The Keystone Connection

A Message to the Conference

Members and Friends of Keystone Conference,

"As far as the east is from the west…" Psalm 103:12

I love a psalm of thanksgiving. It positions my heart well. It reminds me of my place in the midst of it all. These psalms generally cause me to pause, reflect, and compose my own prayers of gratitude.

The Psalm for this coming Sunday, Psalm 103 does just that. It begins with an invitation to remember: "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits*." I know we are a little early for Thanksgiving proper, the holiday, but every day is a proper day for thanksgiving to God.

Over these past few weeks, I have found myself returning again and again to the mystery of God's steadfast love in a couple of preaching texts, as well as a book I am reading. In Romans 11, Paul calls us toward humility, reminding us that we are grafted into a story we did not create and sustained by a grace we did not earn. In Exodus 12, we encounter a people receiving specific instructions for a ritual to remember liberation; to tell the story, to mark the moment, to pass a story from one generation to another. And in reading Grace Hamman's Ask of Old Paths, I have been thinking about what it means to receive wisdom from those who have walked the road before us. It feels sometimes like I am a bit all over the place.

But perhaps these are not such different things after all.

Humility reminds us that we did not get here by ourselves. Traditions reminds us that we do not have to carry the whole story ourselves. And gratitude opens our eyes to the astonishing truth that beneath and beyond all of it is a God whose mercy is greater than our capacity to comprehend it.

"*As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love*."

East from west. Heaven above earth. Images that stretch beyond our ability to measure.

And that is the invitation I will ask you to step into this week: to stop trying to measure grace and simply stand within it. Take a few quiet moments to read Psalm 103. Linger over the words. Remember who and what have carried you. Give thanks for what you have received.

And then, with humility and wonder, bless the Lord, O my soul.

For the love that holds us is deeper than we can fathom, and wider than we can imagine.

Shalom,

Nora
Rev. Dr. Nora Foust
Transitional Regional Conference Minister
Keystone Conference

Fall Conference Meeting

November 14 2026
Online Attendance Only

Registration link: click "Fall Meeting" on the homepage of keystoneucc.org

Delegate Information:
All authorized clergy holding standing in one of our Associations will be entitled to vote.

Churches will also have the following delegates:
Membership up to 100—2 delegates
Membership of 101—300—3 delegates
Membership 301—500—4 delegates
Membership over 500—5 delegates
1 Youth delegate (ages 14-17) with voice but no vote.

** Our quorum requires that 30% of our churches (152) be represented!

The only agenda item will be the APPROVAL of the 2027 Keystone Fall Budget

Any questions or issues with registration, please contact Sue at the Keystone office at 717-652-1560 opt. 1 or at sue@keystoneucc.org.