

Women Alive

Spring
2022

President

Greetings from these beautiful warm, spring days, with hope abounding in new beginnings.

"And now, Lord, for what do I want? My hope is in you." –Psalm 39:7 (ESV)

How can we have hope when our lives are not always what we want it to be? Children who are sick, friends with cancer, car crashes, unfortunate deaths, and family discord! Lord, we did not sign up for this!

Jesus' last days were unexpected. Was he aware that his disciples would betray him, fall asleep as he was in prayer with the Father? Did he believe that God would intervene, and he would not have to be put to death on the cross? His anguish must have been unbearable. Our Lord and Savior understands all of our hopes and disappointments.

He is Risen!

Resurrection - and he is our Hope!

Our new beginning!



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P.S. AB Women's Ministries will be gathering once again for a weekend of thankfulness. Please join us. Commit to gather with us in Sharon, MA at the Salvation Army Wonderland Conference Center. June 10-11. See you there!

Treasurer

God Bless your efforts in your local American Baptist Women's Ministries. Whether an active group or working behind the scenes in your church for women and girls in your community, you give God glory in everything you do. And for that, we thank you.



Springtime has made me think of planting the seeds which will produce a harvest of plants, either decorative or edible. It takes time and a lot of patience, but the results are worth the effort. Sometimes, though, we don't see the results of our efforts right away, if at all. I was reminded of this by a quote from John Quincy Adams in August of 1830: "I plant trees for the benefit of the next age, and of which my own eyes will never behold a berry." The good that we've

"planted" where our hearts have placed our treasures, that good, we hope, may benefit future generations. What an awesome responsibility!

Just a reminder of our Eight Steps of Giving program. May 1st has passed, but if anyone has a contribution, I will gladly accept it this month.

Remember our state project for the year: Rizpah's Children. American Baptist Home Mission Societies is a partner organization which identifies the needs of impoverished children in our country, making connections with other partner organizations to provide services and ministries that would help the children and their families. You will find the Biblical reference to Rizpah in 2 Samuel 21:1-10.

As I also mentioned in the last *WOMEN ALIVE*, support of the State Project is one of the Eight Steps of Giving that we American Baptist women of Massachusetts have taken on to provide financial assistance to eight different ministry foci:

Eight Steps of Giving

Scholarship Fund
Camp Mission
State Project (Rizpah's Children)
State Support for AB Women's Ministries
AB GIRLS
Friendship Fund
Women & Girls Mission Fund

plus contributions to a Partnering Ministry (MBMM primarily)

I hope we may see one another in person at our June 10-11 Spring Conference at the Salvation Amy Wonderland Conference Center in Sharon, MA. Meanwhile, stay safe and well!



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Coordinator of AB GIRLS

The AB girls got together at the February Spiritual Retreat and had a great time getting to know each other. They learned about the courage of Esther and shared ways that they are courageous in their own lives. Each of these girls brought a very unique perspective to the group and supported each other as they told their stories. The girls made paper flowers which celebrated their strengths and support systems.



I am looking forward to seeing the girls at the conference in June! The AB GIRLS theme will be **“Imperfectly Perfect”** based on the scripture *“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness...’* We will be exploring biblical role models who haven’t always made the “right” choices but have always lived for God. We will spend some time reflecting on self-acceptance, and grace. There will be lots of fun, relaxation, and of course, snacks! Hoping to see you all there.



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Other News

Partnering Ministry

Why Join the Partnering Ministry?

The Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries wrote, “Through AB Women’s Ministries of MA’s Partnering Ministry with Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries, AB women’s groups, churches, and individuals have blessed refugees, evacuees, and immigrants with practical help. Gifts of new clothing, knitted items, toys, household items, toiletries and school supplies were distributed via the ACE Shoppe. Currently, a new program involves ACE Shoppe Staff visiting families to deliver goods. This is important because many refugee and evacuee families do not have cars or driver’s licenses. Getting supplies from the ACE Shoppe home would be a difficult challenge.”

AB Women’s Ministries of MA has partnered with two organizations for the new fiscal year. You may choose one organization or provide what you can for both of our partners.

Partner: Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries

Incorporated in 2010, Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministry's (MBMM) mission is simple, **advocate, celebrate, and empower** or "**ACE**" to the New American by helping with critical needs like translating, helping file state, federal, employment, legal and health care documents, provide ESL training, and after-school programs, and opening opportunities to create a context celebrating diversity and inclusion to share their respective cultures and traditions.

A list of requested gifts is attached. Please note that school supplies are needed by September 1st for MBMM's school supplies distribution on September 17th all other items are needed by December 1st for the New American Christmas Party.

Partner: Grotonwood Camp

Grotonwood is a Christian Camp and Conference Center. They have been ministering to youth, adults with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities, families, church communities and not for profit organizations over sixty years! Their summer camp and year-round programs give way to beautiful encounters, lifelong learning experiences and relationship building opportunities.

Grotonwood and AB Women's Ministries of MA are partnering to raise funds to purchase Bibles for Grotonwood's overnight youth campers.

Did you know that many of the campers at Grotonwood do not come from the local churches? We would like to provide every youth camper a Bible. They will learn how to use it throughout their week at camping, so they are equipped with the knowledge to use it when they return home.

All Bible will be age and reading level appropriate, and each Bible will cost \$5.00. A flyer with form is attached.

Join with us in supporting these important ministries.

Spring Conference Mission Project

This year's Spring Conference is Friday, June 10th and Saturday, June 11th and will be held at the Salvation Army Wonderland Conference Center in Sharon, MA. We learned there is a shortage of specific items for women and girls who are homeless or disadvantaged in Eastern Massachusetts, and that is why we are asking women who will be attending Conference to bring sanitary pads, incontinence underwear, underwear in original packaging, or new or like-new bras in all sizes, styles and brands (including sports bras and maternity bras). These items will be donated to **Dignity Matters**.



DIGNITY MATTERS

Dignity Matters is a non-profit organization that collects, purchases, and supplies feminine hygiene products, bras and underwear to women and girls who are homeless or disadvantaged, in order to help them stay healthy, regain self-confidence, and live with basic dignity.

People commonly associate period poverty with developing countries, but it is a significant, hidden, and local issue here in America, and, in Massachusetts.

Homeless and disadvantaged women and school-aged girls **DESPERATELY** need our support with period protection and underwear because

1. SNAP benefits do not cover them
2. Menstrual products are expensive and needed monthly – the cost adds up
3. Menstrual products are rarely donated to shelters, food pantries or public schools
4. Many shelters, food pantries and public schools struggle to afford period protection for their clients. Bras are considered a luxury.

Your support with this special mission project is greatly appreciated.

Association News

Adoniram Judson

Adoniram Judson
Women's Spring Celebration and Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 21st 9 AM
First Baptist Church, 493 Main Street, Malden, MA

(Parking is available behind the church. Please enter through the back door to the church.)



The First Baptist Church in Malden will host this spring get-together and Annual Meeting on May 21st beginning at 9 AM.

It will be wonderful to meet in person for our Annual Meeting this year!

*Meeting: Report from Board Members

*Program: Seafarer's Friend – Ida MacRae, Executive Director, will share her experiences with this important organization that has served the crews of ships from all over the world since 1827. We will learn how churches can help these mariners with their spiritual needs as well as their practical needs. Hear about making "ditty bags" that are given to crew members, the need for knitted hats, and much more. Please check out their website at seafarersfriend.org for information and a video that explains the program.

*We will begin with registration, \$5 per person, at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m. and the program will begin around 10:00 a.m. We ask that each church pay dues of \$10 per year.

*Please bring ideas for craft nights and church fairs to share. If you have suggestions for programs and/or outreach ideas for The Judson Women's organization, please share those too!

We hope you can attend this meeting on May 21st! To let us know you are coming to this event, please call or e-mail Marilyn Glover at 781-322-5631 glovermarilyn46@gmail.com

National News

American Baptist Women's Ministries Sectional Events

What's up with ABWM?

Join other American Baptist women as we hear from our national board, national staff, association leaders, and AB women on what's happening in American Baptist Women's Ministries. Each participant will have the opportunity to share what's happening in American Baptist Women's Ministries in their church, area/association, or region.



Eastern Section

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

8:00 PM

AB Women's Ministries Regions: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania/Delaware, Philadelphia Baptist Association, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont/New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Region of the South (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia). To register visit www.abwomensministries.org/event

As many of us are planning spring rallies and gatherings, this is a great time to rededicate ourselves to the mission, vision, purpose, and core values of ABWM. Women just like us who understood the importance of AB Women's Ministries in developing Christian leaders and shaping and developing vital women's ministries within ABCUSA churches crafted these tools to guide and keep our ministries vital.

Mission - American Baptist Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.

Vision - Every American Baptist church shall have a vital women's ministry program that empowers women and girls to become and develop as God's person, build God's faith community, and serve God's world.

Purpose - As servant leaders, we serve American Baptist churches by encouraging existing vital ministries with women and girls and empowering churches to build such ministries.

Core Values - Our ministry is based on certain non-negotiable values that form a foundation and criteria for all that we do. Check www.abwomensministries.org for the core values.

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