

UPWARD 2026

January 1-31, 2026

BEGIN THE YEAR WITH GOD

A new year stands before us—2026. Each January feels like a fresh page, a clean slate, an opportunity to “number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12). But this year, as we step across the threshold into the unknown, the world around us reminds us that time is moving swiftly. The signs of our age, the instability of nations, the uncertainty in every corner of society—these things speak loudly. They echo Christ’s words: “When you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors” (Matthew 24:33).

We are living in the closing moments of earth’s story. And in such a time, there is one thing—only one—that matters above all else: a living relationship with Jesus Christ. Everything else fades in comparison. When the earth shakes, when life shifts beneath our feet, when our plans prove fragile—Christ remains. He alone is our foundation, our center, and our hope.

What better way to begin a year than with God at the very center of our hearts and our conference family?

This past fall, during the “Upward—40 Days of Prayer,” we heard testimony after testimony from members across Alaska—stories of renewed faith, breakthroughs in relationships, answered prayers, restored courage, and hearts drawn closer to the Savior. Churches were drawn closer together as members united in prayer for God’s direction. Many described it as a turning point, a moment when God personally stepped into their lives. Those forty days reaffirmed something we often forget: God draws near when His people pray together.

Now, as 2026 begins, God invites us once more—not to busyness, not to fear or anxiety, but to our knees. To humility. To communion. To prayer.

Upward 2026 is a call to our entire Alaska Conference family.

A call to seek God first.

A call to unite as one body.

A call to lift our eyes above the turmoil of the world and fix them firmly on Jesus.

For the 31 days of January, we invite every member, every family, every church, and every group to join together each day at 6:00 a.m. and/or 6:00 p.m. in prayer. Once again, we will be sending out daily devotionals at 3:00 am each day for your spiritual nourishment. Once again we will be hosting a twice daily ZOOM. Whether gathered in church, meeting online, or praying from home, we will rise and kneel as one body—seeking God’s guidance, blessing, and mission for the year ahead.

Ellen White wrote: “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend” (Steps to Christ, p. 93). And what a friend we have in our God. One who welcomes our fears, our hopes, and our uncertainties; One who delights to strengthen His people; One who never abandons His church.

As we humble ourselves before Him—individually and corporately—we invite His Spirit to lead us upward:

Upward in faith,
Upward in unity,
Upward in mission,
Upward into deeper dependence on
Christ.

Let us begin 2026 in the only place strong enough to carry us through it—on our knees, together, seeking the presence of God.

May this January be more than a program. May it be a movement of the Spirit. May it be the beginning of a year shaped, guided, and sustained by prayer.

Alaska Conference family—will you join us? Together, let us look Upward in 2026.

SIGN-UP FOR UPWARD 2026