



MONTHLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2026

2 BISHOP REID

4 HEART2HEART

13 PASTORAL CARE

14 HOME MISSION DOLLAR DAYS

15 PKS4PKS

16 STUDENT MINISTRIES

17 FOREVER YOUNG

19 FLORIDA STATE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LOOK FOR FRIENDS AMONG YOUR OFFENDERS



by Bishop Trevor Reid

Have you ever done an inventory of your friendships? Who are your friends? Where did you meet them? What is the story behind the relationship? Ironically, some of my best friends used to be my “enemies.” Well, maybe not enemies, but not the ones I initially wanted a relationship with based on their opinions or personality. The same can be said regarding the disciple-making relationships we strive to develop from everyday connections. Sometimes we are drawn only to a “type,” when the Lord wants us to expand our relational network. We’ve got to be careful, lest we only develop relations with people “like us.”

As I reflect on my history and pattern of developing relationships for the glory of Christ, one failed opportunity still haunts me. I remember it like yesterday. Our church needed to relocate and we felt like we found a building that could be renovated to suit our needs. The only problem was that it wasn’t zoned for religious gatherings. So, we sent in our application for rezoning and waited to present our request to the urban planning office. At the time, I was pastoring an English congregation in Montreal, Quebec. Just a little background—Quebec is a wonderful North American province, rightly characterized as one of the most unreached populations regarding the gospel in the Western Hemisphere. It is extremely secular, post-Christian, and amoral. The average person on the street has never been in a church outside of a funeral, wedding, or nominal Christening, and those are very few. Therefore, I really should not have been too shocked by what I would experience.

“We really should expect to be offended! And our response to the offense must become grace, kindness, and mercy.”

I waited in the office of urban planning for more than an hour. They were waiting for a very old pastor and I was in my late 20s. Needless to say, they were confused by the church’s representative. So confused that the zoning director invited me to his office and closed the door and the blinds so no one could see or hear his behavior. Upon being seated the zoning director used the worst of foul language to let me know he thought I represented and actively perpetuated a myth (Christianity) to people and he was insulted that I had dedicated my life to the cause of this “fictitious belief.” I came to that office to get my church’s zoning request, not have a debate about our faith. Yet, I remained calm, focused on the merits of our request, and did my best to advocate for our needs. Needless to say, our request was denied.

Typically, I remember that experience as a testimony of a “post-Christian” Quebecois culture. Now, however, I see it increasingly as an opportunity I was too narrowly focused to see. Once I realized there was no chance of getting the rezoning, I could have pivoted the conversation. I could have invited him to lunch for a conversation separate from the zoning request. However, the idea of inviting him to a meal never came to my mind. I never sought to look at what was behind his deep disgust of my personal faith. I allowed an ideological disagreement and an act of disrespect to shipwreck my opportunity for a relationship.



I was so laser-focused on getting the zoning status changed, that I forgot to see the person who was the zoning officer. I was so offended by his vulgarity, unprofessionalism, and view of my faith that I needed to just “wipe the dust off my shoes” and move on. I was persecuted and I took it like a soldier, so I naively thought. In reality, I probably left the situation alone prematurely. Bad attitudes, angry responses, and verbal attacks too often accomplish what they’re meant to—create enemies, adversaries, and punching bags. There is so little listening, so few conversations, and so few meals together that we can never move beyond the smoke screens of rage, hurt, disillusionment, and misinformation. Listen to the wisdom of the Spirit in Proverbs 17:9, “Whoever covers an offense seeks love.” At the end of the day, we must become more intentional about ensuring our attempts for friendships, relationships, and disciple making are fueled by grace and mercy.

All around us, the Lord is providing opportunities for relationships, we just have to see them as opportunities. The world will give us many reasons to reject, cancel, and rebuke people. The gospel, however, gives us many more reasons to love, forgive, overlook, and extend his grace so that we might develop friends. When we extend grace to others, strangers become friends, friends become disciples, and disciples become disciple makers who make friends with offensive people. The gospel we preach was initiated by the offended Christ! “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).” Christ was the greatest friend and initiator. He ate with disreputable people called “drunks and sinners” (Luke 15:2). He started the conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:7). Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus the tax collector’s house (Luke 19:5), which went against the norm of his culture. He even made disciples out of “thieves, traitors, and a terrorist” (Matt. 10:2-4). He set the model for us to look for friends, who would become disciples, from among our offenders.

It is so easy to cut off all the people who hurt and offend us, but in doing so we miss the miraculous work of redemption! We’ve got to trust the Lord to make disciples of our atheist neighbors, transgender coworkers, and our “leftist” in-laws. Remember, he’s the Savior, we’re just relational connectors.

“When we extend grace to others, strangers become friends, friends become disciples, and disciples become disciple makers who make friends with offensive people.”

Think about it, Jesus sent us to make disciples of people from all nations (Matt. 28:19). The Great Commission sends us to make friends with a strange and unfriendly world. Jesus put it like this, “I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves (Matthew 10:16).” We really should expect to be offended! And our response to the offense must become grace, kindness, and mercy.

I often wonder, “What if I had turned that insult from the zoning director into a conversation between friends?” Today, if you and I determine ahead of time to “cover the multitudes of sins” among our offenders, we may find we will live with fewer regrets, louder laughs, a more diverse set of friends, and possibly more followers of Jesus!



OFFENDER → **Friend**

February 2026

HEART2HEART

When was the last time you apologized?

When was the last time you apologized, and why? Apologies shape the health of our relationships more than we often realize, especially in ministry, where our words and actions carry spiritual weight.

As a young and new pastor's wife, I was overly apologetic—not out of humility, but out of insecurity. I believed there were unspoken expectations tied to my role and position, and too often I apologized simply to please people rather than speaking the truth in love or holding others accountable. There were times when I took the offense unnecessarily, hoping to keep the peace instead of addressing what needed to be addressed.

Over time, I learned that there are moments when wisdom calls for pausing, allowing emotions to settle, and returning to a conversation later. Speaking the truth in love requires discernment because we want to be heard in ways that encourage one another toward good works. At the same time, I must honestly admit that there were occasions when I truly did offend or hurt others—and in those moments, an apology was not only appropriate, it was necessary.

Apologizing is a discipleship practice. A sincere apology demonstrates that we take responsibility for our actions and that we are still being formed in the image of Christ. The apostle Paul reminds us to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, who humbled Himself and laid aside status and position for the sake of others (Philippians 2:5–8). When we apologize, we model what it looks like to follow Jesus when we are wrong. We show that humility, not image management, marks a life shaped by Christ.



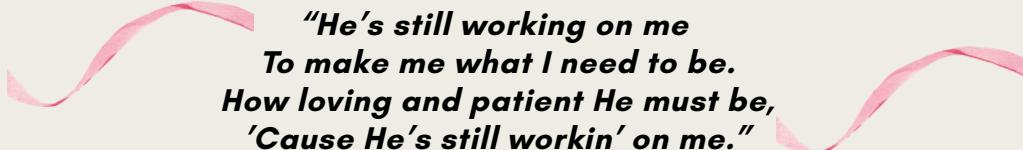
**In This
Newsletter:**

1. From my Heart
2. Reflection Questions
3. Recommended Reading
4. Devotional Journey for Pastors' Wives
5. February Birthdays
6. Let's Meet for Lunch

When we acknowledge wrongdoing and ask for forgiveness, we position ourselves not above others, but alongside them—people who need the grace of God each and every day. Christ did not cling to power or reputation; He sacrificed it all so that we could receive the Father's forgiveness and live in freedom. Our apologies echo that same posture of self-giving love.

Pastors' wives are always discipling, whether we realize it or not. We are being watched at home by our children, by young women and new mothers in our congregations, and by ministry teams with whom we serve. How we respond when we are wrong matters. How we handle conflict, both publicly and privately, matters. In humility, we model what it looks like to confess when we speak harshly to our children, or to apologize to a leader after a misunderstanding. When we lay down our power or position as Christ did, we gain credibility, and relationships are reconciled and restored.

Apology also models leadership. Saying "I'm sorry" builds trust and invites others to walk with us rather than withdraw from us. It reminds disciples that we are all sinners saved by grace and that each new day is sustained by God's mercies (Lamentations 3:22–23). This truth is beautifully captured in a familiar children's song many of us have sung:



***"He's still working on me
To make me what I need to be.
How loving and patient He must be,
'Cause He's still workin' on me."***

This simple song reminds us that spiritual growth is ongoing. Christ is still working on us. When we apologize, we demonstrate that we are teachable and growing in maturity. We show disciples that growth does not stop once we reach a certain point in our faith—it is a lifelong journey of sanctification.

An apology is appropriate whenever we have wronged someone or when sin has disrupted a relationship. Forgiveness is not optional for the believer; it is biblical and foundational to our witness (Matthew 18:21–22). When Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive, Jesus' response—seventy-seven times—made it clear that forgiveness is a way of life, not a ledger we keep. While we are not to continue harming one another carelessly, when sin does occur, Scripture calls us to confess our faults, seek forgiveness, pray together, and experience healing in our relationships (James 5:16).

Apology is not the end of leadership—it is often where credibility begins. Through repentance and reconciliation, we form disciples who understand grace not as an abstract idea, but as a lived reality.

Aileen Reid



Reflection Questions*

1. What has shaped your understanding of apologizing in ministry—fear, humility, or faithfulness to Christ?
2. How does Jesus’ example of self-emptying humility (Philippians 2:5–8) challenge the way you handle being wrong?
3. In what situations are you most tempted to apologize to keep the peace rather than to speak the truth in love?
4. Who is being discipled by how you respond to conflict—your children, ministry teams, or those you serve?
5. How does your response to wrongdoing either build trust or quietly erode it in your relationships?
6. What does sincere repentance look like for you without slipping into shame or self-condemnation (2 Corinthians 7:10)?
7. Are there moments when spiritual language has become a shield rather than a pathway to accountability?
8. How might God be inviting you to model growth, humility, and reconciliation through an apology today?
9. What relationship could experience healing if you took the next faithful step toward confession or forgiveness?



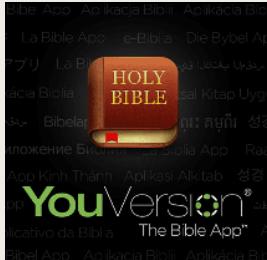
*Note: ChatGPT was used to sharpen the structure and flow of my thoughts, edit for grammar, and develop reflection questions.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

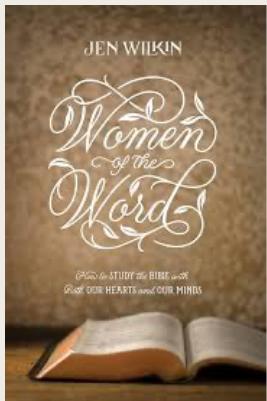
Philippians 2:5–8 NKJV

What are you reading in 2026?

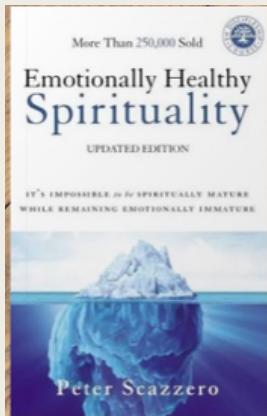
Here are some suggestions:



Feed your soul daily with the Word. I have read the entire Bible every year for at least the past 15 years. I use the Bible App to help keep me accountable—let's face it, our busy schedules can throw us off track. There are many versions and types of reading plans on the Bible App. You can use the reading plans during your quiet time or listen on your phone when you are in your car, walking, etc. Check it out and start today.



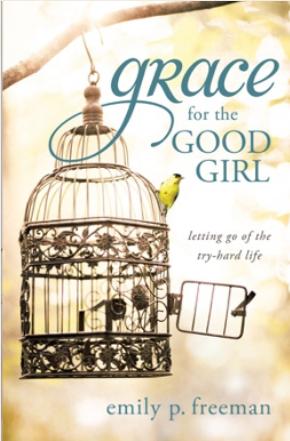
Women of the Word are students of Scripture: they read with intention, interpret with sound methods, and live out God's truth with courage. Jen Wilkin's book is an accessible yet deep exploration of how women — including ministry leaders — can read and study the Bible well. She pushes beyond Scripture familiarity or devotional habits to help readers engage the Bible with clarity, context, and confidence. For pastor's wives who shepherd hearts both at home and in community, this book equips you to draw nourishment and wisdom directly from Scripture, and to guide others toward solid biblical interpretation.



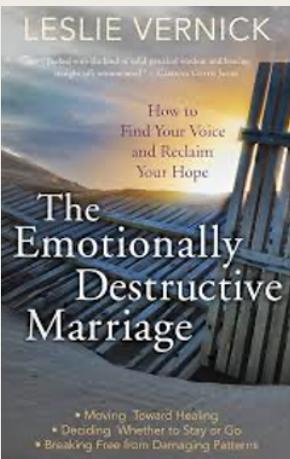
Spiritual maturity is not just what we **do** for God — it's who we are **in** God, including emotional awareness, humility, and integrated discipleship. In this book, Pete Scazzero invites us to connect emotional maturity with spiritual formation. Scazzero argues that many Christians pursue religious activity without addressing the inner life — the emotions, wounds, and soul patterns that shape how we respond to God and others. For pastor's wives, who often lead spiritually while carrying relational weight, this book offers a restorative framework: grow in awareness of your inner world, slow down long enough to hear God's voice, and practice soul care that strengthens your ministry presence. It helps transform busy service into authentic, Christ-centered living.

What are you reading in 2026?

Here are some suggestions (Cont'd):



Your identity as a follower of Jesus is not about being good enough — it's about being **held by grace**, valued by God, and invited into rest. Emily Freeman speaks directly to women who carry a “good girl” heart — the part of us that wants to please, achieve, and earn approval. Many pastor’s wives know this inner posture well: we want to be faithful, loving, hospitable, supportive, and “good” in every way. Freeman gently dismantles performance-based spirituality and points readers to the grace of God as the ground of identity and freedom. This book is freeing, prophetic, and deeply personal — reminding you that God’s love isn’t based on your performance or perfection.



Marriage can be a place of deep discipleship, but also deep hurt. Healing begins with truth, healthy boundaries, and God-centered transformation. Leslie Vernick helps us identify destructive patterns in marriage — including control, manipulation, emotional abuse, and chronic conflict — and provides guidance for healing, boundaries, and wise engagement. In our ministry marriage (or walking alongside other couples), this book clarifies how relational patterns impact spiritual life, personal well-being, and family health. It offers biblical insight coupled with practical wisdom for addressing deep emotional wounds with courage, compassion, and God’s truth.

Grace for the Good Girl: A Devotional Journey for Pastors' Wives

This devotional is designed as a gentle, grace-centered journey through Grace for the Good Girl by Emily P. Freeman. It invites pastors' wives to move from performance → rest, from striving → embracing being beloved of God, and from fear → freedom.

Each week includes Scripture for meditation, reflection questions, prayer, and a simple practice.

Week 1 - Naming the "Good Girl" Story

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-6; Galatians 1:10

Reflect:

What stories have shaped your desire to be good?
Where do you seek approval more than faithfulness?

Pray:

Lord, help me tell the truth about the stories I live by.

Practice:

Journal one sentence beginning with "I feel pressure to be good when..."



Week 2 - When Goodness Becomes a Burden

Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30; Isaiah 30:15

Reflect:

Where do I feel weary from trying to measure up?
What expectations has God not asked me to carry?

Pray:

Jesus, You see the weight I carry. Teach me rest.

Practice:

Release one unnecessary expectation this week.

Week 3 - Grace Interrupts Performance

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1-2

Reflect:

What makes grace hard for me to receive?
How do I subtly try to earn God's approval?

Pray:

Father, help me receive what I cannot earn.

Practice:

Sit in silence for five minutes, repeating: "I am loved apart from performance."



Week 4 - God's Invitation to Rest

Scripture: Psalm 46:10; John 15:4-5

Reflect:

What would rest look like if I trusted God with outcomes?
Where am I gripping control out of fear?

Pray:

God, I loosen my grip and trust You.

Practice:

Choose one area to intentionally not over-manage this week.



Grace for the Good Girl: A Devotional Journey for Pastors' Wives

Week 5 - Living Loved, Not Proving Worth

Scripture: Romans 8:1; 1 John 3:1

Reflect:

Who am I apart from my role or responsibilities?
How does being loved by God reshape my leadership?

Pray:

Lord, anchor my identity in Your love.

Practice:

Write a statement beginning with "I am God's beloved, even when..."



Week 6 - Grace in Leadership and Ministry

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9; Colossians 3:12-15

Reflect:

How does grace change the way I lead and serve?
What do others learn about God by watching my responses?

Pray:

Jesus, help me lead from love, not fear.

Practice:

Speak honestly or apologize where you might normally stay silent.

Week 7 - Freedom to Be Human

Scripture: Psalm 103:13-14; 2 Corinthians 4:7

Reflect:

Where do I hide my humanity?
How does God meet me in weakness?

Pray:

God, thank You for meeting me in my humanity.

Practice:

Share one honest struggle with a trusted friend or mentor.



Week 8 - Living Grace Forward

Scripture: Philippians 1:6; Titus 2:11-12

Reflect:

How has my understanding of grace changed?
What healing or growth is still unfolding?

Pray:

Lord, help me live from grace daily.

Practice:

Choose a word for the next season (Rest, Freedom, Trust, Beloved).



February

Birthday Blessings

February 1	Gwen Tucker
February 6	Kay Osban
	Lori Maynard
February 11	Barbara Gamble
February 22	Rhonda Hutchinson
February 23	Linda Lightbourn
February 25	Philis Vazquez

Birthday Prayer for a Pastor's Wife

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of my sisters' lives and the grace You have placed upon their calling. As they celebrate another year, renew their strength and fill them with Your peace and joy. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you" (Numbers 6:24–26).

Bless the work of their hands, the thoughts of their mind, and the desires of their heart as they align with Your will. May they continue to grow in love, faith, and service, and may their life be a testimony of Your goodness.

Cover them with wisdom, protect their heart, and reward their faithfulness—seen and unseen. May they continue to be "clothed with strength and dignity" and face the days ahead with confidence in You (Proverbs 31:25). Bless their coming and going, and let this new year overflow with Your favor and rest.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Let's Meet for Lunch



Are you attending Uplift 2026?

Join us for a pre-conference Pastor's Wives lunch gathering on Friday, February 20th @ 11:30 a.m. at a restaurant (TBD) near the hotel. More details to follow.

RSVP here: [Pastor's Wives Pre-Conference Lunch Gathering](#)

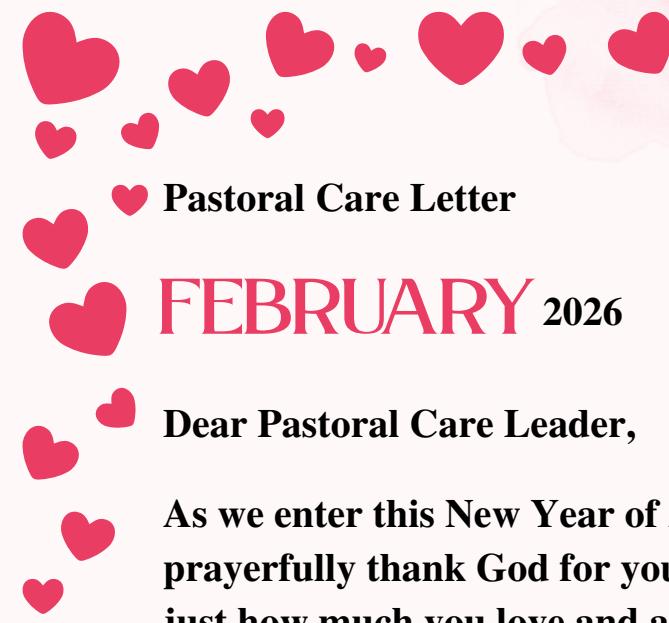
This event is open to all Pastor's Wives whether you are attending Uplift or not.



ROOTED &
RADIANT

UPLIFT
CONFERENCE

20
26



♥ Pastoral Care Letter

FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Pastoral Care Leader,

As we enter this New Year of 2026, I want to encourage each of you to prayerfully thank God for your pastor and be diligent in showing them just how much you love and appreciate them.

As you know, this is the month that we typically celebrate as the **Love Month** and what an opportunity to be a blessing to them in various ways.

I am giving you some ideas that I hope will be helpful to you, but you may implement other ideas as well.

Valentine Cake and Ice Cream after church

Valentine Date Night for pastor and companion (Gift Card included)

Love Baskets filled with items (Candy, Cookies, Cologne, Perfume, Gift Cards, Tools, ETC.

Remember, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to encourage everyone to do something special for them during this month and above all pray for them as we are told in the Bible in 1Corinthians 13:13 “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity, (LOVE).

May you have a wonderful Valentine's Day and thank you so much for all you are doing for your pastor!

In His Love,



**Frankie S. Dotson
State Pastoral Care Director**



HOME MISSION DOLLAR DAYS



FEBRUARY DRIVE

This month we will be receiving special offerings to aid District churches that are in need.

Please encourage each church in your District to participate. 100% of your donations will go to help your District Churches, so every dollar helps!

Funds will be kept and used within your District only.



Email

fdotson@nacogop.org



Contact Us

352.323.1321

PKs for PKs

February Devotional

HEBREWS 4:10 NLT

**FOR ALL WHO HAVE ENTERED INTO GOD'S REST
HAVE RESTED FROM THEIR LABORS, JUST AS GOD
DID AFTER CREATING THE WORLD.**



Have you ever felt burned out? In a world that tells us we can work our way out of our problems and into success, it can be confusing to know what holy work and holy rest look like. When we serve in the church, we know firsthand the immense needs of our local congregation.

Service is always good. But, you have to remind yourself that although the church benefits from our service, service is also meant to be a blessing to us. It is not meant to bleed us dry of our time and energy. God gives us opportunities to serve, opportunities to show Christ's love to those around us. This is us being Christlike.

Does God need your work? No. He carries the world on his shoulders! He created everything with just a few words! And just as much as God offers us opportunities to do good work, he also invites us into opportunities for rest and healing. The scripture tells us that when we rest in God's rest, we are following his example from the beginning. Don't you want to follow his example, living the life you were designed to live?



NORTH REGIONAL YOUTH NIGHT!

02/21/26 5PM

@ CONNECT CHURCH

6727 CRILL AVE, PALATKA, FLORIDA 32177

**STUDENT MINISTRIES
CALLING ALL TEENS AGES 11-17**

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND THE PRECIOUS WORD OF GOD!
FUN FOR ALL! GAMES AND FOOD!**

COME AS YOU ARE!!

**ITS GOING TO BE
AMAZING**

26 CHURCHES

**EVANGELIST
COREY TURNER**

QUESTIONS

**CALL
SABRINA SCOVILLE
904-449-0939**

2026 FOREVER YOUNG

BATTER UP!
IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!
GET READY TO RACE TO CAMP SONSHINE
FOR ANOTHER KNOCKOUT YEAR AT
FOREVER YOUNG!



RESERVE YOUR SPOT
BY APPLYING TODAY!

THIS YEAR'S THEME:
"CHAMPIONS"



FRANKIE S. DOTSON
FOREVER YOUNG DIRECTOR

APRIL 23-25, 2026

2026 FOREVER YOUNG

April 23-25, 2026

Application

Camp Sonshine
24165 Dan Brown Hill Road
Brooksville, FL 34602
For Directions: 352.323.1321

Registration: Thursday, April 23, 2026 @3:00PM

Tuition: \$35.00 Per Single Person \$60 Per Married Couple

Deposit: \$5.00 per person must accompany application (non-refundable)

Make all checks payable to: The Church of God of Prophecy

Scan QR Code or Mail Application along with Deposit or Payment in Full to:



Church of God of Prophecy
ATTN: Frankie Dotson
6001 Monarch Blvd
Leesburg, FL 34748

**WHAT TO BRING: BIBLE, LINENS, PILLOW, BLANKET, TOWEL, WASHCLOTH, SOAP, SHAMPOO,
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT (IF YOU PLAY ONE)**

BANQUET THEME: "Champions"

Wear sports-themed apparel representing your favorite team or sport.

Prizes will be awarded for best costume.

————— PLEASE CUT & MAIL BOTTOM PORTION ————

Name _____ (Male) or (Female)

Address _____

Phone # _____

Payment Sent \$ _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED _____

DEPOSIT RECEIVED _____

BALANCE DUE _____

CASH() CHECK OR MONEY ORDER # _____

Florida Church of God of Prophecy 2026 Calendar of Events*

JANUARY

3-23 21-Day Fast
24 Prayer Conference

January - April - District Conventions (See District Convention Schedule for details.)

FEBRUARY

20-22 Sister2Sister Uplift Conference
Home Mission Dollar Days

MARCH

APRIL

23-25 Forever Young

MAY

21-23 Strategic Oversight: Leadership Development for Presbyters, Supervisors, and Interim Pastors

JUNE

5-7 Hot Shot Camp (Ages 4-7)
8-13 Senior Camp (Ages 14-18)
15-20 Intermediate Camp (Ages 11-13)
22-27 Junior Camp (Ages 8-10)
27-30 "I Can" Camp (Ages 5-19)

JULY

15-19 International Assembly

AUGUST

14-16 LEAD Young Adult Retreat (Ages 19-29)
21-22 Men's Conference

SEPTEMBER

10-12 DCPI Training: Healthy Church Dynamics (South Florida)
Home Mission Dollar Days

OCTOBER

4-7 RENEW (State/Regional Bishops Meetings)

NOVEMBER

14-15 Children's/Youth Ministries Training - Camp Sonshine
23-27 State Office Closed

DECEMBER

21- Jan 1 State Office Closed

**Dates are subject to change.*

Florida Church of God of Prophecy

2026 District Convention Schedule

JANUARY

9-10 District #6 - Central Region
28-31 District #2 - South Region

FEBRUARY

1-3 District #9 - North Central Region
4-6 District #1 - South Region
District #12 - Northwest Region
5-7 District #7 - Central Region
6-7 District #13 - Northwest Region
District #8 - Central Region
27-Mar 1 District #3 - South Region

MARCH

11-13 District #5 - South Central Region
14 District #11 - North Region

APRIL

10-12 District #4 - South Central Region