NED Alliance Women Newsletter

HIS MASTERPIECE

A Unique Design

September 2026

For me this summer has been a whirlwind of vacation, ministry, business, and preparing to leave for Senegal on September 8th. Needless to say, it's hard to imagine that we are beginning September with all the ministry activity that brings. It seems as if I blinked and summer is over.

I want to put a plug in for Fall Refocus which will take place on September 25-27, 2026 at Delta Lake Bible Conference Center. We are looking forward to hearing from Samantha Whelsky, our main speaker, and all that she will have for those in attendence centered around the theme of His Masterpiece: A Unique Design. The teen girls in attendance will have their own breakout sessions led by Safia Zaman from Rome Alliance Church. One of our district international workers, Abby, will be with us as well and Brian and Sarah Powell will be leading us in worship.

There will be plenty of opportunity to pause and reflect, as well as get in some free time to just enjoy the beauty of Delta Lake. I hope you will join us! The registration deadline is September 16th which is coming up quickly so get those registrations in.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Terri

Like us on Facebook or check out our website by clicking on the icons above

Go to our website to register
https://nedalliancewomen.org/2026-fall-refocus

ALLIANCE WOMEN

FALL REFOCUS

FRIDAY - SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026

His Masterpiece
A Unique Design



SAMANTHA WHELSKY
MAIN SPEAKER

Worship
Inspirational
IW Speaker
Fun and Fellowship
Shopping

DELTA LAKE BIBLE CONFERENCE CENTER
ROME, NY

Online Registration Link:

Encouraging

EMERGING LEADERS





ARE YOU BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-25 AND LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE A CALL TO MINISTRY?

SERVE WITH ALLIANCE WOMEN

TWO OPPORTUNITIES:

SERVE ON THE SPRING REFRESH PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR 2027

PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER FOR FALL REFOCUS OR SPRING REFRESH.

Contact Terri Groh at terrigroh@yahoo.com

NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT

ALLIANCE MISSIONS SUMMIT

GOSPEL ACCESS: FOR ALL FROM ALL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
9 AM - 3:30 PM
AUBURN ALLIANCE CHURCH



Rev. Bryce Baldwin
Keynote



Amy Reodding
Emerging Leader Track



Missions Spotlight
CAC Worker in W. Africa

- Inspiring Speakers
- Emerging Leaders Track
- Breakout Sessions
- Networking Opportunities
- Lunch provided
- Adults - $40 Teens - $25
- Deadline - Fri. Oct. 9, 2026

Don't miss being a part of something bigger! Whether you're new to Alliance Missions or a seasoned veteran, the NED Alliance Missions Summit offers something for everyone.

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION
(REG. OPENS JULY 1, 2026)

A Beautiful Tapestry
Miah Bartlett

What are some items that you collect or really admire? What makes them special to you?

I have a friend who makes beautiful quilts with carefully calculated patterns, colors, and stitches. One year, she made my husband and me a beautiful quilt that I believe is what they call a "barn quilt pattern," in browns, blacks, and golds. I loved it, and my face said so when I opened the box.

When she gave it to us, my friend told me that this quilt was flawed because a few of the seams were uneven and some fabric pieces were not cut identically. She had made so many that she wanted someone to get good use and enjoyment out of it. I am what I call a "quilt admirer"—not a quilter, not an enthusiast, just an admirer. Much like someone who sits quietly in front of a painting in the Renaissance display hall of an art museum, taking in the colors and stories of each work, I looked at my friend's quilt creation with my untrained eye and saw it as flawless.

Sadly, the first wash revealed all the places where the seams and cloth were not strongly fastened or even. Parts of the quilt began to pull away and even tear. Now it has gaping holes where batting is coming out, and the design is flawed in a few areas because of the tears. But to me, it is still warm and lovely. Lovely because I don't just see the quilt design, but the love and time my friend put into it. In my mind, I see her carefully selecting the colors of cloth and planning out the pattern. I see her gently laying out the layers, smoothing all the bumps and bunches. I see her bending over her sewing machine for hours, guiding the stitching with her hands. I see her folding it lovingly into the box, thinking with pride about who would be blessed by her work.

In much the same way, I see God and how He divinely builds His church, carefully crafting and selecting each of us to make up the beautiful design of the body. Each of us is uniquely designed and neither of lesser nor greater importance than another member of the body. In this great quilt—God's church—we each play a part as the backing, the batting, the binding, or the stitching.

I see the backing as those who come alongside others to help empower their journey in the body. They disciple, mentor, and partner with others to help them grow in their spiritual walk and do the tasks with you to achieve the goal. I think of small group leaders, pastoral spouses, older generations who take younger generations under their wing, and so many more.

Then there are those who are batting who give warmth and weight to the quilt. I think of hospitality teams who greet people, provide meals to the sick and grieving, care for families with new babies, write cards, and support others in tangible ways.

Some are the carefully calculated quilt blocks, the pieces that display the overall design and pattern. These, in my mind, are the Pastoral teams, Elders, worship team, children's ministry

workers, and so many others who are often the most visible parts of the quilt and catch the eye of the onlooker.

Then there are those of us who make up the final two pieces that generally go unnoticed but are essential: the binding and the stitches. These are the ones who fill the gaps, blending in with the pattern while bringing everything together. They ensure that the quilt stays fastened tight, the layers remain aligned, and the pattern holds through use. These are, in my opinion, the administrators, cleaners, sound team, videographers, website builders, decorators, and so many more.

And Jesus, of course, is the sewer. He carefully and intentionally planned the design, measured and cut the fabric, layered it together, and placed every stitch. He is the One who bends over the sewing machine with diligent, watchful eyes and loving care. Jesus knows that every piece of His quilt is necessary, and without even one element, the quilt can begin to unravel, the batting fall out, and thus fail to stand the test of washing, stretching, drying, and everyday use.

Whatever role you see yourself in, you and I are carefully planned and intentionally placed in His design. We are essential and beautiful. When surrendered to Him and His plan, we become part of a beautiful masterpiece – a tapestry of incomparable design.

"But in fact, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body." 2 Corinthians 12:18-20 (NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you see yourself being used in the church? Are you the backing, the batting, the binding or the stitching? What happens if any one of these areas is not functioning as it should?
2. As it states in Corinthians 12 "If they were all one part, where would the body be? How do we keep ourselves from the comparison trap of saying I can't serve like that person, or I wish I had that skill or gift then I could be used in Ministry?
3. The quilt was still valued even after it tore and showed flaws. How does this reflect how God sees us when we feel worn, broken, or imperfect?

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for bringing each of us together with our own unique patterns and designs to create the beautiful masterpiece you are weaving together. Lord, help us to see that we are all a thread that when placed in the perfect spot with the other threads around us we create a tapestry that points to you the ultimate creator. Amen.

Extra Group Activities:

1. Before you get together find a picture you like. Cut it apart into puzzle pieces. Flip it over and number the pieces on the back. When ladies come, give them a piece and tell them to keep the number side up facing them. After the devotional have each lady come up with their numbers in order and put the puzzle together. Put a piece of tape over the numbers to keep it together and then flip it over to show them the beautiful picture they put together. If each lady didn't put their piece in the picture would be incomplete.

2. Scavenger Hunt: Have the ladies divide into groups. Give each one a clue or a map to find a specific item. Here is the twist: leave off an important detail or step. Have a time limit and then gather ladies back together. Discuss how difficult it was and let them know they didn't have all the information. This is just like the church. It functions better when we all do our part (no one is overworked, they bring unique gifts that are needed, etc)

3. Thumbprint Bookmarks: Cut cardstock to the size of a bookmark. Using paint or ink pads, have the ladies put their thumbprint towards the top of the bookmark. Then have them write "God gave you a thumbprint no one else has so that you can leave an imprint NO ONE else can." They can then decorate them with stickers or markers.

Author Bio:



Miah Bartlett is a mom of two precious children. She and her husband will be celebrating their 10-year wedding anniversary this coming year. Miah is passionate about reading, writing, being outdoors, and serving her congregational care work at her church in Saratoga Springs, NY. Her cup is most filled when serving others of various ages through Bible teaching, mentoring, prayer, and actively listening over a meal.