



THE WISCONSIN BAPTIST

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Looking Over the Horizon

John Jones, ABC/WI Interim Regional Executive Minister

“Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember?” – Mark 8:18

One year ago, many organizations were framing the new year 2020 in terms including “vision” and “sight,” drawing on that obvious optical reference. Considering all that we’ve seen this past year, 2020 was “apocalyptic” in the literal sense of the word: “revelation.” Not in the sense of the end of the world, but an unveiling of reality – the truth. **A lot** has been **revealed**.

We have seen how a virus upended the entire world, altering our most basic activities. We’ve seen our relationships in new, more precious ways. We’ve seen ourselves develop greater skills with technology. We’ve seen what is possible on our fragile planet with life at a different pace. We’ve seen the undeniable evidence of our fundamental connectedness as a human species.

We’ve also seen even more evidence of the systemic racism and injustice built into our society. We’ve seen with our own eyes yet another black man killed by police officers. We’ve seen poor people and people of color disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. We’ve seen how essential to a functioning society are the workers making the lowest wages and getting the least protection and support. And early this year we’ve seen an irresponsible leader exploit divisions among us to the point that our very system of self-governance has been threatened.

We’ve seen a lot. We’ve seen things that we cannot UNSEE. **A lot** has been **revealed**. And we might understandably be shaken by all that has been revealed.

But as people of faith who use words like “revelation” or “apocalypse,” we do not fear the truth that is being revealed, however uncomfortable or discouraging it may be. We do not fear because we know the one who holds us, the author of TRUTH. Our loving God is in charge, unveiling the truth. Our cruciform creator loves us with an extravagant, overwhelming love that compels us to share it. Nothing we’ve seen can change that, even though it can change the way we see.

So as we look ahead hopefully to a time beyond COVID, let us trust in our loving God to carry us. Whatever the “new normal” looks like, let us embrace the truth—reality—as God reveals it. Let us trust in the God who embraces us and who holds the truth. May we have eyes to see the reconciliation that God is accomplishing in our midst. May we step in and participate.

God, grant us vision for our mission in a new normal.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2021
For the Purpose of Equipping Saints
EPHESIANS 4:11-13 (NIV)

This annual special offering (collected thru March) impacts and transforms lives across America and Puerto Rico thru the efforts of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies and ABC/WI. Visit www.abhms.org/afc for more info.

PEOPLE & CHURCH NEWS

- Congratulations to Pastor **Jane Mathison** of Honey Creek, Community on her retirement after 18 years in that pastorate. She also served as director of Camp Tamarack, as well as in several capacities for AB Women Ministries.
- Our sympathies go out to Milw, Calvary and the family of **Delores “Yippy” Wilkins**, who passed away Dec. 21 at the age of 90. A long-time friend of the region, she served as camp nurse at Tamarack and as a visiting student at CENTRAL Wisconsin.



Camp Tamarack

Experiencing Christ, Sharing Faith, Strengthening Community

The region is carefully considering programming, rental and volunteer options for Camp Tamarack this year. Dates for camp have been tentatively set. However due to the evolving circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, we may need to change them in order to be good stewards of the space and people we serve. Please pray for camp leadership in its discernment of how best to fulfill its mission in a way that maintains safety for our camp family.



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American Baptist Churches USA BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

An Online Experience | June 24-26, 2021

REGION OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Thursday, 9 am-2 pm

Missed the Annual Gathering? Videos are available to share with church members. *Transformation continues!* bit.ly/ag2020abcwi

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN

www.abcofwi.org & www.camptamarack.org

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