



# The Wisconsin Baptist

Published by the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin

Jan. 2023  
Edition

Tuesday,  
Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>,  
2022

Rev. Carolyn Dugan, Associate Regional Minister of Outdoor Ministries

## Proverbs 4:25-27 (ESV):

*Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.*

We met as Region Staff in December to celebrate Christmas, build our working relationships, and reflect as the end of the year was rapidly approaching. It was a wonderful time of comradery, delicious food, and crafts. As the conversation continued, we did an exercise that looked back over the year to see what we were grateful for and what prayers we saw answered. During the reflection time, we then thought about hopes for the New Year.

During my reflection time, the word *Simplicity* kept coming into my thoughts. *Simplicity* - this is a word I have been pondering for almost 16 years. When we moved to our farm in '06 the idea was to find simplicity in our lives. Well, if anything it feels like life has become more complicated. There are things I have said yes to, that may not serve their purpose anymore. There are processes and procedures that we have always done but could have a critical eye put on them. Sometimes when I approach life, I over think and over engineer what I think I need to do. Any of this sound familiar?

For 2023, I am going to revisit what it would mean to simplify my life. In my work, how can I be more efficient, delegate where appropriate and let go of what may have helped before but doesn't now? In my personal life, are there relationships that are too complicated, do I stress too much about what workouts to do or what food I eat and sometimes even what books to read? In my spiritual journey, am being intentional in where I spend my time and thoughts? The idea of pondering the path of my feet leads me to simplicity and exploring trails that lead that way.

As we begin 2023, I encourage you to spend some time looking forward, thinking about your hopes for the future and pondering the path of your feet to get you to your goal so you do not swerve.

From the writing of Vanita Hampton Wright, "God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power."

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We give to remember and thank those who have dedicated their lives in service to Christ, the church, and us. With gift revenue from the RMMO 2021 offering, we distributed 3,395 thank you checks averaging \$134, a modest amount in which the gesture says far more than the dollars. For all they've done, let's do this for them again this year.

## With our Sympathies

Jay Pierce passed away on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Formerly members of First Baptist Church - Eau Claire, Jay and his wife Donna were regular supporters of Camp Tamarack and Camp Green Lake.



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. May May Latt on her ordination on December 4<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations also to Lara Jean Munger - the new Camp Tamarack Facilities Manager!

Learn more on how to help Burma/Myanmar:  
[burmaadvocacygroup.org/](http://burmaadvocacygroup.org/)

### Important Dates ABC-WI Region

Jan. 29-31: Caring for Your Soul Clergy Retreat  
Feb. 18: Church Board & Leadership Workshop

### Office Hours Regional Office

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Closed Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. -  
Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.**

### Important Dates Camp Tamarack

Feb. 3-5: Youth Retreat

Please see [abcofwi.org/events](http://abcofwi.org/events) for these and other ABC-WI sponsored events.

Together Living Faithfully Through Christ Today



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### Important Dates Camp Tamarack

Feb. 3-5: Youth Retreat



## Church Board & Leadership Workshop

Faithful leadership during seasons of challenge and change

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Saturday 18th February at 9:30 AM

SUN. JAN. 29 - TUE. 31

## Caring for Your Soul

Clergy Retreat at Camp Tamarack

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