

American Baptist Churches of IN & KY

TOGETHER

on God's Abundant
Journey

equipping leaders
empowering churches
expanding mission

THE BAPTIST OBSERVER MAGAZINE

HIGHLIGHTING THE MINISTRIES
OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
IN INDIANA & KENTUCKY

www.abc-indiana.org

WENDY SHULER, EDITOR - VOL. 22 NO. 3 - JUL/AUG/SEP 2022



Rev. Dr. Jeremy Myers, lead pastor of Seymour FBC, addresses ABC-IN/KY senior adults during their recent meeting at Bedford.



SENIOR ADULTS HAPPY TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN

On Thursday, April 7, ABC-IN/KY senior adults were able to meet for the first time since October 2019. The meeting was at Bedford FBC. Three pastors addressed the theme of the day, ***“Coming through a pandemic and entering into a time of global uncertainty, we need to be reminded of God’s Purpose for Us, Presence with Us, and Promises to Us-- I Am with You Always!”*** It was great to meet together again! (Submitted by Ken McVey)



Columbus FBC submitted this lovely photo of Forest and Marsha Daugherty, who, since 2011, along with other faithful church members including Alvin and Frances Arbuckle (now deceased), Dick Miller, and more recently Linda and Jim Reid, have spearheaded the preparations and harvesting of the church’s SEEDS garden in support of their city’s Love Chapel food pantry.

The church is hoping new volunteer leaders will “join the field” of this important community mission project!

NEXT SENIOR ADULT DAY

Thursday, October 13, 2022

Hosted by

Warren First Baptist Church

727 N. Wayne Street, Warren, IN

Registration: 9:30 AM;

Program: 10:00 AM- 2:15 PM (EST)

Theme and program details will be shared in future Region publications and/or sent to those on the Senior Adult Day mailing list.

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COOPERATION BIRTHS GREAT WORK!



Rev. Mark Thompson
Executive Minister

markthompson@abc-indiana.org

Years ago, when I was serving as a local church pastor, I had a church member ask me how I got paid. She stated she knew I was very involved in our community and figured I was paid with tax dollars. I realized at that moment that I had not explained very well our Baptist history and polity reflecting a core value, separation of church and state. I offered a brief statement explaining our bedrock belief in liberty of religion, for religion,

and from religion. She was pleased to hear this explanation, but the question still lingered, "How do you get paid?"

I shared with her that there were those who value the ministry that God was doing through our local church, that they wanted to support this ministry and so gave sacrificially to the church. That is the case for every church in the United States.

There are those who may be quick to point out problems with a local church and even more so with a denomination. As long as the church accepts sinners, there will always be imperfection.

Denominations reflect the best and worst of their churches. The American Baptist Churches structure places the most authority in the local church so I see American Baptists as more of a *missional movement* than a denomination. Our Region

has no authority over a local church or pastor, but we are in mission together. This spirit of cooperation has birthed great work that has united God's people!

In the coming weeks, churches will begin working on their budgets for 2023. I challenge you to think about the ministry to which God is calling you. If money were no barrier, what might you discern as God's calling for your church to do? I believe there are no immovable barriers that prevent the work of God. The promise is that the gates of Hell will not prevail against His church. Additionally, I believe in the mission that God has called us to do collectively as the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky (ABC-IN/KY).

Your church has received materials that will share with you stories/examples of how we are "United in Mission," and how your generosity enables us to live out the Great Commission in ways

we could not do on our own.

I am blessed to walk with you as we serve **TOGETHER** on God's Abundant Journey.

Rev. Mark Thompson
Executive Minister



REGION MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Mark Thompson
Executive Minister
markthompson@abc-indiana.org

Region Ministers

Rev. Steve Allen
Interim - East Central
steveallen@abc-indiana.org

Rev. Dr. Bruce Cochran
(On sabbatical until Sept. 1);
therefore, Rev. Mark Spencer
Interim - North
[mspencer@rtcol.com](mailto:m Spencer@rtcol.com)

Rev. Dan Chadwick
South
danchadwick@abc-indiana.org

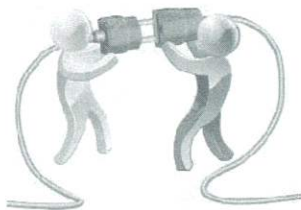
Rev. Dr. Jim Walter
Interim - West Central
jimwalter@abc-indiana.org

Rev. Jaime Flores
Latino Ministries Strategist
jaimeflores@abc-indiana.org

2022 REGION OFFERING EMPHASIS: CONNECTED IN MINISTRY

The American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky are approximately 300 separate congregations that covenant together to fulfill God's mission. Over the past two years, finances have been challenging for all of our congregations and for Region ministries.

It is hoped that you will use the resources mailed to your church to receive a Region Offering in July/August and to learn more about how your congregation is connected to other ABC-IN/KY congregations. --We are **CONNECTED IN MINISTRY!**



Registration and program info coming soon!
ABC-IN/KY REGION BIENNIAL GATHERING
Friday & Saturday, October 7-8, 2022
Hosted by Terre Haute First Baptist Church

2022 OBSERVER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

FALL ISSUE (October, November, December 2022) - Friday, September 9

If you would like more information about churches or events described in this issue, contact Wendy Shuler at wendyshuler@abc-indiana.org or (317) 635-3552 x222.

EMPOWERING CHURCHES

BI-VOCATIONAL OPENINGS

(Listings as of early June)

Pastor in Bethel Association
 Pastor in Brownstown Association
 Pastor in Coffee Creek Association
 Pastor in Evansville Association
 Pastor in Madison Association
 Pastor in Orleans Association

Please reach out to Rev. Dan Chadwick for details, danchadwick@abc-indiana.org.

Pastor in Freedom Association
 Pastor in Harmony Association
 Pastoral Intern in Logansport Association
 Pastor in Northeastern Association
 Pastor in Northwestern Association

Please reach out to Rev. Mark Thompson for details, markthompson@abc-indiana.org.

Youth Minister in Decatur County Association
 Licensed Pre-K & El. Ed. Teachers for Christian Academy in Decatur County Association
 Pastor in Laughery Association
 Children's Pastor in Sand Creek Association
 Worship Director in White Lick Association

Please reach out to Rev. Mark Thompson for details, markthompson@abc-indiana.org.

Pastor in Friendship Association
 Pastor in Mt. Zion Association

Please reach out to Rev. Jim Walter for details, jimwalter@abc-indiana.org.

SPARTA BC CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

Sparta BC celebrated their 200-year "Legacy of Faith" on Sunday, May 22. The church had a great time of worship and fellowship morning and afternoon. David Givan and family were honored because his great-great-great grandfather was a founding member on May 21, 1822.

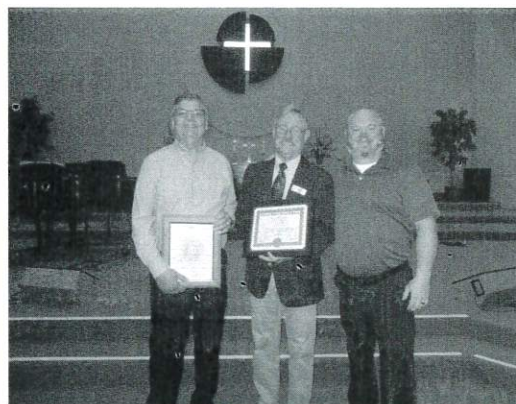
Sparta BC members and friends present for the church's 200th anniversary celebration (at right).

GREENCASTLE FBC CELEBRATES BICENTENNIAL CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Greencastle FBC had a wonderful weekend celebrating its 200th anniversary on May 14-15. A group of 13 people calling themselves "Baptists" had formed the church in 1822, before Greencastle was established as a town in 1823.

Celebrations included an afternoon open house at the church on Saturday, May 14, 2022, and a dinner that Saturday night with over 200 members, former members and friends attending. The Sunday, May 15, worship was a time of praise and reflecting on 200 years of blessings. Former pastors in attendance during the weekend were Frank Smith, Paul Bowen and Randy McNeely, along with Tom Blodgett, current pastor.

The theme for the weekend was, "Celebrating 200 Years, Imagining 200 More." The church is moving forward seeking God's guidance and blessings as they serve Him within the church family and community, and by supporting missions around the world.



(Above) Interim Region Minister Jim Walter presents an ABC historical plaque to Church Moderator David Snellenbarger and Pastor Tom Blodgett of Greencastle FBC.



EXPANDING MISSION

TOGETHER
A weekend camp experience
for 6th - 12th graders

Camp Tippy
August 19th-21st
North Webster, IN

Indian Creek
August 26th-28th
Bedford, IN

One weekend at each camp
(pick one or come to both!)
Bring a friend or
bring your whole youth group!

camptippy.org campindiancreek.com
more details coming soon

For more timely details about Region events, subscribe for FREE to *Observations* (our ABC-IN/KY semi-monthly e-newsletter) by emailing wendyshuler@abc-indiana.org. Please also indicate if you are an ABC pastoral leader.

AMO BC CALLS YOUTH PASTOR

The spiritual family at Amo FBC has excitedly called a part-time youth pastor to help revitalize youth ministry in the church's geographic area. Lay Pastor Kelli Tipton completed Church Leadership Institute (CLI) offered by the Region. Kelli was licensed into ministry by Amo FBC on October 20, 2019. She has served in multiple roles alongside Rev. Zook for numerous years.



The church voted April 3, 2022, to officially call Pastor Kelli as their youth minister. As a part of the motion in calling Pastor Kelli, the church also promoted Rev. Shelly Zook to "Lead Pastor." Pastor Zook is now officially recognized for leading a multi-staff ministry team as she has done the past several years.

Please help congratulate Pastors Zook and Tipton when you see them, or mail them cards of congratulations, c/o Amo FBC, PO Box 146, Amo, IN 46103. Congrats, Pastors Shelly and Kelli! (Above, L to R)

PASTOR/STAFF ZOOM CALLS



(PLEASE NOTE: No Pastor/Staff Zoom Call in July)

Tuesday, August 9,
Conversation with
Barato Britt, President & CEO,
Edna Martin Christian Center

September Date and Presenter - TBD

All sessions @ 10:00 am ET/9:00 am CT.
Zoom connection will be emailed to Pastoral Leaders.
To subscribe, email wendyshuler@abc-indiana.org.

MT. PLEASANT BC WELCOMES PASTOR JARED HARDIN

Mt. Pleasant BC (Orleans, IN) welcomed Jared Hardin as their new pastor on Sunday, May 15. He had served as the church's interim pastor since the end of March 2021.

Hardin, a 2017 graduate of Salem High School, attended Mill Creek-Salem BC during his growing up years where he also had fulfilled pastoral duties as early as his senior year of high school (January to August 2017)! Jared's parents are Melvin and LeeAnn Hardin, and he has a younger sister Melea.

He holds a bachelor of arts degree in Biblical and Theological Studies from Boyce College, where he received the James P. Boyce outstanding graduate award for academic excellence, exemplary character and student life involvement. Pastor Hardin then went on to earn his master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (both schools are in Louisville, KY).

If wishing to send him a note of congratulations, address it to Pastor Jared Hardin, c/o Mt. Pleasant BC, PO Box 266, Orleans, IN 47452 (which is a new PO Box number for the church).



Pastor Jared Hardin,
Mt. Pleasant BC (Orleans, IN)

If you would like more information about churches or events described in this issue, contact Wendy Shuler at wendyshuler@abc-indiana.org or (317) 635-3552 x222.

EQUIPPING LEADERS



NEHEMIAH LEADERS

SESSION DATES - In-person or by Zoom



NEHEMIAH LEADERSHIP

August 26 or 27 - Reconciliation: Being God's People in a Divided Word (Rev. Miriam Mendez, presenter)

November 12 or 14 - Discipleship around The Table (Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula, presenter)

Bi-vocational or other interested pastors, for more info, contact your Region Minister or register by emailing your contact info to: wendyshuler@abc-indiana.org.

NEW PASTORS GATHER FOR FELLOWSHIP AND ONBOARDING

Pastors who began serving during the past two years were invited to Plainfield FBC on Tuesday, May 24, where ABC-IN/KY staff and other leaders shared information about Region life and mission. It was a great day of connection, and interestingly most of the pastors there represented churches that are celebrating 200-year anniversaries this year!

Shown in photo (front, L to R): Pastors Steve Allen (Osgood and Interim Region Minister-East Central), John Marshall (Plainfield FBC), Doug Sanders (Bethel BC), Bryce Landon (Denver FBC), Dan Chadwick (Region Minister-South), Bruce Cochran (Region Minister-North), Jim Walter (Interim Region Minister-West Central); (back, L to R): John Dunlap (Region Manager of Mission and Finance), Peter Janzen (Fort Wayne FBC), Paul Veldhuizen (Camden FBC), Mark Thompson (Region Executive Minister), Tom Blodgett (Greencastle FBC), and Darrell James (Mill Creek BC-Salem and CLI Instructor, who spoke about ABC history & polity). **Not pictured:** David Hinson (at press time, Interim Pastor of Muncie FBC and representative of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, who spoke via Zoom about benefits available to pastors through MMBB).



RACE FOR SBYCAMP

Each year, Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp (SBYC) holds "The RACE for SBYCamp," a fundraising event. Teams of four (with an optional fifth alternate) register for the FIRE or ICE Division, raise funds and come to the camp to compete in different challenges. They also bring friends and family members to cheer them on.

The FIRE Division occurs outside with more physical challenges. The ICE Division takes place inside with an emphasis on mental agility challenges. Winning teams get their photos on the "Race Wall of Fame" in Grace Hall. Each team member receives a Race Day t-shirt. Lunch is provided for competitors and available for spectators (friends and family) by free-will donation.

This year's event will be August 6, 2022. To register, go online to <https://sbycamp.com/race>.

TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS & BI-VOC PASTORS

C104 Introduction to Theology

Taught by Rev. Rodney Lynch

Divided into four Saturday classes

Jul 16, Jul 30, Aug 13 & Aug 27

Registration deadline is Friday, July 8th!

After that, contact Jen Greene to see if space still available.

C201 Christian Education & Nurture

Taught by Rev. Phyllis Goodyear

Again, divided into four Saturday sessions:

Oct 1, 15, 29 & Nov 12

Contact Jennifer Greene, registrar:

jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org or 317.635.3552 x221.
(In-person or Zoom options available!)



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Indiana Baptist Convention
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY
65 Airport Pkwy, Suite 120
Greenwood, IN 46143

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IMPORTANT NOTICE - DEADLINE TO SUBSCRIBE BY DECEMBER 1, 2022!

ABC-IN/KY spends over \$10,000 a year mailing *The Baptist Observer* (quarterly) to about 4,000 pastors, laypersons, and other friends of the Region with copies going to all ABC-IN/KY churches. We need to clean up our distribution list in order to become better stewards of God's resources!

If you are not an ABC-IN/KY Region pastor or church, you must subscribe (OPT-IN) by December 1, 2022.

If you do NOT do so, you will no longer receive *The Observer* (beginning in 2023)!

Indiana's longest-running religious publication will remain FREE to subscribers. We merely need to try to "clean up the rolls" of who receives it, to help decrease expenses. --**Questions?** Feel free to contact your Region Minister.

CLIP AND MAIL BY DEC. 1, 2022 TO: ABC-IN/KY, 65 Airport Pkwy., Suite 120, Greenwood, IN 46143

(Please PRINT legibly!)

First & Last Name: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

ABC Church or Related Organization (if applicable): _____

**OR simply SUBSCRIBE (OPT-IN) to *The Baptist Observer* before December 1, 2022,
by emailing the above information to jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org.**