

Volume 10 ISSUE 2 - FEBRUARY 2026

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

New Image Ministries

Come & Be **CHANGED**

May we all be changed into His Image by His Spirit that lives within us.

2 Cor. 3:18

239-369-WORD

29 Homestead Rd. S.

HELLO 

  *February*

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.
~ 1 Corinthians 13:13 ~



Devotional by Elder Keith Freeman

The Divine Spark: Fire and Water

Two Realities, One Life

Every week we dive deeper into this year's main topic, The Divine Spark, and Pastor Michael added in some Fire and Water with his recent Sunday message like adding ingredients to a favorite meal. Except in this case it is the ingredients to life, life with both our natural and our spiritual sides.

Scripture often speaks in pictures, and two of the most powerful images God uses are water and fire. Water represents our natural life—our humanity, our beginning, our physical existence. Fire represents the Spirit of God—the divine life, our true beginning with creation, the breath of heaven, the spark that brings true transformation.

Jesus did not separate these two realities; He brought them together. In John 3:5, He said we must be born of water and Spirit. In Luke 3:16, John the Baptist declared that Jesus would baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire. This is not replacement—it is fulfillment. God does not discard the natural; He fills it.

Water: The Life We Were Given

Water is where life begins. Every one of us entered this world through water. It speaks of creation, humanity, emotion, and experience. Water adapts. It flows. It carries history. It represents our natural selves—our relationships, our work, our stories, and even our struggles.

We are learning that God is not opposed to our humanity. Colossians 1 reminds us that all things were created through Christ and held together in Him. That includes our physical lives. Your ordinary moments matter. Your daily routines matter. Your human experience matters to God. God looks at us His creation and says "It is good."

Fire: The Life That Awakens

Pastor Phil gave us a message recently titled Arise. This flowed right into the this next teaching because the fire causes something to arise or awaken inside of us. Fire is different than the water. Fire brings light, warmth, purification, and power. When Scripture speaks of fire, it speaks of God's Spirit awakening something deeper within us. Fire does not erase who we are—it reveals who we were always meant to be.

This is the Divine Spark. The Spirit of God ignites what water alone cannot. Fire brings passion where there was routine, courage where there was fear, love where there was distance. It turns survival into purpose.

When the Spirit burns within us, we don't escape the world—we engage it with new life.

When Fire Meets Water

Fire and water together may seem opposite, but in God's design they work as one. Water prepares. Fire transforms. Water carries the natural life. Fire infuses it with divine meaning.

This is the invitation of the year: to live fully human and fully alive in the Spirit. To allow God's fire to move through our everyday lives—our conversations, our relationships, our work, our time. When fire touches water, steam rises. Movement happens. Energy is released.

That is the Divine Spark at work.

One Creation, One Calling

Colossians 1 tells us that all things hold together in Christ. Not divided. Not competing. Held together. When we honor both water and fire, we walk in unity—within ourselves and with one another.

We are not meant to choose between the natural and the spiritual. We are meant to live where heaven touches earth.

So let us give thanks to God for the life He's given us through water and the life He awakens through His Spirit. Let this understanding Ignite the Divine Spark within us. Let God's fire fill our everyday moments with purpose, love, and unity. And teach us to live fully human and fully alive in Him.



Hello From Helen

Hello family,

I want to say a big **“CONGRATULATIONS”** to Pastor Michael and his new Finance Josephine! Please join me in wishing them a lifetime of health and happiness! I hear that we will be meeting her very soon and I can't wait. We are getting ready to celebrate 38 blessed years of New Image Ministries! I always say “This is the greatest place on earth!” with the greatest pastors and the greatest church family that I have ever experienced; “Heaven on Earth”

and what a gift from God.

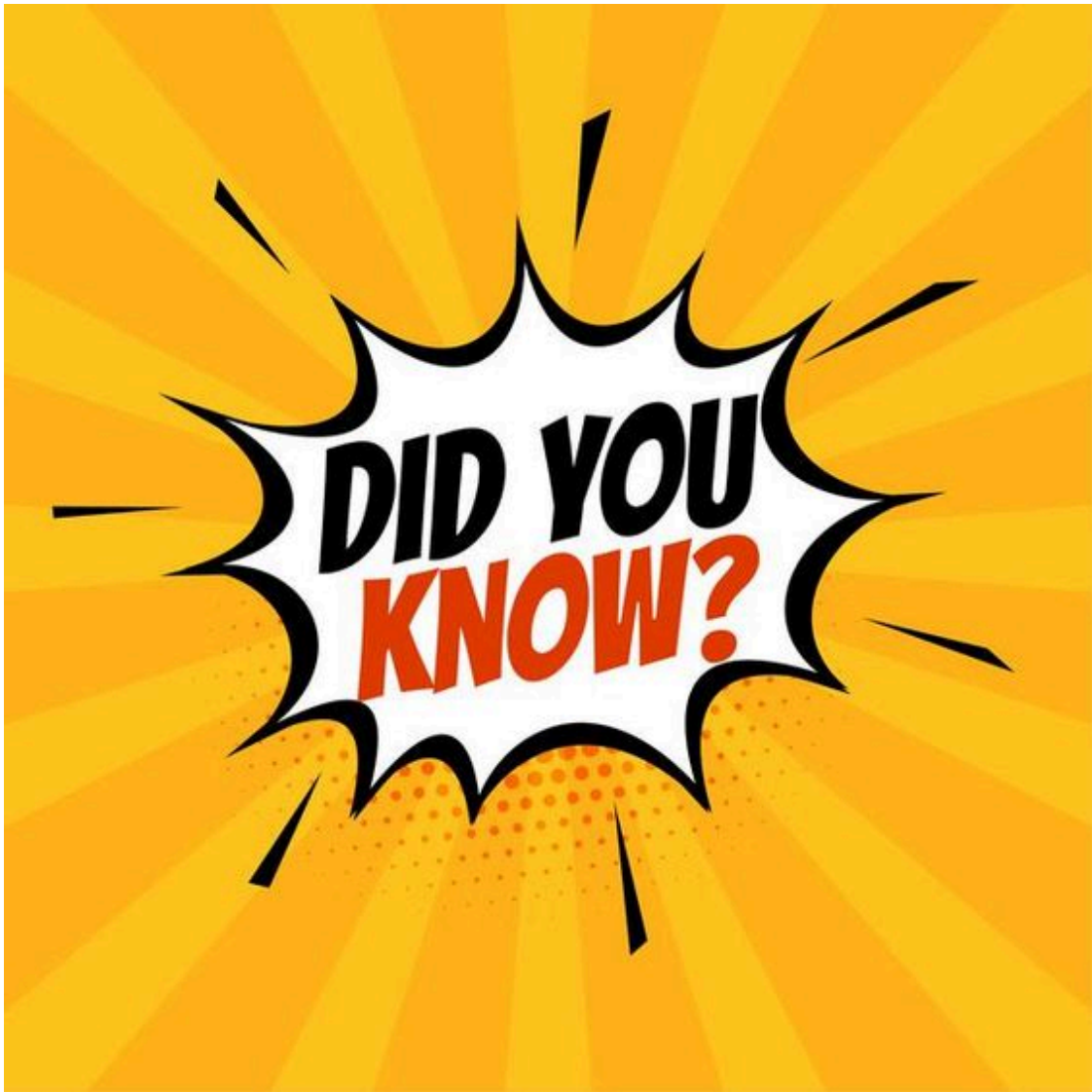
We will celebrate on Sunday, February 22, 2026 and our colors are Black and Gold. Our word for the year is "*The Divine Spark*" Ecclesiastes 3:11.

We begin with a church service and then we go into the back and have a great meal and lots of fellowship. Of course we will have an anniversary cake and after that we go back into the sanctuary to have our 38th annual business meeting. At the business meeting we will hear from the Pastors and the Elders on our finances, open positions to get involved in what goes on here in church. We will hear from Elder Keith Freeman on all the new technology that is helping our Sunday service being easy to keep up with and also how we are getting God's message out to the rest of the world. We will hear about upcoming events because you know that we are all about having fun and being a family.

The closeness we experience is beyond anything you can ever imagine. I would also like to invite anyone to come and see me in the church office if you would like to be interviewed for this newsletter. I would love an opportunity so sit down and get to know you better.

I love you all and may God bless you,
Deacon Helen J. Caliendo

Until next month and always with love and blessings,
Deacon Helen J. Caliendo



To clean a hazy mirror, use shaving cream

**WHERE DID THE PHRASE
“TURN A BLIND EYE” COME FROM?**



This saying is attributed to Admiral Horatio Nelson, who supposedly ignored a signal to withdraw during a battle by putting his telescope to his blind eye.



WHO AM I?

I was born in Rivera, Massachusetts

My favorite color is Purple

My favorite activity is "being at the beach"

My typical day consists of "working 9 - 5"

I once went to a "Chicago" concert by myself

My most treasured memory is all the times is visiting Italy (4 times)

I have worked as "Account" and 5 years in a "non-profit organization"

I would love to go out to eat but I also love to eat at home

Favorite food is "Eggplant Parmesan"

I listen to all kinds of music and I especially enjoy "disco"

My favorite singer "Bee Gees"

My favorite author is "Danielle Steel"

My favorite movie is "Grease"

My favorite actress is "Olivia Newton-John"

My favorite T.V. show "The Partridge Family"

"My children" make me truly happy

What makes me feel peaceful is "my bed"

I have traveled to "Italy, Canada Aruba, Jamaica and Disney"

My favorite vacations were "the ones on the beach"

My favorite holiday is "the 4th of July"

I love the smell of "Lavender"

My autobiography would be titled "Say what you mean and mean what you say"

The best gift I have ever received is "My engagement ring"

The best part of waking up is "being hopeful"

If I could have one superpower "I would choose take pain away from people"

One thing I dream about doing one day is "getting married"

The one thing I am most proud of is “my daughters”

My philosophy is to be “open minded and humble”

The thing that makes me laugh the most is “a good comedy”

I collect “Christmas tree ornaments and I love the nostalgic ones”

The most important law I would enforce if I were ruler is “Free health care to all senior citizens”

My warning label would say “Give me coffee as soon as I wake up or I won’t be nice”



MEET ELDER SANDRA ROMAN

**I was born in – Chattanooga Tennessee
My favorite color is - Pink
My favorite activity is – Working out**

**My typical day consists of – Interacting with people
My most treasured thing to do is to greet others I meet
daily**

I have worked as – A McDonald Biscuit Maker

I listen to Contemporary Christian Music

My favorite singer is - Jamie McDonald

My favorite author is - Mark Chironna

**What truly makes me happy is enjoying life in Christ
What makes me feel peaceful, is believing God's truth in
situations**

**The best gift I have ever received is love for and from God,
family, and friends**



Climb Till Your Dream Comes True

By Helen Steiner Rice

Often your tasks will be many,
And more than you think you can do.
Often the road will be rugged
And the hills insurmountable, too.
But always remember, the hills ahead
Are never as steep as they seem,

And with Faith in your heart start upward
And climb 'Til you reach your dream.
For nothing in life that is worthy
Is never too hard to achieve
If you have the courage to try it
And you have the Faith to believe.
For Faith is a force that is greater
Than knowledge or power or skill
And many defeats turn to triumph
If you trust in God's wisdom and will.
For Faith is a mover of mountains.
There's nothing that God cannot do,
So start out today with Faith in your heart
And 'Climb 'Til Your Dream Comes True'



VALENTINE'S DAY IN
THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Y'know, this might have
been more of a head-scratcher
if we weren't the only two
people on the planet.





STUFFED PEPPERS

Ingredients:

- 6 peppers, any color
- 3 cups chunky tomato sauce, divided
- ½ onion, very thinly sliced
- 1 cup beef broth
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 ½ pounds lean ground beef
- 1 ½ cups cooked rice
- ½ cup freshly shredded Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- ¼ cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, divided
- Shredded Mozzarella Cheese for topping

Directions:

Gather all ingredients. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).

Slice peppers 1/2-inch from the top; cut out stems and set aside tops. Cut core from the inside of peppers and strip away any seeds. Cut off a thin slice from the bottoms so peppers can stand upright. Poke about 4 tiny holes in the bottoms to let juices drain.

Pour 2 1/2 cups tomato sauce into a 9x13-inch baking dish. Add onion, beef broth, and red pepper flakes; spread out mixture evenly over the bottom.

Set peppers upright in the dish.

Combine ground beef, cooked rice, Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, 2 tablespoons tomato sauce, 1/4 cup parsley, garlic, salt, and black pepper in a large mixing bowl.

Lightly stuff peppers with meat mixture. Spread 1 tablespoon tomato sauce on top of each portion of stuffing; place reserved tops onto peppers. Lay a piece of parchment paper loosely on top of peppers and cover the dish tightly with foil. Place the dish on top of a baking sheet. Bake in the preheated oven until peppers have softened slightly, about 1 hour. Remove foil and parchment paper. Continue baking until meat filling is cooked and peppers are tender about 20 to 30 minutes more. Sprinkle with parsley and drizzle some pan juices on each pepper.

Cover with Shredded Mozzarella Cheese and melt in the oven or broiler for a few minutes.
Chef's Note: Use parchment paper in this recipe because it's better when you don't have foil touching acidic things when they bake.

PEACH UPSIDE DOWN CAKE



15 oz can peaches sliced, in juices
1/3 cup brown sugar, packed
4 tablespoons butter, melted
1/4 teaspoon ground Cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
2/3 cup sugar
¾ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
1 large egg at room temperature
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup buttermilk

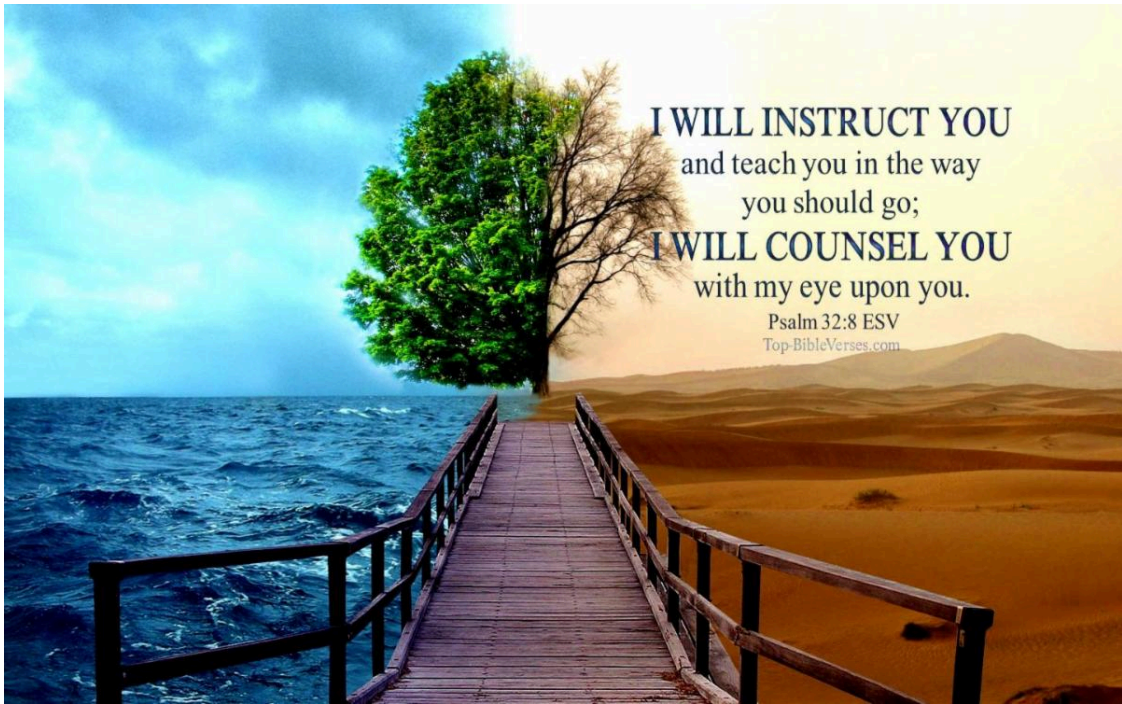
Directions:

Melt 1/4 cup butter; pour into an ungreased 9-in. round baking pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar. Arrange peach slices in single layer over sugar.

In a large bowl, cream sugar and remaining butter until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; add to creamed mixture alternately with buttermilk, beating well after each addition. Spoon over peaches.

Bake at 350° until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 45-50 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes before inverting onto a serving plate. Serve warm.





I WILL INSTRUCT YOU
and teach you in the way
you should go;
I WILL COUNSEL YOU
with my eye upon you.

Psalm 32:8 ESV
Top-BibleVerses.com

SOME OF GODS GREATEST GIFTS ARE UNSWERED PRAYERS

THE DIVINE SPARK

Eternity in the heart of humanity!

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

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Pastor Michael Porzio**



A direct and compelling headline

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