



# The Wisconsin Baptist

Published by the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin

March Edition

Tuesday,  
Feb. 21,  
2023

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Regional Executive Minister

The season of Lent is a reminder that though we are an Easter people, we have not experienced the fullness of God’s kingdom yet. We are reminded on Ash Wednesday that we are mortal and fragile human beings. From dust we come, to dust we return. We will experience death.

As a region, we have experienced loss and grief, individually and collectively. The season is a yearly season of remembering we must go through death into life. We practice repentance—turning back to God and God’s ways along with fasting and prayer. Nonetheless, this year it feels especially raw, after a multitude of Covid deaths since 2020, and losing a beloved leader in our region.

A friend of mine who is in her own season of grief recently shared that Jesus doesn’t tell the disciples to seek God. Instead, Jesus teaches them to “seek first the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33). When we are searching for the kingdom of God on earth (as it is in heaven), we find each other. We lean on each other when we cannot stand on our own, and we lift up each other when one falls. However, far too often, Christians can turn to platitudes such as, “They are in a better place,” or “Heaven needed another angel.” These phrases may be helpful to the one saying them but rarely are helpful to the one who is grieving. Instead, we are reminded that when Lazarus died, Mary said to Jesus, “Lord, if you would have been here, my brother would not have died.” Jesus didn’t say anything in reply, but remained present with her. He became “greatly disturbed in spirit” and then he wept, because he loved him (John 11:32-36).

In this time of Lent, after so much loss from Covid, after our own personal losses in our lives, perhaps we need to give up our platitudes and sit with grief and loss. Our own Lord did so. Because of Jesus, we believe in the promise of resurrection. We believe that death does not have the final word, and that new life begins here and now through eternity. But for now, as long as we love one another, we will also grieve. May we hold one another tenderly, extending grace, loving one another as best we can, while we await the fulfillment of the promise of resurrection, living into Christ’s reign on earth as it is in heaven.

<b>Important Dates</b> ABC-WI Region	<b>Office Hours</b> Regional Office	<b>Important Dates</b> Camp Tamarack
March 2: Teaching Pastor’s Forum March 31: Annual Reports Due	Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	First Week of March: Camp Registration Spring Camp Workdays Coming Soon!

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Thanks to America for Christ offering, ABHMS supported communities distressed by the devastation of COVID-19. We also helped families who lost homes to floods, wildfires, storms, children living on the edge because of poverty, and seminarians preparing to devote their lives to sharing the Good News. These are just a few of the ways we minister to those in need; there are many more. Please help us continue to bring healing and hope in 2023 by supporting this year’s America for Christ Offering.



### With Our Sympathies



Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Debra Hansen of First Baptist Church – Beloit, who passed into eternal life on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023. She is survived by her husband Ed (a member of the ABC-WI Finance Committee).

We also lift in prayer the family and friends of Rev. Karen Sundland – the Vice President of the ABC-WI Board of Managers – who passed into eternal life on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023. She is survived by her fiancé Rev. Eric Lundquist.

We further pray with the greater ABC-USA family upon the death of Rev. David Van Brakle on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. David was previously a pastor in Chicago and was known by many in ABC-WI, and was serving as the associate regional minister for ABC-NJ. Please keep his wife Rev. Erica and their two young sons in your prayers.



### Camp Tamarack in Hiring for the Summer!

- Lifeguards (2-3 total and at least one certified)
- Assistant Cook
- Craft Barn Lead

The summer season will run from June 8<sup>th</sup> until approximately the end of July. Contact Carolyn with questions or for an application.

Also: be sure to check out the Camp T. website & Newsletter for more information on all Camp activities and opportunities!

Together Living Faithfully Through Christ Today



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