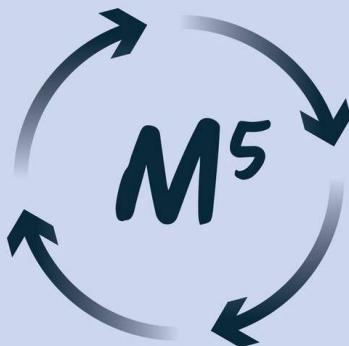




THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

DIGITAL EDITION | JAN. 7, 2026



2026 ADVANCE CONFERENCE
MARCH 2-3, 2026 | MOORE, FIRST



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2026 ADVANCE CONFERENCE TO PROVIDE TIME OF FELLOWSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP FOR THOSE IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

by Messenger Staff

MOORE—On March 2-3, Oklahoma Baptists will host the Advance Conference at Moore, First. This annual event is for everyone involved in Christian ministry and will provide a time of fellowship, discipleship and worship for those who attend.

The theme for the conference will be M5, based on Matt. 28:16-20. This theme will focus on the five areas that ministry leaders are called to participate in. These include Making Disciples (v19), Marking Believers through Baptism (v19), Maturing Believers (v20), Moving with the Gospel and Magnifying God (v16-18).

Registration will open Jan. 15, and the first 500 to register will receive a special gift once they check in at the event. Registration for meals and breakout trainings will also be available.

As with previous years, there will be five distinct worship events in the main hall at Moore, First. Each will include a short pre-session equipping opportunity, followed by a worship set and sermon.

Advance Conference invites pastors and church leaders from around the country to speak at the event. This year, those scheduled to speak are Monty Patton, Executive Director of the Arizona Mission Network; Connor Bales, Senior Pastor at Oklahoma City, Quail Springs; Robert Smith Jr., Distinguished Professor of Divinity at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School and more. An exhibit hall will be set up with various Oklahoma Baptist affiliates and programs that can be visited in between the sermons.

On Monday, Mar. 2, lunch will be sponsored by Send Oklahoma. Registration for this event is required.

Oklahoma Baptists invite everyone involved in ministry to attend the 2026 Advance Conference which will provide the opportunity to be inspired by the Word, equip for the work God has set before us and encouragement to spread the Gospel.

For updates about the Advance Conference, check back regularly at oklahomabaptists.org/evangelism/advance-conference/.



INDIVIDUAL WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TO SPEAK AT ROSE DAY

by Messenger Staff

On Feb. 4 hundreds of Oklahoman pro-life supporters are anticipated to attend the annual Rose Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol. The event, held at the beginning of a new legislative season, is the most longstanding faith-based, pro-life event in Oklahoma. Each year, pro-life advocates gather at the State Capitol to promote and support the lives of unborn babies.

After connecting with elected officials, attendees also participate in an indoor rally located in the House Chamber on the 4th floor. This year's keynote speakers for the event are Mia and Cara Armstrong, a daughter and mother pro-life advocacy duo.

Mia, a renowned SAG-AFTRA actress, voiceover artist, advocate and author, proudly declares Down syndrome to be her "superpower." She refuses to be disregarded and is a living example that worth is not measured by worldly status but by God-given purpose. Mia was the first child with Down syndrome to voice a cartoon character and the first to have a lead role in a Christmas movie. In 2025, Mia opened at the National Pro-Life Summit.

She is also the author of "*I Am A Masterpiece*," a children's book that offers a first-person account of growing up with Down syndrome. It was selected as an Amazon Editor's Pick and a *Good Housekeeping* "must-read," and recognized among the Top 18 books written by authors with disabilities.

Through Mia's words, both spoken and written, she invites the world to celebrate every person as God's masterpiece. At the 2026 Rose Day event, Mia will present a message of hope, resilience and the undeniable truth that God intentionally designs every life, hers being a bold reminder that God's plans are never bound by human expectations.

Mia's mother, Cara, is a woman of deep faith, a dedicated disability rights advocate, and a passionate pro-life supporter. With 20 years of experience as a registered nurse, Cara has witnessed firsthand the undeniable truth that God creates all life with purpose and value. She is committed to ensuring that individuals with Down syndrome are seen, valued and included not only in education and in society, but also by medical professionals that deliver pre-natal diagnoses.

Other invited speakers at the event include Todd Russ, Oklahoma State Treasurer; Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt; Matt Pinnell, Oklahoma Lt. Governor; and Gayla White, Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children.

Registration for Rose Day opens at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd floor and the indoor rally will begin at 11:30 a.m. For more information about the event, or to view recordings of past Rose Day events, visit roseday.life.



DOING THE NEW THING IN WOMEN'S MINISTRY: TRUSTING THE SAME GOD FOR FRESH VISION

by Dee Humphrey, Women's Ministry Leader at Grove, First



Every new year brings a mixture of emotions, especially for women's ministry leaders. Some of us enter the season energized and ready for fresh ideas. Others feel stretched thin and unsure of what the year will hold. But whether we feel confident or hesitant,

one truth anchors our hearts: we can trust the same God for the new thing He is doing.

Isaiah 43:19 calls out to weary hearts and weary ministries alike: *"Behold, I am doing a new thing... I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

Before God revealed His "new thing" to Israel, He reminded them of His past power. How He split the Red Sea to deliver, heal and sustain. That same God still leads us today. In women's ministry, we're often tempted to cling to what's familiar. We look back on past events, past success, and treasured traditions, assuming the future must look the same. But the past is a teacher, not a template. God honors what He's done, but He also invites us to join Him where He is already working.

Sometimes we hesitate because "the new thing" feels unclear. But God isn't asking us to manufacture results. He's simply inviting us to trust Him, listen, and follow. Often, the new thing God calls us to looks less like reinvention and more like personal renewal, which overflows into ministry.

Here are a few ways God may be inviting women's ministries to step into "the new" this season:

1. New Rhythms of Discipleship

Maybe it's time to shift from event-driven ministry to relationship-driven ministry. This could look like smaller groups, discipleship pairs, or home gatherings where women learn to open Scripture together.

2. New Voices to Lead

Perhaps God is raising up younger women or women with different experiences to serve, teach, or help plan the year. Making space for emerging leaders is often the "new thing" God wants to do through us.

3. New Places to Gather

Ministry doesn't have to stay inside the church building. Coffee shops, parks, office break rooms, and living rooms can become beautiful places of outreach and connection.

4. New Collaboration

Women's ministry was never meant to exist in isolation. God may be calling your team to partner with other churches, community organizations, or intergenerational groups for deeper impact.

5. New Ways to Reach the Unreached

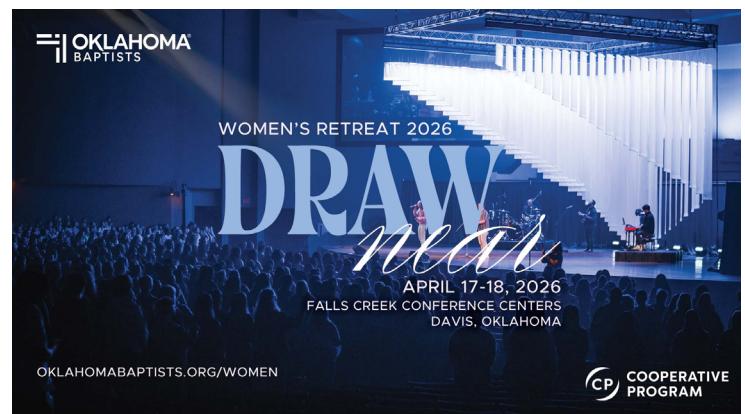
Many women won't walk into a Bible study, but they will come to an informal conversation, a service project, or a simple dinner invitation. Sometimes the "new thing" is learning to meet women where they already are.

All of these reflect the heart of Isaiah 43:19. God is already at work. Do you perceive it? As we step into this new season, here's the posture of a women's ministry leader who trusts God:

- Look back to remember His power, not to repeat old patterns.
- Look around to see the new thing growing, even if it feels small.
- Look ahead with open hearts and get ready for fresh vision.
- Look up and declare His praise, because He is faithful in every season.

Your ministry doesn't need perfection to flourish. All it takes is obedience to the One who makes rivers in deserts and pathways in wilderness places. Let's trust the same God for the new thing and step forward in faith. He is already at work!

If you're looking for new ways to Draw Near to God, don't forget the Oklahoma Baptist Women's Retreat registration opens Feb. 1, 2026. For more information, visit oklahomabaptists.org/women/retreat/.



CHURCH NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS/INFORMATION

Chaplain Manual/OSFA Training - March 5-7

Naomi Paget, Instructor – Cost \$60.00

Baptist Building

300 Johnny Bench Dr., Ste. 300

Oklahoma City, OK

To register, please email

pjones@oklahomabaptists.org

DR Orientation/Credentialing – March 28

DR Team Center

7180 NW Expressway

Oklahoma City, OK

Register online at okdisasterhelp.org

CISM Training - April 2-3

Greg Giltner, Instructor – Cost \$50.00

Baptist Building

300 Johnny Bench Dr., Ste. 300

Oklahoma City, OK

To register, please email

pjones@oklahomabaptists.org



February 2, 2026 | 10:00am

FBC Moore, OK

Registration opens September 11

oklahomabaptists.org/POP

Conference is free. Register by 12/31 to receive a free book!



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