



The Country Courier

News from The Sower's Chapel

June 2026

FROM OUR REGIONAL PASTOR

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THE NEW CHURCH?

Folks, as we anticipate the celebration of June 19th, AKA "New Church Day," it may be useful to reflect on what really happened on that day in 1770. Note, that was 256 years ago, so the word "new" must be understood in context.

The specific message is spelled out in *True Christian Religion* #791, but also (without the exact date) in the same book, #339. It says, essentially, that the Lord called together His original 12 disciples and sent them throughout the whole spiritual world to proclaim that He, the Lord, God, Jesus Christ, reigns. It's not as if He hadn't reigned before that, but people didn't understand how, and the "how" had just been explained – in exacting detail – in that book.

As a result of that work and that announcement people who had entered the spiritual world without really knowing the Lord, or without understanding Him, were immediately freed of their confusion so that they could contribute to the general atmosphere of real love and wisdom flowing from that world into human minds on earth.

You see, we're all connected with spirits in the other world, whether we realize it or not. And they can influence our thoughts and affections in powerful ways. When they are confused, we can easily become confused. But when they are clear about what is true and good, they can also strengthen our commitment to those virtues. The net result is a new freedom among people in this world to understand and co-operate with the Lord.

Based on this new freedom, combined with the actual publication of the Heavenly Doctrine in this world, a new Christian Church on earth was made possible, and was in fact begun, which is why we call it "New Church Day."

By the way, speaking of freedom, it's no coincidence that, among other radical changes throughout the world at that time, the U.S. Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. You can read about all these things in an amazing 750-page book called "The World Transformed," a collection of essays about the impact of the Lord's Second Coming in the Heavenly Doctrine. (Chris Bown has a lengthy chapter in that book!) I'll bring a copy when I visit in June.

Meanwhile, back to the 19th. It's also no coincidence that some of the earliest efforts to work for the emancipation of slaves took place in the years following 1770, though a very bloody civil war would still be fought over the issue some 90 years later. Freedom, it seems, cuts both ways. In any case, there IS a link between what is now called "Juneteenth" and our own celebration of New Church Day.

I look forward to seeing you-all on June 7th for my very first Knob service (weather permitting), when you will get a chance to see what informal looks like, Gladish style. Best wishes for an excellent summer!

—Mike Gladish (mgladish@gmail.com)

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19TH OF JUNE CELEBRATION

Our 19th of June Service will be held on Sunday June 21. We will hear about the Heavenly event that occurred on June 19, 1770 as the Lord's disciples announced the good news throughout the heavens that the Lord God Jesus Christ Reigns!

After 30 years of diligently writing and publishing the volumes that herald a new and deeper understanding of the Old and New Testaments, the work of Emanuel Swedenborg, a servant of the Lord, was complete and the angels rejoiced.

The 19th of June is also celebrated now as a National Holiday to commemorate the freeing of the last enslaved people in Texas, on June 19, 1865, following the end of the Civil War. Swedenborgian abolitionists, such as Lydia Child, John Bigelow and Rev. George Bush, were instrumental in working to restore God-given freedom, spiritual and natural, for all people.

Gifts will be given to the children at the end of the service.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY SERVICE CELEBRATED KEN BLAIR

A stirring Community Memorial Day Sunday Service was enjoyed by scores of people attending the event to honor those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Former Staff Sergeant Ken Blair was chosen as our honoree this year for his service as an Army medic during the Korean War. We were blessed to have Bella McKivigan sing our National Anthem, John Lindsay, a Viet Nam veteran, lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Ken's nephew, Brian Blair, speak about Ken as a citizen soldier, and the Vandergrift VFW Honor Guard present an American Flag to Ken's widow, Zarah, that had been flown over the U.S. Capital in Ken's honor by Hon. Mike Kelly, with Elijah Grocholski playing TAPS flawlessly on the bugle.

Al Lindsay welcomed those attending and introduced our guest minister, Rev. Allen Cowley, who spoke about the role of soldiers, and each of us, to be willing to give up our life for a friend. The curtain came down with Sally Parenti and Michelle Hardt playing "Highland Cathedral" together on the organ and bagpipes!

A beautiful array of cookies was provided by Mary Lindsay and Carol Kronen to be enjoyed while those attending chatted and looked at the patriotic display following the

service. Thanks to all who mowed the lawn, parked the cars, served as ushers, printed the program and came to the event. It couldn't have happened without you!

—Trish Lindsay



Thank you, Al & Trish! It *really* wouldn't have happened without you.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE VIDEO LINK

The following is a link for a video of this year's Memorial Day Sunday service honoring Ken Blair. You can watch it online or download it in a format that works best for you:

<https://share.icloud.com/photos/0f4OfAYe9nlfrVeRv02lus0Bg>

LIFE OF THE LORD BIBLE STUDY

The Kids' Life of the Lord Bible Study will meet on **June 18th at 4 PM** at Trish Lindsay's home. The kids are asked to bring their Bibles and their copy of *The Life of the Lord* to the meeting. Please call if you have any questions. Trish Lindsay (724-584-6515)

IT FEELS MAJESTIC!

It's summer again. Time for several Sunday outdoor church services on the Knob. As someone said last year, "It feels majestic!"

Our tentative dates for Knob services are June 7, June 28, July 19, and sometime in August and sometime in September; all weather permitting, of course! Speak up if you'd like to help!

ASSISTANCE NEEDED POST SURGERY FOR CHRIS BOWN!

Chris Bown is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on June 1st. He'll need help with difficult tasks, especially in the beginning; taking out trash, switching laundry, getting mail, gathering deliveries and bringing them in, occasional meals, etc.

There will be a sign-up sheet at church on Sunday, May 31 for willing hands to sign up with contact phone numbers for Chris.

Chris is an integral person in our society. This is an opportunity to show him how much we care and how important he is to us.

Bible Study on Tuesdays will be put on a pause, at least at the beginning of this month, due to Chris' surgery.



JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sun, June 7: Rev. Mike Gladish (Knob Service)
Tue, June 9: 7 PM - Board of Trustees
Sun, June 14: Rev. Nathan Cole
Thu, June 18: 4 PM - Kid's Bible Study @ Trish Lindsay's
Sun, June 21: Rev. Dan Calvo (New Church Day service)
Sun, June 28: Rev. Lou Synnestvedt (Knob Service)



SUMMER CAMPS



TOOLS 4 LIFE (JUNE 14 - 20) is a career and life skills camp held in Bryn Athyn PA designed to help teenagers who have completed grades 10 and 11 develop the tools and confidence needed to make choices about their path after high school. The camp offers 6 days of activities and workshops under the mentorship of skilled counselors. Visit [Tools for Life Summer Camp](#) or email tools4life@brynathyn.edu to learn more.

MAPLE LEAF ACADEMY (JUNE 26 - JULY 1) is a teen church camp in Palgrave, Ontario in Canada. The campers are mentored towards spiritual growth in an environment filled with music, worship, prayer, and wholesome fun. There's plenty of social interaction ranging from small group exercises to communal activities. Visit their website at www.maplecamp.com or contact gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com to learn more.

ANC SUMMER CAMP (JULY 6-11, BRYN ATHYN)

Registration is open for all current 8th & 9th graders.

Go to: www.ancss.org/summercamp

or use the QR code:



JACOB'S CREEK FAMILY RETREAT (JULY 23 - 26)

Jacob's Creek Family Retreat takes place at the Laurelville Retreat Center in the beautiful Laurel Highlands, found in western Pennsylvania. Under the auspices of the General Church of the New Jerusalem, this retreat has as its mission to serve campers of all ages with good spiritual food, warm friendships, and a community of faith in the light of the threefold Word. Visit jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org for more information, including registration

LAUREL FAMILY CAMP 2026 (AUGUST 2-8; LAUREL HILL STATE PARK) Kids (0 - 12) FREE; Teens \$50; Adults \$300

Laurel is a week of shared meals, worship, music, campfires, games, porch conversations, hikes, small groups, late-night laughter, and the kind of community life that stays with people long after the week is over.

If Laurel has meant something to you over the years, we hope you'll help spread the word and invite friends or family who may now be able to come because of these new tuition changes.

Registration is now open at www.Laurelcamp.org