

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

American Baptist Women's Ministries welcomes you to the American Baptist family, and we look forward to working with you! I am so pleased to share a snapshot of ABWM with you today as well as weekly.

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) is a diverse, intergenerational community of American Baptist women and girls serving in ministry in Christ's name in the US, including Puerto Rico. With local, area, region/state, and national levels of ministry, American Baptist Women's Ministries creates and sustains communities of passionately faithful women and girls engaged in worship, service, leadership, advocacy, and friendship.

Our ministries include education and prevention of domestic violence and human trafficking, building beloved community, developing leaders, and advocacy. Our AB GIRLS events empower and engage girls by sharing the word of God, affirming that they are God's masterpieces while exploring their creativity through S.T.E.A.M. workshops in robotics, chemistry, and art, as well as encouraging their entrepreneurial interests. Our young adult women's ministry enjoys the integrational sisterhood as they are supported by mentors and prayer partners. They also initiated the Soothe your Soul series, wherein young women connect for worship, fellowship and to address relevant issues. Our annual conferences, retreats, and workshops allow us to fellowship, strengthen our sisterhood, and intentionally engage our mission and ministries for all women. During 2020 and 2021, many of our connections were virtual due to the pandemic. We certainly long for in-person events, yet going forward, virtual events will continue alongside in-person events as we desire to be faithful to our online community.

In 2020, ABWM provided over 22 free webinars addressing wellness, elder caregiving, addiction, college access, resources for chaplains, and COVID-19. Our webinar series included Avenues to Wholeness, Courageous Conversations, and COVID-19: Addressing Needs and Resilience. In 2021, the Soothe Your Soul series continued, and during Women's History Month, ABWM's Iron Sharpens Iron Table Talk provided an awesome forum for women and girls to share their stories and to bless us with their wisdom and joy. In April, we hosted a Domestic Violence certification workshop wherein clergy, laity, and church leaders received training and tools to provide better support to victims and survivors. In June, we will have our biannual Women's & AB GIRLS' weekend, 6/11-12/2021, and many other events. This Fall, ABWM will kick off, Let the Walls Fall Down Webinar Series. Please go to our website for more information, www.abwomensministries.org. From our roots to today, ABWM continues to address critical issues that impact women and girls. We look forward to engaging you as you grow and serve.

May the peace of Christ be within you, Gina

Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain
Executive Director, American Baptist Women's Ministries

American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) creates and sustains communities of passionately faithful, Christ-centered women, young adult women, and girls. ABWM encourages and empowers women, young adult women, and girls to be God's witnesses and leaders in our communities. Together we engage in ministries, worship, service, leadership, and friendship. Our intergenerational ministries enable women and girls to connect within their peer groups while being encouraged and affirmed by mentors and prayer partners. ABWM's mission is activated through our innovative and relevant programming, workshops, retreats, camps, and conferences. During Women's History Month, [Iron Sharpens Iron \(ISI\) Table Talk](#) invited leaders, partners, and friends, to share an ISI experience and advice.

ABWM's mission is focused on several critical core issues that impact women and girls: immigration, cross-cultural relationships, building beloved community, economic empowerment, prevention and education of domestic violence and sex trafficking, and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2030). ABWM often [collaborates with regional and national partners](#) within the American Baptist family and local and regional community partners to achieve its mission.

Ministries for Women

Every two years, American Baptist Women's Ministries adopts a ministry theme that compliments the critical core issues. The **ministry theme for 2019-2021 is Sisters Seeking Wholeness**, which inspired our Avenues to Wholeness webinar series in 2019-2020 and our Shalom Retreat in the Fall. Keenly aware of self-care and the need for wellness, this series emphasized spiritual, financial, and physical wholeness. ABWM's programming helps women develop spiritual practices and self-care tools and skills. Our 2021-2023



American Baptist Women's Ministries
1075 First Ave STE C-210
King of Prussia, PA 19406
(610) 768-2288
www.abwomensministries.org

ministry theme will be announced at [Women's Day](#) on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

American Baptist Women's Ministries' mission focus provides women and girls the opportunity to explore pressing relevant concerns, as well as the critical core issues that define us. ABWM examines the intersection of relevant issues, the impact on women and girls, and the ways our faith calls us to respond. For example, in response to the pandemic, ABWM's **mission focus for 2021 is COVID-19 and Related Issues** (girls' education, unemployment for women, and mental health). ABWM hosted [Courageous Conversations](#) and [COVID-19: Addressing Needs and Teaching Resilience](#) Webinar Series. These series addressed pandemic issues, including college preparation, chaplain concerns, senior care, support, leadership, and addiction. We hosted a workshop to address heightened domestic violence and will once again partner with Safe Haven Ministries for a [2-day Domestic Violence certification workshop](#) on domestic violence education and prevention.



As part of our **Building Beloved Community ministry**, ABWM is celebrating our rich cultural, ethnic, and language diversity and deepening our cross-cultural relationships. Through intentional, collaborative efforts, this ministry enables women to fellowship, share traditions, and identify mutual interests for service to strengthen their communities.

Ministries for Young Adult Women

ABWM commits to building relationships across generations by providing opportunities for women and girls to learn and grow together. We also recognize the need for women and girls to build relationships in their peer groups. ABWM holds regular events, provides resources and encourages young adult women to be involved in leadership at all organization levels.



Ministries for AB GIRLS

American Baptist Girls In Relationship, Leadership, and Service ministry (AB GIRLS) provides opportunities for girls to develop strong relationships with God through fellowship and worship with their peers and AB women. They interact with supportive mentors, prayer partners, and friends in affirming space that facilitates authentic and caring dialogue and spiritual growth. In 2020, the [National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS](#), which consists of 4 high school teens, led Bible study in a 3-day virtual camp, led prayers in our quarterly, and shared their gifts in a talent show and ABC-USA Lenten messages. The NLT provides leadership, mentorship, social media updates, programming, and communication with other teens while honing their leadership skills and entrepreneurial dreams. Our annual **AB GIRLS' Hi-eS.T.E.A.M. events** enable girls and young adult women to connect the AB GIRLS Christian curriculum with STEAM educational providers, career planning, and neighborhood programs in our local churches, colleges, and communities.



Save
THE
DATE

Saturday Night Fever Gala

Friday, June 11, 2021

Women's Day

Saturday, June 12, 2021

Unfiltered

a Hi-eS.T.E.A.M. Virtual Event

Saturday, June 19, 2021

Unplugged

a Hi-eS.T.E.A.M. Virtual Event

July 13-14, 2021

Harvesting Shalom Retreat

October 8-10, 2021

For more information, visit

www.abwomensministries.org/events

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www.abwomensministries.org

Mission

AB Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.

Vision

Every American Baptist church shall have a vital women's ministry program that empowers women and girls to become and develop as God's person, build God's faith community, and serve God's world.

Contact information

American Baptist Women's Ministries
1075 First Ave STE C-210
King of Prussia, PA 19438
info@abwomensministries.org
www.abwomensministries.org
(610) 768-2288

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain
Executive Director
Gina.Jacobs-Strain@abwomensministries.org
(610) 768-2284

Wendy Clemmer
Project/Business Manager
Wendy.clemmer@abwomensministries.org
(610) 768-2288

Links of Interest

- Upcoming Events – www.abwomensministries.org/events
- Women and AB GIRLS' Day on June 12 – www.abwomensministries.org/womensday
- Upcoming Webinars & recordings – www.abwomensministries.org/webinars
- Support ABWM: www.abwomensministries.org/give
- Follow ABWM on Facebook: www.facebook.com/abwomensministries
- Subscribe to ABWM newsletters:
<https://abwomensministries.org/resourceDetails.aspx?resourceDetailId=41>
- Learn about ABWM's Beloved Community Initiative:
<https://abwomensministries.org/bbc>