



THE WISCONSIN BAPTIST

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December 2018

Advent Reflection Questions...for you and to share.

—Marie Onwubuariri, Regional Executive Minister

"[Anna] showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God, and talked about the child to all who were waiting expectantly for the freeing of Jerusalem." Luke 2:38

"Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21: 36 [NRSV]

The coming of Jesus Christ – the former first and still-to-come second time – means something. **Indeed—it is a life changer!** How does the coming of Emmanuel, God with Us, change your circumstances, still today? In what ways...are your anticipations being met? ...are your relations with others changed? ...do you dance or sing? ...are you liberated? As you live into yet another Advent season and prepare for the holy celebration of Christmas how do you embody hope, love, joy, and peace? What will your new testimony be at the close of 2018?

Here are a few more questions to prompt your Advent reflections...

Hope: How does the coming of Jesus keep alive new possibilities for you and your world? How do you live into this hope for a future that is yet to come?

Love: In this past year, what new way did you live love? As you read the gospels, what way did Jesus show love that might be an example for you to follow in the days ahead?

Joy: What stirs up joy for you? How do you express it? Is your joy contagious?

Peace: Where is peace needed in your spheres of engagement or influence? How can you pave the path for peace? How do you participate in liberation that brings inner peace in another?

....and don't forget to share your reflections with others.



Image from: Red Letter Christians <<https://www.redletterchristians.org/the-wrong-choice-an-advent-meditation/>>.



Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering
ABCUSA special December offering.

The roots of the RMMO originated in the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, ABCUSA launched RMMO to continue this appreciation of God's service.

The offering is rooted in thankfulness and honors the individual acts of support and faith that recipients have shown to their congregations and communities.

This year's theme, *Extending Our Hands to Our Neighbors*, illustrates the importance of being there for one another and remembering we are stronger together than on our own and that is central to the Christian faith.

Camp Tamarack

Waupaca, WI

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Region Office Holiday Hours

The ABC/WI Region Office will be closed the week between Christmas Eve & New Years Day: Monday 12/24—Tuesday 1/1/19. The office will reopen on Wednesday 1/2/19.

Highlights from the November 3, 2018 Board of Managers Meeting

- ◇ (Re)-orientation was provided for the Board members, who also considered the **gifts they bring to the Board.**
- ◇ The Board received and reviewed one change to the ABC/WI **Articles of Incorporation**, which will be reflected in the final version. Everyone has until **February 1, 2019** to submit to the governance task force any additional changes to the **Bylaws.**
- ◇ Preliminary plans for the 2019 Annual Gathering were discussed.
- ◇ The Board reviewed and approved, upon final legal review and formatting, a revised Employee Handbook.
- ◇ The Board approved a 2019 budget which includes budgeted expenses of \$655.9K, a decrease of \$45K from the 2018 budget. Expenses are supported through church mission giving to United Mission and America for Christ, mission support from AB Home Mission Societies, organizational and individual designated gifts to region ministries, income to Camp Tamarack and CENTRAL Wisconsin, investment income, bequests, honorariums to region staff for work-related ministries, and occasional grants.

Thank you to all those who are serving in 2018-2019 — Board of Managers, committees, commissions, and other volunteer capacities.

**SAVE THE DATE: 175th Anniversary and Annual Gathering of ABC/WI
October 11-12, 2019, Green Lake, WI**

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN

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