

# StayCONNECTED

August 2023

## Pastor's Corner



Back in June my family was able to attend the 30th General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene in Indianapolis, IN. The GA happens every 4 years. The theme was Jesus is Lord. Having been a Nazarene my whole life, attending GA is like a really big family reunion. I saw friends from my college days, pastors from the New England District who have been

called to other parts of the country and this couple who attended Valley Chapel a few years ago. Bonus points if you can name them.



There were 6 worship services held during GA. The number of people in attendance ranged from 6,500 to 11,500! What an amazing experience to worship our Lord with that many voices.

The Church of the Nazarene is now in 164 countries world wide. Many people traveled from around the world to attend GA. During the Sunday morning service we prayed The Lords Prayer and were instructed to pray it out loud in our native language. There were so many different languages being spoken at once. It gave us a small taste of Revelation 5:9 "And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and

with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation." It was a beautiful experience.

Below are some quick recaps from the messages preached by our General Superintendents so you can see their hearts for God's Word and His people.

General Superintendent David Graves preached a message titled "Reckless Worship" "The only thing we can do is respond to His love," Graves said. "And how do we respond? We respond with our love, we respond with our worship because He first loved us."

Graves read John 12:1-8 about Mary breaking open the most expensive nard and pouring it on the feet of Jesus. The passage served as an illustration of the reckless things people do in the name of love.

"This action of Mary, this act of worship, this act of impracticality, is really the smell of reckless love that she had for her Lord," Graves said.

He pointed out that she had reason to love Jesus because she "knew the difference between the smell of death and disappointment and the smell of love" because of what Jesus had done for her brother, Lazarus.

"Her action, her worship, it's about giving," Graves said. "It's about honoring, it's about loving Jesus, and she's not seeking anything in return."

It is that type of love with which Graves encouraged the congregation to worship God.

"Let's join Mary in pouring out our worship to God," Graves said. "Understand that the reckless, passionate, priceless, extravagant fragrance that He wants to receive today is your love, your adoration, and your surrender to Him."

General Superintendent Gustavo Crocker message emphasized the importance of discipleship through the priesthood of all believers.

"The call to follow Jesus is a call to be transformed as agents of transformation to His likeness," Crocker said. "His task of redemption was completed at the cross. The task of the church is to announce the good news that it is finished." He reminded the congregation that the Church is to be a faithful expression of good news and that because Jesus is Lord, God has equipped the Church to fulfill the task of discipleship. Crocker alluded to this through Ephesians 4:11-12: "So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for

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# August 2023 EVENTS

Aug 5-13

**Portsmouth Camp**  
69 Hedly St., Portsmouth, RI

Aug 20

**Baptism Class**  
9:30 am

Aug 26

**Church Picnic/Baptism**  
Pout Pond

Aug 6

**Women's Guess Who**

Aug 25-27

**Prayer Weekend**  
Fri - Sun

Aug 27

**Prayer & Worship**  
Café 5 PM



**Portsmouth Camp**  
Aug 5 - 13  
69 Hedly St, Portsmouth, RI  
Worship services 7 pm daily  
Speakers Jeremiah Bolich 8/5-8/9 Gerry Whetsone 8/11-13



**Women's GUESS WHO IS COMING - PICNIC? Aug 6**  
Join us as we once again stretch out of our comfort zones & meet some new friends, this time at a picnic! Look for sign-ups and more information at our fun table in the lobby on July 30.



**Baptism Class**  
Do you want to be baptized? If you are interested in being baptized at Pout Pond at our church picnic on August 28, please email Alice in the office at [alice@valleychapel.us](mailto:alice@valleychapel.us). There will be a baptism class on Sunday, Aug 20 at 9:30 in room 225.



**Prayer Weekend**  
Our August prayer weekend on August 25-27 will focus on praying for the younger generations. Our youth need us to engage in spiritual warfare for their faith, health, sexuality and God given destiny. Please commit to join us to pray for an awakening and revival of faith in this generation. Corporate prayer meeting will be Sunday August 27th at 5pm in the Café.



**Church Picnic/Baptism**  
Baptism will begin at 11 am - picnic to follow. Bring your own picnic (no grills provided, but you can bring your own portable grill) Bring lawn chairs, bug spray and some lawn games. Some games will be provided. (If we have inclement weather and the picnic needs to be cancelled. We will move the baptism to Sunday 8/28 during the worship service at 10:30 am.)

**WORLD CONCERN PRESENTS HEAVEN CHANGES EVERYTHING TOUR**  
ON SALE NOW! YOU CAN GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY HERE AT CHURCH, BEFORE ANYONE ELSE! GET YOUR TICKETS NOW BEFORE THE PUBLIC PRE-SALE ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 26TH. VISIT THE LOBBY FOR MORE DETAILS.  
**PRE-SALE NOW**  
BIG DADDY WEAVE  
TASHA LAYTON  
HANNAH KERR  
SEPTEMBER 22  
UXBRIDGE, MA  
VALLEY CHAPEL  
transparent WHIZBANG CGA

Women's Ministries  
**SIGHT & SOUND**  
*Movies*  
September 20 - Noah  
October 18 - Samson  
November 15 - Jonah  
NOON IN THE CAFE. BRING A BAG LUNCH  
Enjoy fellowship in the Café as we eat our lunches together, then move to Room 121 (downstairs) to watch the movie. Invite a friend or two to join you.

Join Pastor Bob & Sharon to the Museum of the Bible DC Trip, September 14-17, 2023. Seats are still available. Contact Sharon Howard at [sharon@valleychapel.us](mailto:sharon@valleychapel.us)



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works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”  
“Whether you are lay or clergy, it doesn’t matter. At the cross, the curtain was completely open. And now you and I are royal priesthood.”

Sunday night's service General Superintendent David Basic charged the assembly to "shake the gates of hell." He gave a message inspired by Matthew 16:15-19, focusing on verse 18 where Jesus tells Peter, "...on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." He opened by recalling the roots of the Church of the Nazarene and the inspiration for the denomination's name. In biblical times, the village of Nazareth was a place no one wanted to be associated with, yet Jesus spent the majority of His time there ministering to the poor and oppressed. "It was that vision that those early Nazarenes said, 'That is the Church we want to be known as,'" Basic said. He went on to explain the difference between offense and defense, saying, "gates are defensive; gates are closed." "Jesus is giving us an image [in Matthew 16] of the church on offense, attacking hell, driving back its gates, and hell not surviving the assault," Basic said. "Jesus is Lord, and Jesus said, 'I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against us,'" Basic said. "We are on offense. Go in the power of the Spirit now. Be the sent ones, the filled ones. Be the ambassadors of Jesus."

General Superintendent Carla Sunberg delivered the Quadrennial Address. In her message, titled "Good Morning," Sunberg drew upon Phineas Bresee's traditional greeting of "good morning," which he would use to greet others no matter the time of day. "Bresee knew that it was always the hope of the morning, of the dawn of the light of the Messiah breaking into our dark world that would bring transformation," Sunberg said. "And this is our heritage, it is our DNA – it is the hope that the church had at Pilot Point that they could unite around this transformational message even when the world was divided." She went on to share about the light that God has shown into the darkness of the world, including the growth Papua New Guinea experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, a 166 percent increase in new Nazarenes. Sunberg emphasized the work of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries in response to the estimated 100 million people displaced by war, famine, climate, and persecution. In closing, Sunberg offered a challenge to the assembly to return to the DNA of Pilot Point. She drew upon John 1:46, where Nathan asks Philip, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" "Our world may be asking, 'Can anything good come from the Nazarenes?'" Sunberg said. "And I would suggest — come and see."

Blessings,  
Pastor Josh

### Strength & Peace Group

It has been a few months since our first meeting for parents with children in crisis. We call the group "Strength and Peace." So far we have had about a dozen people each week and our times together have been characterized by honesty, vulnerability and refreshment.

We begin by talking about how we are a safe place that emphasizes confidentiality and openness with no judgment. So, how do we do this? In a word - carefully. The goal is simply for us to give the struggle over to God and experience his peace. This is not a class on how to parent, rather a place of mutual edification through honesty and support.

We have a ten minute Bible devotional on subjects like boundaries, peace and hope. Then we spend the rest of the time in discussion. If you are experiencing unmanageability in your home due to challenges that your children are facing, you truly are not alone. We would love to welcome you into our group. It is only required that you show up and listen. Our meetings are every other Sunday at 6:30pm. Our next meeting is Sunday the 30th. If you have any questions, please contact me. God Bless. Pastor G.

## NEWS FROM NMI COUNCIL (MISSIONS)

### Doug and Jennifer Mann

On August 13 please welcome Doug and Jennifer Mann, Nazarene Church missionaries supported by Valley Chapel. Doug is the Regional Finance Coordinator and Jen is the Regional Personnel Coordinator. These are fun roles for them as they are able to support the mission's work and missionary colleagues in the seven fields across the massive and diverse Eurasia Region!

The Mann Clan currently lives in "Switzerland", the name they give to their village of Busingen, Germany that is enclaved in the country of Switzerland! Their children include Jonathan, Sarah and James each born in a different part of the world!

Doug will be speaking briefly during service Sunday, Aug 13, and the family are available to chat with before and after the service in the café.

Pal Paks will be available to assemble before and after service on Sunday August 20 in the church foyer. Cost is \$15 to cover supplies and the cost of transporting the paks to a central warehouse in PA. School Pal-Paks provides the students in Nazarene primary schools with the supplies they need to facilitate learning, such as pencils, scissors, etc.



The Church of the Nazarene operates numerous primary schools around the world, providing quality education for children. Unfortunately, children around the world often do not have the supplies needed for school. In countries with economic challenges, families cannot afford to purchase supplies, or siblings are often required to share the supplies. In response to the need, Nazarene Missions International partnered with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Inc. (NCM, Inc.) to provide School Pal-Paks.



## Valleykids Swim Days

Wednesdays 11am-4pm  
Josh & Kerrie's Pool  
150 Douglas St, Uxbridge

AUG: 16, 23, 30

Weather Permitting  
No Lifeguard on duty

## Interested in homeschooling?

Valley Chapel's new homeschool co-op starts September 28



ERIN TUBO, DIRECTOR  
VCLighthouse@gmail.com



INFO MEETING: AUGUST 13 @ 12:15 ROOM 218

## Community Garden Volunteers Needed

Community Harvest Project is a non-profit farm that engages and educates volunteers to grow fresh fruits and vegetables for hunger relief. We need people to sign up and help at the garden on Sept. 16, 2023 9:00 am - noon  
<https://community-harvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/FAQ-FARM-2023-.pdf>  
See Dave Doppler for more information.



To receive the **weekly VC Messenger email** and prayer requests, give your email to Alice at [alice@valleychapel.us](mailto:alice@valleychapel.us) and let her know you want to be added to the email list.

### SUNDAY

Faith Connections & Young Adults class at 9:30 AM  
SERVICE TIME: 10:30 AM

### ONLINE SERVICE

VALLEYCHAPEL.US Watch LIVE.

### GIVING

We appreciate your giving. Did you know that you can also give online? [www.valleychapel.us/giving](http://www.valleychapel.us/giving), or stop by and drop your offering in the connect box in the sanctuary, lobby, outside at our West entrance.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook.com/VCUxbridge

Instagram.com/VCUxbridge

If you would like something in the September edition of "Stay Connected" Please send your information to Alice by August 18 to [alice@valleychapel.us](mailto:alice@valleychapel.us)

VISIT US ONLINE [valleychapel.us](http://valleychapel.us)

## Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Classes Coming Sept 10

### Answering Christianity's toughest challenges

This will be a how-to class regarding difficult questions - BOTH what do we say AND how do we say it. We will begin with evidence for miracles, and then use the book "Street Smarts" by Greg Koukl (coming out September 13). Led by Jason Jolin.

### Faith Connections

Lessons from the Kings of Judah and the message of Ezekiel

### Financial Peace University

The fastest way to beat debt and build wealth. This 9 week class by Dave Ramsey is limited to 11 spots (a married couple is 1 spot) Cost will be \$80 which will give you 12 month online access along with all the materials. Sign up now at the welcome desk. For more information call or text Ashley Carie at 508-667-8016.

### Shaped by the Word: Telling the Story of the Kingdom

Led by Phil Lafountain

### Unleash Your Purpose with "Forward" by David Jeremiah!

Virtual class meeting 8:30-9:30 am Sunday - Ron Cook  
Each chapter will immerse you in a captivating blend of storytelling, profound biblical truths, and thought-provoking reflection, compelling you to grow in your relationship with God and live a life that leaves a lasting legacy. You will discover how to align your passions with God's purpose, overcome adversity with unwavering faith, and unleash the untapped potential within you.

## VC Young Adults

Young Adults Bible study will continue to meet through the summer, Sunday's at 9:30 AM in room 219. All welcome!

## Summer Hangtimes in August

Aug 2 @ the Scott's  
Aug 9 @ the Hilgenberg's  
Aug 16 @ the Fogg's  
Aug 23 @ the Fortin's  
Aug 30 @ the Kaisers



## Time to think about Women's Retreat 2023

2 options. More information at the Welcome Desk

September 15 - 17  
Geneva Point Center in  
Moultonborough, NH

September 8-10  
Camp Berea in  
Hebron, NH

## Coming in September

Sun. 9:30am Classes begin  
Sept 10

Community Harvest Project  
Sept 16

Women's Sight & Sound Movie - Noah  
Sept 20

Big Daddy Weave Concert  
Sept 22