

*Together in Ministry*



## March 2024 Newsletter



Dear Friends,

March has arrived. We are three weeks into Lent, and have four weeks of Lent left. Lent is one of two seasons of waiting in the liturgical calendar, but it is longer and takes on a different tone than its sibling season of Advent. As a pastor in congregation, leading through the season of Lent feels different to me than leading the congregation through the season of Advent. For me, the build up of anticipation that comes with Advent does not carry the same way in the Lenten season. Instead, there is a slower, perhaps quieter inward reflection attributed to Lent. And perhaps we need that slower pace in the season so that we can really allocate time and space to tend to our inward spiritual selves and to our relationship with God.

Sometimes my life gets so busy and my calendar fills up so quickly that visits with friends and relatives get pushed by meetings, work, doctors' appointments, and other important tasks that I cannot put off or may not have full control over. But those relationships are important to me, so I try to schedule and reschedule visits, sometimes months in advance to ensure that a conversation, a connection, a relationship gets nurtured and nourished. I wonder if our time with God can be similar to this. We plan to spend time with God, to nurture and nourish our conversation, connection, and relationship with God, but appointments and tasks that we cannot put off, or don't have control over, get in the way, and our time with

[READ MORE](#)

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The MC Leadership Team cordially invites you to serve as a booth volunteer (April 9 -11) by managing the Ministers Council exhibit table during Space for Grace.

If you are planning to attend, and are interested in reconnecting with friends, meeting others who are new in the ministry or to the denomination, please sign-up using the link below.

Thank you in advance for your support!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10Co84DADA92AABFFCF8-48290586-2024>

## Inspiring ministerial excellence for the glory of Jesus Christ since 1935

... to equip the saints for the work of ministry,  
for building up the body of Christ, until all of us  
come to the unity of the faith and of the  
knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the  
measure of the full stature of Christ.

—Ephesians 4:12-13



Since 1935, your national Ministers Council family has strived to provide opportunities for Collegiality, Competence and Centeredness. We've created resources articulating the challenges and ideals of an "excellent" (not perfect) minister in the Baptist contexts of ministry. Today, we connect chapters and developing affinity groups, host monthly webinars, and provide grants for clergy covenant groups and chapter events. Your Annual Dues ensure this work continues, and expresses your commitment to the "building up" of yourself and your colleagues. Renew for 2024 today!

To make your payments, please visit the Ministers Council website at: <https://www.ministerscouncil.com>

Contact **Rev. Dr. Valerie Andrews** if you need contact info for your local treasurer.

## National Updates



We are pleased to announce we now have access to Grant Station Inc., an organization dedicated to assisting nonprofits in identifying potential funding sources for their programs or projects.



To obtain a list of potential grant sources, please email information about the program or project for which you seek funds to Rev.

Linda M. Bergeon at [lbergeon@abccpc.org](mailto:lbergeon@abccpc.org). Upon receipt of your request, she will generate a list of grants you may be eligible for.

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## Ministers Council Survey

The national office of Ministers Council is interested in learning what your professional and personal needs are as clergy. We would love to hear from you about specific opportunities that would be most beneficial to you. Your feedback will help us to make adjustments and prioritize ways we are able to serve you. The survey should take 3-5 minutes, and your responses are completely anonymous.

We appreciate your input!

The Ministers Council Leadership Team

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

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## Events and Webinars

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**March 21, 2024**

**5pm Pacific/7pm Central/8pm  
Eastern**

We want to pray for each other and bless our journeys into Holy Week as we grow and serve in many different contexts. Join us for "Keep Company with Me", a 30-40 minute vespers style gathering of readings, music and prayer.

**ZOOM INFO:**

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking

here: <https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/2954166836>

Or call in by dialing: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 295 416 6836

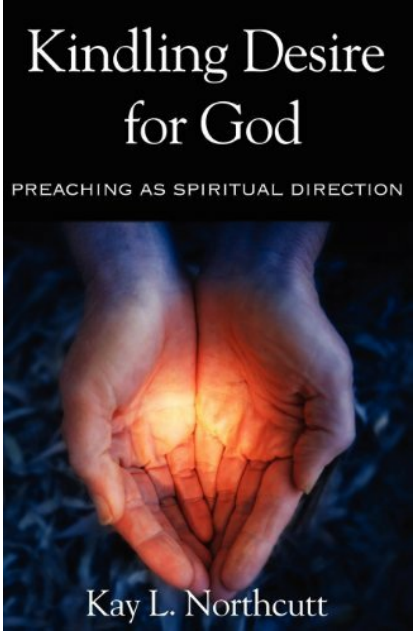
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## Lenten Book Discussion

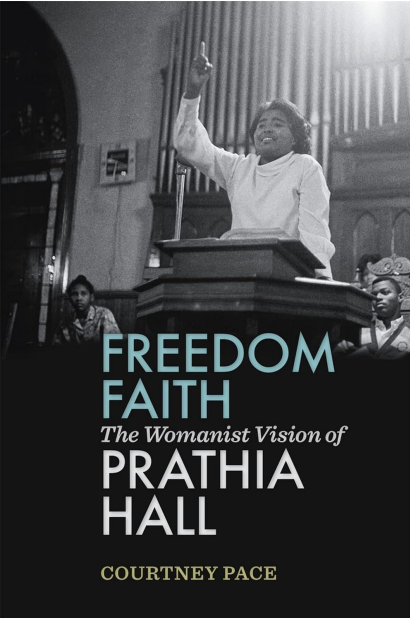
Join us at Noon Central on Tuesdays in March for discussion of *Kindling Desire for God: Preaching as Spiritual Direction*.  
March 5, 12, 19, 26.

Read more and order book [HERE](#).

ZOOM INFO HERE:  
Join Zoom Meeting by clicking



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### Three-Part Discussion Beginning in April

We'll hold an Eastertide Class in **April-May** inspired by Rev. Dr. Prathia Hall through the lens of *Freedom Faith: The Womanist Vision of Prathia Hall* by Rev. Dr. Courtney Pace. Continue breathing in the resurrection truths we see in the liberating stories of our faith, through the lens of Hall's life and the great cloud of witnesses who know death and oppression do not have the last word!

We're convening a 3-part discussion of this inspiring text. Suggested donation of \$25 will cover the cost of your book and a donation toward the sessions which will be part class, part coaching with a diverse team of leaders. Interested? Contact [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net) by March 15 to register and schedule together.

## Prayers and Milestones

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day.

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions.

**Please share your prayers and milestones for the April 2024 issue by sending an email to [ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org](mailto:ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org) before March 27.**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL WHO WERE BORN IN

**March**

BLESSINGS FROM THE MINISTERS COUNCIL



## ABC Announcements

### **Burma Advocacy Group Delegation Meets with Chief Minister of Mizoram, India**

On Wednesday, February 14, a significant event took place as a delegation of the Burma Advocacy Group, led by the Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, General Secretary Emeritus of American Baptist Churches USA, held a crucial meeting with Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma, of the state of Mizoram, at his office in Aizawl, India.

View a news release from the Government of Mizoram about the visit [here](#).



AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES'  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS HOSTING

### *United in faith 2024 telethon*

Saturday, March 23, 2024, 5:00-8:00 PM EDT

Get ready for the "United in Faith 2024 Telethon", a one-day event streaming live on Zoom, designed to unite women from across the nation in a shared mission of faith, empowerment, and service. We will celebrate our shared commitment to transforming lives through Christ-centered ministries. With a lineup of influential speakers, uplifting stories, music, and opportunities to contribute to meaningful causes, this event promises to be a beacon of faith and unity. Mark your calendars and join us in making a difference!

[GIVE NOW AT ABWOMENSMINISTRIES.ORG/UNITED](https://abwomensministries.org/united)

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES





On Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 5:00-8:00 PM EDT, we will celebrate our shared commitment to transforming lives through Christ-centered ministries. This one-day event is designed to unite women from across the nation in a shared mission of faith, empowerment, and service. With a lineup of uplifting stories, music, and opportunities to contribute to meaningful causes, this event promises to be a beacon of faith and unity. Mark your calendars and join us in making a difference!

[Register now](#) and let's stand united in faith.



Mark your calendar for July 18-21, 2024, at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, where Women and Girls of all ages across the United States, including Puerto Rico, will gather for an opportunity to deepen their understanding of God's word and to unlock the leadership potential within them.

Highlighting our two-year 2023-2025 Ministry Focus, "Be Strong, Be Courageous," we will feature inspiring plenary sessions, engaging workshops, and enriching Bible studies to uplift and strengthen your faith.

We urge you to save the date and start planning to be a part of this transformative gathering. Stay tuned for more updates.

You can learn more about our speakers and agenda, and to register, go to [abwomensministries.org/events](http://abwomensministries.org/events).

# Ecumenical Resources

## Community Resilience

URI Europe and URI Multiregion are delighted to present a collection of articles from Cooperation Circles, detailing their remarkable efforts in fostering community resilience.

The essence of "Community Resilience" lies in the sharing of uplifting practices and experiences by grassroots organizations, illustrating their journey towards building stronger and more resilient communities.

Whether it's environmental protection or engaging with young people, Cooperation Circles have a wealth of valuable practices to impart, and we are thrilled to present these insights in this publication. Your participation



promises to be a source of inspiration as we collectively embark on the path to fostering community resilience.

**Date: 7 March, 2024**  
**Time: 8: 00 am PST / 4:00 pm GMT**

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER](#)

## Curing Violence: A Workshop to End Violence



United Religions Initiative (URI) and Cure Violence Global invite you to be part of the *Curing Violence: A Workshop to End Violence* event.

This parallel event hosted by the United Religions Initiatives, aims to equip participants with the tools and strategies derived from Cure Violence Global's health approach to prevent and interrupt violence against women and girls.

Acknowledging the pervasive nature of this issue, particularly in contexts of poverty, conflict, and marginalization, the training seeks to empower attendees with actionable methods to address and mitigate gender-based violence.

**Date: 14 March 2024**  
**Time: 11:30 AM PDT / 6:30 PM GMT**

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER](#)



Join us to learn and share lessons from grassroots, interfaith women leaders.

This event, hosted by the United Religions Initiative, in collaboration with grassroots NGO partners, think tanks on women’s security, and religious and spiritual leaders, will center around identifying ways to prevent violence against women and girls, addressing structural inequalities, and leveraging financing and technology as tools to empower and alleviate gender-based violence against women in poverty and vulnerable contexts.



This event will elevate the voices of URI CCs working on the ground to advance the rights of women globally.

**Date: 19 March 2024**  
**Time: 9:30 am PDT / 4:30 pm GMT**

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER](#)



# Reminders

*We are committed to an exchange of chapter news, as well as announcements of personal and communal milestones and prayer requests. For inclusion in the April issue, send these to [ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org](mailto:ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org) by March 27.*



**How to reach us:**

- Phone: (610) 314-7837
- Office Hours: Tuesdays from 9am - 1pm (EST), and Thursdays from 2:30pm - 6:30pm (EST).



**Stay connected**

- Visit us at our **website**.
- Join us on **Facebook**

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