



2025

FALL HARVESTER



FROM THE PRESIDENT TEAM

Dear DeColores Community,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you're enjoying a relaxing summer.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and dedication to this ministry. In a world that so desperately needs the light of Jesus, you continue to shine. Whether through faithful intercession, quiet acts of kindness (Palanca), or hands-on service during weekends, you are truly making a difference. Because of your faithfulness, lives are being touched and the love of Christ is being shown.

We encourage you to stay connected and involved. Whether it's attending **Holy Hours, Serenade and Closing**, signing up for **24-hour prayer**, making **Palanca**, or **serving meals** for the upcoming fall weekends (#149 and #150), each opportunity is a powerful expression of His love in action.

Thank you again for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

With gratitude,

Dave Lingle & Sherry Smith

President Team

FROM THE SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

One of the key attributes of Christianity is love. Jesus answered the challenge from a teacher of the law on which is the greatest commandment. His reply is found in Mark 12:29 -31 *"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

In his discussion with Nicodemus in John 3 we find Jesus presenting the scripture that almost everyone has heard or read. Joh 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* In fact, Jesus' most repeated commandment was to love. John 13:34-to *love one another* and the very next verse that we will be identified as disciples *"if you love one another"*. The authors of the Epistles also emphasized love as an important aspect of the faith.

One of the influences in my walk with Christ has been Steve Brown of Keylife Ministries. He teaches often through principles and one that I've found very profound is this: "You can't love until you have been loved and then only to the extent that you have been loved." So many people never really find love; only what the world may present as love. That is until they encounter Jesus.

Even then their experience may be shrouded by their environment so that they never really are able to love someone else, let alone God. But get them sequestered in a church building for four days with folks that have experienced that level of love. Folks that have been loved so much by the God Head and His disciples that they can love others sacrificially. That's what perpetuates the kingdom. The lyrics from the song Pass it On that we sing often within the community I think describe why so many members of the community give of their time, talents and treasure to continue to serve on these weekends.

That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You'll spread His love
To everyone
You'll want to pass it on

The fall teams are in the midst of preparation and if you are not on an inside team there are many ways that you can express the love you have experienced by serving on the outside by praying, preparing Palanca and kitchen help to name only a few. Show the love you have received by passing it on.

Andy Abrams

Spiritual Advisor

THE JOURNEY

Dear DeColores Community

I feel very honored to be able to Rector a weekend for the second time. But on the sad side, I was very disappointed that we didn't have a male member of the community (as Mikey Noles' theme stated Man Up).

When I was informed my name was pulled, my first thought was I need to pick a Co-Rector. So I prayed and the Lord spoke very clearly to me. What about my servant Dennis?

Dennis and I were on the same page about someone needing to step up. WOW what a blessing it has been sharing this time with him putting this weekend team together. locking arms with him.

Why the theme THE JOURNEY? For me, I believe Dennis would agree, DeColores has had a huge part in shaping who we are as men today. Because of the process that God has given us. I'm personally just a worn out carpenter. But my Jesus is the greatest remodeler there is.

Which brings me to the theme song, Two Coats. A friend of mine and I were talking about how God has changed our lives. He's from down south, Rochester IN, and likes that country flair of music. He said you need to listen to the song Two Coats. DeColores has been one of the best tools in this old carpenters tool box to help me change coats, take off the old and put on the new.

Our scripture for the weekend is Matthew 28:18-20. Dennis and I believe that the Journey for all of us is to go and make disciples, to deploy in doing Kingdom work. The DeColores community has been commissioned for the purpose of equipping us for that purpose..

God has blessed Dennis and myself on the ease of putting the team in place. The men saying yes has been amazing. The community has been beyond supportive in stepping in to help with the outside team.

I can't say enough about our head Coordinator Scott Kaser in helping keep me focused. He's fast, concise and organized and has been wonderful to work with.

Our head Cha is Vern Hochstetler. Who is a wonderful example of a servant leader that I humbly try to model myself after. Looking forward to watching and learning from him this weekend.

To the DeColores Community, I thank you for the prayers for the weekend, the guests that will be attending. Please also keep in prayer the upcoming Women's, and Deco Tec weekends. That God moves in a mighty and powerful way. One more thing, pray that the purpose of our theme will be written on the hearts of all 3 of these weekends and the people that participate.

Love to all.

Pat O'Keefe

Rector of DeColores #149

Men's DeColores Weekend #149

September 25th - 28th, 2025 | Church on the Rock, 2626 Prairie Street Elkhart, IN

Theme: The Journey **Theme Song:** Two Coats **Theme Scripture:** Matthew 28:18-20

INSIDE TEAM CONTACTS

Rector:	Pat O'Keefe	(269) 357-5222	patokeefe31@gmail.com
Co-Rector:	Dennis O'Neill	(269) 240-8429	DennyP1253@gmail.com
Spiritual Directors:	Mike Smith	(574) 276-3289	michaeltsmith63@gmail.com
	Mike Hetrick	(574) 876-9766	hetrickm@gmail.com
	Richard Blank	(269) 779-8738	pastorrichard89@gmail.com
Head Coordinator:	Scott Kaser	(269) 362-0348	scottk45@yahoo.com

OUTSIDE TEAM CONTACTS

Kitchen Help Coordinator:	Ray Doyle (269) 506-2239 rayvic1958@yahoo.com
24-Hour Prayer Coordinator:	Faye Curtis (269) 340-4468
Clean Up Coordinator:	Gary Zavoral (269) 362-2547
Guard Duty Coordinator:	

EVENT INFORMATION

Mealtimes: Kitchen Help: Please Arrive At Least 20 Minutes Early

Friday:	Breakfast: 7:10 am	Lunch: 11:50 am	Dinner: 5:00 pm
Saturday:	Breakfast: 6:30 am	Lunch: 12:15 pm	Dinner: 6:00 pm
Sunday:	Breakfast: 7:30 am	Lunch: 12:00 pm	Dinner: 5:00 pm

Palanca Drops:

Friday:	1st Drop: 2:00 pm	2nd Drop: 6:15 pm	3rd Drop: 9:15 pm
Saturday:	4th Drop: 8:00 am	5th Drop: 12:55 pm	6th Drop: 4:30 pm

Set-Up: Wednesday, September 24th @ 6:00 pm

Sponsor's Chapel: Thursday, September 25th @ 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Holy Hour: Friday, September 26th @ 7:00 pm @ Zion Missionary Church, 1135 E Hively Ave, Elkhart, IN 46517

24-Hour Prayer Begins: Friday, September 26th @ 9:00 pm @ Host Church

Rector/Rectoress Serenade: Saturday, September 27th @ 6:30 am - All Past Rectors/Rectoresses are invited

Clean-Up Sunday: Sunday, September 28th @ 6:30 am – Entire Church for Sunday Service

Sunday, September 28th @ 3:15 pm – Rollo Room Only

Sunday, September 28th after closing – Entire Church Final Clean-Up

Church Service: Sunday, September 28th @ 10:00 am

Serenade: Sunday, September 28th @ 5:00 pm with **Closing** immediately following

A HEART OF SURRENDER

Dear DeColores Community,

Praise God in the highest—All glory belongs to Him! What an honor it is to be part of this life-changing ministry and to serve as rectress for Women's DeColores Weekend #150. I recognize the great responsibility this role holds, and I fully trust God to guide every step. My heart is full of gratitude for each one of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for your continued prayers for the team, the candidates, and the weekend ahead. They mean more than you know.

While I didn't know what the future held when the opportunity to serve arose, the Lord certainly did. The times we live in are unfolding just as His Word has said. I believe with all my heart that I was created for such a time as this. He has been preparing each of us for His return and for the work He's called us to do now. The calling to lead this weekend has already impacted my life deeply, and I'm filled with expectation to see how the Lord will move before, during, and long after the weekend.

This weekend doesn't belong to me; it belongs to Him.

The theme, **"A Heart of Surrender"**, the song, **"The Heart of the Father,"** and the Scripture, **Ezekiel 36:26–27**, are divinely aligned. The word "heart" is our thread His heart and ours, beating in sync. Though only the Father truly knows our hearts, we can come to know His through His Word and by seeking first His kingdom. When we lay down our will and surrender fully to Him, we open the door to walking boldly in our calling and making a lasting difference.

What a privilege it is to be the hands and feet of Jesus. I encourage you all to support your brothers and sisters through Holy Hour and Closing. Now more than ever, we must stand united and strong.

DeColores,

Tonia Farmer

Rectoress weekend #150

DeColores Women's Weekend #150 Oct. 16-19, 2025

Rectoress: Tonia Farmer **Co-Rectoress:** Shannon Runyon **SDs:** Paul Pawelski & JoAn Haney
Theme: A Heart of Surrender **Song:** Heart of the Father by Ryan Ellis **Scripture:** Ezekiel 36:26-27
Host Church: Adamsville Road Church of God, 51287 Co Rd 7, Elkhart, IN 46514
Head Coordinator: Deb Becht (269) 208-8085 | debrabecht@comcast.net

WEDNESDAY October 15: Set-Up @ 5:30 pm

THURSDAY October 16: Sponsor's Chapel @ 8:00 pm in Sanctuary
Hosts: Jonathan and Carman Wildes (Carman Wildes 269-259-8362)

FRIDAY October 17: Holy Hour @ 7:00 pm @ Portage Road General Baptist Church,
1765 Portage Road General Baptist Church, Niles, MI 49120
Host: Steve & Carla May
24-Hour Prayer begins @ 9:00 pm
Coordinator: Liz Nichols (574-229-5388)
Guard Duty from Friday 11 pm – Saturday 5 am
Coordinator: Pedro Rodriguez (269-635-7494)

SATURDAY October 18: Past Rector/Rectoress Serenade @ 12:25 pm (lunch) in the Gym
Coordinator: Pat O'Keefe (269-357-5222)

SUNDAY October 19: Adamsville Road Church of God @ 10:30 am

Re-set rooms @ 6:15 am for Sunday church activities
Final clean-up after Closing
Coordinator: Dave & Jodi Ferenczi (Jodi 269-362-1572)
Serenade @ 4:30 pm in the Gym
Closing immediately following in the Sanctuary
Hosts: Matt & Annie Adams (Annie 269-357-3514)

Kitchen Help Coordinator: Kelli King (269-235-1628)

MEALTIMES: Kitchen Help, please arrive at least 20 minutes early.

FRIDAY: Breakfast: 7:15 am Lunch: 12:00 pm Dinner: 5:15 pm

SATURDAY: Breakfast: 7:00 am Lunch: 12:15 pm Dinner: 6:45 pm

SUNDAY: Breakfast: 7:15 am Lunch: 12:00 pm

PALANCA DROPS:

FRIDAY: 1st Drop: 2:00 pm 2nd Drop: 5:00 pm 3rd Drop: 9:00 pm

SATURDAY: 1st Drop: 8:00 am 2nd Drop: 12:00 pm 3rd Drop: 4:30 pm

BECOME A SPONSOR

We Encourage You to Sponsor a Candidate for an Upcoming Weekend!

Sponsoring is a powerful way to bless someone with a life-changing experience rooted in God's love. Do you know someone who feels stagnant in their faith, is longing for spiritual renewal, or is ready to deepen their walk with Christ? If so, we encourage you to prayerfully consider sponsoring them for an upcoming DeColores weekend.

To learn more or begin the process, please visit swmi-decolores.org or scan the QR code below.

Upcoming Weekend Dates:

Men's Weekend: September 25 – 28, 2025

Women's Weekend: October 16 – 19, 2025

A \$50 registration fee is required, which helps cover the cost of the weekend.

The weekend is intentionally structured with a specific flow—each component, including rollos, meditations, talks, activities, and events, is placed in a particular order to build upon the last and guide candidates through a meaningful spiritual journey. Missing even one part is like leaving out a piece of a puzzle—the full picture cannot be seen or fully understood without it. To preserve the integrity of a weekend and the experience it offers, **it's essential that all candidates are present for its entirety**. Once a candidate begins a weekend, they are expected to remain for the duration. If a candidate expresses a desire or need to leave, their sponsor will be notified immediately. If a candidate does leave the weekend, they will not be permitted to return. To attend and complete a future weekend, a new candidate registration form and fee must be submitted.

Important: To help ensure a positive and well-supported experience, we ask that each sponsor limit themselves to **no more than two candidates per weekend**. Sponsoring involves several key responsibilities, which can be reviewed in detail on our website.



Use the phone's camera to easily scan this QR code and access our website. Visit the "Upcoming Weekends" section to view sponsor duties, complete the candidate registration form and submit the registration fee.

Thank you for helping others experience the love of Christ through DeColores!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

The success of a DeColores weekend relies deeply on prayer, service and support of the community. Your involvement is not only appreciated—it's essential. Thank you for honoring the following guidelines, which help preserve a respectful, prayerful, and transformative experience for both candidates and team members. Your cooperation truly makes a difference!

Respecting Boundaries

To help protect the sacred space of the weekend and provide the best possible experience for the candidates, we ask that **volunteers and sponsors remain only in the areas designated for their service.**

Whether you're serving in the kitchen, participating in 24-hour prayer or praying for a rollista, please remain in your assigned area.

Do **not walk through hallways, sleeping areas, or around the Rollo Room.** Respecting these boundaries helps foster an environment of concentration and trust—free from unnecessary distractions.

Exceptions are limited to the following individuals, and only during their specific responsibilities:

- The **photographer** during Friday pictures
 - The **President or President Team**
- The person giving the **“Going Home” talk** on Sunday

Cell Phones

- Use of **cell phones is not permitted** by candidates or inside team members.
- This helps maintain an atmosphere of focus, presence, and spiritual openness.

Serenade & Closing

Serenade and Closing are open **only to individuals who have completed a DeColores or similar Cursillo-style weekend.**

Please note: **Children are not permitted**, and **childcare is not provided** during these events.

There is to be no pictures, recording or videotaping during the closing or any part of a weekend.

Post-Weekend Follow-Up Meetings

- These meetings are intended **only for inside team members and new Crucistas.**

If you are transporting someone you sponsored, please plan to **wait in an alternate space** during the meeting.

Tithing Update

TOGETHER, WE GAVE

We're excited to share that SWMI DeColores received a total of \$13,874.18 during the first half of 2025 (January through June). As part of our commitment to tithing, we were honored to support local ministries that align with our mission of spreading Christ's love. We cheerfully tithed **\$1,390**, blessing two organizations: Deco-TEC Ministries and Ferry Street Resource Center, each receiving **\$695**. Thank you for being part of a community that gives generously, serves faithfully, and lives out the love of Christ.

2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Is God Calling You to Serve?

Are you ready to use your gifts for His glory by serving on the Secretariat Board? If you feel called to serve—or would simply like to learn more about any of the open positions—please reach out to the President, Dave Lingle or Sherry Smith. You can email them at info@swmi-decolores.org or ssbasketcase@aol.com.



NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR VICE PRESIDENT

The Southwest Michigan DeColores Community is currently accepting nominations for role of **Vice President**. This leadership position may be held by one or shared by two individuals as a team. The Vice President serves a three-year term: Year 1 – Vice President, Year 2 – President and Year 3 – Past-President.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completed at least three DeColores weekends as a team member.
- Served as a rollista on a DeColores weekend.
- Served as a coordinator on a DeColores weekend or completed a Fourth Day Workshop.
- Been a member of the Southwest Michigan DeColores Community for at least **three years** at the time of nomination.
- Actively involved in an organized Christian church.
- Demonstrates a life that consistently reflects the values of the DeColores ministry.
- Willing to accept the commitment of service to the Community and Secretariat.
- A written resume of the nominees' qualifications must be submitted with the nomination.

How to Nominate:

Any member of the Southwest Michigan DeColores Community may submit a nomination. Before doing so, please ensure the nominee is both interested and willing to serve. Once confirmed, send a letter or email including their name and qualifications to the President at info@swmi-decolores.org or ssbasketcase@aol.com or davethe18th@comcast.net. **A vote of the community will take place at the Ultreya on November 15, 2025.**

Duties of Vice President / President / Past President:

Vice President

- Provide full support to the President in carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretariat. Assumes the President's duties in their absence.

President

- Presides over, and directs all meetings of the Secretariat.
- In the absence of the President, Vice President, and Past President, appoints another Secretariat member to conduct meetings.
- Serves as the official representative of the Southwest Michigan DeColores Community.
- Meets with each Rector/ess prior to their weekend to evaluate plans, offer guidance and ensure alignment with the bylaws and weekend guidelines.
- Distributes and maintains key materials: Rector/ess Manual, Head Cook Cookbook, Head Coordinator team folders and master copies.
- Attends a scheduled team meeting for each weekend to ensure conformity to the guidelines of the weekend and bylaws.
- Gives the "Money Talk" (also known as the "Sermon on the Amount") during each DeColores weekend.
- Represents the Southwest Michigan DeColores Community at Closings and provides community announcements.
- Maintains & stores Servant Surveys and distributes them as needed.

Past President

- Provides full support to both the President and Vice President.
- Assumes the President's duties in the absence of both the President and Vice President.
- Organizes the Secretariat Commissioning, held at the January Board meeting.
- Appoints the chair of the Fourth Day Workshop.
- Acts as an authorized signer on accounts in the absence of the Treasurer.
- Oversees the incorporation of board-approved decisions into appropriate relevant manuals.
- Receives and securely manages login IDs and passwords for various platforms from the Website Administrator.

1 Peter 4:10

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."



VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURER

PRE-DECOLORES

IN-DECOLORES

HISTORIAN

NATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE

SOCIAL MEDIA
MANAGER

**INTERESTED IN ONE
OF THESE POSITIONS?**

Visit the *Serving* page on our website at swmi-decolores.org for job descriptions and other information regarding all open positions.



Nominations Needed for Rector and Rectoress for the Spring Weekends

The Southwest Michigan DeColores Community is accepting nominations for Rector and Rectoress for the Spring 2026 weekends. To ensure that these positions are filled by individuals who are fully qualified, please review the minimum requirements for this position below:

Minimum Requirements:

- Completed at least three DeColores weekends as a team member.
- Served as a rollista on a DeColores weekend.
- Served as a coordinator on a DeColores weekend or completed a Fourth Day Workshop.
- Been a member of the Southwest Michigan DeColores Community for at least **three** years at the time of nomination.
- Activity involved in an organized Christian church.
- Demonstrates a life that consistently reflects the values of the DeColores ministry.
- Willing to accept the commitment of service to the Community and Secretariat
- The nominee must not have served as a Rector or Rectoress within the preceding seven (7) years.

How to Nominate:

Any member of the Southwest Michigan DeColores Community is welcome to nominate someone for Rector or Rectoress. To submit a nomination, please ensure the individual is both interested and willing to serve. Once confirmed, please send a letter with their name and qualifications to the President via email at info@swmi-decolores.org or ssbasketcase@aol.com.

Thank you for making it possible for us to continue offering these weekends!



2025 Southwest Michigan DeColores Ministries Secretariat Board Members

President Team: Dave Lingle & Sherry Smith	davethe18th@comcast.net ssbasketcase@aol.com
Vice President Couple: Bill & Gail Fitzgerald	bfitz1401@gmail.com gail.gard@yahoo.com
Past President Couple: Chris & Sheila Winkelmann	wink911@gmail.com Sheilawink1977@gmail.com
Spiritual Advisors: Andy Abrams & Michael Smith	metalcaster@live.com Michaeltsmith63@gmail.com
Secretary: Deb Traversa	debtraversa@gmail.com
Treasurer: Leigh Bishop	65lambishop@gmail.com
Pre-DeColores: Jason & Christy Pruett	jasonpruett812@yahoo.com Christypruett918@yahoo.com
In-DeColores: Josh & Faye Curtis	jwfmcurtis@gmail.com
Post-DeColores: John Smith & Vern Hochstetler	smith.john59@gmail.com v.hochstetler@yahoo.com
Historian: Marcia Pedzinski	cotamarsh@yahoo.com
Website Coordinator: Carrie Wack	hotpinkcarrie@gmail.com
Palanca Coordinator: Kristal Kelly	kristalk@lifeplan.org
National Representatives: Tammie Peffley	tammiepef@yahoo.com
Social Media Manager: Brandi Mayer	branmayer@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: Cindy Ruminer	cruminer79@gmail.com

Board Meetings are held on the **4th Tuesday of the month** at 7:00 pm

Location: Redeemer Church
1234 Fulkerson Road, Niles, MI 49120

Southwest Michigan DeColores Ministries
PO Box 225
Niles, MI 49120
Email: info@swmi-decolores