The Wisconsin Baptist

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Can We Tell?

John 15:14; "You are my friends if you do whatever I command you."

One of the many important things I tell young folks, such as my nieces and nephews and our even our youth at the Progressive Baptist Church here in Milwaukee, is that people can tell who you are by the friends you keep. It's a simple truth, but I can always see their young wheels spinning when I share this with them. Youth face so much peer pressure. Comparison along with acceptance can be a heck of a drug for them and sometimes even for us as adults.

I ask the kiddos to look at the fruit they bear with their friends: do they usually get good grades, or do they usually end up in the principal's office? It makes them think about the consequences of their actions and to examine their principles that they act on, most times instinctively. Then I ask them, "what would your life be like if Jesus is your friend?" Maybe we can reexamine this question for ourselves as well. Jesus. As. My. "Friend." Yes, the Savior of our souls, the one who atoned for our sins, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Messiah, He who sits at the right Hand of the Father. HE views us as His...friend.

(continued...)

Important Dates	**Office Hours**	**Important Dates**
Save the Date! ABCWI Annual Gathering **Oct 9-10 Emmanuel Chin Baptist Church, Greenfield!**	Regional Office Tuesdays and Thursdays Call 262-782-3140	Camp Tamarack **Renew Retreat May 28-29 or June 5-6** camptamarack.org

(continued from previous page) We live within a land that ignores its own hungry people and capitalizes on the backs of those who face the tragedies that our government causes so many to endure. We have among us a culture of people in power who support the blatant abuse of those without power. Let's examine: are these your friends?

Does Jesus command us to love? Or does Jesus command us to hate? Does Jesus command us to tend to the least of these or to ignore the poor with domination and violence? Do our lives that we live and choices we make reflect that Jesus is really in the close company that we keep? I sure hope the fruit we bear does so. You know, plainly put, a true friendship with Jesus these days is a one thing I'd rather have more anything else.

Camp Tamarack
Camp & Retreat Schedule:
https://camptamarack.org/2026-abcwi-camps/

BOUNCE BACK PLAN UPDATE!
We are almost ¼ of the way to our goal of 1.2 million, having raised $278,000! We are grateful for the churches & individuals who have given as well as legacy/memorial gifts!

Leadership Training Academy:
"Extraordinary Mission through Ordinary Administration:
The Church's Relationship to Laws, Neighbors, Committees, and Money"
June 13, 27 & July 11, 25 – Hybrid
Rev. Dr. Stephen Hawkins – Instructor More info: www.abcofwi.org/lta

Commission on Congregational Mission:
ABCWI has a Community Resources page for resources on housing, food assistance, senior services, immigration resources and more:
https://www.abcofwi.org/church-resources/community-resources/

Diverse Members, United in Christ