



The Harvest Times

A Quarterly Publication of The Susquehanna Valley Baptist Church

ISSUE 26.1 | 03/31/2026

Winter Happenings

- **Sanctity of Life Sunday** - Each year we commemorate the great gift of life that God gives to all, but especially to babies in the womb. We collected an offering for a local pregnancy care facility to further their life saving work in Harrisburg.
- **Winter Youth Rally** - We joined together with two other churches for a night of food, games, and preaching. Pastor Matthew Tucker from Newport, TN brought the message from God's Word entitled, "Champions or Castaways".
- **Cleaning Workday** - Over 60 people came out on a Saturday morning to do a spring clean to the church building. It was a wonderful time of cleaning and fellowshiping with God's people. In addition, our youth came out on another Saturday morning and cleaned up the grounds around the property and cleaned the chairs in the auditorium.
- **Liberian Missions Project** - This winter, the church gave to supply Baptist pastors in Liberia with a Study Bible and a Bible Encyclopedia. Through the gracious giving of the people of God, we will be sending these materials to over 30 pastors! Praise the Lord!
- **Missions Conference** - Our triennial missions conference was held March 19-22. Four different missionaries presented their ministries and challenged us on the topic of reaching the condemned of Adam's race wherever they can be found. The preaching was excellent, the food was wonderful, and the time spent together was magnificent.

The Light of the Gospel

by W. Brandon Starnes, Pastor

Just a few short weeks ago, daylight-savings time began. As a result, daylight will extend into the evenings for the next few months. Light is essential to our physical life. Without it, prevailing darkness would cripple our existence. Plants and animal life would eventually diminish, and the impact on humanity would be devastating. Thanks be to God, Who at creation spoke the Words, "Let there be light."

We do not praise the goodness of God solely because of the physical light He has given. For with or without light, we are still under the curse of sin. Humanity's greatest need is not the light of the solar system, but the light of the Savior. Truly, the Scriptures state, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4.6). The Gospel of Christ is our sure light, and numerous references are made.

- Jesus proclaimed, "I am the light of the world..." (John 8.12)
- The Gospel of John declares that Jesus is the "true Light which lighteth every man." (John 1.9)
- The message of the Gospel is referred to as "the light of the glorious gospel of Christ." (2 Cor. 4.4)
- Believers are no longer in darkness but "now are ye light in the Lord," and we are called to "walk as children of Light..." (Eph. 5.8)
- Fellowship with the Father ONLY comes as "we walk in the light..." (1 John 1.7)

Only by obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ can sinners be "delivered from the power of darkness, and...translated into the kingdom of His dear Son" (Col. 1.13). There are many gospels that are preached today...

- The Substance (Prosperity) Gospel, which teaches that faith ensures material wealth, physical health, and success.
- The Self-Help Gospel, which focuses on personal happiness and good feelings.
- The Social Gospel, which replaces the need for personal salvation with political activism (CRT).

These gospels flourish in our American society today. They form the foundation of the emerging, seeker-sensitive denominations and churches. However, they are not the true light! The true Light of the glorious gospel of Christ is powerful and transformative. It brings peace to the prisoner, hope to the hopeless, removes fear, and promotes forgiveness. Most importantly, it alone reconciles God and man (Rom. 5.1). It creates an insatiable hunger for the good Word of God and produces a transformed life (2 Cor. 5.17).

Our mission is to declare this sure light of the gospel to the condemned of Adam's race in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the world. It alone provides the grace that is greater than sin.

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 8.12

Susquehanna Valley Baptist Church Media



SVBC Music



The Rejoicing in the Word Podcast



The Gospel



The SVBC Pulpit



The Rejoicing in the Word Ladies Blog



SVBC Facebook

Begin with Courage

By Valerie K. Starnes

Upcoming Events

April 5 - Resurrection Sunday
April 10 - Senior Saints Fellowship
April 11 - Missions Outreach
April 28 - Community Evangelism
May 2 - SVBC Ladies Brunch
May 6 - Missions Outreach
May 10 - Mother's Day Sunday
May 24 - Memorial Day Sunday
May 31 - Graduate Sunday
June 6 - SVBC Men's Activity
June 8-12 - SVBC Youth Camp
June 14 - Flag Day
June 19 - SVBC Youth Play Day
June 21 - Father's Day

Monthly Memory Verse

(Each month as a church we put aside a passage from Scripture to memorize; this passage is our memory passage for March)

Psalms 12:6-8

“The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. (7) Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. (8) The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.”

Into His Harvest

(written by Jonathan Stockton)

Who will answer the call
That the Lord of Harvest gives to all?
Who will realize the need?
Who will sow the Resurrecting Seed?
“Who'll go for Us
And whom shall I send?”
Who will millions suffering end?
Into His harvest I will go!
Into the fields to reap or sow
Unto the millions Light to show
Into His harvest I will go.

“Without courage, truth is an orphan.” This quote reminds me of a passage in Psalm 39:1-2, “I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me. I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred.” Truth, God's truth, needs a champion.

2 Peter 1:3-9 is a marvelous passage for the new and “old” believer. We are told that we are partakers of God's divine power – “according as his divine power (dynamite power!) hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.” This power is granted “through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.” Notice that word “virtue.” It is used again in verse 5, at the start of a list of growth goals: “...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue.”

Faith in Christ is my beginning and foundation; diligence is personal application for development. And Virtue is needed next! Biblical virtue is the combination of moral excellence with moral courage (moral strength). What an amazing discovery! Think of moral excellence as all those highest qualities of truth, beauty, and holiness. Envision the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31. Consider what is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. Remember that we are called to glory and virtue. And then realize that such moral excellence requires moral courage – otherwise we risk being “dumb with silence....even from good.”

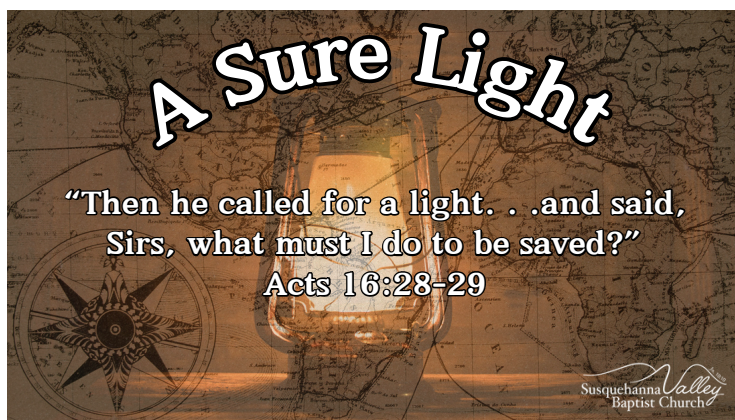
“Add to your faith virtue.” I will need moral muscle as I approach the continued “adding” in this passage. “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.”

May God help us all to have courage for our faith, to pursue truth and excellence, and to give all diligence in that pursuit.

2026 Missions Conference



Follow the QR code to listen to all the sermons from this year's missions conference!



Susquehanna Valley Baptist Church
3840 N. Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Service Times:

Sunday School (10 AM), Sunday Morning (11 AM), Sunday Evening (6 PM),
Thursday Night Prayer Service (7 PM)