



# American Baptist Churches Of Wisconsin

*Together Living Faithfully Through Christ Today - Eph 3:18-19*

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## COVID-19 | Faith Leaders | Response and Responsibility

Posted on March 11, 2020 by John Jones

The emergence and spread of the novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19 as designated by the World Health Organization, has faith leaders considering appropriate response and responsibility. This developing situation reminds us of the interconnectedness of the world in which we live. Whether we acknowledge it or not, **we are all connected as part of God's good creation**. People of faith respond to such developing situations with **compassion and care first**, rather than fear and panic, because of the courage that faith inspires.

### TWO IMPORTANT TASKS...

As with any developing situation, some media reports can be more harmful than helpful, inspiring fear and anxiety, even outright panic. As people of faith, we are called to remember two important tasks in such situations:

1. We are called to **respond first as Christians, as the church, the body of Christ**. The first response is **compassion and concern**, undergirded by **prayer and service**. Our first impulse is courage, compassion, and faithfulness. Those principles, rather than fear and panic, guide our decisions and actions moving forward. **Bias** and **racial profiling** often accompany public crises, as they have in this case. **Resist and renounce these temptations in your response to this crisis**.
2. Because of our first response, we are also called to **inform ourselves about the reality of the developing situation and about known best practices for dealing with the situation in a coherent and faithful way**. We must draw on reliable resources for guidance in both preparing for and dealing with this developing situation.

We hope this information can support our faith communities as you discern faithfulness and wise actions in the weeks ahead; we will try our best to update this page as frequently as we deem helpful.

# Previous Communications from ABC/WI

[ABC/WI April Synergy Enews - COVID-19 Edition \(sent on April 1, 2020\)](#)

[ABC/WI Email Blast Sent on March 25, 2020](#)

[ABC/WI Email Blast Sent on March 19, 2020](#)

[Initial ABC/WI Email Blast Sent on March 12, 2020](#)

Communicate with ABC/WI regarding your needs from and ideas for region ministries

Get added to list of Churches who  
are livestreaming

ABC/WI Facebook Page for  
articles/events re: COVID-19

List of Regularly Scheduled Online  
Communities

Zoom User Guide for New Users

## Pastoral Care Resources

In "[Ministry during Pandemic: From Awareness to Implementation](#)," Judson Press and the Rev. Dr. Naomi Kohatsu Paget offer a free and downloadable resource at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) for ministry in these times.

ABC Regional Executive Ministers have put together a brief list of best practices, including pastoral care and recommendations for funerals. Click [HERE](#).

A "Guide for [Christian Funerals](#) during COVID-19" by the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

A [Multi-Faith Clergy](#) group on Facebook produced this document, giving suggestions and guidance for worship, technology, giving, and pastoral care.

## Worship Service Resources

1. A sermon "Connected through the Cloud" based on Hebrews 12:1-3 from John Jones, Associate Regional Minister-Education, for all the churches of ABC Wisconsin. Click [HERE](#).

2. A sermon and word of encouragement from Marie Onwubuariri Regional Exec. Minister, to the churches of ABC Wisconsin based on Ephesian 4:11-16. Click [HERE](#).

3. Hymn Medley: Pianist: Marie Onwubuariri  
Holy, Holy, Holy; Great is Thy Faithfulness; It is Well With My Soul

00:00

00:00

4. [Blest Be The Tie That Binds](#) (Instrumental): Pianist: Marie Onwubuariri  
To listen to the audio file you do need to log into Dropbox; you can listen from any browser window.  
Lyrics can be found [HERE](#) if you would like to sing along (Note: Time Signature is 4/4)

5. [Sample video devotion](#) from Camp Tamarack - from Rev. Kim Drost

6. [Listing and Resources of Public Domain Hymns](#)

7. Ministry Brands: [Free Online Ministry Resources](#)

## GOVERNMENT

## AMERICAN BAPTIST

## OTHER FAITH-BASED/COMMUNITY RESOURCES

World Health Org

CDC

WI Dept of  
Health Svc

Find Local  
Health Dept

Wisconsin  
Ministers  
Council

ABCUSA (Office  
of General  
Secretary)

Home Mission  
Societies

International  
Ministries  
Updates

WI Council of  
Churches

Central  
Seminary -  
Pinnacle - Free  
Webinar Series -  
Emerging  
Church Practice

Christianity  
Today

WI Volunteer  
Needs &  
Volunteer  
Opportunities

Wheaton  
College -  
Resources for  
the Church

Other Congregational Resources:

General Guidelines:

- [Christian Church](#) (Disciples of Christ) provides a comprehensive guide for congregations

- [CDC](#) checklist for faith-based communities to prepare for a pandemic
- Also check your county website for information that impacts outreach activities

Empty Church Building Considerations:

- [Take steps to prevent vandalism, theft, and maintenance issues during coronavirus restrictions](#)
- [Keep an Eye on Property Maintenance](#)

Regarding Employers/Employees:

- [MMBB Non-Contractual Benefits for ABC Clergy](#)
- [CDC](#) guidance for employers and businesses that might be modified for a church setting

## WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT...

### LISTEN

*“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25:35-36 NRSV*

*‘If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?’ James 2:15-16 NRSV*

Listen to the scriptures and the tradition that speak our identity into existence. The scriptures remind us of who we are in times of crisis: those who **respond**. However and whatever the response, may we remember first and foremost who (and whose) we are.

### PRAY

Pray for those **infected by the coronavirus** all around the world.

Pray with gratitude for those who care for them.

Pray with gratitude for **health specialists** and **authorities** who are combatting the spread of infection.

Pray for government officials and leaders to have the wisdom necessary to make necessary and informed decisions out of care for the **public good**, particularly those most **vulnerable**.

Pray for all who at this time are feeling anxious.

## BASIC HEALTH GUIDANCE

This guidance for all individuals of basic protective measures is drawn from the [World Health Organization](#), and other widely available communications.

- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Maintain social distancing.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.

- Practice respiratory hygiene.
- Bleach, alcohol, Lysol and other basic disinfectants are good to use to clean doorknobs, handles, faucets and counter tops.
- Have a good supply of fluids, healthy food, decongestants, anti-inflammatory drugs and acetaminophen for fevers.
- Have a first aid kit, flashlight, space blanket in your car.
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early

Click [HERE](#) for a brief video from the CDC that provides a basic explanation for how the virus spreads as well as 6 steps you can take to lower your risk of getting sick.

Posted in [News](#), [Staff Articles](#) and tagged [COVID-19](#).

← **So Many Choices!**

**Online Lenten Series 2020** →

## Contact Information

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## Affiliations

[Camp Tamarack](#)

[Central Seminary](#)

[American Baptist Women's Ministries](#)

[American Baptist Men's Ministries](#)

[American Baptist Ministers Council](#)

[American Baptist Churches USA](#)

[American Baptist Home Mission Societies](#)

[American Baptist International Ministries](#)

[MMBB](#)

[\(more\)](#)

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[Directory of the ABC of Wisconsin Website](#)

## **Church Locator**

[Find an ABC of Wisconsin Congregation](#)

American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin

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