The Keystone Connection

A Message to the Conference

August 11, 2026

Members and Friends of Keystone Conference,

On Saturday, many gathered to celebrate the life of Jack Creswell, the husband of Sue Creswell, at St. Paul's UCC in Fleetwood. As many of you know, Sue is currently the Conference Minister's Administrative Assistant to the Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, a position she also held with Rev. Bill Worley of the former PSEC. Jack was an amazing man and beloved by so many, as reflected in the testimonials about his life and its impact on others, especially Sue and his family. For me, it was something Jack and Sue's pastor, the Rev. Dr. Rose Shepley, said about those gathered to remember him that stayed with me during the weekend. It may not be a direct quote, but she reminded us that we don't have to perfectly remember those we lose to eternity, because God does, because God surely remembers them perfectly. Memories may fade, histories may become harder to recount, but God's memory of Jack, of all of us, never does – we are remembered perfectly, for eternity.

As a pastor, I've had a few conversations with dying members of my congregations about how people will remember them, of what memories will be shared about them. Some worry that they'll be forgotten altogether, and a few, a rare few, want to be forgotten so as not to bring grief to those who will miss them. The latter is impossible, of course, but we all know that within 2-3 generations, many will not remember us or easily share stories about our lives. I think some of the mania by some people to name things after themselves – buildings, parks, wings of hospitals, etc. – is an attempt to fight that reality, that one day there will be no living people who really knew us at all.

That may be depressing for some, but only if we think that memory is solely a human trait. It isn't, of course, because having the gift of memory is part of being made in the image of God. The difference is that God's memory of us, and those we love, is forever and is perfect. No one is ever really lost to time and generations moving onward – God holds it all, perfectly. So, fear not: we are remembered, and those we loved on this side of eternity are as well, cradled by eternity and the grace of God.

Rev. Kevin J. McLemore
Transitional Regional Conference Minister for Region 1
Keystone Conference UCC

Ready to Make an Impact?

Join one of our 2027 Annual Meeting committees and help us build on the success of this year's meeting. Your ideas, skills, and enthusiasm can make a difference!

If you have any interest in serving on one of the following committees, please reach out to Sue Creswell at sue@keystoneucc.org.

- Accessibility - Golf Carts/Scooters/Eyes on all things accessible
- Excursions - Tours/Events taking place outside of venue
- Fun/Fellowship - Open Mic/Food Trucks/Poetry/Mystery Night/Morning Walk - coordinate whatever events and be responsible for having them take place
- Hospitality/Welcome - Greeters/Assistance with directing people/Assistance with Registration
- Mission - Choose and Manage a Mission for the event
- Registration - Prepare for and manage registration for event
- Rooming - Assign rooms at the dorm
- Speakers - Responsible for coordination of 100% of the details and management of our guest speakers
- Tech - Work with location to set up tech needs for all meetings
- Slides (subgroup of Tech) - Compose and arrange slides to meet meeting needs
- Vendors - reach out to, manage and organize outside and internal vendors
- Visual Arts - Elevate the event with decorations
- Volunteers - Compose write ups to draw volunteers, coordinate volunteers during meeting
- Worship - Work with Carrie to plan worship for event
- Music (subgroup of Worship) - Work with worship to arrange music - will be reaching out to churches for bands, bell choirs, etc
- Youth Service Team - Compose write ups to draw youth service team members, arrange schedule and co-ordinate youth while on site
- Youth childcare - Arrange for childcare, plan for Playground (if wanted) plan schedule for younger attendees

"Where Teens Find Their Stories": Seminars on Youth Culture

Our young people are spending more time in online worlds than ever before, and those spaces are shaping how they think about identity, belonging, relationships, and even faith. This fall, we're offering three seminars to help clergy and youth leaders understand the digital cultures influencing the teens we serve.

We'll take a closer look at the virtual spaces young people gather, such as, fandom communities. We will also dive into the mission, ethics, and identity of influencer spaces like the manosphere and trad wives. We'll discuss why these spaces matter, how they're impacting our youth, and what role the church has in these conversations.

The sessions are designed to be practical, honest, and accessible. You don't need to be tech-savvy or "in the know" to benefit. You just need a heart for young people and a willingness to learn.

More details and registration information will be shared soon. We hope you'll join us for these important conversations.