

39TH ANNUAL



God is a **WONDER**

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT & RESTORATION CONFERENCE

EBENEZER AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FORT WASHINGTON, MD

REV. DR. GRAINGER BROWNING, JR. – SENIOR PASTOR
REV. DR. JO ANN BROWNING – CO-PASTOR

MAY 30-JUNE 1, 2024

Praise the Lord, My Sisters,

It has been nearly a year since we were last together, and so much has changed in our world, our communities and in our lives. After the last 12 months, we need and deserve a respite—a moment away to be restored, renewed and revived. We need this dedicated time for ourselves for spiritual empowerment and sisterly fellowship with other women of God. That is why, we are so excited to invite you and every sister you know—no matter their age, location or background—to join us on Thursday, May 30- Saturday, June 1, 2024, for our **39th Annual God is a Wonder Women's Spiritual Retreat & Restoration Conference**.


As women, we juggle several responsibilities, while dealing with the challenges of being a woman navigating the challenges of the workplace and world. As such, there are several exciting things planned for this year's gathering that we believe will encourage and uplift you. We are continuing some activities and have added a few new things for this year's retreat, including:

- More virtual bonus workshops—you can access these workshops on the conference platform at *your leisure, at any time*.
- Four new in-person bonus workshops which will be available for a limited number of attendees.
- Two Afternoon Answer preaching moments on Friday afternoon.
- Additional lunch vendors available onsite.
- Special musical guest, Maurette Brown Clark will be with us again on Friday night.

All of this and more is available for only **\$149 for in-person attendance and \$119 for virtual attendance**. Additionally, content from the conference will be made available for at least two weeks post the conference. Limited transportation service will be available for purchase from the National Harbor and the Harborside hotels for a fee or you can use Uber or Lyft.

We believe that God is preparing every facilitator, every preacher and every attendee even at this moment! Register today for what He has planned for YOU at the God is a Wonder encounter at **Ebenezer AME Church**. We pray to see you in the house on **May 30-June 1, 2024**. Come with expectation as we join together with hundreds of women from around the globe to experience the incredible WONDER OF GOD!

In Christ's Service,



Pastor Jo Ann Browning, Co-Pastor, Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Retreat Visionary & Convener



Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Browning

Co-Pastor
Ebenezer A.M.E. Church

Visionary & Convener



**PASTOR GRAINGER AND
PASTOR JO ANN BROWNING**



God is a WONDER

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT
& RESTORATION CONFERENCE

MAY 30-JUNE 1, 2025

Thursday | May 30, 2024

12:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Registration

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Workshop I

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

In-Person Bonus Workshops

Limited space, registration required

3:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Dinner (on your own)

4:00 p.m.

Hotel Check-in Begins

7:30 p.m.

God is a Wonder Opening Worship Service

10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Late Registration

Friday | May 31, 2024

7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.

A Time of Prayer & Meditation (Virtual)

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Mixed Fit Exercise & Gospel Yoga (Virtual)

8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

In-Person Bonus Workshops

Limited space, registration required

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Registration

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Master Class

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Workshop II

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

LUNCH (on your own)

Onsite food vendors will be available

Friday | May 31, 2024 (cont.)

- 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Answer A
- 1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Afternoon Answer B
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Workshop III
- 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Workshop IV
- 4:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Relaxation and Dinner (on your own)
- 6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. **Dessert & Discussion (Women in Ministry Only)**
- 7:30 p.m. **God is a Wonder Evening Worship Service**

Saturday | June 1, 2024

- 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast (on your own)/Hotel Check-Out
 - 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Morning Touch Anointing & Devotions**
 - 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. **Workshop V**
 - 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. **Young Adult Workshop I**
 - 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Workshop VI**
 - 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Young Adult Workshop II**
 - 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **God is a Wonder Closing Worship Service**
 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- Onsite food vendors will be available*



Thursday

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Aging Well: No matter the age, each one of us is evolving. Over time, as we continue to mature and grow older, our bodies change. Learn how to age well at all stages and every phase of womanhood.

3:15 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

In-Person Bonus Workshops

- ▶ **There is More...:** Life does not end after a certain age or a specific date on the calendar. But you must accept the end of one season, in order to enter a new season. Embrace what God has in store in your next chapter because there is still more to come. **(For Seniors Only) Limited space available. Registration required.**
- ▶ **A Mother's Love:** Each child is different. It can be difficult for some parents to reconcile and deal with a child's choices—no matter their age. Learn how to demonstrate unconditional love even when you may not understand or agree with their lifestyle. **Limited space available. Registration required.**

Friday

8:45 A.M. - 9:45 A.M.

In-Person Bonus Workshops

- ▶ **Reimagining and Redefining Life After Loss:** As we go through the grieving process, it's important to consider how we shift and evolve after loss. So, how do you embrace grief, while still stepping into a new reality and space? Understand the experiences and insights needed to help as you reimagine and redefine your life in God's time. **Limited space available. Registration required.**
- ▶ **Living After Loss Part II:** While death can be expected, it is never easy and can be overwhelming. However, navigating life while living through grief and loss is necessary. Obtain methods and practices that can help you in the grieving process. There is life after loss! **Limited space available. Registration required.**

Friday (cont.)

11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

Influenced or The Influencer?: In a world where everyone wants to have a bigger profile and larger platform, we must recognize that while we are in this world, we are not of it. When do we start influencing the world vs. the world influencing us? Strive to be guided by the Ultimate Influencer, the Lord, and have real impact over fake influence.

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

“The Color Purple:” As women of color in America, we have unique challenges and vast and varied experiences, as well as a shared reality. To navigate and survive it all, it's important that we seek each other for encouragement, enlightenment, enrichment and so much more. Explore the importance of supporting and celebrating each other and embrace the power of sisterhood.
(*Panel Discussion*)

3:15 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

Wars and Rumors of Wars: There are natural wars taking place around the globe. There are also spiritual attacks underway internally in our lives and minds. Despite the real attacks, not every attack comes from the enemy. Learn how to sharpen your spiritual radar and discern the enemy's attacks, so you can win the war to complete God's mission for your life.

6:15 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.

Dessert & Discussion

The Regrets, the Reasons, the Realities and the Restoration: We all live with some regrets—for ourselves and for things we didn't do or say. While serving in ministry, we've gained some things, but we've also lost or sacrificed other things. Spend some time discussing and reflecting on our journeys and experiences and allow the Lord to strengthen and restore us as we continue to do the work of ministry. (*Women in Ministry Only*)

Saturday

9:15 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.

When God Goes on Mute...: There are times when we pray and our prayers are answered. Then, there are times and things we've prayed about constantly and nothing happens—you don't get married, you don't get the new job or promotion, you don't birth a child and your loved one doesn't get healed. Learn how to manage the reality that your prayers may not be answered as you desired or expected while continuing to have faith and trust that God is still God and He is still good

10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Life be Lifting: Life is full of ups and downs, twists and turns, and highs and lows. With all that is happening in the world and in our lives, it can be difficult to manage and balance the overwhelming challenges, issues and circumstances. Thank God, we do have a helper in the Lord! Seek Godly instructions to secure the supernatural support needed to strengthen you when "life lifts."

Young Adults Only

9:15 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.

It's Time for a New Thing: Transition and change can be tough. Whether it's pivoting from college to work life, moving from singlehood to married life or evolving from limited obligations to increased financial responsibilities—change and maturation are no joke! Get the real deal on developing and maturing God's way as He seeks to do a new thing in your life.

10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

What you Want vs. What you Need: Often times, we think that who we want is what is best for us and that we just can't live without "the one." Our desires—physical and mental—can cloud our judgement and better thinking. Uncover who and what God has designed just for you—it is always better than anything you could ever hope, think or imagine. *(Panel Discussion)*

Virtual Bonus Workshops

Available to view online at your convenience

Sis, Get in Your Word Part II: It is vital that we read, understand and apply the Word of God regularly. In order for the Bible and its teachings to come alive in your life, you need the proper techniques, tips and tools. Get guidance and instruction on how to study the Word of God for yourself.

The Miracle of Marriage: Marriage is full of joys and some pains, and a whole lot in between. Explore how to maintain a married life of love, support, acceptance and sacrifice, and to embrace all that God intended in the miracle of marriage.

So, You Want to Be a Boss?: God has placed a dream in your heart. Yet, starting and running your own business can be daunting. Learn to trust what God has given you, and build the plan to bring God's vision to reality.

Laughter and Tears: Don't allow what you can't do to stop you from what you can do! Receive powerful lessons from two women in the Bible to apply in your later years. **(For Seniors Only)**

Your Money Matters: Successfully managing your money is about making it align with God's purpose, your life goals, and your values. Gain practical tips and strategies to be a good steward over the resources God has given you, so that you can build financial wealth and make your money matter.

Facilitators



Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Browning

Host Pastor and Visionary
Ebenezer A.M.E. Church
Fort Washington, Maryland



Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd

Itinerant Elder and Ministerial Staff
Ebenezer AME Church
Fort Washington, MD



Rev. Dr. Marie Braxton

Retired Former First Lady, Potomac District
of the Washington Conference
2nd Episcopal District, AME Church



Elder Louise Cage

Concerned Prayer Ministry



Rev. Dr. Claudette A. Copeland

Pastor Emerita
New Creation Christian Fellowship
San Antonio, TX



Rev. Sheleta Fomby

Founder and President,
Sequoia Ministries, Inc.



Rev. Marissa Farrow

Associate Minister
The Greater Allen Cathedral of NY
Jamaica, NY



Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale

Pastor
Ray of Hope
Decatur, GA



Rev. Dr. Elaine Flake

Senior Pastor
The Greater Allen Cathedral of NY
Jamaica, NY



Bishop Millicent Hunter

Founder and Pastor
The Baptist Worship Center
Philadelphia, PA



Rev. Dr. Jessica Ingram

Retired Episcopal Supervisor
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Spiritual Director, The Ingram Difference
Spiritual Renewal Center



Evangelist Dr. Susie Owens

Retired Co-Pastor
Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church
Washington, DC



Rev. Dr. Nicole Massie Martin

Grow Lead
Kingdom Fellowship AME Church
Calverton, MD



Rev. Dr. Debyii Sababu-Thomas

Director, Discipleship Development
Reid Temple AME Church
Glendale, MD



Bishop Vashti McKenzie

Retired Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Founder & CEO, Selah Leadership
President of National Council of Churches



Rev. Dr. Barbara Ridley

Former Senior Minister of Comfort
& Member of Ministerial Staff
Ebenezer AME Church
Fort Washington, MD



Rev. Dr. Jasmin Sculark

Founder and Pastor
Victory Grace Center
Bladensburg, MD



Rev. Dr. Renita Weems

Co-Pastor
Ray of Hope Community Church
Nashville, TN



Bishop Carolyn Showell

Executive Pastor
First Apostolic Faith Church
Baltimore, MD



Dr. Sharon Allison Ottey, MD

CEO, Carlden, Inc.
Executive Director, The COSHAR
Healthy Communities Foundation



Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart

Pastor
Christ Missionary Baptist Church
Memphis, TN



**Sis. Maurette
Brown Clark**

Guest Psalmist

Fees

The fee for the 2024 *God is a Wonder Women's Spiritual Retreat & Restoration Conference* is **\$149 for in-person attendance and \$119 for virtual only**. Fees do not include hotel accommodations.

All Spiritual Retreat & Restoration Conference fees are non-refundable. Since there are no refunds, please bless another sister, if you are unable to attend.

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are on your own. There will be limited food vendors available onsite for those who would like to purchase lunch on campus. We have added additional food vendors to service you quicker and to cut down on food lines.

Accommodations

Lodging must be arranged separately and can be secured at one of our several partner hotels at the beautiful National Harbor, and The Harborside Hotel located near the National Harbor (approximately 5 miles from Ebenezer). When calling to make your reservation, you must mention Ebenezer A.M.E. Church to receive the discounted rate. Be sure to make your reservations as early as possible. Additionally, please DO NOT send your hotel registration to Ebenezer A.M.E. Church. Please see details on the following page.

Limited transportation seating will be provided to transport you to and from our partner hotels for a small fee of \$85. You can also drive or use Uber or Lyft.

Accommodations (cont.)

Hotel options are listed below. Details regarding parking cost and amenities, including exercise facilities, restaurants and other information are available by calling the individual hotels. Deadline to book rooms is Wednesday, April 24, 2024. Availability is provided on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage you to book your room as soon as possible. If a hotel is booked, please feel free to check back as additional rooms may become available.

Attention: Hotels will charge a one night "non-refundable" deposit per room on all reservations



AC Hotel

\$215 plus tax

(888) 236-2427

Hampton Inn

\$229 plus tax

(800) 426-7866

Residence Inn

\$219 plus tax

(800) 331-3131

The Harborside Hotel

(Approx. 5 miles from Ebenezer)

\$175 plus tax

6400 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, MD

(240) 493-1020

Gaylord Hotel

\$269 plus tax

(888) 236-2427

Hyatt Place

\$239 plus tax

(301) 686-1120

Westin Hotel

\$269 plus tax

(301) 567-3999

Important Information

We are excited to come together for the 39th year! In order to provide an incredible experience for all attendees, we will offer a hybrid format once again. Check out some key details below:

- ▶ **Registration is \$149 for in-person attendees and \$119 for virtual attendees.** In addition to the worship services and workshops, there will be virtual bonus sessions AND new this year, we'll have limited capacity **in-person bonus sessions**.
- ▶ Onsite attendees will attend all of the services and workshops in the Main Sanctuary and will also have access to the virtual bonus workshops online during the retreat. Additionally, four **in-person bonus sessions** will be available for a limited number of attendees. **Registration for these sessions will take place during the registration process.**
- ▶ Online attendees will experience all of the conference, including the virtual bonus sessions on our virtual platform.
- ▶ Online access to all workshops, sessions and activities will be made available to ALL attendees for at least two weeks after the conference. To learn more and to get familiar with the platform, we strongly encourage you to participate in the retreat briefing and platform training.

Registration will be available
soon at **godisawonder.com**.

Registration for in-person attendance is **\$149** and **\$119** for virtual only.

This conference is open to all women.

Promotional items available for purchase in advance only.

Follow us on social media and stay connected



@GodIsAWonder

Don't miss this wondrous experience!

We look forward to seeing you May 30-June 1, 2024