM&A



Lisa L. Vogan, CWM
Disciplemaking Specialist
Lvogan@nedcma.org

An Afternoon with Jeff Vanderstelt: Pushing Pause

A Gift from the District to our Pastors, Official Workers, Ministry Staff and Spouses

Your District Leadership appreciates you

We see your efforts. We observe your drive and passion. We know how hard you work to bring the Gospel to a region of the U.S. that is considered to be one of the top "post Christian" cultures. It is not easy to maintain faithful gospel ministry while trying to keep up with the cultural shifts that make reaching our communities more challenging than ever. We see you...we are grateful... **AND**...we feel your pain.

Your District Leadership wants to help

Last year, Jeff Vanderstelt (our TG25 Keynote speaker) while giving timely words of discipling in a post Christian culture, interwove personal challenges he faced as a minister of the Gospel. He gave vulnerable insights and timely words of truth learned from hard ministry journeys and a dark night of the soul. He encouraged leaders to be tenaciously intentional about caring for their emotional, spiritual, and relational health. He gave practical insights and tools to help us. How was this received? Many pastors asked if we could have him back to talk more about this. In short, it was extremely helpful. ***We heard you. He is returning to spend more time with us.***

Your District Leadership is inviting you to "Push Pause"

It is rare you can carve out space, time, and resources to attend an event shared with other vocational ministry Pastors/Ministry Staff ***to receive; to be... pastored.*** We are creating this space for you and strongly encourage you to "push pause" and participate in this sacred space for an afternoon: ***Friday, January 30, 2026, 1-5pm. (pre-conference to Training Ground event Saturday, Jan. 31)*** There will be time after the session to go back to your hotel room to reflect, pray, or find a friend to have dinner with to process the afternoon. We want you to feel supported and cared for. Here is the description of the workshop:

"ABIDE: Church leadership can be a very lonely and isolating space. We are tasked with helping others experience deep relationships with God and others. However, so many of us are lacking that ourselves. And often, we fall into the trap that we have to appear to have it altogether when none of us really do. If we're honest, many of us feel detached, lonely, unseen and unknown. And sadly, many leaders burn out or flame out as a result. We were made for so much more! Jesus prayed in John 17 that we would experience the same kind of life-giving intimacy and connection in our relationship with God and others that he experienced with God the Father. One of the reasons we don't experience this kind of depth and health in our relational world is because we are often bringing only parts of ourselves into these spaces. During this 4-hour learning journey, Jeff will share his own journey and how he is learning to bring his whole self into these relational spheres, experiencing greater levels of relational attachment with God and others. He will walk through how we as leaders can tend to our own souls with the goal of leading others from a place of emotional, spiritual and relational health."

Will you join us? Reach out to a pastor/ministry friend and ask them to join you (This is open to any Pastor/vocational ministry staff *not* just C & MA). We know you will be blessed. See www.traininggroundned.com for details. Location: Kenmore Alliance Church.

Come, be pastored for a change!

Men Of Iron



Fall Retreat 2025

November 14th & 15th

Delta Lake Bible & Conference Center

\$79.00 per person includes room, 3 meals, and retreat activities.

Retreat Schedule:

Friday Afternoon

Check in, 4pm Friday

Dinner @ 6pm

Worship Service 7:30 pm

(If you play an instrument, please bring it).

Fellowship time 8:30 pm Gym will be open

Saturday

Prayer before Breakfast 7:15 am

Breakfast 7:45 am

Intro to breakout sessions 9am

Breakout Sessions (TBD) 9:30 am

Fellowship time 11 am

Lunch 12 pm

Fellowship Time 1 pm-2 pm

Worship and Communion 2 pm

Return Home Approx. 3 pm

Registration will begin October 27th and run through the day of the event

Go to www.deltalake.org to register.

See you all at the RETREAT!

Teen Chill

AT DELTA LAKE

SNOW GAMES | CAMPFIRES | WORSHIP



\$129

PER CAMPER

\$99 PER
CHAPERONE

JANUARY 23-25
OR
**FEBRUARY 27-
MARCH 1**
FOR GRADES 6-12

www.deltalake.org/teen-chill

NED RESOURCES BULLETIN BOARD

Calendar

NED Connection Articles
for the Dec/Jan edition are
due by November 20, 2025.
office@nedcma.org

Membership Certificates
Please contact the
District Office at
315-336-4720 Ext. 201
or office@nedcma.org
to request church
membership certificates.

District Prayer Chain
Lorraine Regnier
District Prayer Coordinator
Prayer requests will be distributed
throughout the Northeastern District
family by contacting Lorraine directly
at lorregnier@aol.com
or 518 - 847 - 4323 .

NED Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM



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The NED Web
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November

1	8:30 am - Alliance Peacemaking Level 1 Training @ Owego
20	NED Connection Articles Due
27-28	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY— D.O. Closed

December

9	10 am - DEXCOM @ D.O.
24-1/1	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY— D.O. Closed

