

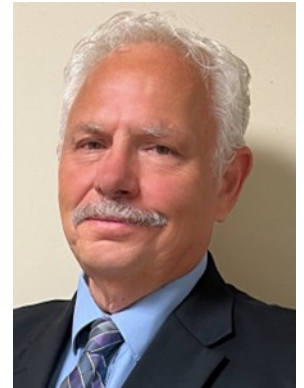


American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware

## Notes & News: Thoughts & Views

February 2025

**Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith, Regional Executive Pastor**  
**570-435-2001 / mmsmail@abcopad.com**



Last month, I received a couple of email messages regarding ABCOPAD's position on Immigration and what is currently happening in our culture. One pastoral leader expressed frustration with seeing other Denominational Leaders make public statements on behalf of their constituents regarding the treatment of Immigrants. They wanted to encourage me to make a public statement for our Region.

I tried calling this pastor so we could talk about their frustration. While I know this pastor understands Baptist Polity, their frustration got the better of them. Although I've not had a chance to chat with this pastor, I received a very kind email apologizing for the initial email, letting me know they needed to spend more time praying and thinking about their personal responsibility regarding Immigration.

As many of you read this article, you already understand Baptist Polity is messy. Every church in ABCOPAD is autonomous and self-governing. With this Baptist Principle, I believe it is inappropriate for a Regional Executive Pastor to say they speak for all churches in the Region on topics such as Immigration. I recognize that across our Region, there are a variety of perspectives. I would be wrong to say I speak for our 280-plus churches on this subject.

While I am not able to make a blanket political statement on behalf of our 280+ congregations, as Baptists, we believe in the authority of Scripture. We are people of the Book, and the Bible does have some very clear statements about Immigration and how God's People care for the foreigners in our land.

Old Testament Prophets repeatedly call upon God's People to be kind and gracious to foreigners and displaced people.

**Deuteronomy 10:18-19** He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

**Leviticus 19:33-34** When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

**Psalms 146:9** The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**Zechariah 7:9-10** This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.'



In a recent television commercial, we are reminded that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were refugees fleeing political violence in Israel. While I am not sure about the background to the advertisements for "He Gets Us," I did appreciate the video's content and the reminder that Jesus and his family were refugees.

<https://youtu.be/QEEq5VTfmic?si=AHKQQ8fUK473Oxv4>

My family was an immigrant to the United States. In the 1950s, my grandparents worked hard to send their three sons and one daughter (my mother) to the US. As Christian Armenians, my grandparents sought to protect their children from political violence in Syria, a predominantly Muslim country. One of the proudest days of my mother's life was becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States along with my three uncles.



As followers of Jesus and people of the Bible, Scripture provides clear instructions regarding how we care for immigrants in our country. As we all struggle with this complex and often challenging issue, we must be faithful to God's Word.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. Know you remain in my prayers.

God Bless, Mark



**Encourage, equip, and refresh — May 21-23, 2025**  
Harvey Cedars Bible Conference Center

The Youth Leader Summit is an incredible 3 days of teaching, worship, and fun for youth ministry staff, leaders, and spouses. Get encouraged, equipped, and refreshed for summer!

This event is designed by youth workers for youth workers. You'll hear seasoned speakers share their wisdom and experience, covering relevant topics such as discipleship, mentoring, innovating strategies, planning practices, and more!



We believe this summit will be a benefit for you and your ministry, and we know that we will benefit from you and your ministry experiences.

Guest Speaker: [Josh Griffin](#)  
Jr. High Pastor, Mariners Church  
Cofounder of  
[DownloadYouthMinistry.com](http://DownloadYouthMinistry.com)

**ABCOPAD Student Ministry**  
**For More Information Contact:**

**[Mandi Restanio / restanio@abcopad.com](#) or**  
**[Andrew Reich / andrewreich06@gmail.com](mailto:andrewreich06@gmail.com)**

### Bring your team!

You and your team will get some of the most practical youth ministry training available, and you'll also worship, plan, and play together. We believe that you'll enhance your skills, expand your networks, and get inspired to engage and impact the lives of youth.

Cost is based on room occupancy. To Register - <https://www.hcbible.org/youthleadersummit>



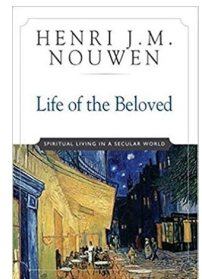


**Rev. Kelly Legg**  
**ABCOPAD Regional Pastor**  
**pastorkdl@gmail.com**

I recently discovered a book by Henri Nouwen that is 20+ years old. A dear friend of mine recommended it to me. Her reading preferences and mine often diverge. She likes poetry, for instance, and I simply am not equipped to understand it half of the time. 😊

So when she said “you should read this one,” I was a bit skeptical. I feared endless metaphors that sailed over my head. But she persisted, “this is the best reminder of who we are in Christ, outside of Scripture, I’ve read.”

I picked up *Life of the Beloved* one rainy Saturday afternoon and decided I’d skim through the opening chapter. When Nouwen said to his unbelieving friend that he was going to explain the Gospel by saying “all I want you to know is that you are the beloved,” though, I was hooked. In a single sentence, he reminded me of what it means to be a Christian.



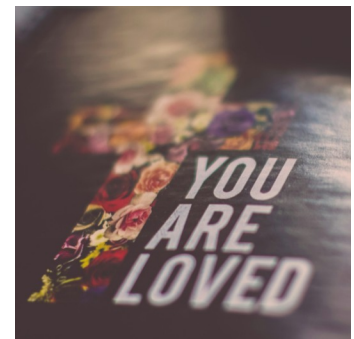
Let’s be honest: that’s not the language many of us use to describe our relationship with Jesus. When asked what it means to be a Christian, does “it means I am the beloved of God” spring to your lips? Or does your response sound a bit more like mine: “To be a Christian means I believe that Jesus is the Son of God who lived a sinless life, died a sacrificial death, and lives an eternal life now.” Or maybe you go for “to be a Christian means I say ‘yes’ to certain things and ‘no’ to others.” Don’t get me wrong, both of those responses are true, but maybe they aren’t hitting the mark.

To be a believer in Jesus Christ means that your absolute core identity – no matter what you do or don’t do, say or don’t say – is that you are always the beloved of the Father. Make 6 figures? You’re the beloved. Barely scraping by? You’re the beloved. Have a squeaky-clean past? You’re the beloved. Carry a past that’s riddled with screwups and pain? You’re the beloved. Facing a really, extremely dark season? You’re the beloved. And the beloved doesn’t walk alone.

To be the beloved means I can look at my own sin & shortcomings, acknowledge them and, by God’s grace, grow up. To be the beloved guarantees that God really does use *all* things for my good and His glory, because He will waste nothing in His beloved’s life. As the beloved, I obey not to earn God’s favor but simply because I already have it. To be the beloved allows me to find that my security & significance, purpose & person cannot be defined by any other person, position or perspective. I am the beloved. And nothing can change that.

And, friend, all of that (and so much more) is true of you, too. Because to be in Christ is to be the beloved. That’s why the Gospel changes our everything.

Love ya,  
Pastor Kelly





**Rev. Dr. Felicia Brock**  
**Laurel / Pittsburgh Geographic Pastoral Servant**  
**fbrock@abcpad.com**

### **5 Things We Should Be Doing...**

...During the second administration of President Donald J. Trump

Polarization. A term that comes to mind as we embark upon the second administration of President Donald J. Trump. The current mood in our Country

reminds us of the often-quoted opening lines from Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

Yes, this is exactly it. There are many that welcome our President into the Oval Office; while there are just as many others that dread his return. And there are few people in the middle. Indeed, polarization. I find it interesting that people living in the same country, living in the same state, living in the same city/borough/township, serving the True and Living God, and even worshiping in the same local church can have such differing opinions about what is occurring in our Country.

We're all different, yet we are the same.

No matter the location of our churches, our congregations are filled with people on both ends of the spectrum. Some welcome, and some dread. The question for us as Pastors, Preachers and Lay Leaders should be how do we minister to congregants with such differing and opposing views? After all, our true purpose is to preach and teach Jesus and His ways. To that end, we should:

**Be considerate.** Regardless of our personal views, we should respect those of people who think differently. This doesn't mean that we agree with them, but merely that we respect their views and their right, as citizens of this Country, to have these views. Indeed, respecting requires us to be kind even when beliefs that we do not agree with are being championed. To be understanding of others' viewpoints. And to be sympathetic of those that are experiencing feelings of anxiety—because there are some.

**Be patient.** When we hear rhetoric “from the other side” we often become uneasy and even respond with bursts of anger. Of course, this is not how Jesus taught us to respond to one another. Although we whole-heartedly disagree, be patient. There's no need to insert our personal views into the conversations. Instead, stay quiet. Keep peace.

**Love.** Truly, what this Country needs more of is love. The in-depth caring for others that causes us to put their needs before our own. Assuredly, this love should begin with the religious leaders within our communities—that's us. Show love to others no matter their political views. Respond with tenderness, as love is what love does. We fail to demonstrate God's love when we are combative.

**Pray.** Begin with praying for President Trump and his administration. The choices and decisions that are made over the next 4 years effect all of us in some manner. Regardless of whether he was our candidate or not; regardless of whether we voted for him or not; regardless of whether we like him or not, he is our President. He deserves the respect that comes with the Office. So, let's pray for him. Let's also pray for one another; and that we will have peace in this Country.

**Trust God.** Proverbs 3:5 teaches us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.” We must trust God. He is fully and completely in control of our lives—all aspects. This is what we should be teaching our congregants. Just trust God. Whether we are speaking from our pulpits, whether we are speaking in one-on-one conversations, whether we are speaking in our social media posts, we are ministers. Please remember, our ministries are not about us; but are about GOD.





**Rev. Josh Trojak**  
**South Center Geographic Pastoral Servant**  
**joshuatrojak@gmail.com**

### **Trusting God with the Journey**

Hello from the newbie! I am certainly not a newbie to the Region or even to many of you. As I step into this new role, I am thinking of all the names and faces of those who were a part of my journey into ministry from being a young pastor's kid to being a pastor today. It has been a long, good, difficult, and fun journey that I continue to travel today.

That journey has me thinking about all the travel we do in our lives today. When we want to connect with others, we are not bound by the small geographic area we find ourselves in. That was a problem for a previous time in history. Today, we can hop in our cars and be across the state in a few hours (or more if you live in the corners). The convenience of being able to be connected over great distances is something I don't want to take for granted.

On the other side of that convenience is the struggle of our travels. I currently serve in South Central PA. As I write this, my children are home with a virtual-at-home-learning day. They have now had 7 days of school affected by weather in some way. As a church, we struggled with the choice of canceling service for one Sunday in January due to road conditions. I know for those in our northern churches, the snow we got here may not have raised an eyebrow. But for us down here, any hint of snow or ice in the forecast makes everyone start to worry and plan ahead.

For me, I don't want to ever cancel opportunities for people to gather because snow might happen. I get frustrated when my plans change because of things I can't control. Have you ever felt the frustration that ministry is not going your way? Maybe it's the weather. Maybe it's a situation with your people that you don't know how to handle. Maybe it's walking alongside a family that is grieving the loss of a loved one wondering what to say. Maybe it's looking for wisdom for the best-next step to take without knowing exactly which way to go.

My guess is we have all been there - frustrated by the things that aren't going our way and that God isn't putting things together with "our" plan in mind. For my church, I shouldn't see snow as keeping us from what God wants. Rather I should look at the ways in which I can encourage the people under my care to use that time to keep working on their own journey with Jesus. For us, in our journeys with Jesus, we need to stop seeing the obstacles as problems and instead see them as God's way of refocusing our hearts back to Him. I really don't have control at all. It should never be my plan in the first place. God's plan is better than mine and often doesn't have my comfort as its first priority. 1 Peter 5 has a lot to say to us about our role in leading the flock entrusted to us. I'll end with the words from **1 Peter 5:7: "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."** Next time, spend less time on the weather and road apps and more time connected to the Source who truly cares for you.





**Rev. David Hardin**  
**Northeast Geographic Pastoral Servant**  
**dhardin@abcopad.com**

### **Answering the Call: A Vision for Men of Faith**

Have you ever wondered what could happen if the men of our churches truly united in purpose and faith? Imagine hundreds of brothers in Christ across Pennsylvania and Delaware, not just gathering for meetings, but transforming our communities through the power of collective faith and action.

Let's be honest – being a man of faith in today's world isn't easy. We face challenges our fathers never imagined:

- The constant pressure to prioritize career success over family and faith;
- A culture that often mocks or misunderstands Christian values;
- The struggle to maintain integrity in an increasingly digital world;
- Balancing work demands with family responsibilities;
- The loneliness of leadership, both at home and work;
- Wrestling with anxiety and mental health while being expected to "stay strong;"
- Navigating relationships in a world of changing expectations.

These battles aren't new to God's people. Remember how Daniel maintained his faith while facing pressure to conform to Babylon's culture? Or how Job wrestled with maintaining his integrity while everything around him crumbled? Even David, a man after God's own heart, faced moments of deep loneliness and wrote, "My friends and companions avoid me... my neighbors stay far away" (Psalm 38:11). Yet through community and faith, these men emerged stronger.

Think back to the great movements of faith throughout history. The twelve disciples weren't just followers of Jesus – they were a brotherhood that changed the world. When Peter struggled with doubt, his brothers were there. When Thomas questioned, the community supported him. When Paul faced trials, he had Silas and Timothy by his side.

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17) These words paint a powerful picture of what could be. Imagine walking into any Baptist church in Pennsylvania or Delaware and finding a vibrant community of men who:

- Challenge each other to grow deeper in their faith;
- Share life's burdens and celebrations together;
- Mentor younger men in the ways of godly living;
- Unite in prayer for our families, churches, and communities;
- Serve together to meet real needs in our neighborhoods.

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ... standing firm in one spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27). This powerful call to unity and purpose shapes our vision for what's possible.

What might this renewed men's ministry look like? Picture monthly regional gatherings where men from different churches come together for authentic fellowship and spiritual growth. Envision teams of men using their God-given skills to help single mothers, elderly neighbors, or struggling families. Think about the impact of having prayer partners and accountability groups that help us stay strong in our faith journey.



This isn't just about creating another church program. It's about building a movement of men who are:

- Unashamed of their faith in an increasingly secular world;
- Ready to mentor the next generation in biblical manhood;
- Standing firm in one spirit, as Paul urged the Philippians;
- Committed to supporting each other through life's challenges;
- Eager to serve their communities in practical ways;
- Dedicated to growing in their relationship with Christ.

### **Breaking Down Walls**

Too often, we've let our busy schedules, denominational differences, or personal comfort zones keep us from experiencing the full power of Christian brotherhood. But what if we broke down these walls? What if we created spaces where:

- The businessman could learn from the blue-collar worker;
- The senior could share wisdom with the young;
- The spiritually mature could guide those just starting their faith journey;
- Men from different backgrounds could unite in common purpose.

Right now, across our Region, men are sensing this same call to deeper fellowship and purpose. The question isn't whether there's a need – it's whether we'll answer the call. As we look toward relaunching our regional men's ministry, we're seeking men who:

- Have a heart for building authentic Christian community;
- Want to make a real difference in their churches and neighborhoods;
- Are willing to step out of their comfort zones;
- Feel called to lead or support this vision.

While specific plans are still taking shape, the vision is clear: **creating a movement of men who are stronger together in faith and service to our Lord**. In the coming months, we'll be reaching out to churches across Pennsylvania and Delaware, gathering ideas, and building the foundation for this renewed ministry.

What role will you play in this vision? Whether you're a prayer warrior, a natural leader, or someone who simply wants to grow in your faith alongside other men, there's a place for you in this story.

As we begin this journey, we want to hear from you. What would meaningful men's ministry look like in your church? How could we better support each other as brothers in Christ? What gifts and passions could you bring to this vision?

**Remember: Every great movement of God started with a few faithful people who dared to dream big and step out in faith.**

"But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." - Isaiah 40:31

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." - Hebrews 10:24-25



# AB-MEN WORK RETREAT



APRIL 11 - 12, 2025  
CAMP ICHTHUS

## PROJECTS

- Cabin Repair
- Wood-Cutting
- Roof Repair
- Chapel Repair
- Building Repairs and Upgrades
- Spring Cleanup



For more info visit [campfish.org](http://campfish.org)

## Men's Service Weekend

**Making an eternal impact  
at Camp Ichthus**

Brothers in Christ: Your hands can help shape eternity this spring! Join fellow ABCOPAD men for a powerful weekend of fellowship and purpose as we prepare Camp Ichthus for its transformative summer ministry.

### The Details

**When:** April 11-12, 2025

### Where:

Camp Ichthus  
2880 Stagecoach Road  
W Palmerton, PA 18071

**Cost: FREE**

Just bring your willing heart, helping hands, and maybe some tools.

### Accommodations:

Overnight lodging and meals provided.

### A Call to Serve:

Every nail hammered, every board replaced, and every improvement made helps create the environment where young lives will encounter Christ. Your skills and dedication during this service weekend will ripple through generations as campers experience God's love in this special place.

### What to Expect:

Rich fellowship with other men passionate about ministry. Meaningful service projects that match your skills and abilities. Shared meals and devotional times. The satisfaction of knowing your work will impact hundreds of young lives.

### More Than Just Work:

This isn't only about facility maintenance – it's about creating sacred spaces where life-changing moments happen. Every improvement we make prepares the way for young people to meet Jesus in a powerful way.

<https://fbc-bethlehem.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2717565>







**Caryl Casey**  
**ABCOPAD Treasurer**  
**caryljc@aol.com**

### **Annual Reporting Requirements for Pennsylvania Department of State**

**All Entities Registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State** are now obligated to submit an Annual Report to the Pennsylvania Department of State. This new annual filing requirement, enacted through Act 122 of 2022, now replaces Pennsylvania's former decennial filing requirement for entities.

### **Pennsylvania Reporting Entities**

Annual Reports must be submitted for the following types of entities:

- Pennsylvania corporations (both for-profit and non-profit)
- Pennsylvania partnerships, including limited liability general partnerships, electing partnerships that are not limited partnerships, limited partnerships (including limited liability limited partnerships)
- Pennsylvania LLCs
- Pennsylvania professional associations
- Pennsylvania business trusts

### **Reported Information**

Each Annual Report must include the entity's name, jurisdiction of formation, registered office address, name of at least one governor (director, member, partner, etc.), names and titles of principal officers, address of principal office, and the entity number issued by the Pennsylvania Department of State.

**Costs:** The Annual Report filing fee will be \$7, however there is no fee associated with submitting an Annual Report for a non-profit organization.

### **How to Report**

Annual Reports may be submitted online at [www.file.dos.pa.gov](http://www.file.dos.pa.gov), through a registered account with the Pennsylvania Business Filing Services system and will be automatically approved. Entities may also submit an Annual Report on paper with the filed document returned by mail.

### **Annual Deadlines and Penalties**

The Pennsylvania Department of State will mail a notice to each reporting entity at least two months in advance of the entity's filing deadline. The deadline for submission of the Annual Report each year is dependent on the type of entity submitting the report. The deadlines are as follows:

- All corporations (for-profit and non-profit) must submit the Annual Report by June 30;
- All limited liability companies must submit the Annual Report by September 30; and
- All other entities must submit an Annual Report by December 31.

Entities may submit an Annual Report at any time during the calendar year prior to the entity's deadline.

Penalties for failure to submit an Annual Report include administrative dissolution, termination, cancellation, and loss of the protection of the entity's name. However, there is a transitional period before such penalties will take effect, enforcement measures for the Annual Reporting requirement will not take effect until 2027.

If an entity fails to file an Annual Report during or in any year following 2027, it will be subject to administrative dissolution or administrative cancellation six (6) months after the due date for the entity's Annual Report. At this point, the entity's name will become available for use by other entities.

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dos/programs/business/types-of-filings-and-registrations/annual-reports.html>



## ABCOPAD Grant Funds

### Signs of Spring

For some people, it's seeing their first robin, for others it might be the crocuses poking up through the dirt or maybe snow in their gardens and in many of our congregations, it is an idea for ministry to engage the community around their church and reach new people, that means Spring is just around the corner.

In ABCOPAD, we have been blessed by three grant funds with earnings available for grants in the Spring/Summer and again in the Fall/Winter. Each fund has specific guidelines for the purpose and use of these grants. In 2024, we celebrated 30 years of making grants to the ABCOPAD churches and organizations. 2025 promises to be another record year for available funds and our Regional Pastors and GPS Staff are ready to help you with this process.

As always, the Mission Allocation Committee is looking for churches who have committed resources of funding and people to these new ministry concepts. Your congregation should have completed their Church Annual Report as well as supporting the Partners in Ministry offering which is the main source of funding for Regional Ministries. Contact one of the ABCOPAD offices, the Regional Pastors or your GPS for additional information and applications.

### Pennsylvania Sales Tax Exemption Certificates

ABCOPAD serves as the parent organization for the State in verifying the Sales Tax Exemption Certificates for our churches. I am in the process of verifying the list for the State. New Certificates will be available and mailed to churches before they expire on March 15, 2025. There is nothing you need to do.

### ABCOPAD Mission Giving and Support — YTD December 2024

	2024	2023
United Mission Basics	\$25,120	\$25,648
Love Gift	\$629	\$1,397
Partners In Ministry	\$37,303	\$50,749
Over & Above	\$1,383	\$1,666
<b>Annual Offerings:</b>		
AFC	\$3,133	\$2,600
WMO	\$6,139	\$9,731
RMMO	\$34,425	\$42,482
OGHS	\$5,941	\$8,215

#### Cumulative Comparison Figures

**United Mission Basics** (includes UMB and Love Gift) is behind through December 2024 by (\$31,055). The decrease in United Mission amounts to (\$24,996) less in actual dollars that ABCOPAD received thru December.

**Partners in Ministry** is behind by (\$6,974) thru Dec. This decrease includes \$30,000 from the sale of property and 2 gift annuities @ \$5,000.

**Over & Above** is the ABCOPAD Women's Ministries offering. ABCOPAD Women's Ministries supports ABCOPAD monthly.

**AFC** is behind by (\$11,956) thru Dec. This decrease amounts to (\$3,507) less in actual dollars that ABCOPAD received. ABCOPAD has received (\$35,476) less in actual dollars from UM, AFC and PIM thru December as compared to 2023.

**2025 Clergy Tax Preparation Guide for 2024 Returns and 2025 Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches** are now available on the MMBB Financial Services website at [mmbb.org](http://mmbb.org). You can also request a printed copy from Member Service: 1 (800) 986-6222 / [service@mmbb.org](mailto:service@mmbb.org)



# ABCOPAD Women's Ministries



## MEASURES

These are the ABCOPAD Women's Ministries personal growth measuring TOOLS:

1. Am I THRIVING? Or surviving?
2. Am I spending time with women outside ABW?
3. Am I spending time with women inside ABW?
4. Am I involved in local, Association and/or Regional gatherings?
5. Have I participated in a mission experience?
6. Have I supported a mission experience?
7. Am I spending more time in prayer?
8. Am I spending more time in Bible reading?

These questions asked annually, can help us measure ourselves more effectively. Nourishing our physical, mental and spiritual lives, enables us to reach out to others in the Kingdom of God. Realizing where we are and setting goals to reach will make us more effective witnesses for Christ.

The goal of ABCOPAD Women's Ministries Leadership is to provide various opportunities for:

## **Growth, Enrichment, Mission and Sistership!**



*Proverbs 31:10 tells us that, 'A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.'*

While the passage mentions 'wife', we want to encourage ALL WOMEN to be of noble character and more valuable than gemstones; more precious than diamonds, rubies or emeralds. We reach for this goal by:

- ✂ Offering opportunities to gather at one day events or multiple days THRIVE event.
- ✂ Supplying a suggested reading list and materials for group or individual Bible studies.
- ✂ Planning focused mission giving & mission trip opportunities.
- ✂ Being available to support your local group
- ✂ Praying for and with the ladies of our Region



## COMING EVENTS

Apply these towards that **GEMS** collection!

**One-Day Ladies Events begin at 8:30 am and conclude by 3:30 pm. Registration fee includes snacks, light lunch and programming. Full details coming soon!**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025**

ONE-DAY LADIES EVENT SE – LANSDALE, PA

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025**

ONE-DAY LADIES EVENT NE/CENTRAL – MILTON, PA

**SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025**

ONE-DAY LADIES EVENT SW – JEFFERSON, PA

**FRIDAY/SUNDAY, AUGUST 15-17, 2025**

THRIVE RETREAT – CAMP HEBRON, HALIFAX, PA



## SUPPORTING MISSIONS

### **ANNUAL REGION PROJECT**

Download the flier at this link

[ACFrOgCTsvQ58OH9981xHYgCqyZxjcvhDW-Ucrr...uvclBdXG35z15\\_jyeYpK8j8chJjoks4p0ZEekrz](https://www.abcopad.org/ACFrOgCTsvQ58OH9981xHYgCqyZxjcvhDW-Ucrr...uvclBdXG35z15_jyeYpK8j8chJjoks4p0ZEekrz)



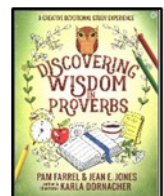
**HERE IS A REMINDER OF THE MISSIONS YOU SUPPORTED DURING 2024 BY GIVING TO THE OVER & ABOVE OFFERING.**

Partners in Ministry
Mission Trip Support
Region Camps: Icthus, Carmel, Judson — \$1,000 each
ABCOPAD BIENNIAL SPONSOR
Back Packs for RaceTrack Ministry Christmas Giving
Dominican Republic River of Life Baptist Church Reconstruction – Fire

**PLEASE CONTINUE GIVING TO OVER & ABOVE!**

## BIBLE STUDY

An online study group is currently Discovering Wisdom in the book of Proverbs using a Creative Workbook by Jean E. Jones, Pam Farrell, and Karla Dornacher. If your group is looking for a fun-packed, informative study, any of the 'Discovering' Workbook studies is highly recommended.



Jodie Vasbinder

Spiritual Enrichment Coordinator/Director



## Waldameer and Water World

220 Peninsula Dr; Erie, PA 16505

Saturday, July 19, 2025

Cost: \$25 Per Person

### Park Hours:

Waldameer Park: 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Water Park: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tickets Must be Ordered by Monday, July 7

## The Perfect Spot for Family Fun



Open to anyone your church family wants to bring along, seriously, invite people!

ABCOPAD is excited to offer to our churches an opportunity of fellowship and fun at Waldameer & Water World this July. We have reserved Eastern Pavilion #3, right next to the main entrance, where you can bring a cooler with your lunch or snacks. **Tickets include both the Amusement and Water Park.** Pastor Powell, the GPS for the NW area, will have each group's tickets at the entrance starting at 10:30 a.m. His cell phone number is 616-



552-2103. If you're coming later in the day, or can't find him, send a text.

**Questions?** Contact Pastor Randy Powell  
Northwest Geographic Pastoral Servant  
616-552-2103 / rpowell@abcopad.com



Order Tickets at

<https://giving.myamplify.io/App/Form/a37479c1-aabd-4559-becb-69f30e01a170>

## Church News

### Central Union

**Broomall, New Hope Christian Church** shares a testimony from the 'Healing Rooms of Del. Co.'. A lady, invited by 2 members, came for prayer. She gave thanks to the Heavenly Father for sparing her life having been diagnosed with Cervical cancer. After months of heavy bleeding, she decided to do chemotherapy and radiation as her hemoglobin was low. When they laid hands on her at the prayer room, she found healing and deliverance.

### Pittsburgh Baptist Association

**Save the Date!**  
**Kennywood Day**  
**July 10, 2025**



### North Hills Community Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Jeremy Hall Installation Service  
March 16, 2025, 11 a.m. All Welcome.

## March 2025 Notes & News:

Material to be included in the March issue of Notes & News must be submitted by Thursday, March 6, 2025, 4 p.m. Please send it to ABCOPAD; 159 N. Bellefield Ave; Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
dveselicky@abcopad.com / Phone: 888-687-0883 / Fax: 412-687-3941





Pittsburgh Baptist Association  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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 *Restored by the Shepherd* | *Psalm 23*

Western  
Laurelville  
Retreat Center  
May 14-16, 2025

Eastern  
Harvey Cedars  
Bible Conference  
Center  
June 18-20, 2025

*A restorative retreat for clergy,  
with spouses welcome to join*

ABCOPAD Pastors Retreats

Western Retreat ...

**May 14-16** at  
Laurelville Retreat Center

Eastern Retreat ...

**June 18-20** at  
Harvey Cedars Bible  
Conference Center

Our retreats are strategically located so all of our clergy from across the Region can be Restored by the Shepherd, as we engage with Psalm 23.

Join us in the woods (Laurelville) or by the ocean (Harvey Cedars).

[www.abcopad.org/Clergy-Retreats](http://www.abcopad.org/Clergy-Retreats)

Retreats are open to all ABCOPAD pastors and spouses are encouraged to join. Cost is \$150/person (or \$250 for a single occupancy room) and that includes housing for 2 nights, 5 meals, retreat materials & access to the conference center grounds. If needed, scholarships are available. Contact Regional Pastors Rev. Rob Rice / pastor.rwice@gmail.com or Rev. Kelly Legg /pastorkdl@gmail.com for further information or visit [www.abcopad.org/Clergy-Retreats](http://www.abcopad.org/Clergy-Retreats) for more details.