



SEPTEMBER 2025



# THE NED CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT C&MA

## GIANTS MUST FALL

David B. Linn, Superintendent

District parsonage Number One (there are two) is a beautiful ranch right behind Delta Lake camp and is surrounded by woods. It is a wonderful retreat from the busyness of ministry. At 3:30 one morning this summer I was awakened by huge bang and crash. A powerful thunderstorm with roaring winds was shaking the house. I jumped up, grabbed my trusty flashlight, and began inspecting every room. I was thankful to see no damage at all, including the basement, garage, and attic, so I went back to sleep.

The next day I surveyed the property and was shocked at what I saw. A giant tree in our front yard had split into three pieces, with two huge sections falling parallel to the front of our house and not hitting it. On the lake side of the house a very large tree about ten yards from the house had snapped off at the base and fallen away from the house. It would have landed on our guest room if it had gone the other way. Finally, a look at the backyard showed another giant which split in half, and again, had fallen away from the house instead of landing on the primary bedroom where we were sleeping.

In fact, literally all of the larger trees near us are falling or splitting apart. I wish I could find someone with a degree in forestry to explain what we have been seeing for over a decade. Apparently, the giants must fall.

As I was thinking about this I was reminded of the destiny of every earthly power, whether military, government, industry, tech, arts, finance, education—you name it. They are all destined to fall, as the Apostle Paul wrote: **“...Then comes the end, when He [Christ] hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet”** (1 Corinthians 15:24-25 NASB).

That passage also reminded me of the fall of the world system with its anti-God powers: **“After these things I [John] saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, ‘Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird...’”** (Revelation 18:1-2).

How should this knowledge affect us in the present? It can be easy for us to feel like we are at the mercy of the powers of the earth. We can become frightened by them, and Satan uses these powers to oppress the Lord’s church. Here in America we have it easier than many places in the world where the world system oppresses the church with AK-47s in Africa, facial recognition devices in churches in China, angry mobs in northern India, assaults of women and girls in Egypt, systematic abuse in some Arab nations...and on it goes.

The Lord knew his children would face these kinds of things. To us all he spoke: **“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows”** (Matthew 10:28-31).

Yes, the world is full of powers which have the ability push us around and even take our lives. But all these giants must fall and be put under Jesus’ feet. Babylon the great must crash to the ground in the great and mighty day of the Lord. So don’t give up loving people, speaking the good news, and building the Lord’s church, even if things get very hard! Our heavenly Father knows all about it. We are safe in him. The giants must fall, but our destiny is to rise with our Master.





## NED NOTICES



# Hello, September!



### OPEN CHURCHES

#### SENIOR/LEAD PASTORS

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

#### STAFF POSITIONS

- ⇒ Greece, NY (Worship Leader)
- ⇒ Corning, NY (Beartown Road - Dir. of Student Ministries)
- ⇒ Rome (Associate Pastor)

#### Scott Fox (Olivia)

*Pastor of Student Ministries*  
Kenmore Alliance Church  
Tonawanda, NY

#### Michelle Lazurek (Joe)

*Director of Discipleship*  
Gateway Alliance Church  
Sidney, NY

### GREAT COMMISSION FUND

2025 giving to the Great Commission  
Fund from our District churches of  
\$914,682 is 107.3% compared to this time in 2024!



#### Keith and Maryellen Hobson

*Colonie Alliance Church*  
Colonie, NY

38 years in licensed ministry







**REACH HURTING KIDS**  
INSTITUTE

## Trauma Informed Children & Youth Ministry Workshop

We invite you and your team to join us as we acquire insights and practical strategies to support the students facing trauma challenges in our ministries.

We will be across the state this fall for regional training days.  
Check the details below to register for a workshop.

**Date:** Saturday, September 20th

**Time:** 9am-3:30pm

**Location:** Frewsburg Alliance Church  
60 Falconer St Frewsburg

**Cost:** \$10/person includes lunch



**Date:** Saturday, October 4th

**Time:** 9am-4pm

**Location:** Lockport Alliance Church  
555 Davison Rd Lockport

**Cost:** \$10/person includes lunch



**Date:** Saturday, October 25th

**Time:** 9am-3:30pm

**Location:** Delhi Alliance Church  
16178 NY-28 Delhi

**Cost:** None, lunch provided



For questions or more information, please contact Jen Veitch at [jveitchkidzmin@gmail.com](mailto:jveitchkidzmin@gmail.com) or by text/call at 518-932-5399.

# “Men of Iron” Men’s Ministry



Jon Coykendall

## When We Gather as Brothers

I sincerely pray brothers that you have had a blessed summer and are refreshed to continue the labor God has placed before us. He never sends us unless he first equips us to handle the task ahead.

The Alliance Community Church has been involved with other churches in the Finger Lakes region. We join together each year at Seneca Lake State Park for Worship and fellowship, breaking bread together as we all give Praise to the Father. Each year the attendance has grown and soon may have to find a larger space to hold this yearly event.

Our Lord wants us to meet together regularly, we encourage each other, we pray for each other, and we equip each other. Encourage other men in your church to join us for one of our retreats it will be a blessing for them and us, Jesus told us all at the end of Matthew Chapter 28 verse 20 “And surely I am with you to the very end of the age.” When we meet He is there with us. That my brothers is true fellowship.

Also mark your calendars **November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> is our Fall Men’s Retreat at Delta Lake.** I look forward to Celebrating with you what Our Lord has done over the Year. See you soon. Amen!

**Please make sure the men in your congregation know of the Men’s ministry.** We have a website, [www.nedmenofiron.org](http://www.nedmenofiron.org)

# Alliance Women Fall Refocus Retreat

## His Masterpiece: Jars of Clay

Join us for a transformative weekend experience as we gather to grow and support each other.

### Friday & Saturday Speaker: Megan Owens



Megan Owens is a children's pastor in Rochester, NY. She and her husband, Levi, have served in ministry for over a decade in worship, youth, church planting, and discipleship ministries. Megan completed the Alliance School of Ministry in 2023. She is passionate about helping people find freedom in God's presence through spiritual disciplines. Megan and Levi enjoy being outdoors with their daughter, Selah.

Delta Lake Bible  
Conference Center  
Rome, NY

Friday - Sunday  
September 26-28, 2025

Friday-Saturday or  
Friday-Sunday options  
will be available.

Worship  
Teaching  
Prayer Stations  
Free Time  
Fun Activities  
Fellowship  
Encouragement

### Scan to Register



Early Bird Deadline - September 12

or go to our website at  
[www.nedalliancewomen.org](http://www.nedalliancewomen.org)  
and click on Fall Refocus 2025 link

## ***Encouraging Corporate Worship: Part 1***



*Melanie Thornton  
Northeastern District*

*<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." <sup>13</sup> And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.*

Revelation 5:11-14 (NASB)

I've been thinking about heaven lately. Perhaps it's my mind needing an escape from the things of this world that overwhelm with seemingly endless struggles and heartbreaking news from all fronts. Imagining what worship must be like in heaven with myriads and myriads gathered in the presence of the Lord and praising Him together is an amazing place to drift off to now and then. It reminds me that we – the church- are called to join in this chorus of praise as we gather together here on earth.

A little while ago, I had a strange experience while visiting a church for the first time. As the service began, the worship leader came out to the platform and started to sing. I didn't know what to do, so I looked around the congregation and realized everyone was sitting quietly in their seats. I thought that perhaps this particular song was meant to be special music but quickly realized that this seemed to be the norm for this church. No congregational singing.

Following the service, I asked some people if this was a special music Sunday. Several of them told me "No, we never sing". I asked "Why?" The answer over and over again was, "We didn't know we were allowed!"

Just then, the worship leader walked by and I pulled him aside to give some encouragement. The first thing he said to me was how frustrated he was because the congregation wouldn't sing!

As leaders, we often assume that the people we're leading already know what's expected of them, how to perform a task, or how to minister to others in the local church and community. We become frustrated and disheartened when we don't see the response and participation from those we're ministering to and with. Throughout many years in different churches I've seen this challenge in all areas of ministry, but most visibly in corporate worship.



While there are many methods and tactics to bolster corporate worship in our churches, I've discovered three ways to effectively "get the ball rolling":

### **Invite**

This sounds obvious, but sometimes people don't know they're expected to or are "allowed" to sing. When musicians come onto a stage with instruments and microphones it's only natural for people (especially visitors) to assume it's a concert. Invite the congregation to stand and sing together – you may be surprised at the sound that comes out!

### **Educate**

Incorporating scriptures that speak of worshiping together or that reinforce the message of the song you'll be singing are great ways to educate the congregation on *why* we do what we do. We can't assume people know how to worship. God is present with us when we gather and our souls are strengthened when we praise Him with one voice in unity. Stress the importance of Christian community and the benefits of worshiping together. Choose more songs with a "we" focus instead of an "I" or "me" focus. In a world of divisions and individual truths, we can teach unity of believers under one God through our song choices. After all, "Music does just as much as preaching to impress the word of God on people's hearts."

– D. L. Moody

### **Encourage**

We can never over do this. Worship (especially singing) is a deeply personal experience between us and God. It's a place where we're letting the walls down and opening ourselves up to being vulnerable and unguarded. Doing this in public can be frightening and overwhelming. We can do a lot from the platform to foster a worship environment to help others gain confidence and joy in participating in corporate worship. Publicly recognize that worship is a deeply personal experience, use transitions between songs to pray and bring people into a holy place, and be the example. The role of Worship Leader is just that - to lead God's people into the Holy of Holies and His presence. We can only do that when we're truly worshipping in front of the church. God doesn't need a performance or a show. He desires authenticity from His people - a broken spirit and a contrite heart (Psalm 51). When people have a genuine encounter with the Living God they'll never be the same. Encourage that through words, actions, and living it for all to see.

A church that genuinely comes together in worship will find there's much more that holds them together than tears them apart.

# Save the Date

## NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT ALLIANCE MISSIONS SUMMIT

**SYRACUSE ALLIANCE CHURCH – OCTOBER 18, 2025**

Join us for a powerful day of inspiration, collaboration, and mobilization.

At the *NED Alliance Missions Summit*, we'll gather pastors, missions' leaders, church members, and Alliance family from across our district to focus on what it means to *cultivate a sending culture*. Through compelling sessions, real stories, and practical tools, you'll be challenged and equipped to join God's mission – locally and globally.

What can you expect at the NED Alliance Missions Summit 2025?

- ◇ **Why develop a sending culture?** Discover the biblical foundation for sending workers and be inspired by The Alliance's rich legacy of gospel impact – locally and globally.
- ◇ **How do we create a sending culture?** Explore actionable strategies to help your church nurture environments where people of all ages can hear, discern, and respond to God's call locally and globally.
- ◇ **What now?** Engage in collaborative conversations with national office leaders, district leaders, and fellow church leaders as we dream, plan, and strategize together to reach our neighborhoods and the nations.

**Mark your calendars now – and stay tuned  
for registration and speaker details!**



**THE ALLIANCE**



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## **What now?**

Engage in collaborative conversations with national office, district, and fellow church leaders as we dream, plan, and strategize together to reach our neighborhoods and the nations.

## **New This Year – Emerging Leaders Track**

The District Missions Committee (DMC) is excited to introduce the *Emerging Leaders Track* at this year's Summit – designed specifically for students ages 14 to 22. This new track invites high school seniors and college students to explore God's call to serve – whether across the street or around the world. Breakout sessions will be tailored to engage, challenge, and inspire young leaders as they consider their next steps in being on mission.

## **Registration Open**

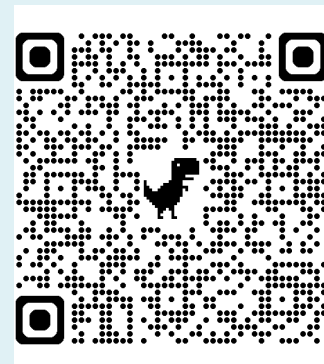
Use the **QR Code** to secure your spot. You may purchase multiple registrations at once. For each ticket, you will be prompted to provide the registration details for the individual attending.

Together, we can make a difference. See you at the Summit!

**David M. Murphy**

Church Advance Specialist/Missions Mobilizer

The Northeastern District of the C&MA, Inc.



# TRAINING GROUND



» **SAVE <sup>THE</sup> DATE** «  
**January 30-31, 2026**



**Keynote Speaker: Jeff Vanderstelt**  
**Discipleship...*Diving Deep***

## **Key Leader Intensive**

**Friday, January 30**  
1:00-5:00

*This is designed for  
official workers &  
spouses!*

## **Training Ground**

**Saturday, January 31**  
9:00-4:00

TG '26 will be held in  
the Buffalo area!

**Youth Track focus:** Maximizing student contributions  
**Kids Track focus:** Connecting the Alpha generation with Jesus

***Sponsored by Northeastern District of CM&A***



## **Children's Disciple-Making: Ministering to the Heart of a Child**



You are invited to join us for this timely training focused on teaching the Bible in transformative ways that give space for children to encounter God.

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### **The Details:**

**When:** Friday Sept. 12th, 7-9pm and Saturday Sept. 13th , 9am-2:30pm

**Where:** Beartown Road Alliance Church, 21 Beartown Rd, Painted Post

**Cost:** Free, includes coffee, snacks and lunch on Saturday

**Register:**

<https://beartownroad.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3096560>

**Contact:** Ann at [ann@beartownroad.org](mailto:ann@beartownroad.org) for registration questions or  
Jen at [jveitchkidzmin@gmail.com](mailto:jveitchkidzmin@gmail.com) for training questions.

# NED RESOURCES BULLETIN BOARD

## Calendar

### NED Connection Articles

for the October edition are due by September 22, 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.

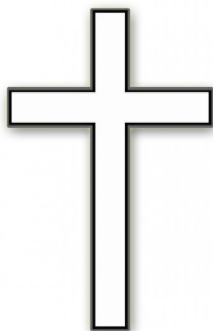
### District Prayer Chain

**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



NORTHEASTERN  
DISTRICT C&MA  
UPSTATE NEW YORK

### THE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT OF THE C&MA

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### Alliance Women Director

Terri A. Groh  
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### September

1	LABOR DAY - D.O. Closed
12-13	Ministering to the Heart of a Child Training @ Beartown Rd. Fri. 7-9pm/Sat. 9:30am-2:30pm
20	9am - Trauma Workshop (Child/Youth) @ Frewsburg Alliance
22	NED Connection articles due
26-28	AW Fall Refocus @ DLBCC
30	10am DEXCOM @ D.O.

### October

2	9am - DDMT meeting @ D.O.
4	9am - Trauma Workshop (Child/Youth) @ Lockport Alliance
7	9:30am - Credentialing Council @ D.O.
18	9am - NED Alliance Missions Summit @ Syracuse Alliance
20	NED Connection articles due
25	9am - Trauma Workshop (Child/Youth) @ Delhi Alliance
28	District In-Service @ D.O.
30	9am - Missions Comm. Zoom



The NED Web  
nedcma.org