



## December 2025 Newsletter

*WONDERFUL COUNSELOR  
MIGHTY GOD  
EVERLASTING FATHER  
PRINCE OF PEACE*



*For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this. -Isaiah 9:6-7 (NRSV)*

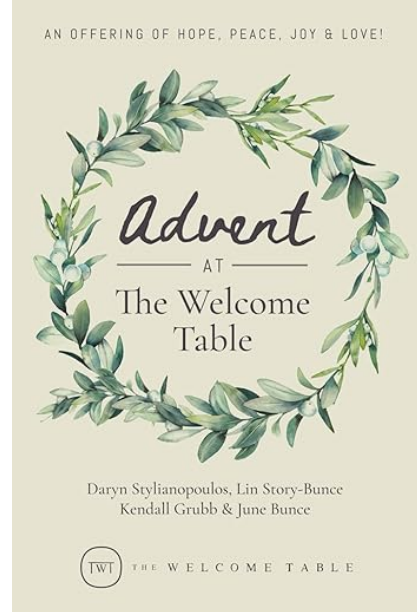
## Events and Webinars

### **Advent at the Welcome Table**

MC Live is partnering with [The Welcome Table](#) this December to offer a weekly space for gathering, sharing stories, and building community.

The Welcome Table (founded in 2020 by the Bunce Girls) is a faith-centered organization rooted in the belief that honest conversations and true connection grow where everyone's

belovedness and voice are honored. Together, we'll journey through Advent using *Advent at The Welcome Table* as our guide.



Join Revs. Daryn Stylianopoulos and Lin Story-Bunce on Monday afternoons at 12pm EST for this special MC Live Advent series—All are welcome. ***Did you miss the first session? No worries, drop in anyway on one or more of Dec. 8, 15, or 22 gatherings.***

Zoom

Link: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/4632009020>

[Learn more about the Welcome Table](#)



## SAVE THE DATE!

**A Call to Justice and Courage:  
*A Conversation with Rev. Dr. Christine A. Smith***

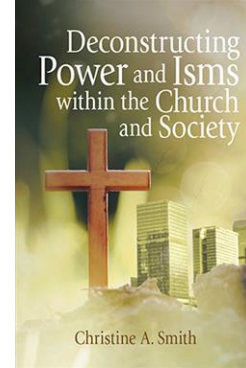
**Thursday, January 15**  
**5pm Pacific/7pm Central/8pm Eastern**

ZOOM INFO [HERE](#).

Join author and colleagues on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday for conversation inspired by Dr. Smith's latest book. In it Smith offers an unflinching examination of systemic oppressions AND a Call to Action. "With testimonies of resilience, strategies for change, and thought-provoking discussion questions, Smith equips readers to dismantle oppressive structures and



build a more just and compassionate world.” (Order from Judson Press [HERE](#))



Rev. Dr. Christine A. Smith is a pastor, author and leader serving in numerous capacities in the ABC and Progressive National Baptist Convention. Among them are her current roles as Pastor of Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland, Inc. as well as Associate Executive Director of American Baptist Women’s Ministries. [LEARN MORE HERE](#)

## From the President

### **Journey to Bethlehem**

by Rev. Rebecca Driscoll Mygatt

Dear Friends,

A few months ago, my congregation received a survey asking them what they would like to learn about in Bible study. The survey results revealed that there was a desire to learn about the women in the Bible and so, this Advent season we will journey to Bethlehem alongside Jesus’ grandmothers. These are the four women who are named in Matthew’s account of Jesus’ genealogy: Tamar, Rahab, Uriah’s wife (Bathsheba), and Ruth.



[READ MORE](#)

## National Updates



### **AN INVITATION FOR/FROM RETIREES —**

*Guest Reflection by Rev. Jim Oldham*

I served actively as an ABC minister for thirty-five years during which I was a dues-paying member of the MC. I have now been retired for 16 years during which time I have made a conscious effort to remain connected to ABC churches and ministries while living in three different ABC regions.

[READ MORE](#)

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM ANNUAL RETREAT —**

After the holidays, your national Leadership Team will be on annual visioning retreat February 9-12th in Frankfort, IL. Please pray for their work, and reach out to President Rebecca Driscoll Mygatt with any requests of their work. She can be reached at [rebecca.driscollmygatt.mc@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.driscollmygatt.mc@gmail.com).

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## DO YOU SEEK DEEPER CONNECTION

*with your ABC colleagues, virtually and/or locally?*

Start the New Year with MC 3C's (Collegiality, Centeredness, Competency Resources). Join members of our Leadership Team and other volunteers working on virtual connections, clergy groups and chapter grants, affinity groups and more. We'll also explore how we can support local chapter revitalization or start-up where there's a present leading for this. Email [livingwelljacki@gmail.com](mailto:livingwelljacki@gmail.com) to register your interest, and we will schedule a January Zoom meeting together with Team members.

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### JOIN THE MINISTERS COUNCIL FOR 2026 - Ministers Serving Ministers Since 1935!

We've been inspiring ministerial excellence for the glory of Jesus Christ since 1935. For all these decades, 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. Download our most recent brochure [HERE](#). Your affordable Annual Dues ensure this work continues, and expresses your commitment to the "building up" of yourself and your colleagues. Renew for 2026 today!

To make your payments, please visit the Ministers Council [website](#) to pay online. Contact Rev. Lachelle Dixon-Harris at [ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org](mailto:ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org) for more information or if you need contact info for your local treasurer.

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## Chapter News

### We love hearing from you!

Please be sure to share your event announcements with [ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org](mailto:ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org) for the newsletter, as well as any other questions or needs you have about chapter life. (Reminder, we have annual [grants](#) of up to \$1000 available for your chapter-sponsored events.) **ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT!** Please notify Rev. Lachelle, our Program Administrator, whenever there are changes to your chapter officers or dues assessed. We strive to keep this information updated, and rely on local leaders for that.

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## Prayers and Milestones

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Death Announcement - **Rev. Wendell A. Johnson** - June 1, 1949 - October 25, 2025 of Jerusalem Baptist Church of Norfolk, Virginia (718 Tidewater Norfolk, Virginia). *Our thoughts and prayers are with his family in this time.*

## ABC Announcements



Congratulations to the **Rev. Dr. Quintin Robertson.**

After an exhaustive nationwide search, the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Baptist Association (PBA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Dr. Q. Robertson as the next Regional Executive Minister. This decision comes following the formal affirmation of the Search Committee's recommendation, which was approved by the Board after careful consideration and prayerful deliberation.

[READ MORE](#)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

On December 2, 2025 join ABCUSA in supporting our clergy through the Clergy Disaster Relief Fund, helping them rebuild after disasters strike. Together, we can lift up those who lift us every day.

For more information visit: [abc-usa.org](http://abc-usa.org)

**GIVING TUESDAY**

**CLERGY DISASTER RELIEF**

**SPACE FOR GRACE & SPIRITUAL CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE**

**STORYTELLING:**  
*Discovering Its Power for Faith Leaders Today*

**April 21-23, 2026**

### Mark Your Calendars! Registration Opens Soon!

We are excited to announce that registration for the 2026 Space for Grace & Spiritual Caregivers Conference is opening Monday, October 27!

This powerful gathering—hosted by American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)—will take place April 21–23, 2026 in Cleveland, Ohio and is designed especially for pastors, chaplains, spiritual caregivers, and ministry leaders like you.

[More Information](#)

## A PASTORAL RESPONSE ON IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Read this [letter](#) from three senior leaders of American Baptist Home Mission Societies on behalf of its Board of Directors addressing recent and ongoing immigration enforcement actions by federal authorities.

**MC Editors Note:** *Do you have resources to share with the wider Ministers Council on how you or your church is responding in this time? Our denominational family is diverse in our policy positions across the spectrum of entrenched challenges we face. How are you wrestling with, and guiding others, regarding your supportive role for immigrants and/or law enforcement personnel during these immigration enforcement activities? How might we support you as you engage these matters in your own contexts?*

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## Ecumenical Resources



### LEADING FROM QUIET: RENEWAL IN THE SEASON OF EXPECTATION

December 11-13, 2025

St. Raphaela Center, Haverford, PA





# AN HOUR OF *Soul Care*

January 16th  
12-1pm EST  
Via Zoom

Calling clergy to a Noon time to pause and be invited into a guided meditation and contemplative practice of breath. Give yourself an hour to step away from divisive conversations, polarizing statements, stirring newsfeeds and intentionally pause and receive gentle nourishment from the Holy Spirit. Make this hour a choice to sit, breathe and feed your soul. Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil will lead a guided meditation and time of silence.



## To Register:

Email Erin at  
[admin@ccdmin.org](mailto:admin@ccdmin.org)  
by January 12th



## 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 January issue, send these to [ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org](mailto:ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org) by December 28.*



### How to reach us:

- Phone: 215-469-1859

**Office Hours** Monday 9-12,  
Tuesday 9-12, Wednesday 2-7  
p.m., Thursday 2-7 p.m., Friday  
9-12 as needed

### Stay connected

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