

March 2026 Newsletter



Entering the final weeks of Lent with prayer, reflection, and renewed commitment to Christ's way.

Walking the Road to the Cross

As we enter the final weeks of Lent, the church begins to turn its attention toward Jerusalem. Palm branches and shouts of Hosanna remind us of the hope and expectation that surrounded Jesus' arrival. Yet the road ahead leads through the solemn and sacred days of Holy Week.

For those called to lead worship and ministry, this season is both demanding and deeply meaningful. It is a time when we accompany our congregations through the story of Christ's humility, suffering, and faithful obedience. As we prepare for Palm Sunday and the opening days of Holy Week, may this season renew our own faith and strengthen us for the work of proclaiming the good news.

From the President

Dear Friends,

This past month, the Ministers Council Leadership Team gathered together in person for some retreat planning time at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer in Frankfort, Illinois. Over the course of two days, we prayed, reviewed the year that was, and planned for the year to come. We centered our time with one another around the theme "equipping the saints" inspired by Ephesians 4:11-13: "He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers 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."



We invited Leadership Team members to reflect on what has equipped them for ministry in their context and bring that item, or a representation of it, to the retreat. Sitting around the table, we brought a hymnal (representing music), hiking boots (representing hiking), books, glasses lenses (representing perspectives), and a key chain (representing an online professional community). As we described our items to one another, we realized that they were all connected by the common thread of relationship. This reinforced for us the importance of connection and conversation, and the willingness to get to know the people we serve with. We reflected on how relationships are at the root of ministry across diverse contexts.

Noticing that, we hope to share with you this year a variety of opportunities and resources to reflect on, and explore, cultivate, and nurture the variety of relationships we find throughout ministry. We invite you share with us the resources and relationships you have found helpful as well as the resources and relationships you wish to have more familiarity with. What relationships are feeding your soul in this season? What relationships do you wish to have in this season and beyond?

With you on the journey,
Rebecca

Events and Webinars



An Evening with Evelyn

March 19, 2026

5pm Pacific/7pm Central/8pm Eastern

Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941) was a scholar, mystic, and author who penned several works about prayer and meditation during her life in England during the rise of European fascism. She guided others toward a life of prayerful and intellectual mysticism, partnered with a practical pacifism. Amid the chaos growing around her, Underhill wrote of the need to live a life of prayer: “Like a pendulum, our consciousness moves perpetually—or should move if it is healthy—between God and neighbor, between this world and that.”

Join us for an evening of contemplative prayer guided by the words and ideas of this spiritual sage. As we find ourselves swinging between the chaos of the world around us, and the inward nature of the Lenten season, let us seek communion and centeredness with one another. We will discuss the guidance of Underhill for our life of prayer, read Scripture together, and spend time in meditative practice. And perhaps we will find ourselves blessed by her invitation: “It is those who have a deep and real inner life who are best able to deal with the irritating details of outer life.” May it be so.

[Join the Zoom Meeting](#)

Connect to MC LIVE

MC LIVE is held monthly on the third Thursday

All Ministers Council members are invited to join the conversation.

[Join the Zoom Meeting](#)

Passcode: 896413

Add to Your Calendar:

[Download the calendar file and import it into your calendar system](#)

National Updates

Join or Renew
Today!

Stay Connected. Stay Grounded

Since 1935, the Ministers Council has supported faithful, grounded ministry—pursuing excellence together through collegiality, competence, and centeredness.

Through chapters, affinity groups, webinars, and grants, this community strengthens ministers across the denomination. And it continues because of you.

Renew your 2026 Annual Dues—an investment in your ministry and your colleagues.

Join or renew today on the Ministers Council website.

Questions? Contact Rev. Lachelle Dixon-Harris at ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org.

Prayers and Milestones



It is with deep appreciation that International Ministries (IM) announces the upcoming retirement of **Global Servants Dan and Sarah Chetti** on March 31, 2026.

For nearly 30 years, Dan and Sarah have faithfully served in the Arab world. Appointed in 1998, they became IM's first global servants assigned to the Middle East. Their ministry in Lebanon has been marked by mentoring leaders, teaching biblical truth, and ministering to vulnerable communities.

God of mercy, guide your church in a troubled world. Grant wisdom to leaders, comfort to those who suffer, and courage to all who seek peace.

God of peace, we pray for communities facing conflict and fear. Bring healing, protection, and a renewed commitment to justice and reconciliation.

Holy God, bless those who lead worship and ministry in your church. May your Spirit give them wisdom, patience, and joy in their service.

Dear Lord, as we journey toward the cross this Lenten season, deepen our faith and renew our hope, that our lives may reflect your love.

Chapter News

Practical tools for pastoral care in times of loss

Monday March 23
Time: 7:30- 8:30 PM Eastern

A Webinar on Meaningful Funerals for Today's World

You're invited to the **Ministers Council Chapter of Chaplains Pastoral Counselors'** March webinar on All Things Funeral: A Guide for the Modern Age

Presenter: Rev. Cindy Maybeck

Date: Monday March 23rd

Time: 7:30- 8:30 PM Eastern

[Zoom information](#)

Rev. Cindy Maybeck founder of Spirit Story Ministry uses her skillful storytelling, deep listening and heartfelt love of Jesus Christ to create meaningful and spiritually uplifting funerals for people from all walks of life. From church sanctuary to funeral home chapel, from country golf club to corporate cafeteria, from cemetery to community center, she brings a consistent story of love to grieving families in a variety of sacred and secular venues. Come hear the story of how Cindy began this venture and learn some tips to strengthen your ministry in the areas of death and dying.

She will provide you with Stories, Practical Tips, Inspiration and Information to help you create a meaningful Funeral:

- Stories of Funerals: How They Heal
- Scripture Suggestions
- A Basic Service Outline
- How to Learn a Family's Story in One Meeting
- Broadening the view from Christian to "Spiritual but not Religious"
- Practical Recommendations for Tying it All Together
- Time for Questions and Answers





STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION ACROSS OUR CHAPTERS

Even if you are not serving in a formal leadership role, your connection to a chapter is still important to us. Hearing from members across our chapters helps us maintain stronger relationships and ensures that communication flows effectively throughout the Ministers Council community.

Our shared ministry is strengthened when we remain connected to one another. By keeping our chapter information current and our communication lines open, we can continue to support, encourage, and equip one another in the important work of ministry.

Thank you for helping us strengthen the connection across our chapters.

One of the greatest strengths of the Ministers Council is the vibrant network of local chapters that serve ministers and leaders across the country. These chapters are vital to the life, connection, and support that the Council seeks to cultivate among its members.

As the Ministers Council continues to grow and strengthen its work, we are placing renewed focus on improving communication between the Leadership Team and each local chapter. Clear and consistent communication helps ensure that chapters receive important updates, resources, opportunities for engagement, and information about national initiatives and events.

To support this effort, we are asking for help from our chapters in confirming and updating leadership and contact information. If you are currently serving as a Chapter President, chapter officer, representative, or active member, we invite you to connect with the Ministers Council Program Administrator, Rev. Lachelle Dixon-Harris, so that we can ensure our records are accurate and our lines of communication remain strong.

MINISTERS SERVING MINISTERS

Help Us Stay Connected

We are updating our chapter contact information. If you are a chapter officer, representative, or member, please reach out so we can keep our records current.

Contact:

Rev. Lachelle Dixon-Harris

Program Administrator

Ministers Council, ABCUSA

Email: ministerscouncil1935@gmail.com

Phone: (215) 469-1859

Thank you for helping us keep our Ministers Council community connected.

WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.COM

ABC Announcements

American Baptist Home Mission Societies
presents



SPACE FOR GRACE & SPIRITUAL CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE

STORYTELLING:

*Discovering Its Power
for Faith Leaders Today*

April 21-23, 2026

Cleveland, Ohio



Registration Fee: \$395

abhms.org/s4g2026

Sign up For Space for Grace & Spiritual Caregivers 2026

Updates!

[More Information](#)

REGISTER

One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

\$5,000 in Disaster Relief Sent to Middle East Communities

American Baptist Churches USA has sent \$5,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) disaster relief funds to support communities in the Middle East affected by escalating violence. [Read more about this response and the ongoing needs of those impacted.](#)

Ecumenical Resources

AN HOUR OF *Soul Care*

March 20
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
by March 16th



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 by March 26.



How to reach us:

- Phone: 215-469-1859



Stay connected

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



Try email marketing for free today!