

# Central Region Life

JUNE 2026

## ABCCR ANNUAL GATHERING 2026

The 2026 ABCCR Annual Gathering is just around the corner, and we invite churches, ministry leaders, delegates, families, and friends from across the region to gather together for a meaningful weekend of worship, fellowship, learning, and connection.

This year's gathering will take place September 25–26, 2026, at the Kansas Lautu Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas. The keynote speaker for the event will be Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula, who serves as Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska.

The Annual Gathering is an opportunity for our churches to come together in worship and celebration while also engaging in important conversations about ministry, mission, and the future of the church. Whether you are attending as a delegate, pastor, ministry leader, or layperson, there will be opportunities to reconnect with familiar faces, meet new people, and be encouraged in your faith journey.

In the following pages, you will find additional information about the keynote speaker, workshop opportunities, the event schedule, and hotel and lodging options to help you prepare for the weekend. Please note that the Annual Gathering falls on a race weekend in the Kansas City area, hotels and lodging are expected to fill quickly. We strongly encourage you to book accommodations as early as possible to secure availability. We encourage you to review the information carefully and register early.

The 2026 ABCCR Annual Business Meeting will be held online via Zoom on September 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

**Registration Deadline: September 1, 2026**

**Meals are not guaranteed for those who register after the deadline.**

We look forward to gathering together for a weekend of encouragement, worship, and shared ministry.

### In This Issue:

2026 Annual Gathering

AG Keynote Speaker

AG Schedule

AG Workshops

AG Hotels and Lodging

Church Revitalization

Apply for 4Ten

Planned Giving

Janet Crawl Retirement

Prayer Emphasis

Camping 2026

ABW Summer Conference

Women and Girls Conference

World Missions Conference

Rise Youth 2026

Women in Ministry Retreat



Individual Registration

Childcare Registration

Register using the links above or visit  
<https://www.abccr.org/annual-gathering-2026>

# 2026 ANNUAL GATHERING

THIS HOPE IS A STRONG AND  
TRUSTWORTHY ANCHOR FOR OUR  
SOULS. IT LEADS US THROUGH  
THE CURTAIN INTO GOD'S INNER  
SANCTUARY.

HEBREWS 6:19 (NLT)



SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2026  
KANSAS LAUTU BAPTIST CHURCH  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

September 25-26, 2026

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
**REV. DR. GREG MAMULA**

**KANSAS LAUTU  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

2900 Minnesota Ave,  
Kansas City, KS 66102

**Registration Deadline: September 1, 2026 (Including delegates who are only attending the online business meeting).**

*Meals are not guaranteed for those who register after the deadline.*

**The 2026 ABCCR Annual Business meeting will be held via Zoom on September 15, 2026 at 7:00pm.**

# Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula serves as the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska, where he helps congregations strengthen their shared life through collaboration, courageous leadership, and faithful imagination. He is deeply committed to the conviction that churches helping churches is not merely a strategy, but a spiritual calling rooted in the gospel.

As a preacher and teacher, Greg is shaped by biblical theology and a deep love for the local church. His scholarship focuses on the Jewish context of the New Testament, and his preaching consistently invites communities to live faithfully between the promises of God and the challenges of the present moment.

Those who hear him speak often describe his voice as both grounded and hopeful—honest about the realities facing the church, yet confident in the Spirit’s ongoing work among God’s people.

As an author, he explores how ordinary practices—especially shared meals—become sacred spaces where disciples are formed, and community is renewed.

Beyond his professional roles, Greg is a pastor at heart. He cares deeply about congregations of all sizes, especially those seeking renewal, courage, and clarity for ministry in changing times. He believes the church’s future is not found in fear or retreat, but in deeper discipleship, shared leadership, and a renewed trust in God’s presence among us.

Greg and his wife, Lisa, live in Nebraska with their two teenage children. He loves stories, history, baseball, and the quiet ways God forms people around tables and in community.



**Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula**  
**Executive Minister**  
**ABC of Nebraska**

# 2026 ANNUAL GATHERING SCHEDULE

## Thursday, September 24

---

- 3:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting  
5:30 PM Ministers Council Dinner & Program

## Friday, September 25

---

- 8:30 AM Registration Begins at First Baptist  
9:30 AM Session # 1  
11:00 AM Lunch  
11:45 AM ABW Meeting– Kristy Engel  
ABMen’s Meeting– Jon Good  
1:15 PM Session #2  
2:45 PM Break  
3:00 PM Workshop Session 1  
#1 – Del Rae McCoullough, Church Safety and Security  
#2 – Kristy Engel, IM Global Servant  
#3 – Fun with Bible Baseball, Lois Chiles  
4:15 PM Workshop Session #2  
#1 – Ministry with Senior Adults, Rev. Janet Crowl  
#2 – Church Revitalization, Rev. Chris Prater  
#3 – Paul Wood, Head Hunters Transformed  
5:45 PM Dinner  
6:45 PM Session #3  
8:00 PM Ice Cream Social & CBTS Birthday Celebration

## Saturday, September 26

---

- 8:00 AM Registration Continues at KLBC  
8:30 AM Devotion– Rev. Daphne Braswell  
9:00 AM Recap of Business Meeting  
Installation of Officers  
9:30 AM Session #4  
10:30 AM Break  
10:45 AM Worship & Communion  
11:30 AM Journey home

Please note that the ABCCR Annual Business meeting will be held via Zoom on September 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

# WORKSHOPS

## WORKSHOP SESSION #1

DEL RAE  
MCCOULLOUGH

### Church Safety and Security

Del Rae McCullough is the Regional Director for Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company in Kansas, specializing in ministry-focused risk management and church safety. She travels throughout the state helping churches build secure, customized liability and property policies

KRISTY  
ENGEL

### International Ministries, Global Servant

Kristy, a global consultant with a healthcare focus, is a trained pediatric nurse practitioner who served for 12 years in the Dominican Republic, leading teams and working with public health issues.

LOIS  
CHILES

### Batter Up! Fun With Bible Baseball

Join in the fun of a baseball challenge using Bible trivia to score points.

## WORKSHOP SESSION #2

JANET  
CROWL

### Ministry with Senior Adults

Explore meaningful ways to engage, support, and empower older adults through compassionate and purposeful ministry.

CHRIS  
PRATER

### Church Revitalization

A brief introduction to Church Revitalization. We will discuss what the goal of Church Revitalization should be, along with a brief discussion on misconceptions about the process. A time of Q & A about the process.

PAUL  
WOOD

### Headhunters Transformed: The Story of God at Work in the Garo Hills of NE India

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, two Garo men were transformed and were used by God to begin the mission of bringing the Garo people to the saving knowledge of Christ. American Baptist missionaries to the Garo Hills followed in the footsteps of these men, and were used by God to spread the Word throughout the hills.



# Lodging and Hotels

Please make lodging arrangements for the gathering as soon as possible, as it is race weekend in Kansas City and hotels are filling up fast! This is just for your information, there are no hotel blocks.

**Hilton Garden Inn  
Kansas City/Kansas**  
520 Minnesota Ave,  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
(913) 342-7900  
10 minutes from KLBC

**Holiday Inn Kansas City -  
Downtown, an IHG Hotel**  
770 Admiral Blvd,  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
(816) 492-7565  
15 minutes from KLBC

**Home2 Suites  
Kansas City Downtown**  
2001 Main St.  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
(816) 987-7300  
15 minutes from KLBC

**Holiday Inn Express Kansas  
City - at the Legends by IHG**  
1931 Prairie Crossing,  
Kansas City, KS 66113  
(913) 328-1024  
15 minutes from KLBC

**Best Western Plus KC  
Speedway Inn & Suites**  
10401 France Family Dr,  
Kansas City, KS 66111  
(913) 334-4440  
15 minutes from KLBC

**Hampton Inn Kansas City  
The Legends**  
1400 Village West Pkwy,  
Kansas City, KS 66111  
(913) 328-1400  
15 minutes from KLBC

**Courtyard by Marriott  
Kansas City Shawnee**  
17250 Midland Dr,  
Shawnee, KS 66217  
(913) 631-8800  
20 minutes from KLBC

**Comfort Inn & Suites  
Shawnee - Kansas City**  
16510 Midland Dr,  
Shawnee, KS 66217  
(913) 951-0988  
20 minutes from KLBC

**Holiday Inn & Suites  
Overland Park-West by IHG**  
8787 Reeder St,  
Overland Park, KS 66214  
(913) 888-8440  
20 minutes from KLBC

**Hilton  
Kansas City Airport**  
8801 NW 112th St,  
Kansas City, MO 64153  
(816) 891-8900  
20 minutes from KLBC

**Holiday Inn Kansas City  
Airport by IHG**  
11728 N Ambassador Dr,  
Kansas City, MO 64153  
(816) 801-8400  
20 minutes from KLBC

**SpringHill Suites by  
Marriott Kansas City Airport**  
8303 N Stoddard Ave,  
Kansas City, MO 64152  
(816) 321-1200  
20 minutes from KLBC

# CHURCH REVITALIZATION— WHO IS IT FOR?

**REV. CHRIS PRATER, ABBCR MINISTRY CONSULTANT**

Walk into your kitchen in the morning, hoping to enjoy a hot cup of coffee to get your day off right. Gather all the ingredients necessary and put them into your — juicer. When the coffee doesn't turn out the way you had hoped, do you blame the juicer and throw it away? Is it the juicer's fault you attempted to use it for something it wasn't intended to do? Now, I am sure you will get a drink out of that juicer, but it won't be the coffee that it could have been had you used the proper equipment in the way it was intended to be used.

Church revitalization has been misused and misunderstood for some time. Misconceptions about who it is for and why we should we go through the process have plagued churches and church leaders. These are two of the largest issues churches deal with in church revitalization.

Let's start with the first, which is that church revitalization is only for small, struggling congregations. Every congregation, in any and every stage of the life cycle of a church (yes, like any other living organism, churches have life cycles) can benefit from revitalization. The problem is that too many churches and church leaders wait too long to investigate the process and thus fall into the category of struggling congregation.

The church may find itself stuck in a routine that it is struggling to break out of. Revitalization can help provide the insight needed to break out of routine and lead to a new season of productivity and vitality in ministry. Sure, the struggling smaller church can benefit by finding their ministry niche in their community, the one that helps them stand out, but revitalization can help larger churches by serving as a means of evaluating the effectiveness of their various ministries. For larger churches, this is a way to work smarter, not harder.

How can revitalization do all these things? Well, to understand this, we must address the other misconception.

The misconception about who revitalization is for is the result of another misconception: Revitalization is NOT about numbers. Because we've assumed that it is, we've assumed it's only for those congregations who are smaller and struggling to reach people. If you, as a church leader, expect to revitalize and suddenly see numbers reverse after years of decline, you will be extremely disappointed. You might even throw your hands up and say, "Revitalization doesn't work!"

The heart of church revitalization, as I present it and as I walk through it with a congregation, is church health — the goal is to ensure that the church is healthy. You can be small AND be healthy and vibrant. Numbers are never the focus and can't be the driving factor, but they are something to be aware of. As I journey with a congregation through the revitalization process, the health and vitality of the congregation is always where I want to point the pastor and the church's leadership team.

Seeing revitalization as a process means taking time and putting in lots of hard work. I will deal with the seven Ps of the process in future articles, but know here that there is a reason that one of those Ps is Pace. This is a marathon, not a sprint. Be prepared for the long haul.

Maybe you have attempted the revitalization process, it didn't end well, and you ended up being one of those people who have said, "Church revitalization doesn't work."

I would say that there are two key reasons (lots of reasons but two big ones) that revitalization doesn't work. The first is (read our opening paragraph again) using revitalization when you needed something else.

The second is expecting the pastor to be the only one working the process. The pastor cannot do this alone. Help must come at every level for the church to experience the most impact. If pastors are the only ones working through the process, they will burn out before the work is done and can very easily conclude that revitalization is useless.

No matter what your church size, no matter where you find your church in the church life cycle continuum, revitalization can help. The Central Region has recognized the importance of and the need for revitalization, and I have been called to help take churches throughout the region on this journey.

Let's discuss how we might revitalize your church.

Blessings,  
Rev. Chris Prater  
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Hays, KS  
Consultant on Church Revitalization  
pastorgchris@yahoo.com





4TEN is cutting edge leadership skills training for youth entering 10-12th grades during the fall. 4TEN was formed by the scripture I Peter 4:10.

It exists to empower our youth to employ their gifts to serve Jesus and set an example.

Youth are the leaders of the future; we need them to step up NOW in their local churches!

Students who are chosen for this program are young people who love Jesus and are willing to grow in their relationship with Christ. Students do not need to feel a call to full-time ministry but do have the gifts and desires to be leaders in their churches.

If you would like to nominate someone, send their name, church, and phone number to Rev. Jennifer Schneider or scan the QR code that will take you to then website where you can fill out an application.



[jennifer.schneider@abccr.org](mailto:jennifer.schneider@abccr.org)



**FIRST EVENT  
OCTOBER  
9-11**

# PLANNED GIVING FACTS, FIGURES AND FUNDS

HELPING YOU TO GIVE GENEROUSLY,  
REV. TIM SCHWARTZ  
KBCF DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING  
913-424-9939 / 785-272-7622  
TIMMANS39@GMAIL.COM  
TIM.SCHWARTZ@ABCCR.ORG

What comes to mind when you hear that first word of the title above? I know what I think of, and you can let me know if you think the same thing. I think of the TV show, "Dragnet". I think of Detective Joe Friday, played by the actor, Jack Webb, and his famous saying, "just the facts, ma'am."

Still, after doing some investigating, I find out that according to historians and researchers, that exact short phrase was never actually spoken by Jack Webb on the show. Apparently he used a variation of the short phrase like "all we want are the facts, ma'am" instead. Apparently comedian Stan Freberg released a parody record in the 1950s, which mocked the show and eventually evolved the shorter quote about the facts into popular memory. The phrase still remains a significant part of the "Dragnet" legacy. Now if you are a dedicated fan of the show and find out otherwise, please let me know and I will stand corrected.

All that to say that I am going to share some facts and figures from the IRS related to the 2025 tax filing season, which ended on April 15th, unless you filed an extension.

On April 17th, the IRS reported that it had issued approximately \$296 billion in tax refunds. This is an increase of about 17% compared to last year. For the 2025 tax year, the average refund amount to date was \$3,275. This amount is about \$300 higher compared to last year.

The IRS has commented that this is due to three substantial tax benefits. Those are the overtime compensation deduction, the deduction of up to \$25,000 of qualified tip income and the senior citizen deduction.

If you are 65 years or older by the end of the tax year, you can take the senior citizen deduction, along with your standard deduction. The deduction is \$6,000 per senior citizen and the IRS reports that it was claimed by 31 million taxpayers during this tax season that has just ended. The IRS also is sharing that with the additional senior deduction, an estimated 88% of Social Security benefit recipients did not pay tax on that retirement payment.

The IRS data suggest that approximately the same number of taxpayers filed this year as in previous years. The IRS did note a small increase of 500,000 returns being processed this filing season. The IRS also noted that there was a 1% increase in the number of returns filed electronically.

So if you are one of those fortunate persons who received a generous tax refund or you just have some extra funds lying around, please be aware that for as little as \$1,000, you can fund a charitable gift annuity! If you choose yourself as a beneficiary, then you will receive a portion of your gift back to you every year as income until your life is over. Or you can choose another family member or even a close friend to be the beneficiary and they would be blessed by that income for the rest of their life.

The other wonderful thing about funding a charitable gift annuity is that since it is a "split-interest" gift, you can choose where the remainder of the funds will go, when it is your time to go home and be with the Lord. That amount is usually close to 50% or half of your gift and you can choose a multitude and myriad of mission partners to support with that gift, including an individual missionary, missionary couple, offering, educational institution, healthcare facility or senior citizen home, as long as they are connected to us through the American Baptist Churches USA and the ABCCR. Since June is the month of the annual conference of the American Baptist Women of the Central Region, you might want to consider leaving your remainder gift to them since they do such amazing mission work both locally in our region and around the globe.

If I can be of any further service to you regarding the funding of a charitable gift annuity with the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation, please do not hesitate to call, email or text me and I will be joyfully ready to assist you in this financial matter. As long as you provide the funds, I will provide the facts and figures related to your gift annuity, tax savings and charitable contributions.

# JANET CROWL RETIREMENT CELEBRATION AT FBC OF TOPEKA

## *O-Fish-Ally Retired*



*IN HONOR OF*

## Rev. Janet Crowl

**Sunday, June 14, 2026**

Join us for Pastor Janet's final Sunday with us. She will lead worship and share the message. Following the service, we will honor Janet and celebrate her retirement with a catered lunch in the gym, provided by Brick Road Catering.

**First Baptist Church Topeka  
3033 SW MacVicar Ave  
Topeka, KS 66611**



**Please RSVP with Jamie in the office: 785-267-0380 or [email@firstbaptisttopeka.org](mailto:email@firstbaptisttopeka.org)**

# PRAYER

---

## EMPHASIS

Let us pray for our American Baptist Women of the Central Region, as they prepare for their annual conference this month, which will be held at the First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas.

Let us pray for the speakers including Dr. Kathy Maxwell of Central Baptist Seminary and missionary, Carmella Jones, that the Holy Spirit would inspire them and work through them as they share important insights and inspiration from their respective ministries.

Let us also pray for our ABW president, Lois Chiles, the conference associate, Rev. Janet Crowl and the special events coordinator, Rev. Melissa Newberry, and the rest of the planning team that all will go well and run smoothly for this excellent annual conference.

Let us pray for safety and traveling mercies for all of the women who will be coming from Oklahoma and various places in Kansas to participate in this uplifting and encouraging event.

As the scripture says, "therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." | Thessalonians 5: 11 (NIV)



# ABCCR Camping 2026

## CAMP CHRISTY HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

Director: Damion Denison

JUNE 1-5, 2026

9th- 12th grade

\$350 before May 1

\$370 after May 1

## CAMP CHRISTY PRIMARY CAMP

Director: Becky Rider

JUNE 22-24, 2026

2nd- 4th grade

\$195 before May 1

\$215 after May 1

## WHITE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

Director: Morgan Aspinwall

JULY 13-17, 2026

9th- 12th grade

\$425 before June 1

\$445 after June 1

## CAMP CHRISTY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

Director: Erin Isham

JUNE 8-12, 2026

6th- 8th grade

\$350 before May 1

\$370 after May 1

## CAMP CHRISTY DAY CAMP

Director: Aleya Rainey

JUNE 25-26, 2026

K- 2nd grade

\$105 before May 1

\$125 after May 1

## WHITE MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

Director: Wallace Smith

JULY 13-17, 2026

6th- 8th grade

\$425 before June 1

\$445 after June 1

## CAMP CHRISTY JUNIOR CAMP

Director: Erin Isham

JUNE 15-19, 2026

4th- 6th grade

\$350 before May 1

\$370 after May 1

## WHITE MEMORIAL JUNIOR CAMP

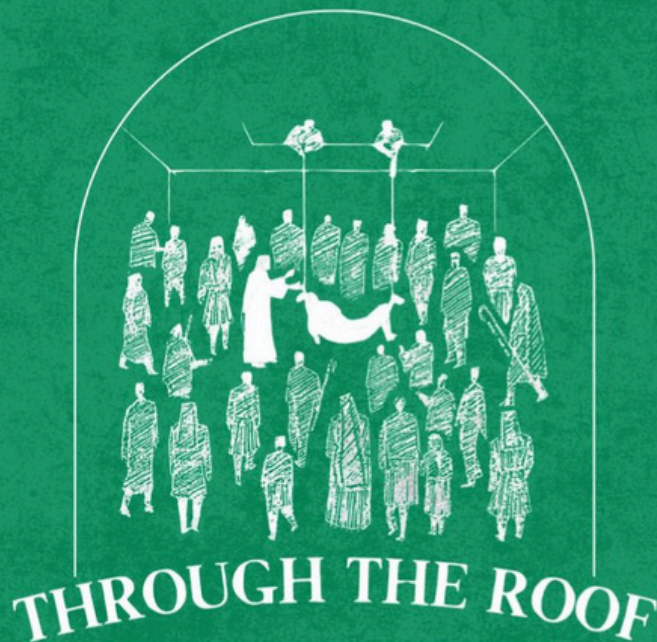
Director: Kami Minor

JULY 20-24, 2026

4th- 6th grade

\$425 before June 1

\$445 after June 1



# American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region Summer Conference



Summer Conference Date: June 5-6, 2026

Location: First Baptist Church, Topeka  
3033 SW MacVicar Ave.



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kathy Maxwell

Kathy Maxwell is Professor of Biblical Studies at Central Seminary, where she is the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the faculty. Her areas of research interest include New Testament studies, especially literary and rhetorical methodologies; biblical interpretation; and performance criticism. She is fascinated by the ways people are formed when learning, telling, and hearing the biblical story, both in ancient times and the modern world. She writes adult Bible study curriculum, enjoys serving the church through pulpit supply, and is certified through the Network of Biblical Storytellers. She lives in Shawnee, Kansas, with her husband and two sons.

Guest Global Servant: Carmella Jones

CARMELLA serves as a regional consultant for health and education in Europe, the Middle East and Liberia. She works with partners and global servant colleagues in the integration of faith, education, and health. Carmella, a registered nurse and ordained clergy, is uniquely equipped to teach and support spiritual and physical well-being. As an integrator of faith and health, Carmella provides pastoral care and a listening presence in the context of peoples' values, beliefs, and faith practices when providing compassionate support in the classroom and health clinics. She will continue to teach English and work with children with special needs.



Mini-Project: Calendars and Greeting Cards for Women in Prison and Baby Items for Hope Street High School

**Nine Workshops are offered. Note the Special Discount!**

**Registration is Open Use paper form provided**

**or go to [www.abwmcr.org](http://www.abwmcr.org)**

**Make Hotel plans ASAP as World Cup teams are in KC, Lawrence and Topeka.**

# American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region

## Summer Conference - Mini Project Information

**Women in Prison** is a commitment of service for the FBC Topeka White Cross and ABWM Circles. These women are in residence at the prison and at times are able to serve in the community. Basic hygiene needs are met by the system. But cards help with child and family communication. Activity options are minimal and it helps to supplement with puzzles and yarn to help with boredom and anxiety.

**Hope Street Academy** is part of the Topeka School District. This school has been adopted by the New Horizons Class, ABWM Circles, and the FBC of Topeka. Hope Street is for students who might struggle in the regular classroom setting. Academics, life learning, work skills, and meeting challenges are core goals for Hope Street students. There is a Parent-Child Learning Center at the school for those needing child care while in classes but the Center also works with these new moms or dads on how to become better parents and achieve personal goals.

*Summer Conference Date: June 5-6, 2026*

*Location: First Baptist Church, Topeka - 3033 SW MacVicar Ave.*

### *Women in Prison (Topeka) Needed Items*

Greeting Cards - can have message inside or plain - use for contacting children and relatives  
Calendars - can be outdated - use for pictures in rooms  
Knitting Yarn - prefer 4-ply Red Heart yarn, but accept all -  
Jigsaw Puzzles - for their activity room  
Puzzle Books - crossword and seek to find

### *Hope Street Academy (Topeka 501) Needed Items*

All students: Bar or Liquid Body Soap (both genders)  
Deodorant (both genders)  
Toothpaste  
Socks (both genders)  
Brushes/Combs  
Tampons/Pads (no pantliners)

For Babies: Baby wash, lotion and wipes



**Make Hotel plans ASAP as World Cup teams are in KC, Lawrence and Topeka.**  
**Register at [www.abwmc.org](http://www.abwmc.org)**



## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

(Please designate by NUMBER your 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice options for each session on the front page of this form.)

Session #1 - Friday, 1:30-2:30pm

Session #2 - Friday, 2:40-3:40pm

Session #3 - Saturday, 9:00-10:00am

1. Ministry of Presence: Being Christ Centered in the Community - Danica Kitch Session #1  
The goal of this workshop is to equip participants to practice Christ-like presence – listening, serving, and showing up—in everyday community life.
2. Special Project 2025-2026 - Paula Rhodes Session #1  
Special Project 2025-2026 includes both Camp Christy and the Kodiak Baptist Mission. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 for these projects and any excess will be split equally. Camp Christy is in the process of building a new cottage, the Rozel Cottage. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 for the furniture and appliances for this cottage. Kodiak Baptist Mission (KBM) has been the partner in ministry with ABHMS (American Baptist Home Mission Society) for over 100 years. The \$15,000 will go for the preservation of their facilities so that they can focus on their commitment to bringing the gospel to many in their area through their various programs.
3. Faith in Bloom - Lisa Terrill & Robin Klein Session #1  
In this engaging and uplifting workshop, we will create handcrafted sunflowers that symbolize faith, hope, and the love of God. Sunflowers, known for their ability to turn toward the sun, serve as a beautiful reminder to keep our hearts and minds focused on the light of Christ. Cost is \$6.00. Class limited to 30.
4. Building Community Thru Biblical Trivia - Melissa Newberry & Sherill Carlson Session #2  
Take a tour of the Bible through interactive team-building games.
5. Bell Choir – Jan Smith Session #2  
If you know your colors, you can play the bells. Join us for a fun time making a joyful noise to the Lord! Jan Smith is a retired pastor. Her undergraduate degree is in music. She loves helping others make music!
6. The Art of Biblical Storytelling - Kathy Maxwell Session #2  
The Bible began as a spoken story. Come experience it that way again! What new insights emerge when we internalize biblical stories with our minds and hearts, and tell Scripture with our bodies and voices? In this hands-on workshop, we'll explore how we can build God's community through biblical storytelling. Internalizing and telling God's story connects us to Scripture - and each other - in transformative ways. Come imagine Scripture taking shape through the voices of your faith community.
7. We Are Not Perfect, but We Are Perfect Together - Kami Minor Session #3  
No, we are not perfect. But we are perfectly created by God, each one playing a unique role in His plan. Join us for an interactive and fun session as we dig deeper into 1 Thessalonians 5:11 to see how God might use us as builders in His kingdom. Your church, workplace or neighborhood may never be the same!
8. Sparking Reflection - Ruth Hailey Session #3  
Join us for a meaningful and creative craft session as we design beautiful diamond art crosses - a hands-on reminder of Christ's love and sacrifice. As each sparking piece is placed, we'll reflect on how God shapes our lives with purpose, patience, and grace. This session is more than crafting; it's a time for fellowship, encouragement, and focusing our hearts on Jesus. Cost is \$3.00. There will be an additional keychain craft if time allows or you may take it with you to complete at home. This workshop is limited to 30.
9. MAPS for Personal Development - Becky Nevergold Session #3  
This breakout session will present ideas to encourage Circle women to look inward and outward in their faith, build skills for following Jesus' example, and hear ideas to share with other people.



# SAVE THE DATE

## Building God's Community Women and Girls Conference



**JULY 17 - JULY 18, 2026**

**Hybrid: Online & in person at Select Locations**

**"FOR WE ARE CO-WORKERS, WORKING TOGETHER; YOU ARE GOD'S FIELD, GOD'S BUILDING." - 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9**



Visit Our Website  
[WWW.ABWOMENSMINISTRIES.ORG](http://WWW.ABWOMENSMINISTRIES.ORG)



## From **BROKENNESS** To **WHOLENESS**

*Educate, Heal, Restore*

**JULY 29-31, 2026**  
Rosen Plaza | Orlando, FL

**REGISTER NOW**



international  
ministries   
world  
mission  
conference



**RISE** YOUTH  
2026

**JEREMIAH 29:11-14**

**SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**4-8pm**

**First Baptist Church Olathe**  
2024 E 151<sup>st</sup> St, Olathe, KS 66062  
913.764.7088  
[www.fbcolathe.org/youth](http://www.fbcolathe.org/youth)

**Join us for Games, Worship, Food, & Discipleship!**

ABCCR

# Women in Ministry Retreat



October 17, 2026

First Baptist Church  
Topeka, Kansas

**\$20 a person**

## RETREAT INFORMATION

Please save the date for our Women in Ministry Retreat on **Saturday, October 17th** at 9:00 a.m. We'll gather at First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas.

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Andrea Roth as our facilitator, guiding us through meaningful conversations, study, and fellowship. Rev. Andrea Roth is a Staff Chaplain at The University of Kansas Hospital specializing in Palliative Care and is a Certified Bereavement Care specialist. This role is a fulfillment of decades of experience in age & stage ministries with children and youth as well as years working as a writer and editor for the United Methodist Publishing House. An Ordained Elder in the Great Plains Conference of the UMC, Andrea is a sought-after retreat leader, lecturer, and mentor for ministry and medical residents and fellows. With degrees from Kansas State University, Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Iliff School of Theology, Andrea's academic background has prepared her for multi-generational, trauma-informed, and intersectionally-sensitive ministry. She and her husband, Rev. Dr. Wallace Smith, have five children, a dog, and two cats, so cups of hot tea, audiobooks, and crochet are some of her favorite entries into mindfulness and rest.

For more information, contact Nancy Killingsworth:  
[nancyjsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:nancyjsnyder@gmail.com)

