



# The Wisconsin Baptist

Published by the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin

May Edition

Tuesday,  
April 18,  
2023

Rev. Carolyn Dugan, Associate Regional Minister of Outdoor Ministries

## Making Space

Tzimtzum in Hebrew was defined by the 15th Century mystic Isaac Luria in his doctrine that God began the process of creation by "contracting" his Ohr Ein Sof (infinite light) in order to allow for a "conceptual space" in which finite and seemingly independent realms could exist. The idea that something new could be born in this space.

As I was preparing for Holy Week, I came across a message from Pastor Kelly Jane where she suggests that when Jesus knelt to wash the disciple's feet he was "tzimtzum"-ing. Jesus knew he wouldn't be with them much longer and He was making space for them to grow into their roles and what was coming next.

Our theme this summer at Camp Tamarack is Empower as we look at next generation ministries using Psalm 78:72 (ESV) "With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand". We will be exploring how we empower, how we guide, how we encourage all our generations in what comes next. That may mean there are times when current leaders need to make space to try new things, to allow new things to be born and to let go of ideas that may no longer be working or serving their purpose.

As I continue to reflect on this idea of tzimtzum, I am also looking at my own life. As we continue to come out of pandemic life, I tried to be intentional about what I let back into my life. Where I spent my energy. Unfortunately, I didn't do a very good job of gatekeeping and it feels like I am busier now than I ever have been. If I don't take a moment to create space, then nothing new will grow and I will continue to feel bogged down and stuck.

My prayer for this summer and my prayer for you is this:

Creator God, we come to you looking for guidance as we make space for new things to grow and expand. We ask for your support to help us let go of what we are holding tightly. To empower and encourage emerging leaders and ministries that you are preparing in the hearts of your people. Help us to tzimtzum. Amen.

Important Dates ABC-WI Region	Office Hours Regional Office	Important Dates Camp Tamarack
October 13-15: Annual Gathering	Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	May 17-20 & June 1-4: Renew Retreat

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Thanks to America for Christ offering, ABHMS supported 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. Please help us continue to bring healing and hope in 2023 by supporting this year's America for Christ Offering.



Wiley Kehrlri - one time minister of congregational resources ('94-'98) - passed away on March 27, 2023 from complications of dementia and an infection. He leaves his wife Nancy and three married sons. A private burial will be held in Hillsboro, Oregon in June.

## SAVE THE DATE - ABC-WI 179th Annual Gathering



- When: Oct. 13-15
- Where: Green Lake Conference Center
- Focus: Next Generation Ministries
- Visit [abcofwi.org/annual-gatherings/](http://abcofwi.org/annual-gatherings/) for more info.



## Commission on Congregational Mission - An Invitation to Explore Partnerships

The Churches of ABC-WI are beautifully diverse. The relationships among, across, and between different Churches benefits both those Churches & their local communities. The Commission on Congregational Mission is here to help facilitate partnerships between Churches. If your congregation would like to engage in intentional exploration and relationship, please reach out to Rev. Mindi ([mindi.wm@abcofwi.org](mailto:mindi.wm@abcofwi.org)) or the region office ([abcwi.office@abcofwi.org](mailto:abcwi.office@abcofwi.org)).

Together Living Faithfully Through Christ Today



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