



The Saltshaker

March 2026

Kokomo Zion Church

Pastor Keith Chanley

This is an article from a Facebook page called Ministry Codex that I thought was worth passing along. By the way Bishop Webb recently said he thinks the number is actually 7100 congregations and we now have a congregation on every continent except Antarctica and we are inquiring about church planters. 😊

"After the Surge: Why the Global Methodist Church's Growth Actually Matters

The headline is easy to miss if you are not watching the Methodist world closely. In just a few years, [The Global Methodist Church](#) (GMC) has crossed the threshold of more than 7,000 congregations worldwide. On the surface, it reads like another denominational statistic, the kind that briefly circulates through church news and then fades.

But this moment deserves more attention than it is getting. The rise of the GMC is not merely a story about one new denomination growing quickly. It signals a deeper realignment inside global Methodism, and possibly within Protestantism more broadly. The real question is not how many churches have joined. The real question is why this shift matters now.

"Each local church represents people growing deeper in Jesus, their communities being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and new people coming to know Christ," said Mike Schafer, GMC's Connectional Operations Officer. In the eyes of GMC leadership, true growth is inseparable from spiritual formation, relational strength, and the faithful unfolding of their mission in the world.

First, the GMC represents the fastest large-scale Methodist realignment in decades.

Methodism has experienced splits before, but the speed of this transition is striking. Thousands of congregations did not drift slowly into a new body over generations. They moved within a compressed window shaped by long-building theological tensions, institutional fatigue, and local congregational decisions that finally reached a breaking point.

Rapid growth brings energy, but it also creates pressure. Any movement that expands this quickly must eventually prove it can do more than receive churches. It must build systems that can sustain them. The coming years will test whether the GMC's infrastructure, leadership pipeline, and global coordination can keep pace with the momentum that produced its early surge.

Second, the center of gravity in Methodism continues to shift southward and outward.

One of the most important but underappreciated dynamics in this story is geographic. Methodism is no longer primarily a North American story. Africa, parts of Asia, and the Philippines increasingly shape the future of Wesleyan Christianity. The GMC's international growth underscores this trend.

This matters because global churches do not simply replicate American theological debates. They bring different pastoral priorities, different social realities, and often a different pace of institutional change. If the GMC truly becomes a global communion rather than a primarily American realignment, its identity will be shaped as much in places like Johannesburg and Manila as in Texas or Georgia.

Third, the GMC must now transition from protest energy to constructive vision.

Many of its founding congregations arrived through disaffiliation. That origin story gave the new denomination immediate scale, but it also creates a long-term challenge. Movements born in reaction eventually have to answer a forward-looking question: What are we building, not just what did we leave?

The next phase for the GMC will depend heavily on whether it can articulate a compelling positive identity. Church planting, discipleship systems, theological education, and global mission partnerships will matter far more over the next decade than disaffiliation numbers ever did. If growth begins to depend primarily on evangelism rather than transfer, the denomination will have crossed an important maturity threshold.

Fourth, the upcoming General Conference will be more than procedural.

Gatherings like the planned meeting in Johannesburg often look technical from the outside. Book of Discipline revisions, representation formulas, episcopal structures. Yet for a young denomination, these meetings function as stress tests.

Will global voices meaningfully shape governance? Can the connectional system scale across cultures and continents? Will the GMC maintain doctrinal clarity while still building a broadly functional worldwide body? These are not abstract questions. They will determine whether the denomination stabilizes or strains under its own rapid expansion.

Finally, the GMC story reflects a wider moment of denominational reconfiguration.

Across Protestantism, older institutional loyalties are loosening while new alignments are forming more quickly than in previous generations. Congregations are more willing to move. Leaders are more willing to reorganize. Global partnerships are more fluid than they were even twenty years ago.

In that sense, the GMC is both a Methodist story and a case study in how modern denominations are being reshaped. Its future will offer clues about whether new connectional bodies can thrive in an era when affiliation is increasingly voluntary and institutional patience is shorter than it once was.

So why does the 7,000-church milestone really matter?

Because it marks the end of the easy phase and the beginning of the demanding one.

Early momentum proved there was enough conviction to launch a new Methodist body at scale.

What comes next will test something deeper: organizational endurance, theological coherence across cultures, and the ability to grow by mission rather than migration.

If the Global Methodist Church succeeds in that transition, it may become one of the most consequential Methodist developments of the early twenty-first century. If it struggles, historians may look back on this moment as the high-water mark of a movement that expanded faster than it consolidated.

Either way, the story is only beginning."



We will have a Seder Supper with Dr. Freemyer on Thursday April 2 @ 6:30 pm. We would like for 30 people to join us. We will have a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. You may also call the office to reserve your spot. If you would like to come but need transportation please let the office know and we can make arrangements for you to attend.

The information about the community Good Friday Service is below. It is being held at Howard - Miami Church.

Kokomo Zion will be hosting the Sunrise Service this year. The service will start at 7:00 am and then breakfast will be served at 8:00 or a little after. The menu is biscuits & gravy, breakfast casserole, fresh fruit, doughnuts, and juice.

All are Welcome!
Greentown Ministerial Association
**COMMUNITY
GOOD FRIDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE**
@  **HOWARD-MIAMI
CHURCH**
3976 E 1400 S, Kokomo, IN, 46901
APRIL 3, 2026 at 7pm
(Fellowship and Refreshments to follow)
Speaker: Brian White - *Northview Church; Greentown*

MISSIONS



321 W. Mulberry St. ♦ P.O. Box 476 ♦ Kokomo, IN 46903-0476
(765) 456-3838 ♦ Fax (765) 457-5794 ♦ www.kokomorescuemission.org

Kokomo Zion Church
5051 E 400 N
Kokomo, IN 46901-9310

January 22, 2026

Dear friends at Kokomo Zion Church,

We cannot thank you enough for your sacrificial giving to the Kokomo Rescue Mission. This is a financial accounting record of your giving in 2025. While helpful with your taxes, it does not, in fact, reflect the full impact you've made here at KRM!

We shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, and connect the willing with community partners to empower them towards a better future. God used your giving to make possible a better future for hundreds of individuals. And don't forget the Back to School Assistance Program and Red Ribbon Christmas. It will require the scales of Heaven someday to fully measure the difference your gifts have made. Allow me to speak for those who were helped by your giving – THANK YOU!

If that was not enough, God used your gifts to help our Engage project move forward. 20,000 feet of new space, every inch of it intended to minister to the least of these—people whom Jesus identifies the most closely with. Lives will be changed, some for eternity, thanks to you. We have just begun to utilize this space. God has just begun to change lives in it.

2026 will include finishing our kitchen remodel, continuing our fundraising for our Engage project, celebrating 25 years of the Walk a Mile fundraiser, and continuing to add to our group of community partners who work with us in our Engagement Center. We needed you in 2025. We will need you even more in the year ahead.

Take a moment to celebrate what God has done through you. Then commit to take an additional step in your giving for 2026. God is calling and stretching us to impact more lives. We are trusting donors like you to stretch in your giving to partner with us. Please consider asking God what stretching your giving looks like for you.

"God partners with ordinary people to do extraordinary things!" Let's commit to partner with Him in 2026, so He can do extraordinary things!

Serving Him by serving them,

Kevin L. Smith
Executive Director
Kokomo Rescue Mission

Your 2025 TOTAL GIVING

\$45,110.48

No goods or services were received in exchange for these donations.

MISSIONS

Narrow Gate Horse Ranch (a mission we support in our Mission 50) will be having its annual fundraising event, the Derby Ball, on May 2, 2026. We have been asked again to provide a “basket” for the silent auction. I’ve talked with the Missions committee and they are good if we do this.

I have the idea for the theme of our basket to be “Experience Howard County”. My thinking on this is that we can get items or gift cards from various places around Howard County. As of now, I have gotten a donation for a 1 hour massage from Healing Hands Spa, and several day passes for Kokomo Beach. I have also purchased a \$50 gift card to Ralph’s Pizza, Duckpin Bowling and Putt-Putt for only \$25 from the WWKI “sweet deals”.

If you have a business or have a connection to a business that might be willing to donate an item or gift card, would you please ask them and let me know? I’m hoping we can get a variety of places and items. Also, if you would like to donate an item or gift card, that would be very much appreciated as well.

I am going to continue to ask a few places that are Howard County places such as Golf Up 31, Kokomo Opalescent Glass, etc.

I am not 100% stuck with this theme, so if you have a better thought or if we get items not from Howard County, we can easily change the theme/name.

All items/ gift cards/gift certificates need to be to the church office or to Angie Mast no later than March 22nd.

Thank you for considering and helping out with this! We’ve had a great basket the past couple years! -

Angie Mast

765-438-7131

DERBY BALL

Please be watching Facebook or ask me if you’d be interested in attending the Derby Ball on May 2nd. Doors open at 5 p.m. I’d be happy to get you a ticket or several when they go on sale. We’d love to have you there and enjoy an evening of a great meal, live and silent auctions, and learning more about Narrow Gate Horse Ranch! If you can’t attend the Derby Ball, I’ll have information coming on how you can participate in the Silent Auction. There are always fun and interesting baskets to bid on!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Narrow Gate Horse Ranch is hoping to get several more volunteers to be class facilitators (we have others that know about the horses while the facilitators lead the lessons). We would love to have more “Greeters” to welcome students and their parent/guardian and then to visit and build relationships with the parents/guardian while classes are in session. If you have other talents such as baking cupcakes for birthdays for the students, praying over the students’ prayer requests, yard work, scooping the dry lots (I like this because I get to spend time with the horses), etc. You tell us what your talent is or what things you like to do and we can find a place for you at the Ranch. See Angie Mast 765-438-7131 and she can put you in touch with the volunteer coordinator. You can also go to the website www.narrowgatehorseranch.com and click on the volunteer tab to fill out a form. If you go to the website on your phone, click the 3 lines in the top right corner to get to the volunteer form. If you’d like a tour of the ranch, just let me know and I’ll be happy to show you around .



We'll meet March 2 and 16.
See you at 10:00 AM. We will continue
the study of "The Practice of the
Presence of God."



We are happy to have
LIFEWISE Children's ministry
use our facility one day each
week for the next couple of
months. They will hold a 1
hour session on Wednesday
mornings.



Matt's Concert
The Music of Holy Week
March 29th
3:00 PM
Invite your friends!

We now have a pickleball court set in the gym
and net, balls & paddles in the table storage
area.

Anyone interested in learning or playing
pickleball at the church, contact Scott Boltz
sbboltz@gmail.com or text 765-437-3286.
You may also leave a message at the church
office.

