

Metro Chicago *EWIND*

Seeking Justice • Loving Mercy • Walking Humbly

A weekly electronic newsletter from and for the American Baptists of the Windy City and its environs, covering matters as diverse as our region.



I woke yesterday morning to a nation I never in my wildest imagination thought I would see. One that has selected as its new president a man who has gleefully stomped on values I hold dear and disdained people I love. My hope is in the Divine “moral arc of the universe” that bends toward justice. Through the mysterious power of God, the Gospel values I cling to will endure. Decency. Compassion. Honesty. Fairness. These things endure. Protection of the vulnerable. Inclusion of the marginalized. Generosity. Love of neighbor and welcome for the stranger. These endure. Mercy. Gentleness. Justice that does not lift up one group by denigrating another, but makes it possible for all to thrive. Love and respect for those who differ from me in race, religion, language, politics, and culture.

Honoring the full humanity of all women and men, including sexual minorities. These are the values of Jesus. On these I stake my life. With the help of God, for these I strive and stand today, tomorrow, and forever, no matter who is president.

I realize that not everyone in the family of ABC of Metro Chicago feels as I do. But I hope that we can unite in prayer that the brash taunts of the campaign trail will give way to the sober necessities of governance. I hope we will unite in prayer for the resiliency of our democratic institutions, and for wise, steady, and courageous advisers to our new president.

Many times we have called the family of ABC of Metro Chicago the “beloved community”. Christ’s beloved community. This election has not changed that community. Our churches still include Mexicans, and Guatemalans and Puerto Ricans, and many others whose first language is Spanish. You are our cherished brothers and sisters in Christ. This beloved community still welcomes the stranger, protects the vulnerable, embraces the marginalized, and stands with the oppressed. The Gospel that is preached in ABCMC churches still calls us to love and defend our neighbors, including our Muslim neighbors who feel so vulnerable right now. As Interim Executive Minister I say to our LGBTQ brothers and sisters: “You are loved. You are cherished. You are respected in our midst.” In Christ’s beloved community no one is dispensable. No one is to be tossed aside. The same should be true of our country. It is up to us to make it so.

In the coming weeks and months, let us live in hope...hope that God is at work in, through, around, and even in spite of us. As Christians our call and task remain as urgent as ever: to make God’s reign of justice, love, and peace a reality here on earth. Just as no election alone can bring in God’s reign, neither can any election prevent it. So let us continue to honor one another as we love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Your partners in ministry,

Reverend Doug Harris

Reverend Carol McVetty

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P.S. Don’t forget our Family Council Meeting, 9 a.m. to Noon, this Saturday, November 12 at Moraine Valley Community Church, 10040 South 88th Avenue, Palos Hills, IL (Note: Do NOT use an address for the church given by Google.)