



# Williamsport SDA and MVCS connections

Pastor's Corner

God Knows What We Need

Sam and Tinicia were a little nervous this day. They had been praying that the sonographer's scan of her abdomen would bring comforting news. The sonographer walks in as Tinicia lay somewhat worried on the table. Her husband held her hands and they jointly squeezed their fingers together trying to reassure each other.

The sonographer prepared the ultrasound transducer and started running it across the cold gel that was slathered on her abdomen. After a few minutes, the sonographer informed them that he needed to change machines as he had been having some trouble with the one he was using. Perhaps it was his tone or his body language but Tinicia wasn't convinced with his cover story. As he set up the second machine both husband and wife exchanged another hand squeeze and a growing anxiousness was palpable in the exam room. Again, the sonographer scanned her abdomen. Both husband and wife watched as blurry black and white images flashed across the screen. But they didn't know what they were looking at as the anxiety increased.

They waited. The silence was deafening. Finally, the sonographer paused and looked at both of them. "Do you have a history of twins in either of your families?" he asked. *Interesting choice of small talk*, Tinicia thought to herself. "No," they both answered in unison. The sonographer paused again. "Well, there are two heartbeats. Congratulations."

Sometimes when we ask for things in this life, God gives us more than we sometimes ask for. Sometimes we get less. But God knows exactly what we need and in what manner we need it. It's frustrating sometimes because we always seem to know what we want and God sometimes interrupts our thoughts with his thoughts and blessings. We need to be more grateful for what we have because it's what God knows we need.

(Adapted from "God The Father," by Brianna Watson in Signs of the Times, March 2026.)  
Pastor Roy Weeden



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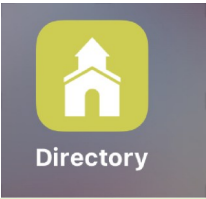
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## Recurring happenings:

- 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
- 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.



Follow us on Facebook for more pictures!

I will praise the Lord with my whole heart! The works of the Lord are great! (Psalm 111:1, 2) Join me on a highlight review of two incredible months of God's blessings. January was filled with many affirmations of God's leading and protection.

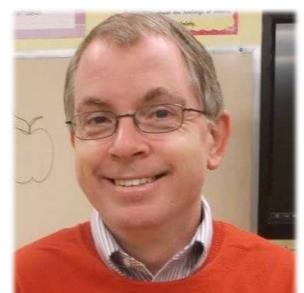
The first Saturday in February was our scheduled Education Sabbath in Watsontown. Friday night snow softly fell and then wildly blew in the gale force winds. This Saturday was the coldest day of all the frigid days during this winter. Praise the Lord for His protection over all of our parents on the snowy roads and for His blessings on our program. The students had worked hard in their preparation, and they did an excellent performance in the presentation of their parts.

On Friday, February 13, we celebrated Friendship Day. One of the many benefits of being a small Christian school is the opportunity to cultivate a family environment among all of our students. The students had great fun handing out Friendship cards to all of the other children in our school family. They highly enjoyed all of the cards and Friendship gifts which they received.

A teacher in-service meeting was scheduled for February 17. Our superintendent chose to hold the event here at our school. Tuesday morning the fellowship room filled with more than thirty educators from the nine elementary schools in our state. I was given the pleasure of providing a tour of the building. I explained to the teachers that I felt like Hezekiah when the Babylonian envoys arrived. As I pointed out all of the wonderful features of our expansive, modern facility, I emphasized how grateful we are to God for all of the blessings that are part of our school building. The day was filled with enriching professional growth and the camaraderie of interaction with colleagues.

Saturday evening on February 21, there was food, frivolity, and friendship. More than a dozen varieties of ice cream were available along with many other refreshments. The children had fun with musical hoops and bop bop tag. Then two teams had to race each other using letters to spell words like Zaphenath paneah!

With just three months left in this school year, it is time to strategize for the 2026/27 school year. We know God has incredible plans filled with His wonderful benevolence! Shout joyfully to God who daily loads you with His benefits! (Psalm 95:2; 68:19)



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:

## THE LAW OF GOD



The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, and its fruit is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 19:7-14; 40:7, 8; Matt. 5:17-20; 22:36-40; John 14:15; 15:7-10; Rom. 8:3, 4; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 8:8-10; 1 John 2:3; 5:3; Rev. 12:17; 14:12.)

### Where did the Law of God come from?

The story of Moses journeying up Mt. Sinai and receiving the Ten Commandments from God is found in the Bible in the book Exodus and reiterated in the book of Deuteronomy. When Moses met with God on Mt. Sinai, God inscribed His commandments on two stone tablets. Exodus 20 explains the Ten Commandments, clearly written out so God's followers could have a clear picture of His will and expectations for His people.

#### **The first 4 commandments have to do with our relationship with God.**

##### **1. Do not have other gods before Me (Exodus 20:3).**

This means nothing and no one should be worshipped above God. Worshiping anything or anyone other than the one true God is a violation of this commandment. Idolizing celebrities, preachers, politicians, religious leaders, or any other human or god is putting other gods before the Almighty God.

##### **2. Do not make idols, bow down to them, or serve them (Exodus 20:4).**

This means we shouldn't create gods or idols to worship or serve. Many addictions we experience on earth can become a god to us. Today Christians may struggle with putting electronics, work, money, and even relationships above God. We can keep things of importance to us, while also keeping God and our relationship with Him at the top of our priorities.

##### **3. Do not take the name of the Lord in vain (Exodus 20:7)**

This means we shouldn't use the Lord's name unless we are genuinely speaking to Him or about Him. Swearing or cursing with God's name or claiming to do something in God's name that in reality is self-serving, are ways of using His name in vain. His name should be used reverently and with honor. If you speak to or about God, it should be to honor Him or teach about Him.

##### **4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8).**

This means we should observe the Sabbath day, remember why God made it, and teach the Sabbath to our children so they also remember it. It's important to note the word *remember* in the fourth commandment. The Sabbath Day is to be remembered as the seventh-day of the week. On this day we should not only attend church, but worship God throughout the day, commune with Him, fellowship with other Christians, and do God's good work. It is something to be treasured and enjoyed!

#### **The last six commandments have to do with our relationship with other people.**

##### **5. Honor your father and mother (Exodus 20:12).**

This means we should respect our father and our mother. Keeping the fifth commandment is about preserving your relationship with your earthly parents. This looks like obedience and respect, but can look different when they are unjust, abusive, or un-Christian. You can still honor and respect your parents in words and in communication as well as heeding their advice while choosing another path.

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## **6. Do not murder (Exodus 20:13).**

*This means we should protect and preserve human life, never taking the life of another.* Deliberately killing, or murdering, another human being is a violation of the sixth commandment. As God is the giver of life, killing another is a perversion of His creation. While causing *any* death may not be a violation of the commandment, the intention behind the death most definitely matters. An accidental death, for instance, versus a premeditated crime that resulted in death—both ended human life, but only one intended harm.

## **7. Do not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14).**

*This means we should respect marriage, keeping our marriage vows, and not interfere in the marriage of another.* The seventh commandment is about showing respect for your relationship and marriage vows, your body, and the body of your spouse. Sexual relations with someone other than the person you're married to is adultery, but it goes beyond that. Adultery can include any non-platonic behavior with another person who is not your spouse, as well as emotional attachment.

## **8. Do not steal (Exodus 20:15).**

*This means we should respect the property of others. We will not take it for ourselves or keep it without permission.* Taking something that doesn't belong to you, regardless of your personal situation, is a violation of the eighth commandment. If you take or use something that belongs to anyone else, you should first ask permission. If they don't grant permission, it is stealing.

## **9. Do not bear false witness against your neighbor (Exodus 20:16).**

*We should never make false accusations or dishonestly mar the reputation of another.* Acting dishonestly, trying to make another person look bad, or even misrepresenting yourself, violates the ninth commandment. This could include making an accusation for which you have no evidence.

## **10. Do not covet (Exodus 20:17).**

We should appreciate the things we have and avoid longing for the things other people have or feeling that we are entitled to what others have. Comparing yourself with others to the point that you feel you need to have what they have is a violation of the tenth commandment. This is about avoiding greed, and about putting trust in God to meet your needs. Letting feelings of jealousy grow within you often leads to ingratitude and eventually covetousness. Fixating on what others have can cause us to miss blessings, hurt others, or value things more than our relationship with God.

After listing God's law, in Deuteronomy 6, Moses tells the Israelites to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (v. 5). Jesus says something similar in Matthew 22 when the Pharisees asked which is the greatest commandment of the Law: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets*" (Matthew 22:37-40, ESV).

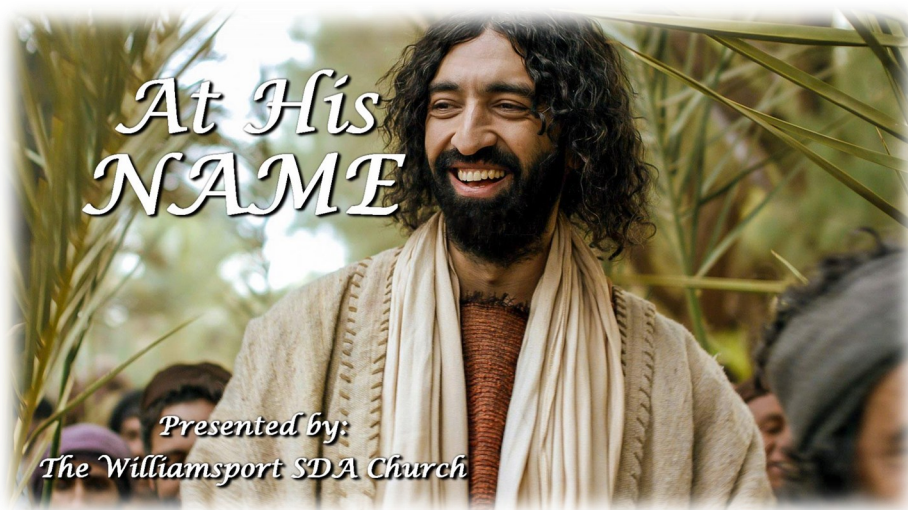
These two great commandments are the ten laws summed up. The first four are a reflection of our love for God. The following six have to do with loving God's people, our neighbors. While in a relationship with God, keeping the commandments is an expression of our love and devotion to Him. Keeping the commandments will help us grow in our relationship with God and maintain stable relationships with the rest of humanity. God's love is written in the law.

### **What is the Purpose of God's Law?**

The purpose of God's law is to protect us from the pain of sin, and the downfalls of selfishness. It's an expression of God's character, which is love, and is the foundation of His government. It brings peace and harmony to all of God's creation. The decalogue creates a pattern of living that leads to righteous actions, thoughts, and relationships. God's law has not and will not change, so we encourage all Christ-followers to keep all ten, with the help of the Holy Spirit who Christ sent to help His people.

***But it is important to remember that it is not our own keeping of the law that saves us but surrendering our lives to Jesus Christ who died for our sins and lived a perfect sin-free life that He offers us in exchange for our old lives.***

That brings us to the greatest purpose of God's Law: It allows us to recognize our sinfulness and our need for Him. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, were created in the image of God and were in perfect harmony with God's law until they fell into sin. Since Adam and Eve all have sinned and come short of the glory of God except Jesus Christ. He came to die for our sins and restore God's image in us, bringing us back into harmony with God's law.



*Plan now to join us for our annual Easter Cantata presented by our district Seventh-day Adventist choir. Be blessed by the music, the narration, and the visual presentation during the morning worship service. Sabbath, April 4th, 11 AM*

## Spring Women's Retreat – April 10-12, 2026

### Breathe . . .

*A weekend to exhale stress and inhale God's love.*

April 10-12, 2026 – Weekend    April 11, 2026 – One-day Event  
 Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, Grantville, Pa.



## Stronger Together Family Conference – April 18

### Stronger Together    *Building Strong Families*

**10:00 am – 5:00 pm    Pittsburgh Seventh-day Adventist Church**

Strong families are the foundation of a strong community. When our homes grow healthier, everything around us grows stronger. In our main sessions, Ryan Musser will share practical, biblical principles that help families build deeper connection, stronger leadership, and a shared sense of purpose. Together, we'll explore what it means to create a home marked by unity, love, and intentional living. You'll discover how simple, intentional changes can strengthen marriages, deepen parent-child relationships, and bring greater harmony into everyday family life.





Choir Practices:  
 March 14 2-3:30  
 March 28 1:30—3

# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 MVCS Edu- cation Sabbath
8 Cleaning Bee 9:30 	9	10	11	12 Community Meal 	13	14 Fellowship Meal 
15	16 Church Board Meeting 6:30	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 MVCS Spring Break	24 School Board Meeting 6:30	25	26	27	28 
29	30	31				

Fellowship Meal will be on April 4th following  
 the choir Easter cantata presentation.

# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Choir Practice 7 PM 	4 Easter Cantata 	
5 	6 MVCS Week of Prayer	7	8	9 Community Meal 	10	11
12 MVCS Non- Profit Expo 2-5	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

# CAMP MEETING 2026: JOYFUL LIVING: NOW AND FOREVER

## Save the date for camp meeting 2026!

June 12-20, 2026

Blue Mountain Academy

2359 Mountain Rd | Hamburg, Pa.

You're invited to a powerful week of powerful worship and practical seminars at our Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting 2026! This year's focus is on "Joyful Living: Now and Forever—growing stronger physically, mentally, and spiritually—as we discover God's plan for vibrant, healthy, and joyful living. Be refreshed and recharged, as we connect with friends. Families will grow together as they enjoy Sunday's Fun Fest and our weekday family worship.

Speakers include Randy Skeete, Neil Nedley, Mark and Teenie Finley, Dr. Jonathan Burt, and Dr. Clinton Wahlen—offering messages of hope and health for today's world. Children will enjoy meetings and activities planned for them as they explore "Wild About Health." Powerful worship and fun outings are planned for our youth and young adults. Bring your voices and instruments for this year's "Music Jam Fest" Sunday afternoon.

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

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