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AMERICAN BAPTIST
WOMEN IN MINISTRY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2

American Baptist Women in Ministry is a ministry within the Office of the General Secretary of ABCUSA where we recognize and advocate for the full partnership of women and men in ministry in which both women and men are able to fully utilize their God-given gifts to fully live out their God-given calls.



The Power of Sisterhood Women in Ministry Luncheon
Sponsored by ABCUSA and DCBC



March Challenge: M.O.V.E. with Us!



March On Be Visible Everywhere!

Join the movement celebrating women in ministry by wearing your stole not only in the pulpit but beyond—on mountains, in the marketplace, on main street—preaching through presence that women are actively serving in ministry.



How to Participate:

Wear your stole—any stole, anywhere.
Post a photo to your social media page
Use **#MarchOnWomenInMinistry** and tag
@AmericanBaptistWomeninMinistry



We see you. We celebrate you. We salute you.

Let's M.O.V.E. together—March On Be Visible Everywhere!



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Upcoming Events



TRANSITION MINISTRIES (TM) Level I Training

abc-usa.org/transitionministries

March 20-21, 2026
Friday: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. (ET)
Saturday: 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. (ET)

Instructor: Rev. Nikita McCalister



THE POWER OF SISTERHOOD WOMEN IN MINISTRY BRUNCH

Save the Date!

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026
10:00AM - 12:00PM**

This is a collaboration of
ABCUSA and ABC Wisconsin

Location:

Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Demetria C. McCroskey Sr. Pastor
3456 North 38th Street,
Milwaukee, WI 53216



ABC-USA.ORG

GOD'S GRACE EVERYDAY ABC CONVERSATIONS 2026



THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026
AT 3:00 P.M. EASTERN / 12:00 P.M. PACIFIC
WITH PRESENTERS REV. ERIC HOHEISEL
REV. DR. JAMES HARRISON

ABC-USA.ORG

For more information and to register, visit www.abc-usa.org/events



Maintaining Joy on the Journey

Written by:

Rev. Dr. Demetria McCroskey

**Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church,
Senior Pastor**

As a Black woman in ministry within the Baptist denomination, I wrestle with sustaining joy in a vocation that is both holy and heavy. This joy is a spiritual discipline cultivated through prayer, community, and faith when affirmation is absent.

I am reminded of Deborah — prophet, judge, mother, and wife (Judges 4-5). She led because God called her, not because she had permission. Her courage teaches us that purpose flows from divine commissioning, not patriarchal structures.

The message sustaining my joy in 2026: God is still calling women to lead courageously and walk boldly in prophetic revelation, giving God's people joyous victory on earth as it is in heaven, even amid political, social, and economic chaos. Many women have learned this rhythm of transformative joy long before standing in leadership. We serve with excellence even when unseen, drawing strength from the Holy Spirit. When systems deny our ability, we have pioneers showing that there is joy in treading new paths—Vice President Kamala Harris, Rev. Dr. Trinetta McCray, and countless others who, like Deborah, broke barriers while paving the way for those following.

In my church, women fill pews, lead choirs, teach children, and sustain the work—yet many encounter spaces questioning women's leadership. Still, we stay, because "the joy of the Lord is our strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). To maintain joy is to trust that our holy labor, though heavy, will birth healing, purpose, and transformation in God's Kingdom.

What Sustained Me

Written by:

**Rev. Sue Royle Living Word Baptist Church,
Senior Pastor**

After 20 years as an ABC pastor, I have discovered some things that have sustained me on this journey. Obviously the most important is daily prayer and devotions; connecting with God as the day begins. It's what centers me.

As women, we face different challenges than male clergy. So being part of American Baptist Churches of New Jersey Women in Ministry became a vital source of encouragement. I also belong to an interfaith clergy group in my community.

Additionally, over the years I learned there are things I need to prioritize. First is time with family, but also having relationships outside the church, where I can remove the clergy robe, relax, and just be me.



Also vitally important is being intentional in practicing self-care, something we often neglect. Doing things I like, such as painting, reading, playing guitar, tap-dancing (yes even at my age!), and always being open to trying new things, even with my congregation.

But perhaps what really sustains me, especially on days I feel like quitting, is realizing the sacred privilege God has given me and all clergy. To be able to walk alongside individuals as they go through their life journeys is truly the greatest honor and joy of my life.





Waiting

Written by:

Rev. Dr. Valerie Andrews

Eternal Life Missionary Baptist Church

Senior Pastor

As a woman in ministry, one of the most difficult things I have struggled with is to embrace waiting. In doing so, I become anxious and stressed. Like so many women, we are busy with family, ministry, and other responsibilities, where waiting seems almost impossible. When our child plays a sport, we can't wait to get them to the required practices. During the winter months, we can't wait to turn the heat on in the sanctuary for the choir rehearsals, and by no means can we afford to wait to write that sermon for Sunday or go shopping before the snowstorm heads our way.

In Psalm 27:14, King David reminds us, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord"! During a time of distress, David conveyed his trust in God, and yearning for God's presence. God has been inviting me to be deliberate about looking for God-self in any/all my circumstances (regardless of how intense they may be). I am now beginning to manage the stress, breathe, and more importantly trust God a little more as I look to God to direct my steps. It hasn't been easy, my fellow readers, but the beauty is, it has been worth it!

Yet, in this new year, I'm finding myself, once again, in the space of waiting. However, the difference this time around is that I am gracefully welcoming waiting in all its fullness. Now don't get me wrong, at the top of the year, I can't say I supported this idea, but over the past several weeks, God has been showing me the beauty of waiting. Imagine that! Waiting...being beautiful!





Meet Rev. Jennifer Schneider, Associate Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region



Rev. Jennifer Schneider,
Associate Executive Minister,
American Baptist Churches of
the Central Region



Rev. Schneider's words of wisdom for women in ministry: Let's be honest, ministry is hard. Anyone who seeks to live out her calling—paid or unpaid, ordained or “voluntold”—knows there are days when we question God's plan and our purpose. There have been days when I have wondered whether I was where I was supposed to be, or had taken a wrong turn.

Yet, ministry can be satisfying and full of hope. Henri Nouwen reminds us, “Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day” (You Are the Beloved). During our struggles, we can choose to focus on the negative or hold onto God's promises like lifeboats in a storm, trusting that the sun will shine again.

As followers of Jesus, we're reminded that our joy isn't dependent on perfect plans, smooth meetings, or stress-free calendars. Our joy is rooted in Christ. Jesus tells us, “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love...so that my joy may be in you” (John 15:10-11).

So, may we know joy—not because everything is easy, but because we know to whom we belong. And may we keep choosing it...even when it rains.

