

PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

JESUS IS LORD!

“SEE WHAT GREAT LOVE THE
FATHER HAS LAVISHED ON US,

THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED
CHILDREN OF GOD!”

1 JOHN 3:1

930TH PRAYER MEETING
CAMP HOPE EDITION

AUGUST 10, 2025

ABBA, FATHER

CAMP HOPE 2025

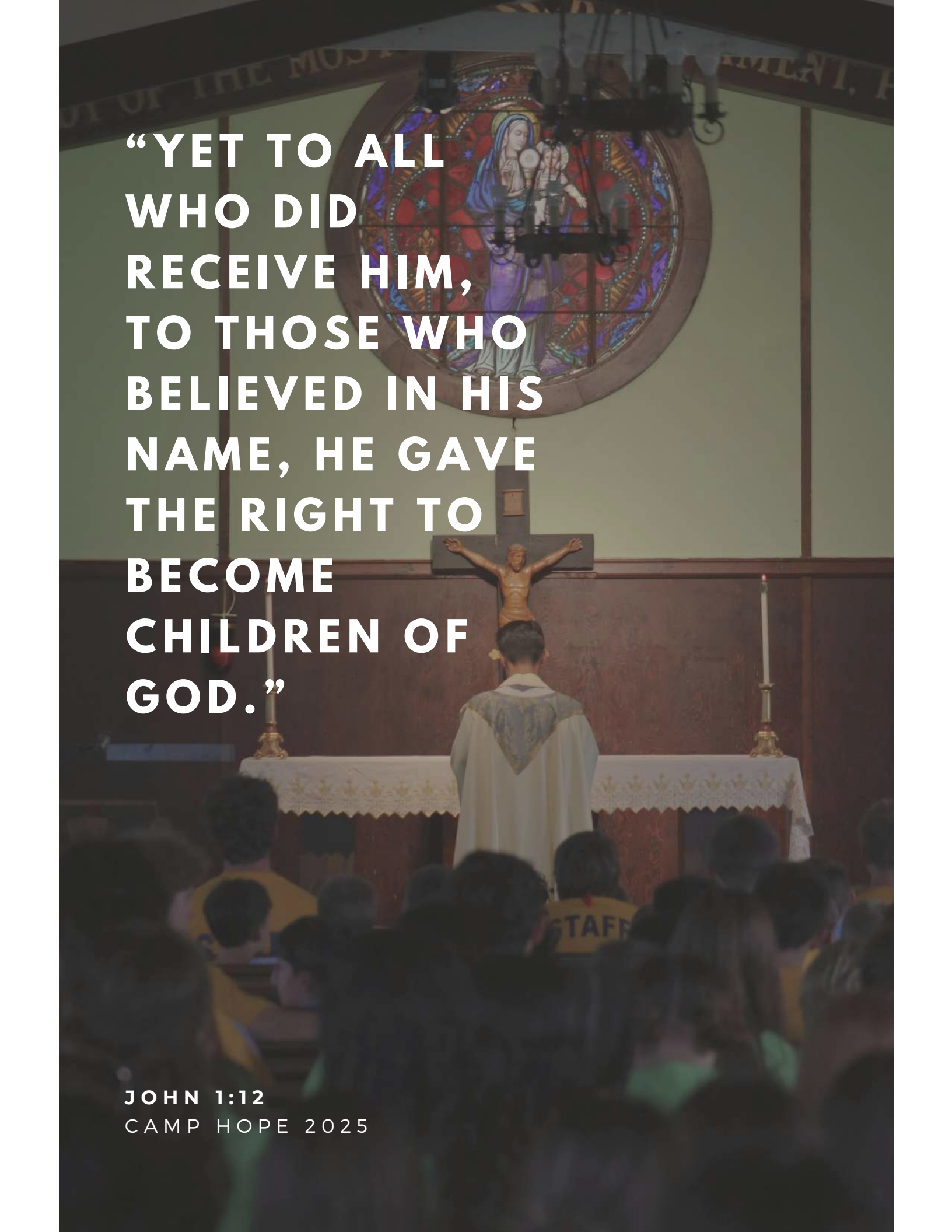










A photograph of a church interior during a Mass. A priest in a white and blue vestment stands with his back to the camera, facing the altar. The altar is covered with a white lace cloth and has a crucifix on the wall behind it. Above the crucifix is a large, circular stained glass window depicting the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child. The church has dark wood paneling. In the foreground, the backs of several people's heads are visible, including one wearing a yellow shirt with the word "STAFF" on it.

**“YET TO ALL
WHO DID
RECEIVE HIM,
TO THOSE WHO
BELIEVED IN HIS
NAME, HE GAVE
THE RIGHT TO
BECOME
CHILDREN OF
GOD.”**

JOHN 1:12
CAMP HOPE 2025

Gratitude for Ignite Youth Ministry



Hello, my name is Ben Touhill, a recent Koinonia Academy graduate, and I just wrapped up my fourth year of being a part of Ignite Youth Ministry. Throughout the past 4 years, Ignite has been a safe, fun, and Christ-centered environment for my friends and I to be. Ignite is more than just a few talks here and there, its a community of young men and women who are struggling and growing together in their journeys with Christ. I have learned how crucial it is to lean on God and trust him with your life. Between the many large group events, small groups, and 4 yes retreats, I have been prepared well to go out and stay strong in my faith. This has led me to the decision to take a gap summer of service in Monterrey Mexico! Please keep me in your prayers during my time away! **Ben Touhill** // Class of 2025



A group of approximately 15 children, both boys and girls, are posing on a playground structure. They are wearing school uniforms consisting of dark blue or black dresses/skirts and light-colored polo shirts. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a clear blue sky and some greenery.

KOINONIA ACADEMY



BACK TO SCHOOL!

Please keep the KA students and faculty in your prayers as they prepare for the upcoming school year!

IGNITE

YOUTH MINISTRY

The **Ignite Youth Ministry Program** is sponsored by the People of Hope community and partners with Koinonia Academy to provide a youth ministry environment for high school. It primarily serves families in the People of Hope and at Koinonia Academy but is also open to any and all families. This program takes place on Thursday nights. It is run by a dynamic team of youth workers.

Details & Calendar for this upcoming school year are still in the midst of being finalized. You can reach out to ignite@peopleofhope.net for any questions or to be added to the mailing list.



CAMP HOPE: MEMORIES OF GRACE

A PERSONAL REFLECTION

When I was asked to write about Camp Hope, my first response was to smile. Camp has always provided me with some of my life's best memories. I know that growth in my spiritual life and some of my closest relationships have come from serving at Camp Hope. Camp has also provided great memories and lasting friendships for my family.

When my husband Jim, and I first began attending events with the People of Hope Community, we began to hear about Camp Hope and the wonderful things that happened there. Because our children were still young, we did not experience Camp life right away. We were aware of Camp and heard great witnesses at Camp prayer meetings, but my first experience came when my oldest children were starting camp as 2nd and 3rd graders. I was asked to serve in the kitchen that first year, with the amazing Doreen Gazzo leading the way. Jim stayed home and heroically held down the fort caring for the rest of the family. I had no idea what to expect, but what I experienced was fellowship with the staff, a revival of my spiritual life and the beginning of friendships that bless me to this day. In addition, I was able to watch my children mature in their relationship with the Lord, navigate challenges that helped them grow in virtue and make lifelong friendships.

Working in the kitchen was very hard work and I was very challenged by the hours and effort needed. I found however, that the day flew by while we cut lettuce, rolled handmade cinnamon rolls, all the while laughing and chatting the time away. The fellowship time was amazing. In the meantime, I was able to experience the spiritual talks, prayer times, Eucharistic Adoration and the Masses with everyone at Camp. The spiritual life at Camp reinvigorated my own spirit and helped me to grow spiritually. It became clear to me that Camp would become a very important part of our family life.

"I KNOW THAT
GROWTH IN MY
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After 2 years in the kitchen, I was asked to serve with Pat Weyand and Laura Greey. My role was to run the girl's activities and support Pat and Laura in any way I could. Organizing the girl's activities gave me the opportunity to work with great young people who constantly amazed me (and sometimes challenged me) with their creativity, energy and joy. Every day I experienced the Lord working in all their lives as well as my own. Year after year the Lord provided me with a new perspective and the grace to carry on while navigating the challenges of raising a young family.

My favorite memory from Camp was the laughter. A wonderful time of the day was in the afternoon when there was a bit of a break from work. We would stand on the porch of the dining hall watching the campers having fun together. We would also have a fire pit at the end of the night at the top of the hill to keep an eye on the campers as they ended their day. My children still mention how they loved hearing the laughter from the top of the hill.

Although I stopped volunteering at Camp a number of years ago, fond memories still come to mind especially at this time of the year. I encourage anyone who is able to take time out and volunteer at Camp Hope. The experience is life changing. I am praying for this year's Camp and I thank everyone who has helped organize and serve Camp Hope 2025. You are a blessing!

-Sonia Masterson
People of Hope member



Jane Apuzzo & Sonia Masterson serving at
Camp Hope in 2013

" I HAVE ALWAYS EXPERIENCED GOD'S
KINDNESS, TENDERNESS &
REFRESHMENT, AND GOD SHINING
LIGHT ON AREAS THAT I NEEDED TO
IMPROVE. "



WHY GO ON RETREAT

Dave Touhill

Where has the time gone? Summer is racing to an end and Fall is peeking around the corner. Before you know it, school will be starting, the Giants and Jets will be dreaming of their Super Bowl run and we will be having our Annual Fall retreat.

After going on retreats for the last 50 or so years, you would think that I wouldn't need to go any longer; you might think I have enough residual grace to just coast. "You've done enough Dave, you know enough, you're holy enough, sit back and relax". Hmmmm, it seems few things work that way..... "stop working out, stop eating your vegetables, stop having your prayer time, and you're suddenly in big trouble".

Back in 1998 a good friend made his last retreat. He didn't know it was going to be his last retreat, but it was. My friend Dave had a great retreat. He was deeply touched by the Lord. A musician, he wrote a beautiful song in the days following and had some special moments with his wife and kids. A couple of months after the retreat, he suddenly died. I believe God used this last retreat to prepare Dave to meet the Lord. You never know when it's going to be your last retreat.

What is a retreat? A retreat is a time set apart where we can step away from daily life and focus on our relationship with the Lord, a time to take "spiritual inventory". It typically includes prayer, reflection, Mass, Adoration, confession, some great spiritual talks, and time for good fellowship. Spending time away with the Lord on retreat is very important to our spiritual health. It's like getting a spiritual tune-up.

There have been times when I staggered into the retreat on Friday night.... tired and wondering whether I should have even come really needing a dose of God's love. Yet by the time Sunday rolled around, I was happy I came. I have always experienced God's kindness, tenderness & refreshment, and God shining light on areas that I needed to improve. I may have arrived with a frown, but left with a smile.

So I encourage all of us to sign up for this year's retreat. Whether it's our first or our 50th, the Lord will be there to greet us and prepare us for the next chapter of our life.

PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

FALL RETREATS 2025



Retreats

OPEN TO ALL!

REVIVE, RENEW, RESTORE OUR HOPE!

MEN'S RETREAT
SEPTEMBER SEP 19-21

WOMEN'S RETREAT
SEPTEMBER SEP 26-28

Camp Tecumseh
445 Mechlin Corner Rd, Pittstown, NJ 08867

This retreat is open to anyone over the age of 18

For more info and to register, please visit
www.peopleofhope.net/2025fallretreats



Jesus is Lord!

The People of Hope

Marriage in the Holy Spirit

A couples retreat

Jan 31-Feb 1, 2026

Journey on a weekend of encouragement, renewal, and an
outpouring of God's grace through the Holy Spirit.

New Jersey

peopleofhope.net/mihs

*Visit our website by scanning the QR code for more information
regarding registration, schedule, pricing, speakers, etc.*





YOU'RE INVITED!

LIGHTHOUSE SUMMER LORD'S DAY DINNER

Saturday, August 23rd, 5:00-7:30pm

Prayers will begin at 5:30pm

Warren Township Municipal Playground

46 Mtn Blvd Warren, NJ 07059

Behind the Warren Library

This will be a picnic style dinner so BYO food, soft drinks, cutlery/paper products, lawn chairs, blankets, etc. Please also bring lawn games, basketballs, etc that you may have. Note - This park is an alcohol free so do NOT bring hard drinks. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Within the People of Hope, Lighthouse provides an environment for young families, couples, and adults in their 40's & 30's. We have monthly events with opportunities for great fellowship and fun as well as spiritual growth, nourishment and formation.

Want to know more? Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#) and we will be in touch!



compass

YOUNG ADULTS



We are excited to share that Compass is returning but with a fresh approach! A team of young adults are organizing outreach events open to all young adults in their 20's. To start, events will focus on building rich community with one another in a Christ centered positive environment.

OUR NEXT EVENT

8/20: Pool & Volleyball Night
Molnar Home // time TBD

Hear about our all our upcoming events by
JOINING OUR GROUP CHAT!

Download the "Band" app
and scan the QR to join!



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK

IMMEDIATE NEED

- Shannon Hardy
- Gary Montemurno
- Eric Garcia
- Jim Faszczewski

SERIOUS & ONGOING

- Eleanor Benson
- Jack Bickel
- Margaret Fierro
- Danielle Neri
- Rose Molnar
- Dan O'Mullan

PRAYER PETITION HIGHLIGHT

KOINONIA ACADEMY

Father, please bless Koinonia and enable it to continue to be a great support for parents who have the primary responsibility for the education of their children. Let KA grow and prosper spiritually, academically, and financially. May Koinonia continue to be, “A light in the darkness” attracting students and families to the true light of the world, Jesus Christ!

“Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude”

PHIL. 4:6

"PEACE BE WITH YOU"
JOHN 20:19

I WANT TO RESTORE YOUR HOPE

My Beloved People of Hope, just as with those disciples on the way to Emmaus, I want to restore your hope for all that I have promised you. Hope is the foundation of your life in me. But just as you need a personal faith, you also need a personal hope in me. So, I ask you to recall all that I have done in your life that builds your faith in me. Because those are the ingredients on which the foundation of your hope is built. Then ask the Holy Spirit to come and water those ingredients, to cure that concrete and your remembrance to make it alive again and then I will strengthen your hope so that you are ready for the time to come until the day that I call you home." (Ref Luke 24)

SEE AND REVEAL THE WORKS OF MY SPIRIT

Have great hope, what is broken can be made new through the power of my Holy Spirit. I am at work redeeming, and breaking chains of bondage and old ways of thinking. I am freeing your souls and minds and hearts with my truth. Do not hold on to the past, but look at today, at this moment, what my Holy Spirit is doing in each one of your lives. See one another as new creations through the lens of my Holy Spirit. Go forth and bring my Holy Spirit to others, believe, trust and know that I am with you, says the Lord." (Ref Revelation 21:5)

I NEED YOU TO BRING MY HOPE TO OTHERS

When I was praying immediately I experienced a plea from the Holy Spirit. The Lord said, 'Oh yes, I want to set you free. And I want to increase my Holy Spirit in you and renew your hope. But this is not just for you. I need you and my church needs you. I need those who know my hope to be a light and a leaven just where I have them. I need you to be a light and a leaven to your family member, to your coworker, even to your spouse, to your children, to your pastor, and to all those around, even just for a minute, I need you. So, let me be your hope. Open your heart to my hope, because I need you in this world.

June 8, 2025 Community Prayer Meeting Prophecies

UPCOMING EVENTS

KOINONIA ACADEMY 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL

**Wednesday, September 3,
2025**

Please keep students and
faculty in your prayers!

For more information about
Koinonia Academy visit
www.KoinoniaAcademy.org.



MEN'S RETREAT

September 19-21

See link for details



WOMEN'S RETREAT

September 26-28

See link for details



FIRST IGNITE NIGHT TBD

More details to follow



MARRIAGE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT RETREAT

January 31-February 2

See website for details



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 @thepeopleofhope  @peopleofhopenj



THE PEOPLE OF HOPE
A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

IN LOVING MEMORY
THOMAS F. BENSON

Born into earthly Life: June 19, 1939

Baptized: July 2, 1939

Born into Eternal Life: July 18, 2025

Thomas F. Benson, of Berkeley Heights, NJ, passed away peacefully on Friday, July 18, 2025, at the age of 86, surrounded by his loving family.

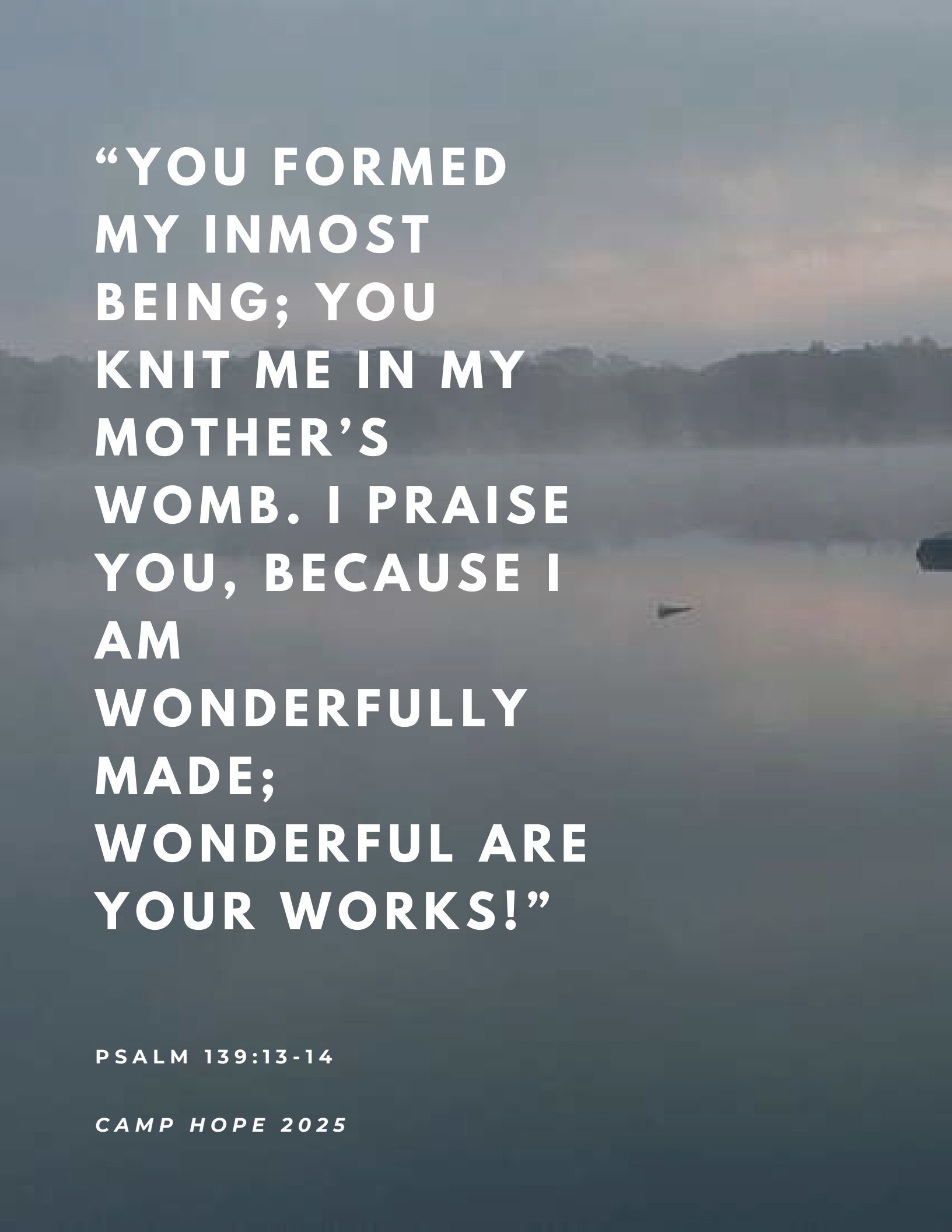
Born in Brooklyn, NY, on June 19, 1939, Thomas was the son of Elizabeth (née Lamb) and Francis Benson. He spent his early years in Brooklyn, where he met the love of his life, Eleanor (née Meade). The two shared 65 wonderful years of marriage, building a life rooted in faith, family, and devotion.



After graduating from high school, Thomas proudly served his country in the United States Army until his honorable discharge. He went on to work as an internal auditor for several companies, most recently with the collections department at UMDNJ.

Thomas and Eleanor lived in Staten Island, NY, and later Elizabeth, NJ, before settling in Berkeley Heights, where they have resided for the past 30 years. A devout Catholic, Thomas was a dedicated parishioner at the Church of the Little Flower in Berkeley Heights. He and his wife were daily communicants and Eucharistic Ministers, and Thomas was also a faithful member of the People of Hope community.

Thomas will be remembered for his deep faith, his unwavering love for his family, and his joy for dancing. He is survived by his beloved wife, Eleanor, and their six children: Thomas Benson, Jr., John Benson and his wife Susan, Robert Benson and his wife Marianne, Kathleen Waraksa and her husband Stephen, Lisa Way, and Christopher Benson and his wife Susana. He was the cherished grandfather of 22 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, with 3 more great-grandchildren expected soon. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Thomas was predeceased by his parents and his ten siblings.



**“YOU FORMED
MY INMOST
BEING; YOU
KNIT ME IN MY
MOTHER’S
WOMB. I PRAISE
YOU, BECAUSE I
AM
WONDERFULLY
MADE;
WONDERFUL ARE
YOUR WORKS!”**

PSALM 139:13-14

CAMP HOPE 2025