

EXPERIENCING

GOD

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2024



Seventh-day Adventist Church
FLORIDA CONFERENCE

WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES

Welcome

ALOOOOOHA!

My warmest greetings to you, my sisters from all parts of Florida, the Caribbean, and beyond! The weather may be a tad chilly, yet we are snuggled into the embrace of sisterhood and the warmth of Jesus Christ.

I don't know the journey you have traveled to get here, the thoughts that have kept you up at night, or the hurts embedded deep into your heart. What matters most is that you are HERE, desiring comfort, peace, and a space to breathe.

I want you to know that my team and I have prayed for each one of you, and we know, without a doubt, that God is moving in our midst. Our Heavenly Father is desiring to relieve you of your burdens as you place your trust in Him.

May you find rest, healing, and restoration as you Experience God this weekend. On behalf of the Florida Conference and my executive committee, welcome; we are so glad you are here!



Jennifer Hernandez

*Women's Ministries Director
Florida Conference*



Program

Friday

1:00 – 6:30 PM	Registration Gym Rooms 1 & 2
5:30 – 6:30 PM	Dinner Cafeteria
7:00 – 9:00 PM	General Session I Gym Praise & Worship – Gale Murphy & Team Bible Journaling — Maiara Goncalvez Ramos Interview – Nicola Edgar Song – Garnica Edgar Theme Song “Broken, But Whole” Message Appeal – Michele Bass

Sabbath Morning

7:00 AM	Morning Devotional - Yanely Jimenez King Chapel
8:00 – 8:45 AM	Breakfast Cafeteria
9:00 – 9:35 AM	Morning Seminar Session I <i>Critical Thinking</i> Dr. Ndala Booker Gym Room 5 <i>Outreach</i> Theresa Lonoza Spring Chapel <i>Prayer</i> Julie McLafferty King Chapel <i>Finishing Strong</i> Dr. Brenda Owusu Gym Room 6 <i>Finance</i> Elisa Rahming Gym Room 7 <i>Infertility</i> Dr. Latazia Stuart Gym Room 8
9:45-10:20 AM	Morning Seminar Session II <i>Same as Session I</i>
10:30 AM–12:30 PM	General Session II Gym Praise & Worship – Gale Murphy & Team Bible Journaling — Maiara Goncalvez Ramos Special Music – OFSDA Ladies Theme Song “Broken, But Whole” Message Appeal – Shanique Nicolas
12:45 – 1:45 PM	Lunch Cafeteria

Program

Sabbath Afternoon

1:45 – 2:45 PM	Free Time
1:30 – 3:00 PM	Zoo Open Prayer Walk
2:45– 3:15 PM	Afternoon Seminar Session I <i>Critical Thinking</i> Dr. Ndala Booker Spring Chapel <i>Outreach</i> Theresa Lonoza Cafeteria I <i>Prayer</i> Julie McLafferty Cafeteria II <i>Finishing Strong</i> Dr. Brenda Owusu King Chapel <i>Finance</i> Elisa Rahming Dogwood Meeting Room <i>Infertility</i> Dr. Latazia Stuart Cypress Meeting Room
3:25– 3:55 PM	Afternoon Seminar Session II <i>Same as Session I</i>
4:00 – 5:00 PM	General Session III Gym Praise & Worship – Gale Murphy & Team Special Music Theme Song “Broken, But Whole” Message
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Anointing Service King Chapel

Saturday Evening

7:00 – 8:00 PM	Banquet Gym
8:00 – 9:00 PM	Entertainment Program Gym What's in Your Bag? - Gail Higgins & Elizabeth Williams International Talent Show
9:00 – 9:30 PM	International Fashion Show

Sunday Morning

7:00 – 7:45 AM	Morning Devotional - Yanely Jimenez King Chapel
8:00 – 9:00 AM	General Session IV Gym Praise & Worship – Gale Murphy & Team Bible Journaling – Maiara Goncalvez Ramos Special Music – Shanique Nicolas Message
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Baptism Gym
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Brunch Cafeteria See you next year!

Speakers



DeeAnn Bragaw

Women's Ministries Director, North American Division

DeeAnn Bragaw serves as Director of Women's Ministries for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and holds a master's degree in Pastoral Ministry. In addition to being a fervent champion of prayer, DeeAnn's passion is connecting women to Jesus, each other, and their communities, and she thrives on creating space and resources for those connections to flourish. A Colorado native, DeeAnn loves to be outside hiking, biking, paddle boarding, snowshoeing, and camping with her husband, Paul, and their family.



Shirley Scott

Women's Ministries Director, Southern Union

Shirley Scott is called, anointed, and appointed by God. She believes in the power of prayer and that when you allow Yahweh to lead, the results are exceedingly, abundantly, more than you can dream or think. A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Elder Scott formerly served as South Central Conference Women's Ministries Director for 13 years. She was the conference's first female Sabbath School director and the first woman to serve as Prayer Ministries director. In 2018, God called her to serve as the Women's Ministries Director for the Southern Union Conference, a position she currently holds.

Elder Scott is passionate about helping develop and mentor women in cultivating their gifts, talents, experiences, and influence. As an avid lifelong learner, she is always eager to share hidden gems gleaned from life, the Bible, or other books and articles, primarily related to leadership and spiritual growth. Her life experiences, adversities, challenges, failures, and successes are the soil of preparation God continues to use to strengthen her passion for mentoring women and to build her character.

She is married to Lionel Scott, Sr., and they are the parents of three adult children and two beautiful granddaughters. Shirley loves to read, travel, entertain, and spend time with family and friends. Her favorite Bible verse is one of empowerment, Philippians 4:16: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Her greatest desire is to hear God say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter now into the joy of the Lord."



Ndala Booker

Dr. Booker is a dedicated educator and speaker who has championed critical thinking and academic success since 2007. With a wealth of experience delivering workshops and keynote presentations nationally and internationally, she is renowned for her captivating and energetic speaking style. As a second-generation academician, Dr. Booker brings a deep understanding of conventional teaching methods but seeks to provide individuals with a clear roadmap for effective thinking. Her primary goal is to impart indispensable knowledge that transcends isolated application, enabling individuals to seamlessly apply critical thinking skills across various aspects of their academic, professional, and personal lives. Dr. Booker's presentations receive enthusiastic reception from participants of all ages, with verbal and written feedback consistently affirming that her approach surpasses traditional university curricula in teaching critical thinking.



Theresa Lonoza

Theresa Ramos-Lonoza was born in Manila, Philippines, and studied nursing in Chicago, where she lived for thirty-five years. She and her husband share a twenty-one-year-old son and are celebrating twenty-five years of marriage. Because of her love of sunny skies and warm weather, she and her family moved to Florida for the latter years of her nursing career. Together, they serve the Lord through music and church leadership.

Theresa holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and is an RN-certified case manager specializing in healthy lifestyles and health coaching. With a deep passion for wellness, she loves to deliver consulting materials and resources to clients in Apopka, Florida, through her company, NEWSMART Health Consulting. She is trained in CREATION Life principles from AdventHealth, and champions CHIP, of the Lifestyle Medicine Institute. Her mission is to inspire this generation of youth and young adults to live healthier, happier lives that serve and glorify the Lord. Theresa truly believes that we are all called to minister for Christ; that's why she refers to humankind as "Broken to Serve."



Julie MacLafferty

Born in Michigan and raised in the South, Julie now calls Florida home. Her heart is connected to each place she's lived, including central California and northeastern Brazil, and the people who have impacted her journey along the way. She graduated from Southern Adventist University with a B.A. in Theology and is finishing her master's in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University. She enjoys traveling, either on road trips to see family or around the U.S. and worldwide. When she is home, she loves taking time in nature, reading a good book, exploring new cafes, and taking trips to the beach to renew her soul.

Hearing people's stories along the way is a sheer gift for Julie and one of her favorite pastimes. For the past four and a half years, she has been privileged to serve as the Connections Pastor at the Forest Lake Church in Orlando, where she works with hospitality teams and across ministries to grow disciples. Julie loves engaging with all ages and has a passion for prayer. Journeying with others to find a real and personal relationship with Jesus is one of her greatest joys.



Brenda Owusu

Dr. Brenda Owusu was born and grew up in Freeport, Bahamas. She has been married for the past thirty-one years to Dr. Michael K. Agyei Owusu, who currently serves as President of the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; they share an adult son.

Dr. Owusu is dual board-certified as a Family and Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner. She also holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Miami School of Nursing. She currently serves as Associate Professor and Director of the

Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Miami School of Nursing & Health Studies.

Baptized at the early age of 14, Dr. Owusu has served her church in various capacities. In 1994, she and her husband founded the All-Nations Golden Gate Seventh-day Adventist Church in Naples, Florida. Dr. Owusu's deep love for the Lord is the driving force in her life, and her ultimate desire is to secure her salvation and help guide others toward God's kingdom.



Elisa Rahming

Elisa Rahming is a native of Nassau, Bahamas, where she enjoyed growing up five minutes from the beach. She's a product of Christian Education from elementary school through college. Elisa holds an MBA degree, is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), and is pursuing a master's in Pastoral Ministry from the seminary at Andrews University. She currently serves as the Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer of the Florida Conference and loves her mix of ministry, numbers, and visioning. She is a commissioned pastor and an author.

Elisa is happily single, waiting for the one God has prepared for her. She loves spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys reading and traveling, especially on mission trips that have taken her to many countries, including Brazil, Peru, Malawi, and Guam, where she shared God's word and saw many accept Jesus as their personal Savior as a result of Him working through her.

Her favorite gems are: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Prov 3: 5-6 and "Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children" by E.G. White. Her daily prayer is that the Lord will continue to lead her life as she surrenders daily to Him.



Latazia Stuart

Dr. Latazia Stuart (DoctorTazz) is a global fertility advocate, speaker, coach, and best-selling author of 'The Secrets of Faith Infertility: An Untold Journey of Faith, Fertility, and Favor.' After enduring years of silent suffering and concealing the shame surrounding her infertility and pregnancy losses, DoctorTazz now courageously shares her personal fertility journey, igniting hope and faith in fertility for all who experience fertility challenges. She is the founder and president of Fertility Empowerment International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building hope, breaking the silence, empowering individuals facing fertility issues, and changing the narrative within our communities.

In addition to fertility coaching and support, DoctorTazz provides sensitivity training to organizational leadership, emphasizing a holistic support framework to retain members and associates. Her mission focuses on supporting, educating, and increasing awareness of fertility and reproductive health issues to create safe spaces and break down stigmas. Despite her long and painful fertility journey, DoctorTazz is now an amazing mom to three miracle kids and constantly expresses her gratitude for her supportive husband, Dwayne. With island roots from The Bahamas and living a gluten-free life, she loves the beach and all things guava and pineapple.



Yanelly Jimenez

Yanelly was born into a very active family in the Adventist church and has dedicated her life to serving Christ. She has been a ministry leader for the past 20 years in various roles, such as Youth Director, Children's Ministries Director, Children's Evangelism Director, and Vacation Bible School (VBS) Director until she was called to serve in the Florida Conference in 2022. Yanelly serves as Associate Director for the conference's Children's, Family, and Singles' Ministries.

Prior to working at the conference, Yanelly worked in finance until she had her first child and felt impressed by God to stay at home and raise her children full time. Her favorite things are spending time with her home and serving God.

The past two years have been focused on supporting Florida Conference churches through events, workshops, VBS training, and Sabbath School teacher training. She believes in empowering local churches and giving them tools to grow and impact their communities. Yanelly holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida and is pursuing an MBA from AdventHealth University.

Music



Gale Jones Murphy

Gale Jones Murphy is a concert pianist, vocalist, recording artist, entertainer, worship leader, choral director, humorist, speaker, music clinician, former music educator, and composer of over 800 songs. One of her most popular songs is "Sabbath Rest." She is a published hymn writer with GIA Publications Inc. in two hymnals; "Total Praise" and "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism." She considers it quite an honor to know that congregations worldwide enjoy singing her music.

Gale has a musical family; her husband, William Murphy, plays the bass, their son is a drummer, their daughter is a singer, and their grandchildren are already serving musically at church. They reside in the hills of Groveland, Florida, where daily sunsets are enjoyed from the back window of their home.

Currently, Gale is the Minister of Music and music consultant for several congregations. She is a board member and piano entertainer for the Steinway Society of Central Florida. Gale recently recorded her first piano project, "Worship While I Wait," released in 2023. It's available on YouTube, AdventistBookCenter.com, and all online platforms.



**CAMP
KULAQUA
GENERAL STORE**

CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE · HEALTH FOOD STORE
386-454-7956

ABC Hours

Friday

Saturday Night

Sunday

9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.



Seventh-day Adventist' Church
FLORIDA CONFERENCE

WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES

351 S. State Road 434, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32714
(407) 644-5000 | floridaconference.com