



The Country Courier

News from The Sower's Chapel

September 2026

FROM OUR REGIONAL PASTOR

Writing as an old, retired guy, I can tell you, the older we get the faster time flies. Also, for what it's worth, all the different generations gradually become closer and closer to each other in age as percentages of the total number of years pass.

I like to think of this as part of our preparation for the spiritual world, where time is only an appearance, based on one's state of mind.

Anyway, I hope you all had a great summer and are ready for another productive church, work, and school year. Welcome back to the routine!

It has been my pleasure to serve you on an almost monthly basis until now. And I must say, I have greatly enjoyed the hospitality offered at the new manse B & B. Many thanks to Mike Brown and all of you who have contributed to that welcoming venue. Now, as other ministers have made themselves available to visit, it looks as if I will have some time off until January. But I will continue to stay in touch, and especially to attend your board meetings until I come again. Meanwhile, if there is anything I can do for you as your regional pastor, please don't hesitate to ask.

In that vein, for anyone interested in studying a book of the Writings at home, over the years I have developed comprehensive notes on several doctrinal books (designed originally as email lessons). I have notes on *Divine Providence*, *The New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine*, *The Doctrine of the Word*, & *Heaven and Hell*. I can send them to you in installments, or as complete sets. Let me know if you'd like to try one.

Meanwhile (as I like to say), I seem to have a habit of writing books, and am currently working – thanks to a suggestion from Mike and Michelle – on a whole book of nothing but New Church Prayers, 540 of them in all, organized under 43 different headings. This should be available for purchase in October, and includes submissions from 8 different ministers, including 2

bishops. I will certainly bring copies for anyone interested, next time I come to Sarver.

AND... I have, by the way, given notice to the bishops that I intend to retire as a regional pastor at the end of June, 2027, when I will be 80 years old. Maybe by then you will have some prospects for a new resident pastor? In any case, no doubt you will be assigned a new regional pastor who will continue to support the congregation, and, somewhere in the mix, you will have an episcopal visit.

In conclusion, I want to thank all of you for your ongoing commitment to the New Church in Sarver, and especially to those of you who serve on committees, play music for services, teach Sunday school and the teen group, and do all sorts of maintenance at the property, among other things. I think Miriam deserves special recognition as your board chair and communication guru. And I want again to thank the Rev. Chris Bown for his invaluable service as a teacher, preacher, and general congregational co-ordinator.

May the Lord bless you all, and through you, the whole community of friends and neighbors in Sarver and throughout the county.

–Mike Gladish (mgladish@gmail.com)



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THE SOWER'S CHAPEL

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ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES WITH BOOK OF JOSHUA

This fall, Zarah Blair will welcome us on the five Tuesdays in September, and Alfred and Marlene Brown will host later in the fall. We're shifting the start time to 2 PM.

Our Tuesday afternoon Bible Study will explore the Book of Joshua, continuing right where we left off with Deuteronomy.

The land of Canaan was promised to Abraham's family, then to Moses and the Israelites, and finally to Joshua, who guided them into their new home. The story includes battles and violence that some see as God's plan. Yet in the New Church and the New Heaven, angels don't dwell on those literal details—they view such violence as far from heavenly.

Early Christian leaders noticed that Jesus's name matches "Joshua," and they thought the stories pointed to Jesus's life. But did they realize these tales are really about the Lord overcoming the hurdles that try to block our path to heaven—both when Jesus was here on earth and even today in our lives?

Joshua is a divine part of the Word, full of hidden treasures for our lives. We can "read from the Lord" and use the simple, genuine truths He has given us in His new revelation. There are wonders to discover!

— Chris Bown

KIDS' BIBLE STUDY RESUMES...

...Thursday, September 10th @ Trish Lindsay's home.

POSSIBLE KNOB SERVICES

We've had a rough go with Knob services this year due to weather. Rather than schedule in advance, we'll schedule once or twice as weather allows this fall. Watch your weekly announcements!



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR EVENTS

- Tue, Sept 1: 2 pm - Bible Study @ Zarah Blair's
- Sat, Sept 5: 2 pm - Golf Scramble @ Birdsfoot
- Sun, Sept 6: Rev. Thomas Jackson
- Tue, Sept 8: 2 pm - Bible Study @ Zarah Blair's
7 pm - Board of Trustees
- Thu, Sept 10: 4 pm - Kids' Bible Study @ Trish Lindsay's
- Sun., Sept 13: Rev. Nathan Cole
- Tue, Sept 15: 2 pm - Bible Study @ Zarah Blair's
- Sun, Sept 20: Rev. Dan Calvo
- Tue, Sept 22: 2 pm - Bible Study @ Zarah Blair's
- Sun, Sept 27: Rev. Lou Synnestvedt
- Tue, Sept 29: 2 pm - Bible Study @ Zarah Blair's



NEW CHURCH REGIONAL YOUTH WEEKEND

hosted by the Pittsburgh New Church

Join us for the weekend as we learn about personally approaching the Lord.

- Doctrinal Presentations and Discussion
- Artistic Activities
- Vespers in the Sanctuary
- Bowling and Arcade at Zone 28

See the information attached to this month's Courier and calendar email.

