



# • The Communicator •

Published by Mid-American Baptist Churches  
Dr. Marshall Peters, Executive Minister  
Issue 3, 2017

## Mid-American Baptist Churches Gatherings

Sponsored by Mid-AB Women's Ministries

*All men, women, & young people are invited to attend!*

Saturday, October 14

First Baptist Church, Indianola, IA

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 15

Bridge Community Church, Albert Lea, MN

2:30 to 6 p.m.

Guest Speaker at both events:

Rev. Matt Lundgren,

Executive Director

Friendship House of Christian

Service

Billings, Montana



Cost: \$7.00 per person

Free Childcare for preK-5th grade at both events

Go to [www.mid-abc.org](http://www.mid-abc.org) to register

Reservations are due by October 1st

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER . . .



“Since God made of one blood all nations that dwell upon the face of the earth, and all men are therefore creationally His children and brothers of one another, be it therefore resolved the church today must be the herald of the gospel and the good Samaritan as never before.” (Minnesota Baptist Convention, 1943)

“In the name of God of all nations, races, peoples, we deplore the prevalence and insidious influence of a nationalism, falsely so called, which engenders racial hate.” (Iowa Baptist Convention, 1933)

These two Conventions, which later merged to form the Mid-American Baptist Churches, could not have foreseen the diversity that would comprise the membership of the churches in our Region today. We have Anglo, African American, Latino, and Asian American as well as many smaller groups that form our congregations. But even those many decades ago, those men and women saw the need to recognize the white supremacy of their day and speak out against it.

Unfortunately, this same type of evil rhetoric of white supremacy is being spoken today. I am writing this editorial right after the events that took place in

Charlottesville, Virginia. We have photos of people from the ‘alt right’ movement marching at night with torches, carrying the Nazi flag, and giving the Nazi salute. We saw violence and terrorism that resulted in the death of one woman and the injuring of many others.

As Christians, we cannot stand by and watch this without speaking up. Scripture tells us that in Christ “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28, NRSV). All of us are equal in the eyes of God. Therefore, it is up to all of us to ensure that everyone can feel safe in our country and can be assured that each person’s rights are taken as seriously as those of any other group. Those in the ‘alt right’ movement would argue about their right of free speech, but the right to free speech has always been tempered if it intrudes on the safety of others or if it makes threats against others.

We need to add our voices to those who deplore this evil in our midst. People of both major political parties, a number of denominations and ecumenical groups, as well as many others have spoken up and said that this type of hate speech cannot be tolerated. Let us add our voices to theirs and work together to make our country and our world a better place for all of her citizens.

In Christ’s Peace,  
Marshall Peters



The **Mid-American Baptist Women in Ministry** held their Summer Gathering at the Lake on Tuesday, August 1st. The day was spent on Holiday Lake as the ministers shared in fellowship, food, and fun.

*L to R: Susan Russell, Emily Beltrame, Janell Bloem, Brenda Stalbaum-Martin, Ruth Yeaton, Kara Krohg.*

## AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION SUMMIT 2017



At the American Baptist Mission Summit, 28 participants represented Mid-American Baptist Churches. In photos above, Doris J. Garcia Rivera, Marshall Peters, Priscilla Eppinger, and Pat Hernandez participate in a panel discussion on Women in Ministry, moderated by Nikita McCalister, and pose with some of the ministers in attendance.



### 30 Hour Spiritual Retreat For Clergy

Forest Lake Camp  
Bloomfield, IA

September 18 & 19, 2017

Check-in after 12 noon Monday  
Ending with a celebration  
cookout 5:00 p.m. Tuesday

Cost for M-ABC Clergy is \$18

Sponsored by the  
Clergy Together In  
Ministry Group of SE Iowa

To register, contact Dale Thomas  
by email - [pastor@keokukfbc.org](mailto:pastor@keokukfbc.org)

Please register before September 11

# BEHAVIOR YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR PASTORAL LEADER

*A series by the Reverend Dr. Joe Kutter*

*Joe Kutter has served American Baptist churches in Michigan and Kansas. He is a past Executive Director of the American Baptist Ministers Council.*

Dear American Baptists,

This is the third article describing the “Code of Ethics,” the standards by which your Pastor and all ordained American Baptist Ministers agree to live as they serve the people and congregations of the American Baptist Churches USA. In this article, we’ll begin to look at the first three of the fourteen statements that summarize the ethical commitments by which our ordained leaders agree to serve and live.

**I will hold in trust the traditions and practices of our American Baptist Churches; I will not accept a position in the American Baptist family unless I am in accord with those traditions and practices; nor will I use my influence to alienate my congregation/constituents or any part thereof from its relationship and support of the denomination. If my convictions change, I will resign my position.**

In agreeing to serve as a pastoral leader within the family of ABC congregations, your pastor agrees to be a good steward of (to hold in trust) those things that give us a distinctive witness within the Christian family, i.e. our traditions and practices. In our ABC tradition, nobody who knows our tradition expects that everybody will agree on everything. We don’t do that! So, when your pastor finds himself or herself holding a minority position, when there is disagreement with the direction our denomination seems to be taking, our leaders agree to disagree and even protest in a manner that honors our core traditions. Even in season of profound disagreement, your pastoral leaders will refuse to lead the people and churches within their care to disengage from the family of ABC churches. Before your pastor seeks to take the church out of the denomination, he or she will resign!

**I will respect and recognize the variety of calls to ministry among my American Baptist colleagues, and other Christians.**

The Apostle Paul reminds us that there are a variety of calls and a variety of gifts. This is clearly true within the sphere of ordained ministry. Not all are called to be preaching pastors! Educators, counselors, administrators, pastoral care givers, denominational leaders, social justice leaders – different gifts for different ministries and all are honored within the community of ministers as persons called by God to serve as ministers of the Gospel.

**I will seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever I serve, both with the staff where I work and with colleagues in neighboring churches.**

The Apostle Paul wrote about the body of Christ within which every member needs every other member to thrive and, for the body to thrive, every member needs to make his or her own unique contribution. This is true both for the congregations, for denominations, and in special ways for the community of Ordained Ministers. The evidence is clear that ordained leaders are both personally healthier and vocationally more effective when they intentionally build constructive relationships with colleagues in ministry. Lay leaders provide valuable support to their pastors as they offer both encouragement and time for their pastors to form these collegial relations.

In closing, allow me to offer this never-ending reminder –

**Prayers for your pastor are always needed and appreciated.**

## MINISTRY TO BIKING ENTHUSIASTS



Churches in small towns often become part of community events. **First Baptist Church of Charles City, IA**, served meals to 850 RAGBRAI bicycle group members traveling across Iowa in late July. Months of planning and the cooperation

of many people made this project possible. To make it extra special we featured a salad of 10 freshly chopped vegetables, and of course, pie. Many said it was the best meal of the week. Rain threatened but held off, and riders and church members were grateful. Some Texans identified themselves as Baptists and said they chose our meal because of that connection. When people work together amazing things can be accomplished.



Rev. Ruth Yeaton

# SUMMER = CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

The **Altamont Baptist Church, Harlan, IA**, held Vacation Bible School June 12th - 17th with 40 children enrolled. The theme of study was "Galactic Starveyors" based on Colossians 1:15-16. Children learned that God wants to have a personal relationship with them and that He is over the moon in love with them! The children's daily offering went to Camp Courageous in Monticello, IA, a camp designed for individuals of all ages with disabilities. A total of \$868.98 was given by the generous children (this included 21,327 pennies)!



Friends in Fun and Fellowship is a summertime children's program at **First Baptist Church in Waterloo, IA**, pictured above. This year some of the activities have included cutting, sewing, and rolling White Cross bandages, visiting the Grout Museum, and learning to set the table and use good table manners.

**First Baptist of Greater Des Moines in Johnston, IA**, held summer enrichment classes for children. Dance/movement and sewing classes are pictured below. Acrylic painting, music exploration, beading and Lego building were other fantastic options available for area children.



# FOREST LAKE AND DAYTON OAKS CAMP FUN



**Dayton Oaks and Forest Lake Camps** had full summer schedules, and ministered to kindergarteners, elementary kids, and middle and high school youth. Camp staff and volunteers made the days special for all who participated. Thank you for your gifts to the camps which help provide upgrades to and upkeep of the facilities.



## Making Memories...



## Upcoming Event

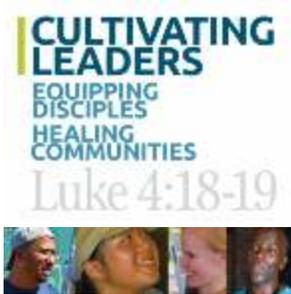


Forest Lake Camp will host a Fall Harvest event complete with hayrack ride and bonfire. on Friday, October 6, starting at 5 p.m. The evening meal will be a barbecue potluck with meat and drinks provided by the camp.

Your free will donation will benefit the camp. Please call Camp Manager Shawn Ott at 641-680-0648 to RSVP.

## ANNUAL MISSION OFFERINGS

There is an educational value through promotion of the four annual mission offerings. Through the attractive, interpretive materials more people gain understanding of American Baptist missions and increase engagement in the wider mission of Jesus Christ. These offerings can be promoted and received at any time during the year.



### America for Christ

*(Suggested Offering Window March-April)*

The America for Christ Offering is the American Baptist response to the needs of home missions within the United States and Puerto Rico. Gifts are channeled through American Baptist Home Mission Societies and Mid-American Baptist Churches to fund home mission, education and local community ministries.

### One Great Hour of Sharing

*(Suggested Offering Window May-June)*

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is the American Baptist response to worldwide disaster relief and localized sustainable development. Fund requests are reviewed by our American Baptist World Relief Committee, providing a quick response in times of crisis. One Great Hour of Sharing is received in cooperation with some other denominations.



## One Great Hour OF SHARING



### World Mission

*(Suggested Offering Window September-October)*

The World Mission Offering is the American Baptist response to the needs of international missions as mandated by the Great Commission. Ministry is carried out by invitation from Baptist churches or Baptist groups in other countries, or by special invitation from other non-government organizations.

### Retired Ministers and Missionaries

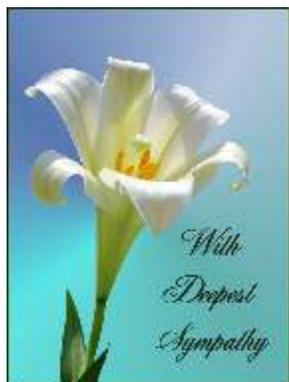
*(Suggested Offering Window November-December)*

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering is the American Baptist thank you to retired ministers and missionaries, and surviving spouses. The majority of the offering is distributed as a thank you cash gift, but a portion is set aside for a response to emergency needs.



Retired  
Ministers and  
Missionaries  
Offering

## Faith through Gratitude



Our deepest sympathy goes out to Rev. Saw Josiah, pastor of the First Karen Baptist Church, Oakdale, MN, in the death of his wife, Daisy Josiah. She and several other Karen women from the Twin Cities were involved in a tragic car accident while attending meetings in Buffalo, NY.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Rev. Loren McLean who passed away on June 13, 2017. Within our Region he served as Pastor of First Baptist of Mason City, IA and later as Associate Pastor at Woodbury Baptist and First Baptist of St. Paul, MN.

Our sympathy goes to Rev. Larry Graves and family at the death of Larry's father, whose service was held July 1st in Vermont. Larry is currently pastor at First Baptist Church, Indianola and has also served American Baptist Churches both at the regional and national level.

# MID-AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

It's an exciting time for American Baptist Women's Ministries as we are seeking an **Executive Director** on the national level. Many thanks to Virginia Holstrom for 14 years of service as our Executive Director.

**Is God Calling You to Serve?** The national nominating committee for AB Women's Ministries is seeking women to be nominees for **President, Coordinator of Events, and Eastern Section Coordinator**. These positions are three-year terms that begin September 2018. For more information and to complete an application go to [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org). **New Themes for your 2017-18 Program Year!** Ministry Theme: "Feel.../Siente...", with theme scriptures Luke 8:43-48; Acts 17:27-28 (NLT);



1 Samuel 2:1-11 (The Voice)

Mission Focus: Homelessness in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Background information and theme-related resources are on the **ABWM website!**

**New (FREE!) Resource for your church groups!** AB Women's Ministries has launched on its website a brand new section called "Becoming Beloved Community" to provide tools to ABWM groups in churches, areas, and regions. In this new section of the website, you'll find information, ideas, tools, and inspiration for how to be a beloved community in your women's and girls' ministries.

Susan Price  
Mid-America ABWM President

## CHURCH NEWS

The installation service for new pastor **Tom Ertz** at **Jordan's Grove Baptist Church in Central City, IA**, was held Sunday, July 23rd. Pictured at right are Tom and his wife, Pattar.



Rev. Carol Teare gave the charge to the pastor and congregation and installation, former pastor Steve Russell shared the message, Tom's daughters led music and the church hosted a potluck following the service.

## CHURCH NEWS



Sunday, July 30th, the **First Baptist Church of Saint Paul, MN**, celebrated the 170th anniversary of the arrival of church founder, Harriet Bishop. She had come by boat down the Ohio and up the Mississippi Rivers. Over two hundred members and friends retraced the last part of her journey aboard a paddlewheel boat.

As a young girl in the 1820s, Harriet had read the letters in the American Baptist Magazine that Ann Judson sent home recounting her adventures in Burma. There is no record that Harriet ever saw Adoniram Judson on his return to the U.S. for a visit in 1845, but it likely stoked her missionary dreams. On her first day of Sunday School in St Paul in 1847, Harriet told her seven students that she had been inspired by a woman who had traveled many miles from her home to tell children about Jesus.



Welcome to **Rev. Rob White**, who began his ministry at **First Baptist Church of Davenport, IA**, on August 8th.

**First Baptist Church of Lake City, IA**, has merged with Woodlawn Christian Church to form **Woodlawn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ and American Baptist Churches)**. Rev. Roy Karlen will serve as pastor.

**Rev. Jay Thornton**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pella, IA, was ordained on Sunday, June 25th. **Dr. Marshall Peters**, Executive Minister of Mid-American Baptist Churches, brought the message and led the service of ordination.



**First Baptist Church of Ames, IA**, hosted a Parkinson's Disease Singing Festival on Saturday, August 12. Choirs composed of individuals with Parkinson's Disease from Waverly and Ames participated, and a mass choir performed at the closing concert. The Singing Festival was planned by Dr. Elizabeth Stegemoller. The Parkinson's Singing Group and Music and Movement group that meet at FBC Ames are a part of her research and outreach to the community.

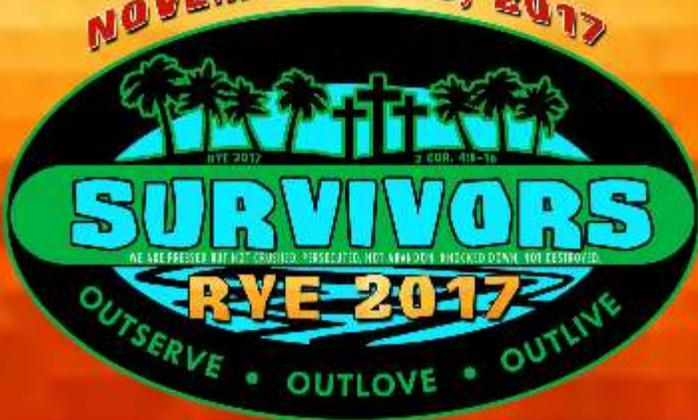
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The **COMMUNICATOR**

COME EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE ON AN  
AMAZING ADVENTURE OF HIS GRACE!

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2017



WE ARE PRESSED BUT NOT CRUSHED; PERSECUTED, NOT ABANDONED; BROCKED DOWN, NOT DEFEATED.

**SURVIVORS**  
**RYE 2017**

OUTSERVE • OUTLOVE • OUTLIVE

JOIN US FOR AN INCREDIBLE WEEKEND!

Mid-American Baptist Churches Region Youth Event  
in Cedar Rapids, IA for students in 6th - 12th grades  
Cost: \$50 (before Oct. 1) \$60 (after Oct. 1)

Speaker/Rapper: Adam Sieff  
Special Music with Steven Kristopher

A weekend of praise, worship, prayer, growing,  
friends, and fun  
Special activities include ice area fun,  
break out sessions with service projects,  
and Saturday night lock-in.

We are made whole through our brokenness and  
through Christ's suffering we experience abundant life!

## M-ABC QUILTERS RETREAT



Dayton Oaks Camp  
November 9-11, 2017

More information and  
registration available soon at  
[www.mid-abc.org](http://www.mid-abc.org) under Events

## Resources For Your Church

When planning fall programming, consider resources available through Iowa Religious Media Services (IRMS). Nearly 10,000 titles of material in book, DVD, CD and multimedia formats are available on loan for a subscription fee based on church size, or for weekly rental. They are an ecumenical ministry, sharing office space with our Mid-American Baptist region office. Learn more at [www.irms.org](http://www.irms.org).

### THE COMMUNICATOR

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We encourage you to use this master copy of The Communicator to duplicate and distribute to your congregation.

Heads up! The planning group for iLEAD has chosen three weekends for 2018: January 26-28, March 16-18, and June 8-10.