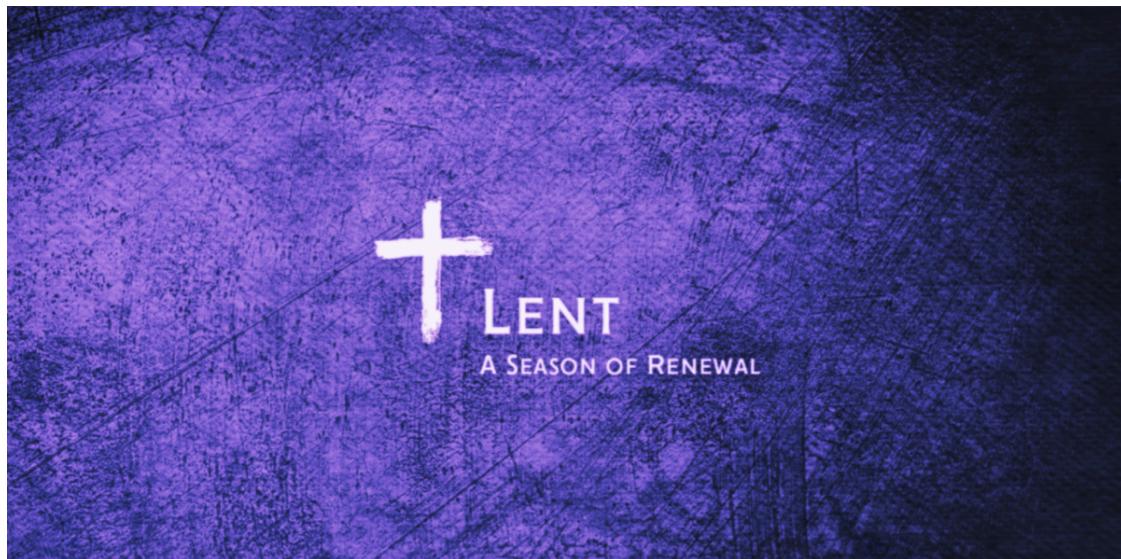




February 2026 Newsletter



From the President

Dear Friends,

For Christmas, I received a wristwatch. I quickly realized that this wristwatch was too big and needed several links removed from the band to fit properly. This required a tiny screwdriver that I do not have.

A few weeks later, I learned that Royersford Baptist Church (ABCUSA) in Royersford, Pennsylvania was hosting a Repair Café. A Repair Café is an event where several folks who are skilled in a certain kind of repair come together as “coaches” and offer advice, assistance, knowledge, and equipment to repair items that the community is invited to bring to the café. These items might include electronics, bicycles, clothing, jewelry, instruments, furniture, art, toys, etc.



I brought my watch to the jeweler’s table and at first, she thought it would be a simple repair, but she also did not have a small enough screwdriver. She headed over to the bicycle repair table to see what they had and then the electronics table. Someone suggested she might try a pin from the fabrics and clothing table. Before we knew it, the watch had worked its way around the room. In the end, it was a pair of pliers from the instrument table that made the repair possible. The jeweler was able to remove the extra links and now the watch fits my wrist.

As the watch went around the room, conversations were growing and more and more people were connecting with each other offering advice and sharing tools, working together to mend the item. Over the course of the day, Royersford Baptist Church’s Repair Café saw 70 visitors. Several people remarked how valuable the event was and that they planned to be back at the next café with a whole basket full of items needing repairs, alterations, and mending.

We live in a world where there is always uncertainty, and it can often feel as if there are always things to be fixed, repaired, and mended. Perhaps this is part of our call as beloved children of God, to co-labor together, mending the frayed edges of our

community, tending to each other's needs, and investing in relationship with one another.

As Lent begins this month, I am reflecting on my experience at the Repair Café and wondering if maybe this is a good season to lean into the spiritual practice of mending and repair. How about you? Are there things in your life and community that could use a repair or a mend? Are there gifts and talents and skills you can lend to the process of healing and restoration in your community?

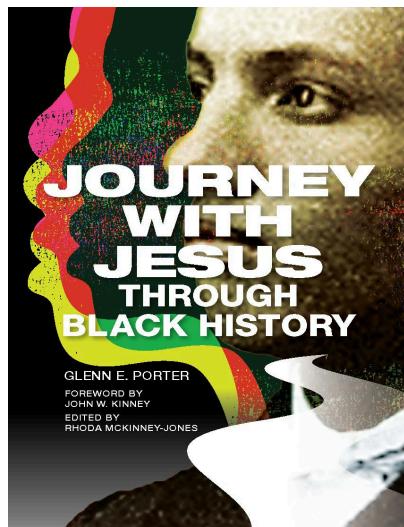
Blessing to you in this Lenten Season,
Rebecca

Honoring Black History Month: Remember, Learn, and Act

February is Black History Month, a time when we intentionally celebrate the profound contributions of African and African American people to our shared life and faith, while also confronting the truths of injustice and exclusion in our history. Black History Month began as a focused effort to bring attention to narratives often overlooked in American memory and today continues as a vital moment for education, reflection, and faithful action.

This month invites us into a deeper engagement with stories of courage, creativity, and resilience—and challenges us to listen and learn with humility. As ministers and people of faith, this is an opportunity to weave these histories into our worship, study, and everyday discipleship. May our attention to Black History Month deepen both our understanding of the past and our commitment to justice in the present.

[BLACK HISTORY MONTH RESOURCES](#)



A Lenten-Like Pilgrimage for Black History Month and Beyond

This February, consider joining a rich spiritual journey that bridges Black History Month and the Lenten season—not as separate observances, but as interconnected pathways of remembrance, truth-telling, and faith-shaped living. *A Lenten-Like Pilgrimage for Black History Month and Beyond* invites readers and faith communities to walk alongside Jesus through the Gospel of Luke while engaging the long, resilient story of Black life in America. Rooted in Scripture and history, this resource deepens our awareness of how faith and justice intersect and equips congregations, small groups, and families to explore both celebration and lament with honesty, reverence, and hope.

Mark this season with intentional reflection, courageous conversation, and intergenerational learning—and discover how this sacred pilgrimage can shape your worship and witness this month and beyond.

Events and Webinars



3rd Thursdays **mc live** WEBINAR SERIES

Please note that MC Live is on hold through February and will resume in March.

We are grateful for your continued engagement and patience during this pause and look forward to gathering again soon for conversation, learning, and connection. More details about upcoming MC Live sessions will be shared in the coming weeks.

National Updates

JOIN OR
RENEW
TODAY

Stay Connected. Stay Grounded

Since 1935, the Ministers Council has supported faithful, grounded ministry—not as a quest for perfection, but as a shared commitment to excellence shaped by community. Rooted in collegiality, competence, and centeredness, we walk alongside ministers across diverse Baptist contexts.

Through chapter and affinity-group connections, monthly webinars, and grants that support clergy covenant groups and local gatherings, the Council's work continues because of you.

Renewing your 2026 Annual Dues is an investment in your own ministry—and in the well-being of colleagues across the denomination.

Join or renew today by visiting the [Ministers Council website](#) to pay online.

Questions or need help connecting with your local treasurer? Contact Rev. Lachelle Dixon-Harris at ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org

Prayers and Milestones

Rev. Dr. Anna Piela has been named the new editor of *The Christian Citizen*, the public witness publication of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS). A scholar-minister whose life and work bridge cultures and congregational ministry, Piela brings deep theological insight, storytelling experience, and a commitment to exploring how Christian discipleship shapes public responsibility. She succeeds Curtis Ramsey-Lucas and will continue guiding the magazine's engagement

with questions of faith, justice, immigration, interfaith relationships, and social equity. In addition to her editorial work, Piela is a regular contributor to national religious media and co-author of *Confronting Islamophobia in the Church: Liturgical Tools for Justice*.



God of truth and justice, as we mark Black History Month, we give thanks for Black witnesses to faith, courage, and resilience. Strengthen us to remember honestly, to honor lives too often diminished, and to carry forward the work of justice in our time. Amen.

God of compassion, The news is heavy and many are hurting. Hold close those in fear or grief, and steady all who work for healing and peace. Root us in hope that leads to care for one another.

Amen.

God of mercy, As we enter Lent, slow us down. Open us to reflection, repentance, and renewal, and guide us toward lives shaped by love and faithful action.

Amen.

ABC Announcements



Strengthen Your Leadership Through Transition Ministries in 2026

Whether your congregation is in a season of change or you're discerning how to support others through it, ABCUSA's 2026 Transition Ministries events offer opportunities to grow, reflect, and connect with colleagues across our denominational family. These sessions — rooted in equipping ministry leaders with practical tools, spiritual insight, and supportive networks — are designed to strengthen your capacity to serve congregations with resilience and hope during transitions of leadership and mission. [Registration and event details are available through the ABCUSA events calendar.](#)

Space for Grace & Spiritual Caregivers Conference 2026

Ministers, chaplains, pastoral caregivers, and spiritual leaders are invited to gather for the Space for Grace & Spiritual Caregivers Conference 2026, hosted by American Baptist Home Mission Societies. This conference brings together colleagues from across the denomination for worship, learning, and renewal—grounded in the transformative power of storytelling in ministry.

Come be renewed through shared wisdom, honest reflection, and meaningful connection as we explore how stories shape our call, our care, and our communities.

April 21–23, 2026 | Cleveland

Make space for grace—for yourself and for the communities you serve.

[More Information](#)

[**REGISTER**](#)



<https://www.abc-usa.org/biennial/>

Ecumenical Resources

AN HOUR OF *Soul Care*

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.

**March 20
12-1pm EST
Via Zoom**



To Register:

Email Erin at
admin@ccdmin.org
by March 16th



FREE WEBINAR SERIES

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM AND OUR FAMILIES

Part 1, 2/3/26
7:00PM CST

Understanding
Christian
Nationalism in
the United
States

Part 2, 2/10/26
7:00PM CST

Addressing
Christian
Nationalism with
Our Families and
Communities



REGISTER NOW

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 March issue, send these to ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org by February 26.



How to reach us:

- Phone: 215-469-1859



Stay connected

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- Join us on [Facebook](#)



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