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ABWM Interim President – February/March 2026

ABWM-MI Interim President

Happy New Year. Greetings, Ladies of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Michigan. I hope all of you are doing well and enjoying this winter season. I am looking forward to spring. I've seen enough snow to last a lifetime.

I hope you are looking forward to another great conference/retreat. Carolyn Grapentine and her committee have been busy planning the activities, workshops and schedule. The retreat is open to all Christian women, not just American Baptist. The conference will be held Friday-Sunday, June 5-7 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt. Please invite your neighbors and friends. You know you will have a great time.

Look for national ABWM information on the ABWM-MI Facebook page and in News & Views. I ask you to consider becoming a Vital Partner or Violet Circle member by giving regularly to National Support of ABWM. For more information, please visit the ABWM website at abwomensministries.org.

Dates to Remember

May 25 – Nominations for 2026 Woman of the Year Award due to Brenda

June 5, 6 & 7 – ABWM-MI Annual Conference & Retreat, DeWitt, MI

My time as President is coming to an end. At our June annual meeting we will be electing a new President.

Please feel free to invite me to ABWM activities in your area and at your churches. You may call or text me at 248.808.4133. You may also email me at blgct2008@gmail.com I want to hear what you think the future holds for ABWM-MI. I know whatever lies ahead for us will be filled with excitement, expectations and joy. I also know that with God all things are possible. We are on this journey together.

I wish you a blessed Easter and a wonderful Mother's Day. See you in June.

May God richly bless you.

Brenda Threatt
ABWM-MI Interim President, Michigan Region



Missions

Lynne Punnett

Even though this trip is in June, it's coming up fast. Email Lynne with questions.

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DEBORA'S HOUSE

A Ministry in Tijuana, Mexico

**Michigan Servants for Christ
2026 MISSION TRIP**

JUNE 13-20

COST - \$850/PERSON

Cost includes airfare, lodging, meals and transportation. The team will fly into San Diego, our host will meet us there and drive us south over the border to Debora's House in Tijuana. **A \$125 non-refundable deposit is due by March 15th with the full amount paid by April 20th.**

✉ Lynnepunnett@yahoo.com

☎ **734-834-3886**

REGISTER NOW

SEND ME, LORD

Do you have a servants heart?
Michigan Servants for Christ short term mission team will serve at **Debora's House** again for this for years Mission Trip in Tijuana, MX with **ABC International Ministry Global Servants** as our host. We will have the opportunity and privilege to serve women survivors of domestic violence and their children. Team members will spend time with and serve the women of Debora's House who are healing, complete fun projects and play with the children, visit migrant shelters, serve migrants at the border, worship at a local church, and experience the local culture.

Everyone is welcome no matter your experience. Join us in prayer as you consider participating in our mission trip. Your heartfelt decision can make a difference!

REGISTRY INFO

Men and women are welcome, as are youth 14 and up. The maximum team size will be 10, **contact Lynne Punnett** immediately if you or members of your congregation are interested. Every team member must register with International Ministries, complete a background check & have an updated passport.



2026 Conference

Hello! My Winter Wonderland Women! I hope this finds you warm and cozy in our cold snowy winter.

The conference committee has been busy, and we are hoping to see you in June!! We have found a great group of speakers and workshop leaders along with a wonderful Praise and Worship Leader!!

A reminder that ALL women are invited to come to enjoy a weekend of rest and rejuvenation. (We have many friends in non-ABC churches these days and want you to know they are ALL welcome!)

We look forward to seeing old friends and new friends! Here is some basic info:

Dates: June 5-7, 2026

Place: St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI

Theme: Building God's Community Together

Verse: I Cor. 3: 9a, 11b We are all God's people working together, Jesus is our foundation.

Main Speakers: Kathleen Murphy "Murphy" and Rev. Shawnta McDougle

Workshop Leaders: Rev. Dr. Billie Beverly, Rose Yin Yin Htay, and Pastors Guillermo Ramon Leon Mighty & Adria Maria Nunez Ortiz from Cuba

Praise and Worship Leader: Anna Widgeon

You will recognize most of these names with some new ones here, too!

So, mark this on your calendar - registration form is included in this email! There is an early registration discount (April 1) and a first timer discount! Check in with your friends at church and locally to invite them for an encouraging, joyous and restful weekend.

Be thinking about your favorite outfit! We will be having a fun evening event where you can wear for favorite outfit and let us know a little about you: how you got it, or where you wore it - it can be beautiful, fancy, fun, etc. More details coming!!

Your Conference Committee Chair:
Carolyn Grapentine

June 5-7, 2026 • Save the Dates!



Christian Women's Conference & Retreat

American Baptist
Sponsored by **Women's**
MINISTRIES
OF MICHIGAN

St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt

More info: abwmsec@gmail.com



Not Servants, But Friends

Rev. Sheree Gidcomb Clark
Pastor, Northside Community Church

Jesus spoke those words to us in the Gospel of John, chapter 15, verse 15. During this season of Lent, for forty days, we follow Christ to His Cross. Are we going to follow as onlookers or are we going to be real companions to Christ? This is the question we should all be asking ourselves as we journey ever closer to Calvary.

We hear about the journey to the cross-what does that mean for us today? Everyone's journey is different just as we are all different. Even when we are going to the same place, the exact destination, the road will look different, be different, for each of us. This is because we see, we feel, we experience all things differently even if ever so slightly. As we reflect on ourselves in this season of Lent, we look inward and take time for renewal.

I believe that renewal is necessary for the journey to the Cross. That renewal is found by spending time in prayer and meditation. Jesus did this in the days before his crucifixion. What are other ways to renew our spiritual selves? Jesus spent time with his family, his disciples, breaking bread and sharing a meal. He enjoyed and noticed the people he was with but then he went to quiet places and rested when that was needed. He laughed. He cried. We need to be able, we must be able, to do all of this and more to renew ourselves and to prepare ourselves again. Do this over and over to refresh and renew, to prepare.

The preparation we do to renew and refresh our faith this season of Lent is the journey to the Cross.

As friends of Jesus, as real companions with Him on this journey, let us choose the things, people, places, ideas, and activities that will show the world, show our world, Jesus.

May Christ be the center of all our endeavors.

Have a Blessed Lenten Journey,

Rev. Sheree Gidcomb Clark

Central Area Treasurer's Report

Dear Central Area Women,

I am late once again, but your Central Area Treasurer Letter is coming!

A big thanks to West Highland for sending in their generous check already!

Hope to get my letter out next week, it will come to most of you by email, and to some by snail mail.

Thank you for your faithful giving to support our mission work and women's work!

Central Area Treasurer
Carolyn Grapentine



SCHOLARSHIPS

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Seminary, University, College, or Trade

APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2026

Contact D.irene@healingwordartists.com

For More Information

ABWM SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM



ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS:

This scholarship is a gift from the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Michigan, which is awarded to help women prepare for ministry (service). Any woman who is a member of an American Baptist Church in Michigan, who gives evidence of a call to follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, whether in a secular position or in ministry, is eligible.

Applicants must provide the following:

1. Completed and signed application.
2. Letter of recommendation from an American Baptist pastor, minister, evangelist, or missionary.
3. Statement of Christian experience or call to ministry.
4. Brief statement of your ministry/vocational expectations and goals.

(Current scholarship recipients can skip 2-4 above.)

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

(PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME - NO NICKNAMES)

HOME ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ CELL PHONE _____

PARENT'S NAME (if under 18) _____ CELL PHONE _____

HOME CHURCH _____ PASTOR _____

CHURCH ADDRESS _____

HIGH SCHOOL (if enrolled) _____ EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE _____

INSTITUTE WHERE YOU WILL BE ENROLLED _____

DEGREE YOU ARE PURSUING _____

MAJOR _____ EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE _____

STATE ANY SOURCES OF INCOME AVAILABLE, SUCH AS SAVINGS, OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS, ETC., *(This will not preclude you from receiving this scholarship.)* _____

GIVE NAMES OF TWO (2) PEOPLE OTHER THAN FAMILY AS REFERENCES:

NAME: _____ NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please note that this application will be shared with ABWM. Also, if you are awarded the scholarship, pertinent information about you may be posted on our website or published in a newsletter. With that in mind, **please return a completed and signed application, along with the attachments and a photo to D. Irene Key @ d.irene@healingwordartists.com on or before April 1, 2026.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The information contained in this application is true, and it has been completed to the best of my knowledge. If I receive a scholarship, I will sincerely and eagerly follow God's will. Also, if God calls me to serve in a Christian vocation, I will consider American Baptist Churches, USA.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____ DATE _____



Donation Form

Date: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Area (if known) _____

Church contact (if appl.) _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

	Amount Encl.
- ABWM MI Region support (for day-to-day support of our organization)	_____
- Scholarship Fund (college scholarships)	_____
- Special Mission Project (this year: Debora's House)	_____
- Special Interest Missionaries (through International Ministries)*	_____
- ABWM National, which will be apportioned when being sent as 25% to Women & Girls Fund and 75% to general support	_____
Total:	_____

* The missionaries we will support are Bill & Ann Clemmer • Jon & Amanda Good • Rick & Anita Gutierrez • Carmella Jones • Wayne & Katherine Niles

If you personally or your church are able to offer any support, please send your check** made out to AB Women's Ministries, c/o Lori Zupan, 581 Canterbury Dr, Saline, MI 48176. Or you can make a payment through Venmo -- @lori4abw -- or Zelle pay -- abwmsec@gmail.com. If you choose to do either of those, please email Lori with the information about how much you are allocating to the various offerings. You can email her at the email listed above or her personal email: loriz@tsshome.com.

** If you are a member of the Central Area, please make check payable to Central Area ABW Ministries and mail to CA Treasurer Carolyn Grapentine, 3998 Beech Dr, Ypsilanti, 48197. Central Area dues of \$15 are appreciated in addition to the above offerings.

Note: If you wish to support any other organizations or missionaries, please send your donation directly to them. We appreciate all your support.

American Baptist Women of Michigan 2026 Woman of the Year Award

Tell us about the woman you are nominating. You may include your response in the spaces below or write your response in a narrative which includes this information. Use as much space as you need to introduce us to your nominee. Please feel free to use the back of the form if you need more room.

Name of Nominee: _____

Church/Area: _____

How does she contribute to God's kingdom?

What has she done to further God's kingdom?

Why are you nominating this person?

Why is she worthy of this award?

Nominator Information:

Name: _____

Church/Area: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Return to the region president by May 25, 2026:

Brenda Threatt
22715 Kenwyck Dr
Southfield, MI 48034-4765

email: blgct2008@gmail.com

Local Church News

If you'd like us to highlight your church send an email to annedawslazar@gmail.com

We'd love to hear what's going on at your church!