

OneAccord

July 2026



Sharpening Iron
Managing Regret

Foundation Institute Perspectives
And Then It Was Over

2026
GRADUATES

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personal from the president

Graduation 2026 and God's Holy Days

The two months of May and June are known for graduations in the United States. Millions of students graduate, during these two months, from high schools and colleges across the nation. Commencement addresses are given by famous and not-so-famous men and women. Generally, the messages are of hope and look ahead to the future. (And, of course, in our world today, some of them will be political.)

In this issue of *One Accord*, we focus on our high school and college graduates. I remember graduating from both high school and college with a burning desire to get on with life. After high school, I was headed to college. After college, I was headed to Atlanta, Georgia, to begin my ministerial career. In both cases, I had great excitement as I tried to imagine what life would be like in my new surroundings.

One of the most important parts of life is having something to look forward to. Human beings need hope for the future. Looking forward to new opportunities or positive change gives us energy and ignites the enthusiasm that drives us forward. But that feeling should not end with graduation.

I learned early in life that God's holy days contain that same element of looking forward—of anticipating what lies ahead. In fact, the purpose of God's holy days is to reveal God's plan of salvation. This is a truth unknown to the world: that all human beings will be given an opportunity for salvation and eternal life in the Kingdom of God. That is a profound truth, yet it is denied or misunderstood.

The apostle Paul described our hope as Christians in 1 Corinthians 15, often called the Resurrection Chapter. Some were claiming there was no resurrection. Paul explained that without the resurrection, Christian faith would be empty and hopeless. Notice verses 17-19:

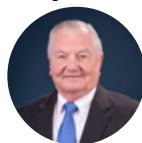
“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life

only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”

Through the annual holy days, God gives us something extraordinary to look forward to—ultimately becoming part of His family in the world tomorrow. We have just finished observing the Day of Pentecost, the third festival of the year. The first three festivals picture events that have been fulfilled, at least in type. Passover commemorates the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins. Unleavened Bread reminds us of the need to remove sin from our lives and replace it with righteousness. Pentecost represents the coming of the Holy Spirit, the beginning of the New Testament Church and the sealing of the firstfruits.

Now we look forward to the final four festivals. Each pictures an event yet to be fulfilled. The Feast of Trumpets pictures the return of Jesus Christ to this earth, the resurrection of the saints who have died and the change to immortality for those still alive. What a day that will be! Trumpets is followed by Atonement, which pictures the putting away of Satan for 1,000 years. Atonement is followed by the Feast of Tabernacles, picturing the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on this earth. And then we have the Eighth Day (the Last Great Day), which pictures the final day of judgment.

Congratulations to all those who have graduated! Your life is just beginning in so many ways. But never forget the spiritual journey we are all on. Let's keep looking forward to the future that we celebrate each year when we gather on God's festivals.



Jim Franks

President

Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION

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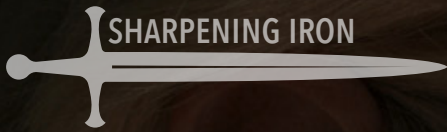
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Managing Regret

Every human being experiences regret at times. The challenge is what to do about it! Here are ways to understand regret and some helpful strategies to manage it.

By Karen Meeker

I know exactly what will happen next. I've experienced it before.

It starts like this. I go to bed at my usual time, around 9 p.m. I relax, close my eyes, breathe deeply, and—nothing happens. I change positions, adjust the covers and try again. I'm still wide awake.

So, if sleeping is not a choice, the next best thing is . . . *thinking*. It's dark. It's quiet. A perfect time for meditation—right? A time to ponder the happenings of the day, the beautiful sunrise, fascinating Bible passages I read that morning, to-do lists, conversations with family, e-mails from friends . . . but no.

It starts with remembering conversations or encounters, sometimes from decades ago. Memories tinged with a familiar nemesis: regret.

Then it progresses to rueful thoughts: I wish I hadn't said *that*. And how could I have said *that?! I didn't mean it that way*. Why did I do *that?! I*

Before long, I'm in full-fledged regret mode, and sleep is just a fantasy.

Nothing new

Recently, I learned that the emotion of regret has been a subject of interest for many social scientists over the past several decades.

At least one website encouraged people to share their regrets anonymously and garnered thousands of responses from around the globe. It was the brainchild of Daniel Pink, best-selling author and lecturer. He wrote his book *The Power of Regret: How Looking Backward Moves Us Forward* based on scores of independent studies and responses from his survey.

I found this book engaging, enlightening and well-documented.

Just what is regret?

First off, Pink establishes that regret is common to everyone except for the very young (he says that the emotion kicks in at about age 7), those with brain damage and sociopaths. Feeling regret, in essence, is part of being human.

He then carefully explores what he sees as four basic types of regret:

- *Foundation* (regretting the failure to be responsible, conscientious or prudent).
- *Boldness* (regretting the chances not taken or missed opportunities).
- *Moral* (regretting poor behavior or compromise of beliefs).
- *Connection* (regretting the neglect of people and relationships).

If only

Regret is often accompanied by a rueful "if only." If only I had not done this or said that, or had tried harder, planned ahead, etc.

The author uses the familiar fable of the carefree grasshopper and the resourceful ant to illustrate two perspectives: overvaluing the now (living for the moment) and undervaluing the later (preparing for the future).

To understand "if only," Bible students need only remember the parable of the 10 virgins and the distress the foolish five experienced (Matthew 25:1-13). "If only" they had prepared, they would have had enough oil to last until the bridegroom arrived.

Strategy #1: Think ahead; do the work; start now to build a stable platform for life. Be the ant and avoid regret.

Going boldly . . . or not

Boldness, by definition, describes a willingness to take a risk or to act innovatively.

The boldness of regret kicks in when we realize that we can't regain a missed opportunity. Often, the slang words *coulda* and *shoulda*, along with "what ifs," impede the possibility of growth.

Jesus used the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-29 to encourage His followers to capitalize on the talents they've been given, with an eye to growth. The unprofitable servant who refused to do so found himself chastened, reduced to nothing, and devoid of further opportunity—a certain recipe for regret!

(For further insights, read “[The Spiritual Tool of Self-Management](#).”)

Strategy #2: Don’t let “what ifs” keep you from “at least I tried.”

Missing the mark

Moral regret is likely the response most familiar to us as Church members because it often involves violations of fairness, kindness, loyalty, authority and purity. It is said to be the most individually painful.

The apostle Paul expressed it this way: “For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do” (Romans 7:15). He later said, “Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me” (verse 20).

Pink says this regret is often liberally peppered with “*if only* I had done the right thing.” On a secular level, such regrets can center around things like not having or finishing a college degree or not taking better care of oneself physically when confronting health issues. For the Christian, however, it is often about missing the mark—sinning—and the need for repentance and change.

(Note: Regret is not the same as repentance, but can lead to repentance. For more information concerning *regret* and *repentance*, see “[No Regrets?](#)”)

Strategy #3: When in doubt, do the right thing.

Correcting the drift

Years ago, my husband and I had some good friends in the area where we then lived. We shared many enjoyable activities with Clint and Meg (names changed).

When we moved several states away, we occasionally exchanged visits. However, with the passage of time and the aging process, our connection was reduced to sporadic phone calls.

One day, that all changed. Clint was diagnosed with an incurable disease that would soon take his life. Our communications took on a somber tone, and too soon, the dreaded call came—Clint was gone.

Because of distance and timing, we couldn’t travel to the funeral, and during the following years, we lost contact with Meg altogether. Attempts to locate her were

futile. No one knew anything about her, where she was, or if she was doing well.

That friendship added significance and satisfaction to our lives, but we let it drift away.

Strategy #4: Do better next time. Do something now.

Transforming regret

The author suggests that a starting point for transforming regret into a positive is to revisit a specific episode. Then take the following steps:

- Undo or amend an offense by acknowledging blameworthiness and regret, followed by an apology. (In Matthew 18, Jesus explores offenses from the viewpoint of the offender and the offended, with the ultimate objective being forgiveness and reconciliation.)
- If an apology will not suffice, the author advises shifting to the mindset of “at least”—finding a future-facing lesson from an occasion for regret. Think about how it could have turned out worse. Learn from it. Then, move forward.

The apostle Paul worked to transform the negative pull of regret into a positive push for change. In Philippians 3:13-14, he wrote: “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Strategy #5: Change what you can. Learn from what you can’t.

Summing it up

There is so much more to learn, but here are some takeaways I’m thankful for learning through this study:

- It helped me identify in clear terms the types and origins of regret.
- It offered suggestions for keeping my nighttime nemesis at bay with hopeful “at leasts” instead of self-condemning “shouldas.”
- It encouraged me to own my offenses and remedy them when possible. ☺

And Then It Was Over

By Paul Hamilton, FI Student

If there was ever a time when the phrase *time flies* truly applied, it would have to be our amazing experience at Foundation Institute. It seems like just yesterday we were gathering for orientation, and now here we are, graduates of the program, reflecting on everything we experienced, especially graduation weekend.

Since the last FI column, our class completed our media projects, which included social media posts for the [FI Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts, our class annual and the student *In Accord*. These projects gave us valuable insight into the work of the Media department and everything involved in producing this kind of content. The social media posts and *In Accord* have already been published, and I hope all of you had an opportunity to see them. Our class annual has been printed and distributed to congregations for viewing, and I hope you have a chance to look through it and appreciate the effort and creativity that went into producing it.

Graduation weekend—May 15-17—was a whirlwind of excitement, joy and a bit of sadness.

Family members began arriving on Wednesday, and on Friday afternoon everyone gathered in the FI break room for fellowship. It gave us the opportunity to connect with the families of our fellow students and provided the perfect opportunity for family members to tour COGWA headquarters, including the studio where *In Accord* and *Life, Hope & Truth Presents* are filmed.

The festivities continued on Sabbath as we attended services in Dallas. Graduating FI student Logan Arner gave the sermonette, and Jim Franks delivered the baccalaureate sermon.

After services, Matthew and Dora Jennings graciously opened their home to all of our families, classmates and many of our instructors for fellowship and a dinner of chicken and steak fajitas. With around 60 people in attendance, the evening was memorable in every way.

Sunday brought our graduation ceremony. Doug Johnson delivered the commencement address, reflecting on our Foundation Institute experience while encouraging us to continue learning and applying what we gained as we move forward. Each student received not only a certificate but also an FI pin and a hand-carved wooden writing pen.

We then watched our class-produced *In Accord* and a slideshow of photos from the previous nine months, put together by Aubrey Kapales. It brought back fond memories of the FI experience for all of us.

Following the slideshow, we gathered outside for our class photo and then enjoyed a buffet lunch together while reflecting on both the day and the entire experience.

After lunch came photos with classmates, family and friends, along with some of the dreaded goodbyes. It's difficult to describe just how emotional those goodbyes were. Spending nine months seeing each other almost every day, we had become close. Thankfully, the goodbyes happened gradually since some students stayed in the area for another week or more before leaving.

Tiffany and I have decided to remain in the area, and Logan Arner lives here as well. It has been great continuing to see Logan at Sabbath services in Dallas. Still, I think all three of us would agree that it feels strange not seeing our other classmates.

Fortunately, we already know we will have opportunities to reconnect—at camp, the Young Adult Leadership Weekend, the Feast and the Winter Family Weekend.

Our class may have had the widest age range of any FI class—from 18 to 86 years young—and it serves as a reminder that Foundation Institute truly is for anyone and everyone!

While the primary focus of FI is building biblical knowledge—and we left with an abundance of it—we shared experiences outside the classroom and built friendships that will last a lifetime. ☺☺



NEWS OF THE WORK

Education Center Building Update



Framing continues, with workers adding steel studs to the exterior walls of our building. Delays due to stormy weather have slowed things down a bit, but our builder still projects finishing construction in October.

Jim Franks

Ministerial Services



Pastoral Development Program 2026

On June 7 the third (and final) session of this year's Pastoral Development Program (PDP) concluded. The four-day continuing education program was attended by all of the U.S. and Latin American field ministry with their wives—a total of 116 over the three sessions.

Here is just a sample of the 15 different classes conducted:

- “Sound Doctrine: Preserving the Truth.”

- “Preaching the Gospel.”
- “AI in Ministry: Tool, Temptation or Both?”
- “What Makes People Start—and Stop—Listening?”
- “Cyclical Heresies.”
- “Developing Future Leaders for God's Work.”
- “The Heart of a Pastor.”

Ministerial Services provides ongoing training for ministers employed by the Church using other means, such as video classes and live webcasts. However, the in-person nature of these PDP sessions provides opportunities for face-to-face dialogue and the development of friendships. The fellowship that pastors and their wives have over the four days is encouraging and beneficial in ways that go far beyond what online classes can offer.

The PDP is held every other year, in years when the International Ministerial Conference is not held.

Stats & Facts About FI Online

Foundation Institute first began posting weekly online classes in November of 2012, with the Gospels class taught by Richard Thompson. Now, almost 14 years later, the courses posted cover almost two-thirds of the Bible.

- 17 Old Testament books
- 24 New Testament books
- 2 Other (Fundamental Beliefs and Modern Church History)

The material in each of these classes is detailed—going through books of the Bible verse by verse. But finding where a particular verse is talked about in a video is not fast or easy. To solve the problem for herself, Sonja Hawkins, wife of Peter Hawkins, our retired pastor in the U.K., recalls, “I began typing out what the presenter was saying in the classes in a form of a transcript.”

In late 2017, Mrs. Hawkins shared one of her transcripts with Clyde Kilough, and not long after, began producing word-for-word transcripts to be posted online with each new class.

The process starts with a preliminary video and YouTube-type closed-caption script. Mrs. Hawkins listens to the class and makes any needed corrections and then formats it and adds images of the presenter's slides, maps and other illustrations. Lisa Brown, a member in Italy, then reviews the document before it's posted. Other volunteers have also helped over the years, including Mr. Hawkins.

Thanks to these volunteers we now have transcripts for all of the classes posted since FI Online first began!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

CLASS OF

2026

ELISE BAKER

Parents' names:

Joshua and Jamie Baker

Congregation:

Morgantown, West Virginia

School accomplishments:

Elise has been homeschooled her entire academic career. She has studied herbal medicine and completed an herbal remedies course.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Elise loves reading, shopping, traveling, horseback riding and gardening. She has been part of the CYC program as both a camper and staff. She also enjoys car shows and watching car and motorcycle races.

Plans after graduation:

Elise plans to become a vet tech and attend Foundation Institute. She would like to own a large farm and run an equine rescue and, most importantly, one day become a wife and mother.

PETER BRASWELL

Parents' names:

Kevin and Rebeca Braswell

Congregation:

Stockton, California

School accomplishments:

Peter's multiple years of theater included

several leading roles. He completed multiple AP classes and dual-enrollment classes at Delta College.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Peter's hobbies include video gaming and computer building. He has participated and volunteered at multiple COGWA Youth Camps through the years, and recently gave a sermonette on a congregational youth day. He has also had two jobs for the last year and a half.

Plans after graduation:

Peter plans to attend Delta College for a couple of years then transfer to UC Berkeley to study engineering.

OLIVIA BROWN

Parent's name:

Cammy Brown

Congregation:

Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio

School accomplishments:

Homeschooled, Olivia graduated with a 4.4 GPA and two years of college coursework through Ohio's dual-enrollment program.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Olivia played volleyball for six years, serving as team captain her junior and senior years, and was active in basketball. She has participated in the

regional teen speech club for six years, currently as vice president. She enjoys choir, service projects and Heritage, Long and Arrowhead summer camps.

Plans after graduation:

Olivia plans to study wildlife biology and marine conservation sciences at Malone University this fall.

HADLEY ELISE CARLISLE

Parents' names:

Shawnae and Greg Carlisle

Congregation:

Youngstown, Ohio

School accomplishments:

Hadley graduated with honors and a 4.0 GPA, in the top 10 percent of her class. She played softball and tennis and was twice tennis player of the year for the Eastern Buckeye Conference. She served as secretary for National Honor Society, freshman representative of Key Club and vice president of Club America. She is halfway through an associate's degree to become a pilot.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Hadley enjoys reading, music, playing piano, church choir, teen camps and teen prom.

Plans after graduation:

Hadley will finish her

associate's degree and then a bachelor's for aviation management through Southern Illinois University.

MICHAEL COLUMBO

Parents' names:

John and Amber Columbo

Congregation:

Quakertown, Pennsylvania

School accomplishments:

Michael has taken part in studies both at home and in the public school setting, making honor roll year after year.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

His primary interests are in diversity of music and how it is made. He also works the sound table weekly at church.

Plans after graduation:

Michael plans to attend FI following graduation this year and then hopes to pursue a career in sound engineering.

MADelynNE PIPER DAME

Parent's and grandparents' names:

Morganne Dame Smith and Shane and Rhonda Pattillo

Congregation:

Sedgwick, Arkansas

School accomplishments:

Piper was very active

in her high school, in many areas. Among her accomplishments are honor graduate, National Honor Society, senior class secretary, Student Council, 2026 basketball homecoming maid, Art Club, Key Club, Future Business Leaders of America, cheerleader, softball, track and dance team.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Among Piper's many interests are drawing, singing, church summer camp, taking cruises and swimming.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, Piper plans to attend college with an interest in pursuing veterinary medicine.

IZZY DOZIER

Parents' names: Josh and Brittnei Dozier

Congregation:

Joplin, Missouri

School accomplishments:

Izzy was salutatorian; a National STEM Scholar; a member of the National Honor Society, Interact Club, Mu Alpha Theta and Character Counts; and a four-year honor roll recipient. She was a four-year member of marching, concert and jazz bands—an all-district percussionist receiving multiple superior ratings in solo and ensemble contests.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Izzy serves in her local church and has enjoyed camp, the Dallas prom and (most recently) the Challenger Program.

Plans after graduation: Izzy will attend the University of Oklahoma, majoring in human biology with plans to enter the medical field.

ELI JOHN DUTSCH

Parents' names:

Paul and Amy Dutsch

Congregation:

New Orleans, Louisiana

School accomplishments:

Eli graduated from Northshore High School on May 19, 2026.

Activities/hobbies/interests: In his spare time, Eli loves watching sports, especially football and his favorite team, the Dallas Cowboys.

Plans after graduation:

Eli plans to attend Southeastern Louisiana University to study accounting.

ANDREW EDINBOROUGH

Parents' names:

Andy and Alisha Edinborough

Congregation:

Columbia, South Carolina

School accomplishments:

Andrew was in the 95th percentile in math and completed programming and entrepreneurship classes.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Andrew enjoys programming, engineering and writing.

Plans after graduation:

Andrew plans to get a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, going to York Technical College in Rock Hill, South

Carolina, for his first two years and then transferring to the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. He hopes to be able to start his own company someday.

ALEAH FAITH FITTS

Parents' names:

Lee and Lisa Fitts

Congregation:

Nashville, Tennessee

School accomplishments:

Aleah will be graduating from Family Christian Academy. She has been a hybrid homeschool and tutorial school student for all of her school years. She appeared on the honor roll throughout high school and received many character awards from her teachers for exhibiting kindness, respect and positive leadership.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Aleah loves to serve at preteen camp and has volunteered in different roles.

Plans after graduation:

Aleah's future plans are yet to be determined, but she is considering a career in early childhood development.

JESSICA FRANK

Parents' names:

Bruce and Barbara Frank

Congregation:

West Palm Beach, Florida

School accomplishments:

Jessica graduated from Foundations Academy.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Jessica spent 10 years as a

competitive gymnast and has spent the past four years coaching gymnastics. Camp has always been a favorite part of every summer. She has attended numerous camps, as camper and staff. She has helped teach art classes and Sabbath school at Winter Family Weekend. Jessica loves spending time with friends, riding roller coasters, traveling, hiking, drawing and creating digital art.

Plans after graduation:

Jessica plans to attend Southeastern College and get a degree in sonography.

ABIGAIL RENEE GOETHALS

Parents' names:

Bryan and Amanda Goethals

Congregation:

Mena, Arkansas

School accomplishments:

Abby graduated a year early with high honors.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Abby enjoys sports, gardening and drawing. She serves on the sound crew at her local church, as well as assisting in the kitchen when needed.

Plans after graduation:

Abby plans to attend cosmetology school in the fall.

CONNOR SCOTT GREER

Parents' names:

Scott and Heidi Greer

Congregation:

Fort Myers, Florida

School accomplishments:

Connor graduated from Bishop Verot High School.

Connor lettered in swimming, weight lifting and lacrosse, receiving the Non-Excidet Award his senior year.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Connor graduated from Cotillion, serving on the Cotillion Leadership Team and as host and dance captain for the Cotillion masquerade ball, and earned 195 service hours. Connor attended numerous camps and loved serving as assistant counselor at preteen camp. He enjoys weight lifting, music, playing guitar, Star Wars, fishing and spending time with friends.

Plans after graduation:

Connor plans to attend the University of Central Florida to major in finance.

EMELINE HALSTED

Parents' names:

Bill and Sandy Halsted

Congregation:

Redding, California

School accomplishments:

Emeline graduated high school a year early with honors and a year of college completed. She plays guitar, piano and the pedal harp. She served in multiple roles in 4-H and led projects and outreach events.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Emeline plays special music at church and the Feast. She is an avid reader, writer and artist. She manages her own poultry flock, horses and works with livestock on her family's farm. She also enjoys shooting her rifle, playing chess and card games.

Plans after graduation:

Emeline plans to get a double major in English and art.

AUDREY HEGVOLD

Parents' names:

Brian and Mary Ann Hegvold

Congregation:

Houston North, Texas

School accomplishments:

Audrey graduated cum laude from Grand Oaks High School.

She was a member of National Honor Society, served her community through National Charity League for six years, and completed her professional-level American Ballet Theatre dance certification.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Audrey enjoys playing flute to accompany church hymns and serving at preteen camp on the archery staff. She also loves travel and speaks German.

Plans after graduation:

Audrey plans to study architecture at the University of Texas at Arlington and hopes to study abroad to learn about architecture around the world.

COLE HENKE

Parents' names:

Philip and Karen Henke

Congregation:

Rolla, Missouri

School accomplishments:

Cole participated in chamber choir, treble and bass choir, choir, track and field (throwing events,

particularly shot put). He received OSHA certification in woodworking from Rolla Technical Institute.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Cole enjoys reading and creative writing. He also enjoys spending time with friends.

Plans after graduation:

After high school, Cole intends to enter the workforce.

AARON LAMAGNA

Parents' names:

Amanda and Jerry LaMagna

Congregation:

Orlando, Florida

School accomplishments:

Aaron graduating from high school with high honors.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Aaron enjoys guitar and weight lifting and assisting with running audiovisual at church services. He has attended COGWA Youth Camps every year since he was 6 and served at the preteen camp.

Plans after graduation:

Aaron plans to work on bodybuilding and attend Lake-Sumter State College to study business.

EMMA LINDENBERG

Parents' names:

Michael and Heather Lindenberg

Congregation:

Stockton, California

School accomplishments:

Emma is graduating with honors from Sonora High School as a member of the class of 2026. During high school, she was dual-

enrolled in both high school and community college courses and recently earned her CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) certification.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Emma enjoys hiking, reading, spending time with family and serving wherever needed at church services.

Plans after graduation:

Following graduation, Emma plans to work part-time in the nursing field while pursuing her nursing degree.

WALKER LYNCH

Parents' names:

Blake and Candy Lynch

Congregation:

Houston North, Texas

School accomplishments:

Walker achieved certifications in business management and business networking, as well as completing two dual-credit courses in algebra and business calculus.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Walker's hobbies include currency collection (he has over 1,000 bills and coins from countries all over the world) and playing Nintendo with his cousins and friends.

Plans after graduation:

Walker will attend Sam Houston State University in the fall, majoring in accounting. He plans to have a career as a CPA.

MADISON GRACE MENDEZ

Parents' names:

Arnold and Leigha Mendez



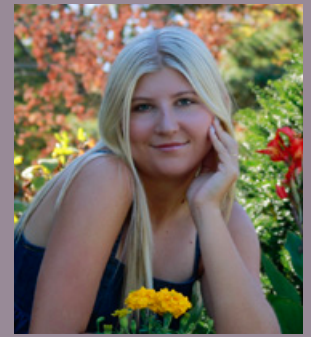
Elise Baker



Peter Braswell



Olivia Brown



Hadley Elise Carlisle



Michael Columbo



Madelynne Piper Dame



Izzy Dozier



Eli John Dutsch



Andrew Edinborough



Aleah Faith Fitts



Jessica Frank



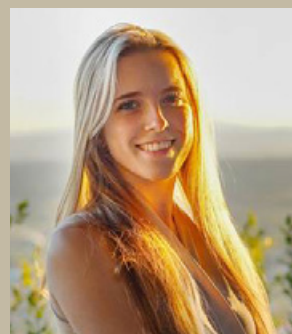
Abigail Renee Goethals



Connor Scott Greer



Emeline Halsted



Audrey Hegvold



Cole Henke



Aaron LaMagna



Emma Lindenberg



Walker Lynch



Madison Grace Mendez



Brooke Siena Metzger



Cora Elsie Marie Moore



Midian Ramsey



Titus Rocheleau



Andon Smith



Justin Delaine Smith



Sydney Smith



Pressley Wall



Bennett Watts



Avery Faith Wegman

**CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!**

Congregation:

Houston North, Texas

School accomplishments:

Madison started three years for the Crusaders volleyball team as a libero. She played club volleyball for the Northwest Montana Volleyball Club.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Madison enjoys pottery, guitar, piano and performing live music. An adventure enthusiast, she loves skiing, camping, anything water- and outdoor-related, experiencing new cultures, travel and matcha!

Plans after graduation:

Madison plans to work till the end of the year and then travel through Europe for three months. When she returns, she will work as a cosmetologist and return to local music in Montana.

BROOKE SIENA METZGER**Parents' names:**

Eric and Rachelle Metzger

Congregation:

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio

School accomplishments:

Brooke played JV and varsity tennis for three years. She has taken college classes and earned awards and scholarships.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Brooke enjoys soccer, volleyball and pickleball. She plays piano, sings in the church choir, draws and reads. She has attended camp as camper and staff and participated in local teen service activities and in the regional teen speech club, serving as secretary her final year.

Plans after graduation:

This fall Brooke will pursue an AAS in biotechnology, after which she plans to earn a bachelor's in biological science at Wright State University. She plans a career as a forensic DNA analyst.

CORA ELSIE MARIE MOORE**Parents' names:**

Geoff and Alaina Moore

Congregation:

Evansville, Indiana

School accomplishments:

Cora graduated from the Indiana Connections Academy.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Cora has a broad array of interests, including crafting and creating all types of art, gardening, sewing, listening to music, studying anything science and old cars.

Plans after graduation:

Cora's current plans are to study interior design at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, this fall.

MIDIAN RAMSEY**Parents' names:**

Joby and Amy Ramsey

Congregation:

Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio

School accomplishments:

Midian served as co-vice president at the Mid-East CTC SkillsUSA, was a regional officer for Southeast SkillsUSA, and took first in prepared speech at regionals. He earned certification as a Microsoft 365 specialist:

associate for computer networking/electronic technology.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Midian enjoys repair/engineering of electronics and hiking in the mountains. He was active in the regional teen speech club, serving as president.

Plans after graduation:

Midian intends to major in electrical/electronic engineering technology at Zane State College.

TITUS ROCHELEAU**Parents' names:**

Thomas and Kristie

Rocheleau

Congregation:

Austin, Texas

School accomplishments:

Titus graduated with honors from Stony Point High School.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Titus enjoys outdoors sports, including hiking, climbing, exploring and creating video/photographic content. Titus serves his congregation and participates in youth camps and teen activities.

Plans after graduation:

Titus has embraced dual credit courses in preparation for obtaining his business degree from Texas State University—a degree he hopes will lead to a career in sports management, with the aspiration of employment with the Arizona Cardinals. This builds on his five years of playing middle school and high school football.

ANDON SMITH**Parents' names:**

Chris and Autumn Smith

Congregation:

Cleveland, Ohio

School accomplishments:

Andon was homeschooled and showed dedication and perseverance especially in his science classes, earning an A every year.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Andon helps with local hall setup, attends COGWA teen camps and volunteers at preteen camps. He also attends and plays basketball at Winter Family Weekend. Andon's hobbies include fishing, kayaking, basketball, camping, vintage cars, Legos, movies, music and hanging out with friends.

Plans after graduation:

Andon will be working with the Medina County Parks Department this summer and plans to obtain certification in boating safety and pursue a career in fisheries management.

JUSTIN DELAINE SMITH**Parents' names:**

Charles and Tammie Smith

Congregation:

Houston North, Texas

School accomplishments:

Justin played trombone and bass trombone for seven years. In addition, he built several pieces of furniture in manufacturing classes.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Justin's church activities include music ensemble, basketball, teen speech club, teen camp and various service projects, including staffing at preteen camp.

His hobbies include repairing small engines, go-karting, snow skiing and hanging out with friends.

Justin is self-taught in mechanics and is restoring a 1979 Pontiac Trans Am.

Plans after graduation: Justin has applied for a four-year apprenticeship with the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) to become an elevator mechanic.

SYDNEY SMITH

Parents' names: Scott and Beverly Smith

Congregation: Orlando, Florida

School accomplishments: Sydney cheered for both varsity sideline and competitive cheer teams and became captain of both teams her senior year. She was a member of the yearbook staff for four years and served as editor in chief. She was awarded the John Moran award, given to only two seniors each year.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Sydney will continue to

work with her sideline cheerleading team, for the 2026-27 school year. She enjoys reading and amateur photography.

Plans after graduation: Sydney will attend the University of Central Florida to pursue a career as an advanced registered nurse practitioner, specializing in pediatric endocrinology.

PRESSLEY WALL

Parents' names: Gary and Amanda Wall

Congregation: Birmingham, Alabama

School accomplishments: Pressley graduated as salutatorian of Hokes Bluff High School. She served as president of Key Club and received the award for the highest GPA (4.5) of her school's female athletes.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Pressley participated in cross-country, basketball and softball. She has attended COGWA camps since age 7.

Plans after graduation: Pressley has received a full scholarship to attend Jacksonville State University and plans to major in accounting.

BENNETT WATTS

Parents' names: Michael and Ceci Watts

Congregation: Harlingen, Texas

School accomplishments: Bennett started a cookie business during his sophomore year and sold over \$12,000 worth of cookies in three years. He also passed both Texas Success Initiative tests (English and math) on his first attempt and achieved near-perfect attendance throughout high school.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Bennett helps with opening and closing prayers, song leading, and setup at his small congregation. His hobbies include studying history and geography.

Plans after graduation: Bennett plans on pursuing

a degree in financial planning at Texas A&M University.

AVERY FAITH WEGMAN

Grandparents' names: Ken and Lesa Zenauskas

Congregation: Lexington, South Carolina
School accomplishments: Avery was homeschooled and exceeded her goals for high school, excelling in history and science.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Avery has a passion for anything outdoors. She's up for a challenge, so she loves rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, camping and swimming. She's interested in traveling the globe, cooking and eating! Avery has volunteered with various service projects.

She has enjoyed church camps as a camper and as staff. Challenger Program this year was a highlight!

Plans after graduation: Avery is looking forward to her future—spiritually and professionally—with joy and enthusiasm!

COLLEGE GRADUATES

2026

ELIJAH BASANT

Elijah graduated in December 2025 with a bachelor of science degree in information technology, first-class honors, from the University of Bedfordshire, and currently works as a full-stack developer. He is the son of Steve and Marsha Basant, of the Trinidad and Tobago congregation. We are thankful for God's continued blessings and look forward to Elijah's continued success!

PAUL JOSHUA A. BAYLON

Paul is the son of Sonny and Sarah Baylon and attends the Davao City congregation in the Philippines. Paul earned a bachelor's degree in technical-vocational teacher education from the University of Southeastern Philippines, Obrero campus.

Paul participated in choir and COGWA Youth Camps and served as photographer and on the technical crew in the Mindanao congregation. Paul plans to review and take the licensure examination for professional teachers in September. After the

exam, he plans to expand his skills in the automotive field by qualifying for a national certificate in automotive servicing.

JAMISON WESLEY BAZELL

Jamison attends the Newark, Ohio, congregation. He graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor's in psychology and a professional deaf liaison certificate, obtaining both with highest honors. Outside of church, he enjoys writing, woodworking and hiking. Currently, he is mastering his craft in woodworking and improving his writing skills.

STERLING JAMES BURKETT

On May 9, Sterling James Burkett graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Throughout his college journey, Sterling gained valuable experience by working with Mercedes and has now accepted an exciting opportunity to advance his career with Mercedes Benz of Plano, Texas. Sterling is the son of Lisa and JR Robles, attending the Dallas, Texas, congregation.

EMILY DICK

Emily Dick, daughter of Philip and Jennifer Dick of the Dallas, Texas, congregation, graduated with high honors from East Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science in kinesiology. She was a member of the honors college and worked in the human performance lab during her internship, conducting research with the rock climbing team. She also worked in campus recreation for four years and revived the climbing club, serving in both president and vice president roles. Following graduation, she will stay at East Texas A&M to pursue a master's degree in nutrition while working as a graduate assistant for campus recreation.

JOSHUA GOMEZ

On May 3, Joshua Gomez, of Dallas, Texas, graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a bachelor of business administration in management and a minor in accounting. During his time at UTA, he was a proud R.I.S.E. Academy

Scholar, where he built his network, gained valuable mentorship and had the opportunity to study abroad in Spain.

Josh is seeking a career in finance and accounting. He is currently working toward passing the Securities Industry Essentials Exam and making use of UTA alumni resources to continue developing the skills and knowledge that will support his career goals.

CHLOE HOGBERG

Chloe Hogberg graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science in nursing from Texas Woman's University in December 2025. Throughout her time in nursing school, Chloe served as a certified peer educator, mentoring other students, and was also the president of her school's pediatric and women's health student organization. As president, Chloe coordinated dozens of events and volunteer activities for more than 200 students. While obtaining her education, Chloe held multiple jobs, including nurse extern at Children's Health. Following

graduation, Chloe was excited to begin her position in the pediatric trauma and neurosurgical ICU at Children's Medical Center Dallas.

ISAAC LEYDEN

On May 3 Isaac Leyden graduated from Kalamazoo Valley Community College with an associate of liberal arts degree. Isaac participated in KVCC's early/middle college program, which allows high school students to take college courses throughout high school, graduating with an associate's degree one year after high school graduation. Isaac balanced a busy schedule of college classes, working part time, serving in the West Michigan congregation, and pursuing his interests in music, composition, art and outdoor activities. Isaac will attend Foundation Institute this fall. Afterward he plans to attend trade school.

CALEB MARTIN

Caleb Martin, of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregation, graduated on May 9. Caleb earned his bachelor of science in business administration with a concentration in finance from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. He participated in the Investment Club and served as its president for his final three semesters.

During that time, Caleb helped students grow in their financial literacy and was awarded the 2025 Student Leadership Award from the School of Business. Caleb has moved into the financial services industry and is working toward becoming a certified financial planner.

ABIGAIL MESSERLY

Abigail is the daughter of Chad and Jennifer Messerly and attends the Akron-Canton, Ohio, congregation. Abigail finished her high school requirements at the age of 15. The past two years she has been able to attend Stark State College, where she completed her certificate of graphic design. She enjoys all things art. She also enjoys playing music, particularly the piano. She now plans to work and save to attend Foundation Institute in the coming years.

KYLE METZGER

Kyle Metzger of the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation graduated on May 2 from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, with a bachelor of science in business, accountancy. He is now working at his first full-time career position as an accountant at a manufacturing company. Kyle plans to take a break from school, and in a year or two, while continuing

to work full-time, pursue a master's in information systems with the goal of designing and customizing accounting systems.

PAULINE CEBRIAN MORAL

Pauline is the daughter of Paul and Merlen Cebrian and attends the Butuan City congregation in the Philippines. Pauline earned a bachelor of science in nursing from Mountain View College, Valencia, Bukidnon, Philippines. Pauline has an inclination for music and served her congregation by performing special music and participating in the church choir. Pauline plans to review for the NCLEX while working and developing her skills in the nursing profession. Pauline is particularly interested in the operating room, psychiatric and emergency fields, while also looking forward to exploring dermatology nursing in the future.

ALTHEA ANN-MARIE SINON

Althea Sinon, daughter of Patrick and Kerrie Sinon, of the New Orleans, Louisiana, and Meridian, Mississippi, congregations, graduated on Dec. 19, 2025, from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a bachelor of science degree in business. Althea will continue her academic journey in August with Arizona State University, where she will begin a

master's degree program in applied behavior analysis.

KATE TROTTER

Kate Trotter, a member of the East Texas congregation, graduated with her doctorate of veterinary medicine from Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences on May 6. She has accepted an associate veterinarian position in Burleson, Texas, at a mixed animal practice. She is excited to officially join an amazing profession caring for all of God's creatures!

HARRISON WADDLE

Harrison graduated from Baylor University in August 2025 with a bachelor's in accounting. During his three years at Baylor, he served in various leadership roles, such as community leader (RA), Honors College freshman mentor, vice president of the Accounting Society and president of Beta Theta Pi. He was a Hankamer Scholar.

Harrison is currently enrolled in an MBA program at the University of Houston and expects to graduate in December. He is studying for the CPA and was recently baptized. He will begin work as an audit and assurance associate at Deloitte this October. He is the son of Bryan and Rhonda Waddle and attends the Houston North, Texas, congregation.

JACKSON WADDLE

Jackson graduated in December 2025 from Baylor University, where he double-majored in business fellows (an

honors program) and management and minored in biochemistry. During his time at Baylor, he held leadership roles, including community leader (RA) and prehealth mentor,

and conducted research in a campus lab where he served as both researcher and supervisor of four to 10 undergraduate researchers.

Jackson is currently working as a home care

provider to gain medical experience while pursuing a career in medicine. He is the son of Bryan and Rhonda Waddle and attends the Houston North, Texas, congregation.



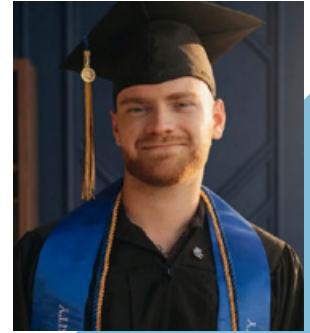
Elijah Basant



Paul Joshua A. Baylon



Jamison Wesley Bazell



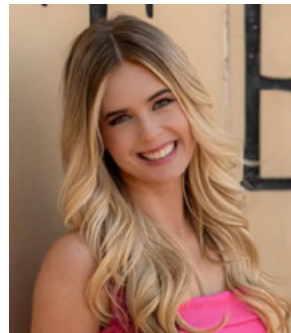
Sterling James Burkett



Emily Dick



Joshua Gomez



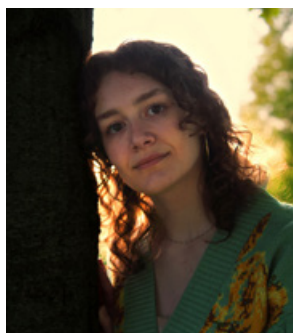
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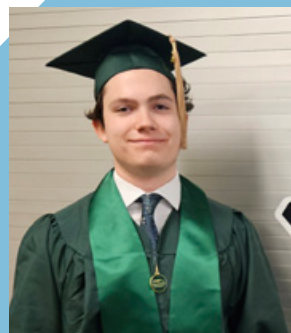
Isaac Leyden



Caleb Martin



Abigail Messerly



Kyle Metzger



Pauline Cebrian Moral



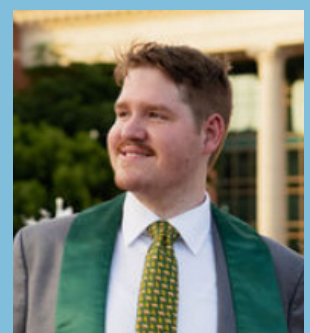
Althea Ann-Marie Sinon



Kate Trotter



Harrison Waddle



Jackson Waddle

Retirement of David and Teddi Treybig



Over 160 people gathered on Sabbath, April 18, to honor David and Teddi Treybig on their retirement after serving in the ministry for more than 50 years—14 in Austin, Texas.

Dave Myers gave the first message with a history of the Treybig's service. Jim Franks joined him on stage to present the Treybig's with a commemorative vase. Then Mr. Franks gave the sermon on New Testament figures and their duties as ministers.

After services, the local congregations presented the Treybig's with gifts: a book of remembrance containing pictures and messages from members, a crystal vase and a beautiful cake.

Ardith Weiss

Kadoma Young People Enjoy Church Outing

On Sunday, June 7, 12 young adults and eight children from the Kadoma, Zimbabwe, congregation spent the day at the Claw Dam.

They enjoyed a number activities, including relay races, tug-of-war, balloon target shooting and boat rides on the dam.

It was a wonderful day of fun and fellowship.

Neville Smith



Van Buren Members Enjoy Picnic

Picnic days at the park are all about mouth-watering burgers, hot dogs, side dishes and desserts—and the Van Buren, Arkansas, congregation enjoyed them all on a beautiful day in May at Lake Fort Smith State Park.

A big plus was the pleasant cool breeze blowing in from the lake, making conditions ideal for fellowship and outdoor games, such as cornhole. Tex Williamson emerged as the new cornhole champ, attaining the much-prized title.

Aurora Gossett



Evansville, Nashville and Louisville Host Farewell to Willoughbys

On April 25, the Evansville, Indiana, and Nashville, Tennessee, congregations bid farewell to Nathan and Amanda Willoughby. The following Sabbath, May 2, the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation followed suit. Each congregation shared food, special music and gifts to honor the Willoughbys in heartfelt ways. Laughter and tears flowed as memories were shared and well wishes given.

After eight years of service, the Willoughbys are transferring to serve congregations in Springfield and Joplin, Missouri, and Harrison, Arkansas. Our prayers go with Nathan and Amanda as they settle into their new responsibilities.

Jason Hyde



East Texas Women Share Stories of Miracles



While men attend their monthly meetings of the Men's Leadership Club, ladies in the East Texas congregation attend their Women's Fellowship evenings.

The evening of April 18 was our last fellowship evening, and we enjoyed a meal of delicious sandwiches and salads while sharing personal experiences of answered prayers and miracles—some occurring since our calling and some occurring as God was calling us.

These stories of God's intervention and/or miracles were inspiring. They brought tears of joy and gratitude and caused us to draw closer together as sisters in God's spiritual family.

Judy McNeely

Ocala Men and Women Enjoy Outings

On Sunday, May 3, the Ocala, Florida, congregation held two separate activities for ladies and men. The ladies enjoyed a painting social, creating their own works of art using the reverse painting technique.

Meanwhile, the gentlemen visited the Don Garlits Drag Racing and Classic Car Museum, exploring its extensive collection of drag racing vehicles and classic automobiles. Afterward, men and women came back together to enjoy fellowship over a shared meal.

Mike Ciampaglia



Southwest Missouri Ladies Attend Seed Festival



On Monday, April 13, a group of ladies from the Springfield and Joplin, Missouri, congregations caravanned together to attend the annual spring Baker Creek Seed Festival in Mansfield, Missouri. The festival highlighted their high-quality flower and vegetable seeds, as well as a smattering of local goods, crafts and foods.

We were able to spend time together eating, strolling, enjoying local folk music and having quality time together. An added treat was being able to watch the local blacksmith in action—he just happens to be a member of the Springfield congregation.

Lyndi Fultz

Bacolod Ladies Get Together

The hectic Mother's Day rush had already subsided, but the warm bond among the mothers and ladies of Bacolod City, Philippines, remained strong. On the beautiful afternoon of May 17, they gathered at Sugaree Cafe and Gelato to relax and enjoy one another's company and fellowship.

The cozy café provided the perfect setting for sharing parenting experiences, exchanging wisdom and enjoying moments of laughter and encouragement. Freed from the usual rush and crowded schedules, the gathering became a meaningful opportunity for quality fellowship and honoring the journey of motherhood and friendship.

Jill Castillon



Fort Worth Campout Attracts Dallas and Tulsa Members

The Fort Worth, Texas, congregation hosted its annual spring campout at Lake Mineral Wells the weekend of April 24-26. Several members from Dallas and Tulsa, Oklahoma, attended as well.

Pastor Ken Giese gave a Bible study on the significance of the number seven to God's people. Teens and preteens had classes designed for them: The younger kids crafted

birdfeeders while learning about God's care, while the older youth had a Bible scavenger hunt and scripture race and played a Bible-themed game. After dinner, campers enjoyed games, fellowship and the night sky.

The adventurers headed home on Sunday after a fun-filled bonding experience.

John Payne





We encourage members to send announcements to be featured in One Accord. We feature events in members' lives, including births, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.), baptisms, ordinations and obituaries. Entries should run between 50-100 words, with obituaries being 100-200 words. Please submit a high-resolution color photo along with the written copy to your congregation's reporter.

Anniversary



Toni and John Flynn

John and Toni Flynn celebrated 50 years of marriage on April 25, 2026. The East Texas congregation honored them on May 9 with a reception after services featuring finger foods and a cake. Each of their three grown children wrote them a tribute, sharing stories and memories about their youth. They included complimentary comments of how their parents' example showed what love, commitment, playfulness, humor, mercy and patience should look like in marriage.

Judy McNeely

Baptism



Olivia Arnold

After services on Sabbath, April 11, 2026, the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation joyfully welcomed Olivia Arnold into God's family through baptism. Members of the congregation and her family were present for the ceremony. Our pastor, Tom Burrows, performed the baptism, assisted by local elder Johnathon Arnold, who is Olivia's father.

Joining them in the laying on of hands were Mike Arnold (an elder

with UCG and Olivia's grandfather) and local elder Van Hanson.

Afterward, everyone returned to the meeting hall to enjoy cake, snacks and fellowship in honor of this special occasion. Welcome to the family, Olivia.

Rob Worsham

Ordinations



Bill Welch

On the first day of Unleavened Bread 2026, the Houston South, Texas, congregation witnessed the ordination of Bill Welch as an elder in the Church of God. As a longtime deacon, Bill has faithfully handled many responsibilities.

He and his wife, Kathy, actively serve the Houston South and Victoria, Texas, congregations with a shared commitment to God and love for the brethren.

The ordination was conducted by pastor, James Ellis, with Frank Pierce assisting in the laying on of hands. Pictured (from left) are Frank and Nelda Pierce, Kathy and Bill Welch, and Scarlet and James Ellis.

James Ellis



Greg Mann



Brian Anderson and Britton A. Taylor

Two men serving in the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation and one in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, congregation were recently ordained deacons by pastor Ken Giese.

Mr. Giese and elders Jim Hudson and Tom May ordained Greg Mann (center in photo) in Tulsa on the last day of Unleavened Bread, April 8, 2026.

On the following Sabbath, April 11, Mr. Giese, elder Dave Johnson and COGWA treasurer Britton M. Taylor ordained Fort Worth members Brian Anderson (far left in photo) and Britton A. Taylor (far right).

All three men have been serving God's people faithfully in various capacities and will take on more responsibilities going forward.

John Payne

Obituaries



Constance "Connie" Muehlman

Connie Muehlman, a longtime and devoted member of the Church of God, died peacefully in her home at the age of 86 on Oct. 4, 2025. Connie attended the Springfield, Missouri, congregation.

Connie was born on March 23, 1939, and lived her entire life in Springfield, Missouri. She worked in banking for over 23 years. A devoted homemaker and a talented seamstress, Connie had a love for crocheting beautiful afghans for family and friends.

Connie also had a passion for square dancing. She and her husband, John, first met while teaching beginner lessons and were paired as dance partners. Connie wanted to know more about keeping the Sabbath and discovered that John was a Sabbath-keeper. It wasn't long before God opened her eyes, and she became a baptized member of the Church, and the two of them married. They shared 25 years together.

Throughout the past decade, as Connie bravely faced Alzheimer's, John cared for her with love and devotion. She is also survived by three children from previous marriages.

Lyndi Fultz



Pamela Carey

Pamela Carey, of Berryville, Virginia, died on April 16, 2026, due to pulmonary hypertension. She was born on Sept. 8, 1954, in Winchester, Virginia, to the late Irma and Charles Carey Sr.

After high school, Pam earned an associate degree at Bauder Fashion College in Florida, before beginning her career at Doubleday and later Montgomery Ward.

Pam was a faithful member of COGWA in Frederick, Maryland. She brought great joy to her Church family and remained devoted to her faith for more than 30 years after her baptism. Pam knew the Bible well and valued fellowship with others. She often called friends and Church members simply to check on them. Children fondly remember her famous chocolate chip cookies.

In addition to her parents, Pam was preceded in death by her brothers Joey and Todd Carey.

She is survived by her siblings Charles Carey Jr. (Kerri), Tedd Carey (Laura) and Paula Yates; and sister-in-law Gloria Carey. She also leaves behind cherished nieces and nephews, as well as a great-niece and great-nephew.

Pam will also be remembered by many aunts, uncles, extended family members, dear friends and her beloved Church family. She now rests in hope, awaiting the resurrection.

Loretta and Rod Williams



Evelyn Beal

Evelyn Jeanne Beal, of Big Sandy, Texas, died at home on April 1, 2026. She was born Dec. 13, 1943, in North Miami Beach, Florida, to Douglas Allred and Glenda Martin. She faithfully served her country in the United States Air Force.

A voracious reader, Mrs. Beal had a deep love for nonfiction and a passion for history. She was well-known for her incredible cooking and baking, especially her mean Thanksgiving dinners that brought family and friends together.

In her quieter moments, she enjoyed working as a seamstress, creating with both skill and care. She also earned recognition as a certified master gardener and took pride in her expertise as an orchid specialist.

Mrs. Beal was a devoted student of the Bible and a dedicated member of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association.

Mrs. Beal is survived by her four children, Teresa Newman and Alan Vollmering, Beau and Juliet Beal, Shannon Faith Flowers and Lindley Ballowe; 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Judy McNeely



Root to Fruit

Growing a Marriage That Thrives

Are you ready to deepen your connection to your mate and invest in the most important relationship in your life (after your relationship with God)?

Join us for an unforgettable **Marriage Enrichment Weekend**—a time designed just for couples to grow and reconnect in a supportive and uplifting environment. Whether you are newly married or have been married for 50 years, this weekend is for you!

What to Expect:

- Inspiring and practical sessions to strengthen your communication skills.
- Useful guidance for how to work through conflict.
- Opportunities to connect with other couples who share a desire to enrich their marriages.

Event Date: Jan. 29-31, 2027

Event Size: 50 couples

When to Apply: Aug. 1-23, 2026



members.cogwa.org/marriage-weekend