

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

March 2020 Newsletter



Jubilee Practices, 2020

In concert with the Ministers Council proclamation, “Year of Jubilee, 2020” we are committing a section of our monthly newsletter to exploring Jubilee Practices. We invite members of the Council to share the practices that shape Jubilee living from a private, congregational, regional, and/or professional perspective.

Submit your reflections to Lisa Simpson at info@ministerscouncil.com. Also, if you are not yet a member of the Ministers Council, ABCUSA, simply apply through our website: MinistersCouncil.com and your national dues will be waived for the year 2020.

Peace and Goodness to you.
President Randolph "RT" Miller

National Update



Pictured from left: Rev. Dr. Barbara Jim-George, Rev. Jacki Belile, Rev. Randy "RT" Miller, Rev. Dr. Shane Kinnison, Rev. Dan Hopkins, Ms. Lisa Simpson, Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez, Rev. Rebecca Driscoll, Rev. Cheryl Harris, Rev. Atula Jamir, Ph.D.

We conducted "worshipful work" (read more [here](#)) at our two-day planning meeting of the Leadership Team. Throughout our time, we took turns sharing an incredible collage of devotional reflections, and allowed deep responses and dreaming. Themes included Jubilee, joy, bearing the images of God, wellness, connection to nature, equipping the saints and MORE. We'll be sharing these in coming issues. Here are the first two of the Team's devotionals, the first from the Rev. Dr. Barbara Jim-George; the second from the Rev. Atula Jamir, Ph.D.

Additional devotionals will be available in the spring issues of the newsletter.

Devotional "**Reading Luke 4:18, 19 from the Margins**" For Whom Was The Year of Jubilee, and What Exactly Does That Mean? by the Rev. Dr. Barbara Jim-George. Download [HERE](#)

Devotional "**In God's Good World**" by the Rev. Dr. Atula Jamir. Download [HERE](#)

Events and Webinars

MC LIVE WEBINAR
March 12, 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Theme: Orientation to MinistrElife
Guest Leader: Rev. Erica Van Brakle, National Coordinator

Zoom Info [Here](#).



LENTEN PRAYER
Tuesdays, 8:30am-9am Central Time.
Co-led by Revs. Rebecca Driscoll and Jacki Belile.
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7.

Ministers Council is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lenten Prayer - Co-led by Rev. Rebecca Driscoll and Rev. Jacki Belile

Date/Time: Mar 3, 2020 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Date/Time: Mar 10, 2020 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Date/Time: Mar 17, 2020 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Date/Time: Mar 24, 2020 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Date/Time: Mar 31, 2020 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Date/Time: April 7, 2020 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Zoom info [HERE](#)

TIM Groups Info Session

Monday, March 9. 7pm - 8pm Central

Hosted by Revs. Dan Hopkins and Jacki Belile

Ministers Council is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: TIM Groups Info. Session - Hosted by Rev. Dan Hopkins and Rev. Jacki Belile

Date/Time: Mar 9, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Info [HERE](#)

Chapter News

Ministers Council of New York State is having a retreat at the Norte Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua, NY on March 15-17, 2020. Speaker is Dr. Nancy P. Askins and the theme is "Healthy Living for Healthy Pastors."



Read Newsletter [Here](#)

Greater Bay Area Newsletter
[HERE](#)



Milestones & Prayer Requests

VALLEY FORGE, PA - **Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles** informed the Board of Ministries of the **American Baptist Churches Of Rhode Island (ABCORI)** in December of his plans to retire on June 30, 2020.

(Click to read more)

The American Baptist Churches of Michigan announced in January that the Region board voted to approve the recommendation of the Executive Minister Search Committee, calling **Rev. Brian D. Johnson** to serve as Executive Minister. **(Click to read more)**

Please pray for our Leadership Team's work...

We ask you to hold in prayer all ministers who are in discernment — asking you to pray for all who are seeking to find their vocations. For those looking for inspiration, and those who are unsure of their path as they decide between calls.

Please hold colleagues in prayer in facing many difficult times. In particular, we uphold **Revs. Mindi Welton-Mitchell** and **Sarah Welton** in prayer as Jerry (Sarah's husband and Mindi's stepdad) passed away after a tragic fall. We also hold in tender hearts Rebecca and **Nathan Irwin-Diehl** and family upon death of 17-year old son Jackiel.

Please pray for our nation's painful divisions and the discernment to take Christ-like actions daily. Ask God to give the leaders of this nation the wisdom and integrity to lead in the best direction.

Continue to remember, pray for and care for people who need warmth, shelter and nourishment, not just during the worst of the winter but throughout the year.

Please pray for all who are affected by the Coronavirus. Pray for all who are sick because of the virus and all who mourn for those who have died. Ask God to strengthen those who work among the sick, the medical personnel and emergency responders. Pray that government officials and agencies will have wisdom and skill in containing the epidemic.

Lent is approaching, and our attention is being turned to Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, death and resurrection. Lift up humble, grateful prayers for God's mercy, love and forgiveness, which were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, son of God — our hope and salvation.

Staff Reflection

Through the Looking Glass with your Member Services Coordinator

Ministers Council has declared 2020 the Year of Jubilee!
Sound the horns!

My Prayer

As followers of Christ, let us make a deliberate effort to spend more time with our Lord and Savior in fellowship and be proclaimers of liberty, as we grow in grace and favor during this year of Jubilee!



Partner with us!

- With 2020 well on its way, if you have not yet joined or renewed your complimentary MC membership consider doing so today by going to the “Membership” tab of the Ministers Council website at **www.ministerscouncil.com**.
- The Ministers Council ABCUSA is now offering complimentary Zoom service to its members. If you are a MC chapter or group who would like to use Zoom at your next meeting, email us at **info@ministerscouncil.com** to reserve your slot today!
- Complimentary “Proof of Insurance” for MC gatherings and events can now be obtained through the Ministers Council ABCUSA. For additional information contact our office at **info@ministerscouncil.com**.

We would love to hear from you!

- Submit chapter or member milestones or announcements for publication in our monthly newsletter to [**info@ministerscouncil.com**](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com)
- Calling all Chapters! Submit your local board updates (name and email of 2020 president, treasurer and representative) at [**info@ministerscouncil.com**](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com).
- For questions regarding member resources, upcoming events and webinars please contact the Ministers Council office at [**info@ministerscouncil.com**](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com).

Come see us!

- We encourage you to visit the MC website at [**www.ministerscouncil.com**](http://www.ministerscouncil.com) for the latest updates, resources and events.
- Connect with us on our Facebook page “American Baptist Ministers Council” to share resources and weigh in on important issues affecting the life of the church.
- Let’s connect at this year’s exciting ABC gatherings! We’ll be present at the “Radical. Redeemed. Ready” Celebration of Women in Ministry at Green Lake in June, and the Space for Grace Conference in Kansas City in September.

ABC Announcements

VALLEY FORGE, PA —American Baptist Churches USA and American Baptist Women’s Ministries (ABWM) are partnering to present a unique conference, *Celebrating Ministering Women: Radical. Redeemed. Ready*, to be held June 16-19, 2020 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wis. Please note that The Ministers is an event sponsor.

(Click to read more)

Register [**HERE**](#). (Note! Early bird registration rate of \$149 has been extended to March 15th)

READ MORE ABC ANNOUNCEMENTS [**HERE**](#).

Reminders



How to reach us:

- By phone: (610)314-7837
- By email: info@ministerscouncil.com
- Address: 221 S. High Street, West Chester, PA 19382
- We can generally be reached in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays (emails and voicemails will be responded to during this time)



Stay connected

- Visit us at [**www.ministerscouncil.com**](http://www.ministerscouncil.com)
- Join us on **Facebook**
- Consider signing up for our monthly newsletter by selecting "subscribe" on the home page of the website

