



Williamsport SDA and MVCS connections

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Roy Weeden

January 2026

Scientists say that sound waves set in motion by our voices go on an endless journey through space. If we had the power to stand on some distant planet long years afterward, with instruments delicate enough, we might be able to find those sounds again and recreate the words we spoke here on Earth. What is sound?

Technically it is a mechanical wave that is an oscillation of pressure transmitted through either liquid, solid, or gas. It is made up of different frequencies within the range of hearing. And, of course, it needs to be loud enough to be heard by the organs of hearing. That range for humans is between 20Hz to 20,000Hz. Dogs can hear things above the human's upper range but are deaf to sounds below 40Hz.

Repeated studies show that the ear is superior to the eye and people remember more from words they hear than words they see. In fact, the mind is able to understand a spoken word in 140 milliseconds, while it takes 180 milliseconds to understand the printed word! Why? Psychologists believe this 40-millisecond delay occurs while the brain translates the visual data into aural sounds it can understand. The Old Testament book of Haggai, the second smallest book in that testament, was a call to God's people who returned from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple. It is interesting that the most repeated phrase in this entire book is, "Thus says the Lord." More than 25 times in only two chapters, Haggai makes it abundantly clear that his message comes from God. Haggai brings the "word" of the Lord to the people with emphasis. He speaks with divine authority on behalf of God.

Do you speak God's words? Do you say things that you would like to resound throughout all eternity? It's something to stop talking about and wrap your mind around!

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away." **(1 Peter 1:24 KJV)**

In His Service,

Pastor Roy



Contacts:

Pastor Roy Weeden:
641-583-5333
rlweeden@paconference.org

Principal Dale Walker:
272-202-1118
dlwalker@paconference.org

Websites:
<https://williamsportadventistchurch.org>
<https://mvchristianschool.com/>

Church phone # **(570) 431-9338**
MVCS phone # **(570) 231-3844**

Recurring happenings:

- Sabbath School for all ages each Sabbath at 9:30 AM (church)
- Worship services each Sabbath at 11:00 AM (church)
- Fellowship meal—usually the 2nd Sabbath of each month after the worship service
- Prayer meeting Wednesdays at 6:30 PM (church)
- Community meal—2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30

Please note:

Many of our members who have been a part of our congregation for several years had the app that included information on all members who had participated by adding their contact information, pictures, and family profile. Although those who had it previously could still access what was there, we could not make changes and new members had no way to join. The board recently voted to utilize this service once again although it means uninstalling the previous app, and installing the newer one. All contact information has been reloaded into the new app but photos were lost. We encourage you to add a current photo which helps new members “put a name with a face”. If you want to join this directory, download the app “instantchurchdirectory” which looks like this picture. > You will then have to submit your email address and one of our admin will admit you to the group.



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Blessed be the Lord Who daily loads us with His benefits! (Psalm 68:19) The first five months of the school year have overflowed with God's blessings. His daily guidance and protection start the list which goes on longer than the proverbial CVS receipt! November featured significant answers to prayer and the joys of Thanksgiving. On November 17, the strategic plan was granted initial approval. This culminated many intense months of work. The strategic plan is designed to provide a framework for actions to complete and goals to achieve. Just one week later, as school started for the day on November 24, the work began on installing the playground. By the close of the day, our school had a wonderful playground that answered many prayers and concluded months of waiting. Before embarking on Thanksgiving Break on Tuesday (Nov. 25), the students took full advantage of their first opportunity to use the new playground. Oh, the joy and the excitement! A special prayer of dedication thanked God for the blessing of our new equipment and asked for His blessing and protection. We entered our Thanksgiving Break with a splendid school family Thanksgiving feast.

December is always an exciting time. The students spent several weeks preparing for the school Christmas program. God blessed and the students did a superb job presenting all of their parts on December 11. December 19 was spent with games and activities. During the party each student received a gift from another student and a gift from their teacher. We are thankful for the gift of Jesus which brought us salvation and eternal life.

The 2025 portion of our school year has been replete with many memory-making moments. Allow me to share one such delightful occasion. One English assignment for some students actually had my name in one of the sentences. When I was correcting the papers, I noticed one student chose to edit the sentence. Instead of Mr. Walker, it now read Mr. Pun! God wants us to live the abundant life filled with His joy. Humor is such a great gift God has given us. I am thankful that I have the pleasure of sharing laughter with my students.

May God bless each of you in the new year 2026. Take time each day to thank God for His blessings. "In Your presence is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore!" (Psalm 16:11)



Seventh-Day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These beliefs constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture.

In this issue of our newsletter, we'll look at the doctrine of:

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF THE GIFT OF PROPHECY



The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Num. 12:6; 2 Chron. 20:20; Amos 3:7; Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9.)

What it means to have the spiritual gift of prophecy

The gift of prophecy is given by God for building up His church and the common good of all. (1 Corinthians 12:7-10). This gift is given by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:4). In Romans 4, we find that everyone has been given a measure of faith (verse 3), and that we each have a gift different from one another. Some have the gift of prophecy, some are called into other forms of ministry, some teach, and some cheerfully serve and encourage others. Just like all the spiritual gifts we can be given, the gift of prophecy is relevant and important for this current time. Having the gift of prophecy means a person receives messages or insight from God. It does not change who a person is.

Having the gift of prophecy doesn't mean standing on top of a rock, proclaiming vague statements about the future to anyone within earshot. Sometimes people can be used as prophets without even drawing attention to the fact that they are "prophesying." The most important thing about any spiritual gift is that it opens the door for the Holy Spirit to work on others' hearts.

The prophetic gift can serve many purposes. The Holy Spirit has bestowed this gift upon people so they can:

- Provide profound spiritual encouragement
- Be a wake-up call to believers caught in a sin or struggle
- Provide additional insight and understanding to seekers
- Warn people of how the future either can or will unfold

Someone being used by the Holy Spirit in this way helps us to consistently live in a state of growth and readiness, especially in preparation for Jesus' Second Coming.

How the prophetic gift was demonstrated in the Bible

Throughout history, God has given revelations of His will for His people through those with the gift of prophecy. *"Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets"* (Amos 3:7, *ESV*). We have numerous examples in the Bible that show the prophetic gift in use. God used people of all types, personalities, genders, ages, occupations, etc. to deliver His messages to others.

In the New Testament, many of Jesus' followers with this gift assisted in the founding and spreading of the early church. The church was *"built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone"* (Ephesians 2:20, 21, *NKJV*). This means Jesus Christ is the initial foundation upon which the apostles and prophets built and initiated the church's mission outreach. It was through prophets that the Holy Spirit selected Paul and Barnabas for their first missionary journey (Acts 13:1, 2) and gave direction as to where missionaries should labor (Acts 16:6-10). Prophets also edified, united and protected the church (Ephesians 4:12-14, 1 Corinthians 14:3, 4). They often warned of future difficulties, such as famine (Acts 11:27-30), just like Joseph in Genesis 41. God worked through Joseph's prophetic gift as He gave him the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream, which led them to store their surplus grain for a famine seven years later.

Many with this gift delivered one significant message to a large group of people, such as Noah (Genesis 7-9), Jonah (book of Jonah) or Moses (Exodus – Deuteronomy). Others used this gift to deliver a poignant message to a small group or an individual, such as Nathan (2 Samuel 7:4-17; 12:1-15), Samuel (1 Samuel 3, 9), Elijah (1 Kings 17-18) and Elihu (Job 32-35).

In the book of Judges we find Deborah, a prophetess (Judges 4:4) and a judge of Israel. She is one of the only judges to be described as having this gift. Instead of large public proclamations, however, she *"would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah in Benjamin and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to settle disputes"* (Judges 4:5, *CSB*). Many of her prophetic statements were delivered individually, such as with the military commander Barak of Kedesh. She informed him of God's specific commands for where, when and how to lead his armies (Judges 4:6-23).

Several other women demonstrated the prophetic gift in both the Old and New Testaments: Miriam (Exodus 15:20, Numbers 12:2; Huldah (2 Kings 22:14, 2 Chronicles 34:22; Noadiah (Nehemiah 6:14), unnamed, “the prophetess” (Isaiah 8:3), Anna (Acts 2:38).

There is much diversity in the people the Holy Spirit used as prophets. Some were rich, some were poor. Some were of high status, some servants or farmers. Some were well-received while others were despised, like Jeremiah. Some were eloquent while others were not, like Moses.

And there was Balaam, who dabbled in spiritualism and often acted out of greed or selfishness. However, his fear of the Lord was genuine, and he knew he could only speak the words God gave him. But oddly, because of his association with spiritualism, God used him to bless Israel when he was hired by a king to curse them! This demonstrated the power of God to the King of Moab (Numbers 22-24).

No matter the type or person or the type of message they were to proclaim, the Holy Spirit gave them the prophetic gift so they could help bring people back to Him or stay focused on Him, and to tell of the plans He had in store for His people.

The prophetic gift is a sign of the “remnant” near the end of time

We are told that as the end of time approaches (or the “day of the Lord,” as many Bible verses describe it), this gift will be used all the more to assist the church through difficult times.

How to test the spiritual gift of prophecy

The Bible warns us that we may encounter false prophets who try to deceive us. And today, it’s almost a reflex to think someone is crazy if they claim to be a prophet, or to be exercising the prophetic gift. But the Bible also tells us not to “*despise prophecies, but test all things. Hold onto what is good*” (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21, CSB).¹ John 4:1 also tells us to “*test the spirits*” to see if their messages are truly from God.

When reading through the Bible, there’s an easy way to determine when many people in the Bible are demonstrating the prophetic gift. Since having this gift means receiving and delivering messages from God, look for what some Bible scholars call the “*prophetic introductory formula,*” or phrasing similar to “*Thus saith the Lord God of Israel...*” This is especially the case in the Old Testament.

However, it is possible and still common for the prophetic gift to be used even without this phrasing. Fortunately, the Bible gives us guidelines for telling the difference between a prophecy from God, or information from elsewhere. Joel 2:28-31 describes an increased activity of this gift the closer we get to the Second Coming of Jesus. The apostle Peter reemphasizes this passage of Scripture in Acts 2:16-18. This refers to the remnant of true believers, with whom Satan is furious because no matter how hard he tries, he just can’t snuff out the spiritual fervor of God’s followers. The Holy Spirit bestows the gift of prophecy among this remnant to encourage these followers and hold fast to the “*commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*” (Revelation 12:17, NKJV).

1. The prophetic gift will always be in harmony with the Bible
2. The prophetic gift will always uplift Jesus as the Son of God, the world’s savior who became flesh and died to save humanity (1 John 4 1-3)
3. The prophetic gift will be demonstrated by someone who “bears good fruit”
4. The prophetic gift will always glorify God, no “self”
5. If the prophetic gift involves information about the future, there should be no room for error.

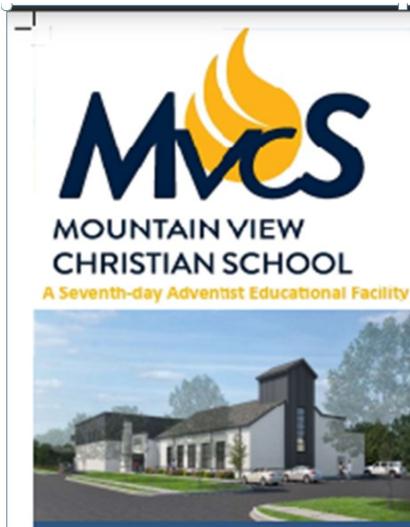
Ellen White recognized as a modern prophet

Just as the Bible places great importance on the spiritual gift of prophecy, (1 Corinthians 14), Seventh-day Adventists believe this remains just as true today. This gift can be used any time to edify and warn God’s people, giving guidance on how to live now and prepare for the coming events and the end of the world.

One of the most prominent co-founders of the Seventh-day Adventist church, Ellen G. White, demonstrated the gift of prophecy and also met the criteria of the above tests of a prophet. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. She also made clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. Her role was to point people back to the Bible – never to replace it or supersede it.

Ellen White’s insights proved useful for aspiring Bible scholars learning how to interpret or apply Scripture to modern times. She also used her gift to hold congregations and individuals accountable when their choices had an impact on their spirituality, fellowship, or leadership.

All in all, the spiritual gift of prophecy has special meaning within the Adventist denomination because of the role it played in the formation of its history. Adventists also look forward to when we will see many more people being used by the Holy Spirit in this manner, as we draw closer to Jesus’ Second Coming.



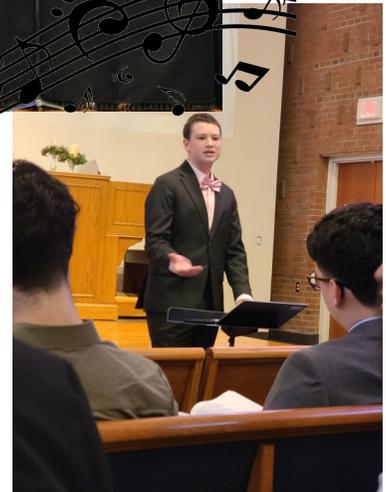
Sharing a blessing!

It is such a blessing to see families grow together in the church. Jeff and April Fulmer have been a part of our church family since they were married, and Jeff, all of his life. We have watched their children grow and participate, (following the example of their parents), in "everything church" including the church school, Pathfinders, and so much more. Both boys now attend Blue Mountain Academy. Here is what they are doing. Please keep them in your prayers. (Sandy)

(From April) Jackson and Harrison are both really enjoying their school year at Blue Mountain Academy. Jackson is a senior and Harrison is a sophomore this year. They have both tried to take advantage of every opportunity out there. Jackson is a part of the La Sonnette bell choir and Harrison is a member of the Bel Canto singing choir. They are both part of the Aerial Arts gymnastics team. These groups tour regularly, visiting various churches in our region.

The boys have full schedules with classes, practices and working. This spring, they will both be taking mission trips with Harrison visiting Mexico and Jackson going to South Korea.

The boys are very happy to be attending BMA and their family is very thankful for the spiritual impact being made on them there. Thank you to all who are contributing to help make this possible!



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Back to school! 	6	7	8 Community Meal 	9	10 Fellowship Meal 
11 Week of Prayer (Cleaning bee) 	12 	13 	14 	15 	16 	17 
18	19 Church Board Mtg. 6:30 NO SCHOOL!	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 School Board Mtg. 6:30	28	29	30	31

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Church/ school cleaning bee 9:30 AM	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Community Meal 	13	14 Fellowship Meal  
15	16 Church Board Mtg. 6:30 NO SCHOOL!!!	17 Teacher in-service. NO SCHOOL!!!	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 School Board Mtg.. 6:30	25	26	27	28

CAMP MEETING 2026



[Registration opens March 1, 2026.](#)

Save the date for camp meeting 2026!

June 12-20, 2026

Blue Mountain Academy

2359 Mountain Rd | Hamburg, Pa.

Speakers include Randy Skeete, Neil Nedley, Mark and Teenie Finley, Dr. Jonathan Burt, and Dr. Clinton Wahlen.

God Speaks Teen Prayer Conference – February 13-15, 2026

Young people in grades 7-12 are invited to grow deeper in their relationship with God through prayer, Bible study, and meaningful fellowship as Pastor Joshua Plohocky encourages, equips, and challenges us to hear God speak.

February 13-15, 2026

Blue Mountain Academy

2363 Mountain Rd, Hamburg, Pa.

To ensure a safe and positive experience, all young people will need chaperones for both male and female attendees.

Williamsport, PA Seventh-day
Adventist Church

PO Box 3454
410 East Southern Ave.
S. Williamsport, PA 17702
Phone: 570-431-9338

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

