

# Central Region Life

## DECEMBER 2024

### IN MEMORY OF BILL HENDRICKS

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It is with a certain amount of sadness and joy that we share with you that Bill Hendricks passed away peacefully at the hospital Friday, November 15, 2024. Both Jennifer and Gregg spent time with Bill and his wife, Jacki, during his final days. Bill's physical body was declining in recent months, but now through his hope in Jesus, he knows a much different existence in the presence of God.

Bill served the ABCCR as our Director of Interim Ministries and as a Region Staff member. He also pastored churches in the Midwest, and was at heart, an entrepreneur in the business world. He always pushed us in staff meetings to think about what could be and how could we do a better job of facilitating health to local congregations.

Bill shared our staff's love of dogs and he and Jacki fostered a number of dogs over the years. They would take dogs with little hope for the future, and give them a home and place to belong. In many ways, that's what Bill did with his work in the church as well. He was always seeing possibilities that most of us dismissed. During his last few earthly days in the hospital, a therapy dog was making rounds and Bill's whole disposition brightened when he got to see this new canine friend.

Please keep Bill's wife, Jacki, in your prayers. Bill and Jacki were married over 50 years and there will be lots of transitions for her. We will also be making adjustments in the Region Office to cover Bill's responsibilities and would appreciate your prayers for that adjustment as well.



# REBALANCING LIFE: EMBRACING HOLY LEISURE

Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen, Executive Minister

Not long ago, I came back from a few weeks of vacation where I spent some time in Iowa helping with the corn harvest. Yes, I know it sounds a bit odd and a number of people have called me out on “working” on my vacation. But it really does aid the recharging of my inner batteries. While in the tractor hauling loads of corn, I spent time thinking about my sabbatical, which is scheduled for the fall of 2025. For several months at the end of 2025, I’ll cease from my normal rhythms and do some continuing education and rest. I’ve taken part in some different continuing education opportunities before so that won’t be anything new. In many ways, that’s the easy part. The rest aspect of this sabbatical is what scares me a bit. Do I even know how to rest without being restless? Before I go any further, I am grateful that the Central Region provides the benefit of sabbaticals. But again, I’m facing this gift with apprehension.

Like most of you, I’m well aware of the work-rest design we have received from God. There’s both a short term cycle (weekly on the 7th day; Exodus 20:8-11) and a longer-term cycle (7th year; Leviticus 25:4-5) laid out for us in Scripture. Rest on the 7th day and reset life in the 7th year. I’ll commend God for a good plan! I’ve encouraged pastors and others to pay attention to their needs for rest. Sit at the feet of Jesus, and soak in this Godly life we are called to model. Now my own words are staring back at me and I’ll admit I’m a little scared.

I know the analogy breaks down quickly but it’s been helpful for me to think about these shorter and longer term activities of sabbath/sabbatical as being similar to rebalancing the tires on my car. If you want your tires to last their longest, you need to periodically rebalance and rotate them. That helps to prevent premature wear and failure. So that’s what I’ll try and do.

I was sharing with my cousin, the farmer I help each fall, about my upcoming sabbatical and he asked, “So you’re looking for another job for several months next fall?” I was obviously not explaining the concept of sabbatical very well but in many ways it will be like taking on a new job next fall. And it may very well be the hardest work I’ve ever done.

A well-known pastor was consulting a psychologist about a new spiritual formation initiative and this psychologist said, “Most people are just too busy to live emotionally healthy and spiritually vibrant lives.” We equate busyness with value and importance. And because we want to be valued by others, we fill our lives with commitments, meetings, activities, and opportunities that are generally good by themselves, but when stacked on top of one another, they have thrown our lives dangerously out of balance to the point where we are in danger of flying apart. Now, I don’t think I’m on the verge of flying apart. But most who make such confident assertions, are often the last ones to see the debris field forming in their lives.

So, I’m doing the best I can to prepare for this time of resetting my life. My mentor has put me in touch with some experts who help leaders of nonprofit organizations and I hope to broaden and sharpen my skill set. There’s a class on nonprofit leadership for the 21st century that I plan on taking. Those will be the easy things. Most importantly, I’m planning on some extended time where I simply sit at the feet of Jesus. Jesus said to some followers in John 1, “Come and see.” He was inviting them to step further into the life he was living. That’s what I most want to do, what I most need, and what scares me the most because I’m not always sure how to get there.

One of my seminary professors taught me a Latin phrase that is often attributed to Augustine. The phrase is “otium sanctum.” The dignified translation into English is, “holy leisure.” The raw translation is, “wasting time with God.” I generally choose the raw translation because it grates against my bent toward efficiency and usefulness. It stretches me more and that stretching is what I most need. So I’m going to try and “waste” some time with Jesus this next year and if successful, it will be the best investment in myself that I’ve ever made.



# PLANNED GIVING

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

Well the big day is finally here because on December 2nd, 1959, the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation was incorporated for the next 100 years. We are observing our 65th birthday during this month and that is a milestone to celebrate!! Even though we are turning 65, we are not retiring, slowing down or concluding our work. We are supremely grateful for all of our annuitants, both current and those who have gone before us and we thank you for trusting us with your money to invest! We are also thankful for the many churches that have invested with the foundation as well and we appreciate your gifts and your faith in the work that the foundation does! We are also very appreciative of our board, accountants and our investment team as well!

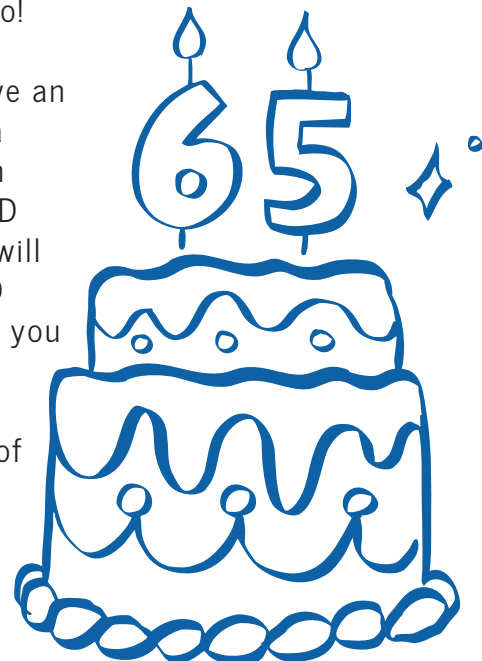
During the past 5 months, I have been sharing stories of annuitants, who have been an important part of our first 65 years, but I am going to take a break from that this month since we are celebrating our birthday.

Just in case you were wanting to give us a birthday gift, I wanted to make you aware of two ways to do that. Both of these ways are unusual in that not only does the foundation receive a birthday gift, if you do it in honor of our birthday this month, but you will receive a gift as well. Now, how about that!! I don't know of too many ways to do that, but you can do that by investing in a charitable gift annuity. When you fund a charitable gift annuity, and you choose the beneficiary or beneficiaries, a portion of your gift goes to them. Usually someone will choose himself or herself as the beneficiary or if you wish to choose two beneficiaries, much of the time the person chooses themselves and their spouse to receive the funds from the charitable gift annuity. Based on the amount given and the age of the beneficiary or beneficiaries, the calculations from the software will provide a certain gift amount to the beneficiaries for the rest of their life. Even though you have given the gift, we can still say that it is the gift that keeps on giving until the Lord calls you to your eternal home.

Just to clarify, the first way of funding a charitable gift annuity is through a gift of cash or appreciated stock. This is the most common way that gift annuities are funded and the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation has been using this first way all throughout its 65 years so far.

Still there is a second way to fund a charitable gift annuity, which comes through the SECURE 2.0 act that was a part of the US House 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill. It involves a QCD roll-over from your IRA to fund a CGA. Some just might refer to it as alphabet soup, but I don't think so!

Under the SECURE 2.0 Act, if you are a person aged 70.5 years and you have an IRA, you can transfer a qualified charitable distribution of up to \$53,000 to a charitable gift annuity with a 501c3, such as the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation. You must contact your IRA plan administrator and ask for a QCD transfer to the nonprofit in order to form a charitable gift annuity, and you will fill out paper or electronic forms to get that done. The money from the QCD must be transferred directly from the IRA to fund the CGA, thereby allowing you the opportunity to pay no federal income tax on that QCD that becomes a charitable gift annuity. The original amount of the QCD was \$50,000, but because of inflation it is \$53,000 this year and if you have a spouse, each of you can contribute \$53,000 through the QCD for a total of \$106,000. Also, one last thing, you can only do this once in your lifetime!





For more information you can go to the ABCCR website and click on KBCF and there are three pages of information there or you can go to [irs.gov](http://irs.gov) and search for information on QCDs and you will find it there. As always, consult your financial and tax advisor or your attorney before making these decisions.

Thanks for coming along with me this past year on the KBCF 65th birthday journey. If I can be of any assistance to you in providing more information or funding a charitable gift annuity, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Also, if your church is interested in investing in the foundation, just let me know and I will get you to the right staff members for that.

I wish you a peaceful and hopeful Advent season and a joyous Christmas season as you celebrate the birth of Christ all during the 12 Days of Christmas from December 25th through January 6th!!

Helping you give generously,  
Rev. Tim Schwartz  
KBCF Director of Planned Giving  
913-424-9939/ 785-272-7622-ext. 6  
[tim.schwartz@abccr.org](mailto:tim.schwartz@abccr.org)  
[timmans39@gmail.com](mailto:timmans39@gmail.com).



HAPPY  
65<sup>Th</sup>  
*Birthday*  
KANSAS BAPTIST  
CONVENTION FOUNDATION

The Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation, Inc. is the investment arm of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region. (It was founded in 1959, when we were known as Kansas Baptists.) We are a service organization designed to assist those of you who want to support the ministries of the local church, the ABCCR or its related institutions.





Representatives from the Northeast Area, members of FBC Atchison, and family praying over Laura Deware Jones at her ordination ceremony.



Members of First Baptist Church of Hiawatha preparing for the community Thanksgiving meal where they shared together and delivered to those who couldn't attend.



New Life Baptist Church in Topeka, KS gathered around tables to share in their Thanksgiving meal.



Members of First Baptist Church of Herington visited Bethel Neighborhood Center and provided Christmas gifts for families and materials for their sewing program.

# CAPTURED!

*In the Central Region*



Appanoose Baptist Church worked together to gather materials fill nearly 300 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.



College age students from across the region gathered at Camp White Memorial for the first annual college age retreat. This was a weekend for them to connect with other students, build relationships, and have a time of restoration, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.



# MINISTRY IN ACTION





As we begin the month of December and the season of Advent on the same day, December 1st, I want us to think about Luke's gospel story of the birth of Jesus and how there is no room for them in the inn. Even though there was no room, we understand that the Innkeeper found them a place to stay in a stable/cave, where Jesus was born! So during this month of anticipation, preparation and waiting, the Holy Spirit has prompted me to ask you and myself to pray for the stranger, foreigner and alien among us, that they would see how valuable and important they are in God's sight.

As we pray through the singing of Christmas carols and songs, might we also pray that we might have welcoming hearts not only to strangers and foreigners but to all of those in need.

As we prepare for our family and extended family Christmas celebrations, let us pray and ask God to remind us of someone who is lonely, grieving, discouraged or without a family and let us seriously consider inviting them to our Christmas celebration. As we hear Jesus speaking in Matthew's gospel, the scripture says: "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Matthew 10:40 (NRSV)

*"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever  
welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."*

Matthew 10:40 (NRSV)



# MID-WINTER MISSIONS CONFERENCE

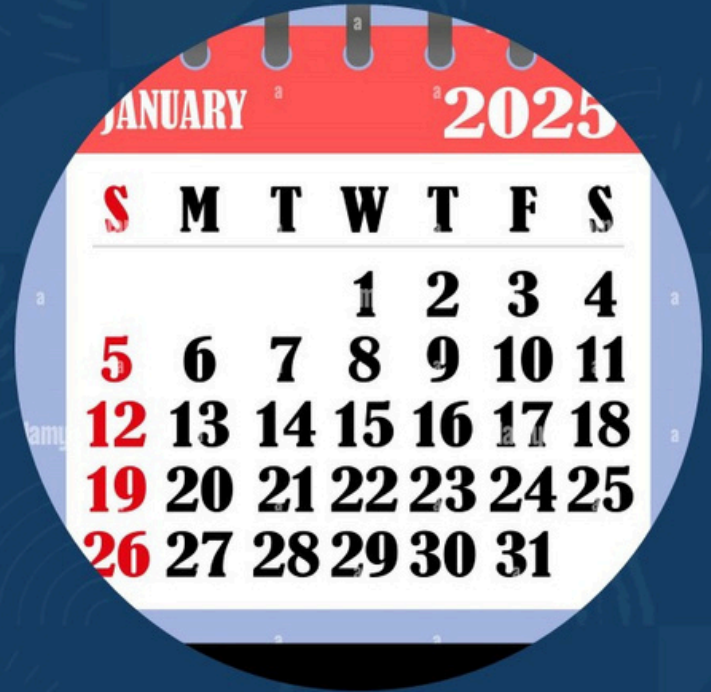
Save the Date:  
January 17-18, 2025

Mid Winter  
Missions Conference

Location: Prairie Homestead,  
Wichita



Guest Speakers:  
Jeanine and Walt White  
Global Consultants  
International Ministries



**Kick-Off the new year at the Mid-Winter Missions Conference.**  
Join us, January 17- 18, 2025 at Prairie Homestead in Wichita, Kansas as we hear from Jeanine and Walt White, Global Consultants for International Ministries.

**Registration is \$45 per person.** Registration helps cover travel expenses and the honorarium for Jeanine and Walt. The Registration fee also includes two meals: dinner and lunch, provided by Prairie Homestead.

**Registration form and fee are due no later than January 3, 2025.**  
One registration per person. Lodging is on your own.  
Please visit the ABCCR website for more information on lodging.  
An offering for Missions will be received.

You can register and pay online, or you can mail your registration to:  
Melissa Newberry: 1502 Pawnee Street Leavenworth, KS 66048

Please make checks payable to: "Mid-Winter Missions Conference"

**REGISTER**

To register online  
click the link or scan the QR Code







## 2025 Mid-Winter Missions Conference

January 17-18, 2025

Prairie Homestead

1605 W. May St., Wichita, KS

Jeanine and Walt White

IM Global Consultants

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration is \$45 per person\*. This helps cover travel expenses and the honorarium for Jeanine and Walt. The Registration Fee also includes two meals, dinner and lunch, provided by Prairie Homestead.

Dietary needs (please circle if applicable):

Diabetic

Gluten Free

Vegetarian

\*Please make checks payable to: "Mid-Winter Mission Conference"

Mail completed form and registration fee to:

Melissa Newberry

1502 Pawnee Street

Leavenworth, KS 66048

OR—Register and pay online.

[www.abccr.org](http://www.abccr.org) click on "Events" tab

Registration form and fee are due no later than January 3, 2025.

One registration per person. Lodging is on your own.

An offering for Missions will be received.

### SCHEDULE

Friday, January 17

4:00 Registration Opens

5:15 Dinner

6:30 Evening Session

Saturday, January 18

9:00 Morning Session

12:00 Lunch (this will conclude our time together)



## Wichita Hotels

Aloft – Wichita  
3642 Oliver  
Wichita, KS 67220  
316-744-1100  
No breakfast mentioned on  
website

Ambassador Hotel  
104 S. Broadway  
Wichita, KS 67202  
316-239-7100  
Restaurant on site

Baymont by Wyndham –  
East  
12111 E. Central  
Wichita, KS 67206  
316-689-8000  
Complimentary Breakfast

Best Western Governors Inn  
4742 S. Emporia St.  
Wichita, KS 67216  
316-522-0775  
Complimentary Breakfast

Best Western Plus – West  
Airport Inn  
3800 W. Kellogg  
Wichita, KS 67213  
316-854-5050  
Complimentary Breakfast

Candlewood Suites  
5211 E. Kellogg  
Wichita, KS 67218  
316-685-2233  
No breakfast mentioned

Comfort Suites Airport  
7515 W. Taft  
Wichita, KS 67209  
316-773-1700  
Complimentary Breakfast

Courtyard by Marriott – Old  
Town  
820 E. 2nd St. N  
Wichita, KS 67202  
316-264-5300  
Restaurant on site

Drury Plaza Hotel  
Broadway  
400 W. Douglas  
Wichita, KS 67202  
316-262-5000  
Complimentary Breakfast

Fairfield Inn and Suites  
Downtown  
525 S. Main  
Wichita, KS 67202  
316-201-1400  
Complimentary Breakfast

Fairfield Inn – East  
417 S. Webb Rd  
Wichita, KS 67207  
316-685-3777  
Complimentary Breakfast

Hampton Inn – East  
9449 E. Corporate Dr.  
Wichita, KS 67207  
316-686-3576  
Complimentary Breakfast

Hampton Inn – Northeast  
2433 N. Greenwich Rd  
Wichita, KS 67226  
316-636-5594  
Complimentary Breakfast

Hampton Inn- - Northwest  
10047 W. 29th St. N  
Wichita, KS 67205  
316-925-6600  
Complimentary Breakfast



# SPOKEN 4

FACEBOOK.COM/SPOKEN4QUARTET



TWITTER.COM/SPOKEN4QUARTET



SPOKEN4QUARTET.COM



**SUNDAY  
JANUARY 19, 2024**



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – TOPEKA**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM**

**CONCERT AT 6:00 PM**

**FREE CONCERT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**MERCHANDISE TABLE AVAILABLE**

**FREE WILL OFFERING : REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED**



FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTBAPTISTTOPEKA



FIRSTBAPTISTTOPEKA.ORG

3033 SW MACVICAR AVE | TOPEKA, KS 66611

**SPOKEN 4 HAS HAD A WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH SILVER DOLLAR CITY AND PERFORMS THERE SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR. IN 2019 SPOKEN 4 BEGAN SINGING ON A FULL TIME BASIS AT DOCKSIDE THEATER AT SILVER DOLLAR CITY**





5th Sunday  
Fellowship

LESTERS

Live in Concert

**Dec. 29th - 3:00pm**

First Baptist Church of Turner  
701 S. 55th St., Kansas City, KS

Free will offering will be taken for the Lesters. Non-perishables  
will be accepted for the Caring Collaborative Ministry



# BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT 2025

REGISTER TODAY

## SAVE THE DATE!

American Baptist Churches USA  
**BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT**  
July 3-6, 2025 | Omaha, NE

**COME SEEK**  
**LIVING**  
**WATER**

### COME SEEK:

- ◆ New Life in Christ through dynamic worship services and learning opportunities.
- ◆ New Connections with other American Baptists. Build your network!
- ◆ What God has to share with you!

Come Seek Living Water

## Mark Your Calendar ROOTED

*in the*  
**LION** *of Judah*  
*& the* **LAMB**

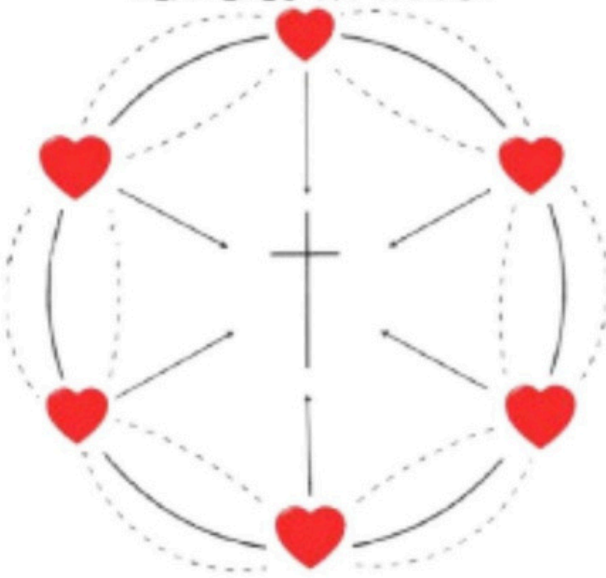
**American Baptist  
Women's Ministries**

**Summer Conference  
FBC Herington, KS  
June 6-7, 2025**

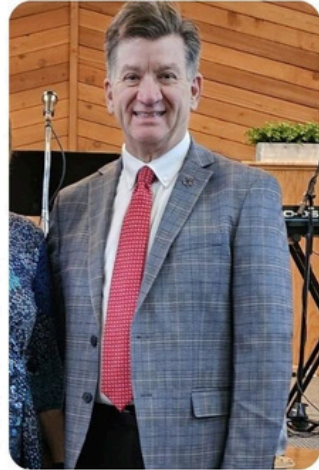


# 2025 SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

CENTERED IN CHRIST



Mark your calendars now for this event with keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops. Dr. Stoops has been engaging in a special assignment working in Mission Resource Development for the American Baptist Churches USA and is now currently serving as the interim Pastor at First Baptist Church Topeka. He previously served as the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska.



April 23-24, 2025

Central Baptist Church  
Great Bend, KS

Registration information will be available soon. Watch for more details throughout the Central Region's many avenues.

Ephesians 3:16-19

## Lodging and Hotels



Best Western – Angus Inn  
2920 10th Street  
620-792-3541  
Complimentary Breakfast

Super 8 by Wyndham  
911 Grant Street  
620-910-9523  
Complimentary Breakfast

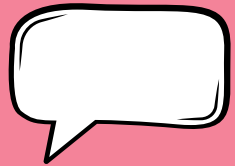
Days Inn  
4701 10th Street  
620-792-8235  
Complimentary Breakfast

Travelodge  
3200 10th Street  
620-792-7219  
No Breakfast mentioned on website

Holiday Inn  
3821 10th Street  
620-603-6565  
Complimentary Breakfast

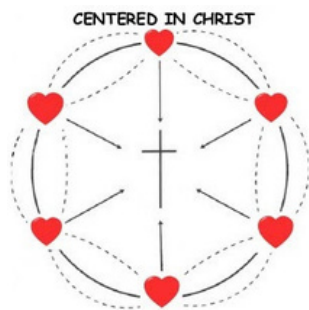
Quality Inn  
3500 10th Street  
620-793-8486  
Complimentary Breakfast

## Workshops



Handbells with Jan Smith  
Craft Class led by Janet Crow  
Spiritual Gifts with John Williams  
Choir led by Bob Artz and Ruth Clark  
All Group Bible Study with Waylon Upchego  
Walking with Jesus led by Mike Justice & Jerry Neeley





## ABCCR SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

April 23-24, 2025

Central Baptist Church, 3301 Lakin Ave., Great Bend, KS 67530

Guest Speaker, Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops

Theme: "Centered in Christ" Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-19 (NRSVUE)

First Time to Attend the ABCCR Senior Adult Retreat? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If registering as a couple, please write spouse's name below)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

& City \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Retreat (includes program and 3 meals) per person

One Day only (Wednesday or Thursday) per person

# of Guests	Total \$
_____ @ \$95.00 per person	_____
_____ @ \$70.00 per person	_____
<b>Total Amount Due</b>	_____

### Dietary Requirements:

Sugar Free ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Vegetarian ☐

PLEASE NOTE: We will try but cannot assure to meet all dietary requirements

### Abbreviated Schedule

Wed. 11:00 AM Registration Begins

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Session #1

3:15 PM Interest Groups

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Session #2

Thurs. 8:30 AM Registration

9:00 AM Group Study

10:30 AM Interest Groups

1:15 PM Session #3

### Interest Groups (please mark preference)

3:15 PM Wednesday – Bells ☐ or Walking with Jesus ☐

4:30 PM Choir ☐

10:30 AM Thursday – Craft \$5 ☐ or Spiritual Gifts ☐

Please make checks payable to **Senior Adult Retreat** and mail payment and completed registration form to:

Senior Adult Retreat  
John Williams, Registrar  
C/O 5889 SW 29th Street  
Topeka, KS 66614

Online registration is available at [www.abCCR.org](http://www.abCCR.org)

**Registration Deadline - April 8, 2025**

**\*\*\* \$10 Late Fee Assessed if Postmarked After April 8, 2025**

**Cancellation Policy:** A full refund will be given if cancelled by April 15, 2025

**\$25 non-refundable cancellation fee per individual after April 15, 2025**

(Cut here and retain this stub for your records and information.)

**ABCCR Senior Adult Retreat:** Central Baptist Church, 3301 Lakin Ave., Great Bend, KS 67530

**Dates:** April 23-24, 2025

**Registration begins at 11:00 AM, Wednesday the 23rd**

Retreat begins with lunch at 12:00 noon

Amount paid to Registrar: \_\_\_\_\_ Check number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date paid: \_\_\_\_\_

# CAMPING 2025



## CAMP CHRISTY

JUNE 2025

**2-6**

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

**9-13**

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

**16-20**

JUNIOR CAMP

**23-25**

PRIMARY CAMP

**26-27**

DAY CAMP

## WHITE MEMORIAL

JULY 2025

**14-18**

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

**14-18**

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

**21-25**

JUNIOR CAMP

SAVE THE DATE



*Mountain & Prairie*

**YOUTH CONFERENCE**

June 14-18, 2026

**YMCA OF THE ROCKIES**

*Snow Mountain Ranch*

Granby, Colorado

