

Central Region Life

JUNE 2025

ABCCR ANNUAL GATHERING 2025

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The 2025 American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR) Annual Gathering is scheduled to take place at First Baptist Church of Salina, Kansas. The theme for this year's gathering is "Together at the Table" with our theme verse coming from Luke 14: 12-15.

The keynote speaker at this year's Annual Gathering is Rev. Jacqueline "Jackie" L. Saxon. Jackie currently serves as the Executive Minister for Mid-American Baptist Churches (MABC) and resides in Des Moines, Iowa. She is a gifted leader with proven competencies in administration, pastoral care, financial management, preaching, and public speaking, to name a few. Her colleagues and friends greatly appreciate her creativity, humor, imagination, teamwork, and collegiality.

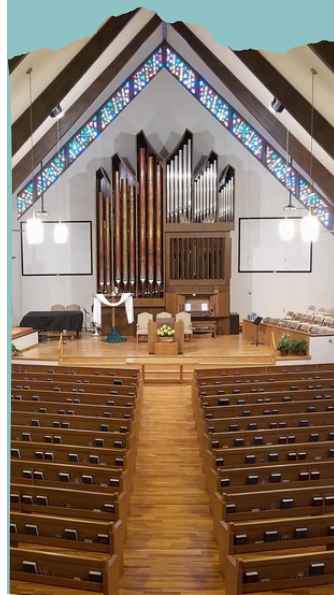
In the next few pages you will find an in-depth biography for Rev. Saxon, a schedule of events, hotel and lodging options in Salina, and an invitation to join others for the Women in Ministry lunch following the gathering on Saturday. You will also find a list of items for the mission project. This year's mission project is for the Salina Rescue Mission. There are paper and online registrations for individual registrations as well as childcare registrations.

Please look for information about workshops and other details in the coming weeks. We look forward to the fellowship and spiritual growth this gathering will bring. Plan ahead, register now, and secure your accommodations early.

**Links to online Individual
and Childcare Registration**

**Individual
Registration**

**Childcare
Registration**



Keynote Speaker

Rev. Jacqueline Saxon



Rev. Jacqueline "Jackie" L. Saxon grew up in Rochester, New York, and was nurtured in the faith by the members of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, where she was baptized at the age of 12. She attended Howard University and received a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance and Banking. She began her career as a Financial Analyst at IBM in Endicott, New York, and was soon transferred to Austin, Texas, where she became an Advisory Financial Analyst. While working for IBM, she contemplated attending seminary and pursuing a life in ministry. It was a seed planted in her youth while attending the New York State Girls Guild Conference (now known as ABGirls) every summer and nurtured as an adult by active membership as a layperson in ABCUSA churches in New York and Texas.

After much prayer, discernment, and 12 ½ years of work experience, Jackie resigned from IBM and enrolled as a full-time student and Presidential Scholar at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where she earned her Master of Divinity degree. While she was a seminarian, University Baptist Church of Austin called her to be their Associate Pastor and promptly ordained her in 2001 upon graduation. Contrary to popular belief there really are American Baptist Churches in Texas. She served as their Associate Pastor for eight years when Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary invited her to be the Admission Counselor Recruiter, which led to becoming the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vocation, which she served in that capacity for a total of eight years before resigning in March of 2017.

She once described herself as "swimming in waters that were not her own as a 'Bapti-method-terian'" because she found herself in the company of not only Baptist congregations but Methodist and Presbyterian congregations, preaching, teaching, and leading workshops. She is a gifted leader with proven competencies in Administration, Pastoral Care, Financial Management, Preaching, and public speaking, to name a few. Her colleagues and friends greatly appreciate her creativity, humor, imagination, teamwork, and collegiality.

In May 2017, she walked the Way of St. James, also known as the Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile Pilgrimage that starts in St. Jean Pied de Port, France, and ends in Santiago de Compostela, located on the northwest coast of Spain. In the last two years, she has completed this pilgrimage twice, and the coastal route that starts in Portugal. She wrote a book about her experiences on the Camino, which has recently been published, entitled: *Tales from the Trail: Keeping it Real on the Camino de Santiago—One African American Woman's Quest for Clarity*.

In October 2018, she was called to be the Executive Minister for the Mid-American Region of Iowa and Minnesota. She says that she traded one capital city for another. She now resides in the Des Moines, Iowa, area and is learning all about the Midwest. She is delighted to have the opportunity to serve the Iowa and Minnesota ABCUSA church family in this capacity.

Rev. Dr. Wallace Smith and Jackie have been friends since serving together at ABCUSA National Youth Gatherings held at Estes Park, Colorado in the 1990s and 2000s.

2025 ANNUAL GATHERING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2025

Thursday, September 25

- 3:00 PM** Minister's Council Executive Meeting at FBC Salina
- 5:30 PM** Dinner
- 6:30 PM** Business Meeting and Worship

Friday, September 26

- 8:30 AM** Registration Begins at First Baptist Church Salina
- 9:30 AM** Session #1
- 11:00 AM** Lunch
- 11:45 AM** ABW & AB Men Meetings
- 1:15 PM** Session #2: Keynote Speaker- Jackie Saxon
- 2:45 PM** Break
- 3:00 PM** Workshop Session #1
- 4:15 PM** Workshop Session #2
- 5:45 PM** Dinner
- 6:45 PM** Session #3: Speakers- 4TEN Students, Alaska Mission Trip
- 8:00 PM** Ice Cream Social

Saturday, September 27

- 7:00 AM** Camping Conversation and Refreshments
- 8:00 AM** Registration Continues at First Baptist Church Salina
- 8:30 AM** Devotion
- 9:00 AM** Business Meeting
- 9:30 AM** Session #4: Keynote Speaker - Jackie Saxon
- 10:30 AM** Break
- 10:45 AM** Worship & Communion
- 11:30 AM** Journey Home
- 12: 15 PM** Women in Ministry Lunch

HOTELS & LODGING

There are many lodging options in Salina. You can choose between a large selection of hotels, bed and breakfasts, and Airbnb or VRBO options. You can find a list of hotels in order from closest to furthest from the church below.

Homewood Suites Downtown- 1.6 miles

115 E. Mulberry St. Salina, KS 67401
785-515-2600

Baymont by Wyndham- 2.5 miles

1740 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
785-823-6900

Sleep Inn & Suites- 2.5 miles

1820 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
785-826-1711

Days Inn South- 2.8 miles

632 Westport Blvd.
785-827-9315

Candlewood Suites- 3.0 miles

2650 Planet Ave. Salina, KS 67401
785-823-6939

Quality Inn & Suites- 3.1 miles

2110 W. Crawford
785-825-211

Country Inn & Suites- 3.2 miles

2760 S. Ninth St. Salina, KS 67401
785-827-1271

Book with Airbnb

www.airbnb.com

Fairfield Inn by Marriott- 3.3 miles

2455 Virginia Dr. Salina, KS 67401
785-515-5333

Holiday Inn- 3.8 miles

3145 S. Ninth Salina, KS 67401
785-404-6767

Hampton Inn & Suites- 3.8 miles

401 W. Schilling Rd. Salina, KS 67401
785-823-9800

Courtyard by Marriott- 3.9 miles

3020 Riffel Dr. Salina, KS 67401
785-309-1300

Hilton Garden Inn- 4.2 miles

3320 S. Ninth Salina, KS 67401
785-309-0440

Best Western Inn & Suites- 4.3 miles

745 W. Schilling Rd.
785-493-9800

Super 8 by Wyndham- 4.4 miles

705 W. Schilling Rd.
785-404-2771

Book with Vrbo

www.vrbo.com

2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering Individual Registration Form

September 25, 2025 - Ministers Council Meeting and Dinner
September 26-27, 2025 Annual Gathering
First Baptist Church of Salina, 843 Lewis Ave. Salina, KS 67401

Please complete a separate registration form for each person

First and Last Name* _____

Print your name as you want it to appear on your name tag

Phone* _____ **Email*** _____

example@example.com

Address* _____

City* _____ **State*** _____ **Zip*** _____

Are you a delegate from your church? * Yes ☐ No ☐

Church Name* _____ **City*** _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Individual Registration \$65 **(Includes dinner for Friday night)**

MEALS

Thursday Ministers Council Dinner: Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Cookie

Friday Lunch: Soup and Salad

Friday Dinner: Pasta Bar

Choose Your Meals

- ☐ Thursday Clergy and Spouse Dinner (Free)
- ☐ Thursday Clergy and Spouse Dinner (Non-Clergy) \$15
- ☐ Friday Lunch \$10
- ☐ Friday Dinner **Included with registration**
- ☐ Saturday Morning Camping Conversation with Refreshments \$5

Dietary Restrictions

☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Diabetic

Registration and Checks can be sent to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St. Topeka, KS 66614

2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering Childcare Registration Form

September 26-27, 2025 Annual Gathering
First Baptist Church of Salina, 843 Lewis Ave. Salina, KS 67401

Please complete a separate registration form for each person

Child's Name* _____

Child's Age* _____ Child's Grade* _____

Address* _____

City* _____ State* _____ Zip* _____

Church Name* _____ City* _____

Parent's Name* _____

Phone Number* _____ Email* _____
example@example.com

Emergency Contact Name* _____

Emergency Contact Phone* _____ Relationship to Child* _____

Childcare Registration

☐

Childcare for Friday– \$50

Friday childcare will be provided from 8:00 AM- 5:30 PM, lunch and dinner are included in the cost of childcare. Childcare will not be provided during dinner or the evening session.

☐

Childcare for Saturday– \$12

Saturday childcare will be provided from 8:00 AM- 12:00 PM, no meals are provided.

Registration and Checks can be sent to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St. Topeka, KS 66614

MEDICAL

Allergies

Consent for Emergency Medical Care for a Minor: By signing this form, I hereby authorize the Kansas Baptist Convention, Inc. also known as the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and First Baptist Church of Salina, Ks to consent to any medical care and treatment for my child that is recommended by a licensed healthcare provider to whom the Child is presented for treatment. To ensure that the Child receives prompt medical care and treatment, when necessary, I hereby release any licensed health care provider providing medical care to the Child in reliance of this form from liability relating to such provider's acceptance of my substitute caregiver's consent.

If you consent, sign your name here: _____

I, the undersigned individual, grant American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR located at 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka, Kansas, and First Baptist Church of Salina, KS the perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free right and license to: Record my participation and appearance on digital or film photography, video, audio or any other medium. Use my name (or any fictional name), likeness, voice, and biographical material and information in connection with these recordings to be used only in or for ABCCR written, electronic and web publications, including social media and apps to be used for the promotional material, multimedia and publication purposes of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region. To Reproduce, distribute, publicly display, and/or publicly perform, in print, electronic, or any other medium, copies of the recordings, in whole or in part. Grantor represents that he or she possesses all rights necessary to grant this permission for and in connection. I am voluntarily making this grant of rights. I further agree to release and forever discharge ABCCR, its agents, employees, and designated representatives from any and all claims in law or equity that I, my heirs, or personal representatives have or shall have arising out of recordings. I am the parent or guardian of the minor named above and have the legal authority to execute the above release. I approve and waive any rights in this release.

If you consent, sign your name here: _____

Is there anything else we need to know?

Registration and Checks can be sent to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St. Topeka, KS 66614

SALINA RESCUE MISSION

MINISTRY PROJECT ITEMS



TOILET PAPER

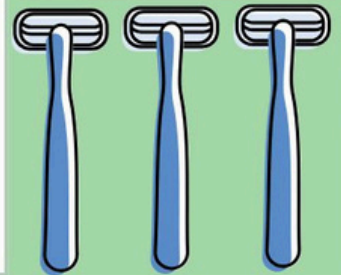
Possible Brand Options:

Angel Soft, Cottonelle, Charmin, Scott

DISPOSABLE RAZORS

Possible Brand Options:

BIC, Shick, Gillette



MEN'S JEANS

Any size

Greater need for smaller sizes- 30 -36 waist

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

Preferred Brand:

Free and Clear



For the 2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering mission project, we will be collecting the items above to donate to the Salina Rescue Mission.

Salina Rescue Mission offers programs to **Rescue and Restore** lives by sharing the life-changing message of Jesus Christ, while also providing shelter, employment, New Life program, medical and mental health services, and street outreach. Each program is personalized to meet individual needs and encourages a relationship with the Lord.

ABCCR WOMEN IN MINISTRY LUNCH

September 27, 2025
12:15 PM

Please plan to join other women in ministry for lunch
after the 2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering.

Location of lunch will be shared at a later date.

Email Nancy Killingsworth to RSVP :
nancyjsnyder@gmail.com

Sojourner Truth Women's Ministry

**Conference Speakers &
Workshop Leaders
September 25th -27th, 2025
Euclid, Ohio**



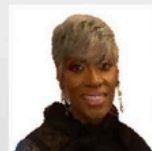
**Pre-Conference Guest Presenter,
Thursday, 9/25/2025
Rev. Dr. LaVerne C. Hall
President, Board of Directors, Dr.
James and Janie Washington
Cultural Center, Seattle, WA**



**Morning Preacher,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Rev. Dr. TaNikka Sheppard
Executive Director, Cleveland
Baptist Association
General Secretary, North
American Baptist Fellowship**



**Workshop Leader, Saturday, 9/27/2025
Ms. Linda Peavy
Entrepreneur, Advisor, Instructor – Founder
and Owner of LiPav Consulting, LLC**



**Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Elder Linette Graddic
M.Ed., LPC, Director, Mercy Center
Global Ministries; Therapist,
Therapeutic Life Changers
Counseling Center**



**Workshop Leader,
Friday, 9/26/2025
Rev. Brian Upton,
Executive Director, Building Hope in
the City**



**Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Ms. Gimbiya Kettering
Author, former Director
of Interculturalism and
Diversity, The Church of
the Brethren**

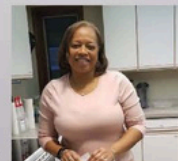


**Evening Preacher,
Friday, 9/26/2025
Dr. Lumar Vargas
Managing Director of Leadership
and Development at Teach for
America, Founding Pastor, Aviva
Church**



**Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Ms. Chanté Roberts,
Executive Assistant,
Mandel Community
Center at the
Sojourner Truth
Building, Akron,
Ohio**

**Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Pastor Sadawna Gainer,
Executive Pastor and 1st Lady of M.A.S.H.
Ministries New Life Center, Cleveland,
Ohio, Infrastructure Engineer for Cuyahoga
County Department of Information
Technology**



Scan the QR
code for more
information



**Plenary Guest Presenter,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Dennis,
Founder and CEO of Minority Behavioral
Health Group, Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary
Baptist Church, Akron, Ohio**

Conference sponsored by the Rudd Empowerment Center at American Baptist Women's Ministries

www.abwomensministries.org

BETHEL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER BLESSINGS AND JOY!

REV. JAN SMITH, ABCCR MINISTRY CONSULTANT FOR RCOM

"As president of the Bethel Board, it was my honor to participate in their Sewing Class graduation. 14 ladies enrolled in the class with 12 completing it. Their excitement was palpable. After some time of getting acquainted, Nem Sona, the class teacher, called the names of each lady, it was my privilege to hug each and present them with their diploma. Each graduate could choose a sewing machine, iron and ironing board, material and thread to help them continue their new skills at home. It was a joy to watch each choose their machine, looking at them all before making a choice. Each jumped with joy when their name was called.

Following the ceremony, we enjoyed a carry-in lunch provided by the students. Not only can they sew, but they can also cook! The lunch was wonderful. And again, I had the privilege of hearing more of their stories. At one point Mang asked how many had ever received a diploma of any type prior to receiving their sewing diploma. At least half raised their hands. It was a reminder of how blessed we are, and how much we take those blessings for granted. I pray we all take time to acknowledge God and His Son, Jesus, for the blessings He has given us and for the Joy we should feel in serving Him!

Partnering with the non-profit, Better Together, Bethel will begin a new ministry in June. Two evenings a month we will offer medical checkups and exams, free of charge, to those who don't have insurance, or the money to see a doctor in a medical office, or both. Again, it is a wonderful reminder of how blessed we are!

Better Together has been doing this ministry for several years, but they are losing the location they have used for the last few years. While they have an active board to organize the exams but don't have the money to sustain the ministry, advertise, or purchase supplies as needed. Bethel has plenty of room, lots of folks in need of this ministry and outlet to get the word out. It's a win-win! If you are a medical assistant, nurse, doctor, pharmacist, or a lay person who would just like to help contact Bethel. We'll put you to work!

Bethel has held a Golf Tournament for years to help fund our ministries. We aren't having one this year because we lost the course we have used in the past and it was too late to find another course. So, we find ourselves looking for ways to replace that \$15,000 to \$17,000. We are looking at several ideas which we will let you know about as plans are firmed up. In the meantime, if you are blessed and would like to share your blessings, a donation of money, time, and talents are always welcome. You can go online @ bethelcenter.org, visit in person at 14 S 7th St, Kansas City, KS or call (913) 371-8218.

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

I have been thinking about the 4TEN group that will go along with Reverend Jennifer Schneider and the group of chaperones to do mission work at our American Baptist Mission in Alaska, which is on Kodiak Island. I would love to go on the trip as a chaperone, but it will have to be another time. May it be an educational, transformational and faith-deepening trip for all of them!

When I moved to Kansas City nearly 30 years ago to attend Central Baptist Theological Seminary, located then at Seminary Heights in Kansas City, Kansas, I ran into some volunteers, who were a couple of retired teachers from Kokomo, Indiana. They were John and Vonda Rigel and some of you may have known them. They spent a whole year volunteering at Kodiak Island, when Jeannie Volker, was the director of the mission there. I have visited them a number of times in their home in Kokomo, and they have this very unique and spectacular panoramic photo of the island that they have framed on one of their walls. They have regaled me with many stories of Kodiak Island and that is part of the reason why I have wanted to go there.

Did you know that if you fund a charitable gift annuity, that you could choose for your remainder or residuum amount that is left to go to our ABC mission on Kodiak Island or to support youth ministry in the region as well? Yes, that is possible!!

Just for example, if you are an 80 year old person, and you choose yourself as the beneficiary, then you can lock in a return rate of 8.1 % and then depending on the amount of money that you give for the annuity, you will receive that rate for the rest of your life. Or if you are a couple and you choose yourselves as the beneficiaries, and one of you is 80 years old and the other is 81 years old, then you will receive a return rate of 7.0 %, and then depending on the amount of money that you give for the annuity, you will receive that rate for the rest of your lives as well. The rates do not fluctuate and change like other interest rates do; they are only changed once in a while, by the American Council on Gift Annuities.

Then when Jesus calls you home, that portion of the annuity that is left, can help fund youth ministry in the region, per your written request on the application, as you specifically mark it to go to the "Next Generation Fund." This fund helps support youth ministries across the region, such as 4TEN and other conferences, retreats and mission trips that involve our wonderful youth in the region plus children's ministries also. There is another fund as well that you can support related to youth, but I'm going to talk about that in my next article.

As I mentioned earlier, you could also request that your remainder amount from your gift annuity go to help our ABC mission on Kodiak Island, or for that matter, other missions or missionaries, both at home and around the globe.

I just want to keep you informed and updated on all of the amazing options that you have for mission giving, when you fund a charitable gift annuity with the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation. So if you are interested in funding a charitable gift annuity, please reach out to me by phone call, voicemail, email, text or other options you can think of, and I will be delighted to help you in the annuity funding process that can benefit our region youth ministries and other mission agencies as well. (I don't think we are using passenger pigeons to send messages anymore, but if you think you want to use that option for communication, just let me know!) Lololololololol. Just get a hold of me and I'll be happy to serve you in this process. Thank you for that!

RAINY MOUNTAIN KIOWA INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH FIRE RELIEF

On March 14, at approximately 2:42 pm, Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church Pastor, Gerald Haunpo and Moderator, Terry Hunter along with deacons and congregation members, were notified that the back area of the church was ablaze. This began when power lines located behind the church, were knocked down due to dangerously high winds. Due to these high winds, it was difficult to contain the fire and it spread rapidly, engulfing the remainder of the church's structure, which had been standing since its November 1949 dedication after a previous fire in 1948.

Gotebo Hall (dining hall) located next to the church also received considerable window and roof damage due to fire hose water pressure and winds.

The spirit of Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church has been alive for 131 years and has been a pillar of our Kiowa Tribe, surrounding communities and countless families & individuals from all directions. As we seek to repair and rebuild after such devastation, we ask for all means of support through prayer, financial aids, & spiritual strengthening. Generations of Kiowas, beginning with the earliest converts, made this church their spiritual home and their families today, continue on in this manner. We know Daw-Kee (our God) will lay a strong foundation once again for the church and we continue to praise Him through it all.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" –John 14:27

The Central Region, OIABA (Oklahoma Indian American Baptist Association), ABHMS (American Baptist Home Mission Society), and larger American Baptist family are coordinating efforts to support the Rainy Mountain congregation in prayer and financial support. If you would like to financially support rebuilding efforts, you can give a number of different ways. 100% of any donation given through the Central Region will go directly to the Rainy Mountain congregation.

- Churches can designate any support with "Rainy Mountain" on their Mission Support Form.
- Checks can be sent to the Region Office (American Baptist Churches of the Central Region, 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka, KS 66614) and please write "Rainy Mountain" on the memo line of your check.
- Use the QR code to make your donation. Type "Rainy Mountain" in the designation line.





"The Lord upholds all who fall and
lifts up all who are bowed down."
Psalm 145:14 (NIV)

You can register by
scanning the QR Code



Age is determined by what grade the student is entering in the fall of 2025.

CAMP CHRISTY

**JUNE
2-6**

High School Camp: **(\$280)** before May 1 **(\$300)** after May 1

Director: Damion Denison **Registration Deadline: May 19, 2025**

**JUNE
9-13**

Middle School Camp: **(\$280)** before May 1 **(\$300)** after May 1

Director: Damion Denison **Registration Deadline: May 26, 2025**

**JUNE
16-20**

Junior Camp: **(\$280)** before May 1 **(\$300)** after May 1

Director: Erin Isham **Registration Deadline: June 2, 2025**

**JUNE
23-25**

Primary Camp: **(\$140)** before May 1 **(\$150)** after May 1

Director: Becky Rider **Registration Deadline: June 9, 2025**

**JUNE
26-27**

Day Camp: **(\$90)** before May 1 **(\$100)** after May 1

Director: Tonya Koehn **Registration Deadline: June 9, 2025**

CAMP WHITE MEMORIAL

**JULY
14-18**

High School Camp: **(\$395)** before June 1 **(\$415)** after June 1

Directors: Morgan Aspinwall & David Vandiver **Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025**

**JULY
14-18**

Middle School Camp: **(\$395)** before June 1 **(\$415)** after June 1

Director: Wallace Smith **Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025**

**JULY
21-25**

Junior Camp: **(\$395)** before May 1 **(\$415)** after June 1

Director: Kami Minor **Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025**

No registrations will be accepted after the cutoff date.



Let us pray for the 4Ten group as they prepare to go to Alaska to do mission work at the Kodiak Island Baptist Mission there. Let us ask God to grant them safety as they travel there, while they are serving there and as they come home.

Let us pray for all of our Central Region youth that are going and ask Jesus to bring them together in unity as they use their individual gifts and serve this beloved community there.

Let us pray and ask the Holy Spirit to provide guidance and wisdom to all of the chaperones, leaders, and pastors, including Rev. Jennifer Schneider, as they lead times of mission, worship, service, fun and fellowship.

Let us pray that lifelong and eternal relationships would be built between the members of both communities as they get to know each other while working together in mission.

Finally let us pray that our youth would be affirmed, encouraged and strengthened in their individual and community lives of faith and that they would continue to realize the inherent value they have as children of God, who are serving as the hands and feet of Christ!

As the scripture says, "let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."

I Timothy 4:12 (NASB)





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.



CONTACT US

jennifer.schneider@abccr.org



**FIRST EVENT
OCTOBER
24-26**

A VantagePoint3 Group

JOIN A WAY OF LIFE

Have you completed The Journey and want to keep growing in faith and community?

Join us for A Way of Life— An ABCCR lead next-step spiritual formation group rooted in reflection, meaningful connection, and deepening your walk with God.

STARTING SEPTEMBER 2025

The Journey is for those who have already completed VP3- The Journey.

A Way of life participants will meet twice a month, via Zoom.

It will cost \$150 to participate (ABCCR covers the rest!)

Interested? Let us know by July 28th!



**Contact Jennifer Schneider at:
jennifer.schneider@abccr.org**

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**



ABW Summer Conference Mini Project

A family attending First Baptist Church of Herington has had multiple medical and financial difficulties. The father was in a bad accident about a year ago and was off work for many months. During this time their 3 year old son was diagnosed with leukemia. Dad went back to work, but Mom is now off work to care for the son. They have a 3 hour round trip commute 3 times a week for medical treatments. With all that has happened, they have found themselves in a time of need. Please consider helping them by bringing to the 2025 Summer Conference non-perishable food items, paper products, and/or cash to aid them during this difficult time.

ABW SUMMER CONFERENCE WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Session #1 - Friday, 1:30-2:30pm Session #2 - Friday, 2:40-3:40pm

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

Busting Out... – Lois Chiles

Session #1

Join in making a piece of art “busting out” of its safe place by mimicking the look of a damaged canvas with a creative twist. The workshop is limited to 25 and cost is \$6. Come have some fun and be adventurous and courageous!

Awake American Baptists: Help Welcome Jesus Into the Arab World - Dan Chetti

Session #1

There are unprecedented changes taking place in the Arab World. As children of pioneering missionaries William Carey and Adoniram Judson, we must learn how to read the signs of “missional times”. This is a moment of greatest opportunity in the Middle East & North Africa. As the missiologist David Garrison wrote, there is “A Wind in the House of Islam” sweeping towards Jesus. The signs are discernable to those who are observant. How can American Baptist Churches read the signs, heed the call, and respond boldly?

Courage Outside the Walls - Janet Crowl

Session #1

You will be encouraged to discover how you can reach outside the walls you have built on your own or others have built for you to be able to participate in helping others in your community. There will be a focus on overcoming barriers and being bold and courageous. Suggestions will be presented for possible community connections in your home area.

Bell Choir – Jan Smith

Session #2

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to ring church bells? If you know your colors, join in the fun of ringing! You will have a fun time in preparing for a musical special to be shared on Saturday during our final session.

A Bangle With Baubles – Mona Huggins

Session #2

Come be a part of President Mona’s workshop as she leads you through the gems of the Bible using Scripture while you make a lovely bracelet. Cost is \$3. This workshop is limited to 25.

Rooted: Practices - Jessica Henks

Session #2

Go deeper with Jessica to unpack “Rooted: Practices” as she guides you through the practical applications of Lectio Divina, Kingdom Prayer, Sabbath, and Hospitality. Learn how developing these spiritual habits help us to root ourselves more deeply in God!

Special Project - 2024-25 – Sheryl Stemmons

Session #3

Join us as we discover how our International Ministries global servants are using education to share the Gospel message with girls in Southeast Asia and Central and South America. We will discuss ways we can bless our global servants so they can continue to bless these precious kids.

Jeopardy - Jordan Fritz

Session #3

Come test your Bible knowledge in four different categories. You might learn something new or even learn something more than you already know. So, put knowledge to the test and join Jordan.

Honey, Your Roots Are Showing - Kami Minor

Session #3

Being a well watered woman in a thirsty world. Join in to do a “roots” check by digging deep into God’s promise from Isaiah 58:11 that He will satisfy your needs and you will be a well-watered garden in a sun-scorched land.

COME SEEK LIVING WATER

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

Join us for the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit designed to inspire collaboration and action within local communities. This vibrant 'family reunion' will foster meaningful connections across generations. With engaging activities for all ages—including child-friendly options—workshops, and discussions, the event promises to inspire fellowship and spiritual growth.



Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain
is a dynamic leader serving
as the General Secretary of
American Baptist Churches
USA



Rev. Dr. Zau Sam Lahtaw
is a devoted senior pastor of
the First Kachin Baptist
Church of America in
Omaha, NE



Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula
is a dedicated executive
minister and region
missionary of American
Baptist Churches of
Nebraska



Rev. Dr. TaNikka Sheppard
is a leader of leaders who is
regional executive minister
of the Cleveland Baptist
Association and general
secretary for the North
American Baptist Fellowship



Register now at www.americanbaptists2025.com.

The Biennial Mission Summit is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025! We will honor supporters of the event through the Biennial Golden Jubilee Society. Become a member with a gift of \$500 or more. Contributions made by May 1, 2025, will receive special recognition in the printed event program and a unique memento distributed at the event. Learn more and make a donation at www.abc-usa.org/Jubilee.



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MOUNTAINS & PRAIRIES

Youth Conference

JUNE 14-18, 2026

**YMCA OF THE ROCKIES
SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH
GRANBY, COLORADO**



Keynote Speaker
**REV. JOY
MARTINEZ- MARSHALL**

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLATHE

Are you a student in College or Seminary pursuing a call to ministry?

Would you like to learn in a safe, fun, and supportive environment and get paid for it?

This internship program will provide you the opportunity to gain hands on experience while being mentored by seasoned ministry leaders.

We will seek to minister to you, equip you for your call, and provide the opportunity for life-long relational support. If this sounds interesting to you, please see the basics outlined below.



WHO?

- STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED ONE YEAR OF COLLEGE THROUGH SEMINARY.
- THESE INTERNSHIPS ARE FOR PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THEY WILL BE PURSUING A CHURCH-BASED MINISTRY CAREER.

COMMITMENT?

- 6 MONTHS
- 20 HRS. / WEEK

COMPENSATION?

- STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE AT 2 INVALUABLE MENTORSHIPS (MINISTRY AREA DIRECTOR, AND LEAD PASTOR)
- POSSIBLE COLLEGE/SEMINARY CREDITS
- \$13 / HOUR.

WHAT WILL THEY DO?

- PARTICIPATE IN STRUCTURED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.
- PARTICIPATE IN ALL ASPECTS OF CHURCH LIFE – TECH, WELCOME MIN, HOSPITALITY, VISITATION, ETC.
- CHOSE MINISTRY AREA TO FOCUS ON.
- HANDS ON PLANNING, SET UP, AND EXECUTION IN CHOSEN MINISTRY AREA.



www.fbcolathe.org



<https://www.youtube.com/@worshipatfbcolathe9417>

Please Submit resumes or questions to Lead Pastor, Reed Webster, at websterr@fbcoalthe.org

Candidate interviews will be scheduled for the week of June 9th with a preferred start date of July 1st. Acceptance into the program is contingent on passing a background and reference check.