AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

ABWIM NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

American Baptist Women in Ministry is a ministry within the Office of the General Secretary of ABCUSA where we recognize and advocate for the full partnership of women and men in ministry in which both women and men are able to fully utilize their God-given gifts to fully live out their God-given calls.



The Power of Sisterhood Brunch Sponsored by ABCUSA and ABCWI

COURAGEOUS UNITY

ROOTED IN FREEDOM, GROWING IN FAITH, FORWARD IN HOPE

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

JUNE 10-13, 2027 | ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Ephesians 3:12 NIV In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence

Registration Opens in November!

Joy as a Sacred Practice

Written by:
Rev. Dr. Naomi Mitchell
President, Ministers Council-Metro Chicago;
Vice President National Ministers Council

For me, maintaining joy in ministry is both a sacred commitment and a daily spiritual practice. As a pastor and leader, I have learned that joy is not always constant; it can feel distant during seasons of transition, grief, or uncertainty. Yet Scripture reminds us that joy is deeper than our circumstances.

"The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). This joy is not fleeting; it is rooted in God's abiding presence. Jesus affirms this in John 15:11, reminding us that His joy lives within us and can be made complete.

Through a womanist lens, I understand joy as an act of holy resistance—a commitment to life, dignity, and community even in the face of hardship. As Katie Cannon teaches, we are called to "do the work our souls must have." That calling fuels my joy and continually reminds me that ministry is sustained not merely by obligation, but by purpose, hope, and God's enduring grace.

I nurture joy through prayer, rest, laughter, and meaningful relationships. Deep friendships and honest joy remind us of our shared humanity and deepen our trust in God, who loves those we are called to serve. I have learned that joy must be tended; it is cultivated, not accidental.

Joy is both my compass and my companion. It sustains me, centers me, and carries me forward through every season of ministry. Beloved, take care of your joy. It is not just something you feel—it is part of who God has created you to be.





Written by:
Rev. Suleima Rosario-Diaz, MDiv., AGNP-BC
Advanced Practice Nurse
First Baptist Church of Westfield, NJ

As an ordained minister and Advanced Practice Nurse, I am blessed with the opportunity to fully embrace who God has called me to be in the most joyful way. Over the years, these two vocations have become beautifully intertwined, and I am deeply grateful for the ways God has led me to create space for joy, even in the midst of some of life's most vulnerable and challenging moments.

This calling requires a great deal of inner work, and it is not always marked by days of smiles and cheerfulness. I often carry the deep sadness of those who are struggling to make sense of the world around them as they face profound hardships. Yet, there is a healing that comes simply from being fully present with another person—a tangible expression of God's presence and Spirit—that cannot adequately be captured in words.

This, I believe, is essential to sustaining joy throughout our journeys. Learning to lean into the silence that often accompanies life's most difficult moments can bring fresh insight, renewed perspective, and a steadfast spirit grounded in joy. It creates the time and space to pause, pivot, be creative, remain flexible, and adapt in ways that are both deeply refreshing and profoundly healing.

And so, I continually pray—and I invite you to pray with me...

Upcoming Events



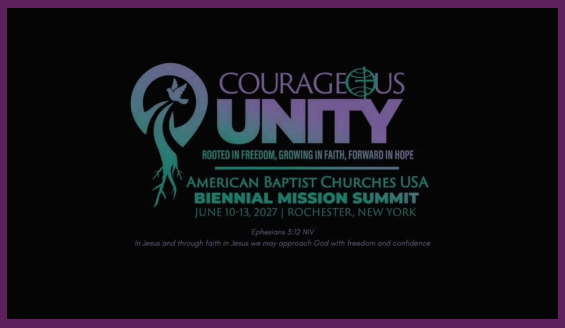












For more information and to register for these events visit www.abc-usa.org/events



Meet Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell
Executive Minister of
American Baptist Churches Wisconsin

The Gratitude Journal

One of the practices I have adopted in recent years is keeping a gratitude journal. Every day, I write down three things for which I am grateful. Sometimes I do this in the morning when I wake up, but more often it becomes an evening practice as I wind down the day. It serves as a reminder to look for the good in the world and in my life that comes from God.

On occasion, I have simply written "coffee" because I am grateful for the caffeine that keeps me going when I haven't had enough sleep! At other times, my reflections are more profound, such as experiencing a glorious sunset or having a brilliant conversation that surprised and inspired me.

I make these notes so that, a year or two from now, I can look back and remember what I was thankful for on that particular day. While social media offers a "Memories" feature that can remind us of something we posted on a given date, I prefer the practice of keeping an analog journal—one that I can revisit whenever I choose and that is devoted specifically to recording the blessings for which I thank God.

In the busyness of ministry, it is important to remember that there is always something for which we can be grateful to God as we respond to God's call into Christ's ministry.

Going forward our ABCUSA Women in Ministry will be released three times a year March, June, and September.