

## **Publicity Information and Resource for Amanda Tyler's Visit to Rochester:**

### **Headline:**

Amanda Tyler, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty visits Rochester.

### **Text:**

In celebration of our Bicentennial and 200 years of Baptist presence in Rochester, the First Baptist Church of Rochester proudly welcomes Amanda Tyler, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, to Rochester. A commitment to religious liberty for all is embedded into the DNA of the United States, but it remains as fragile today as it was at the founding of the nation. Leading the charge in protecting religious liberty in Washington and around the country is the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. Amanda Tyler will help us re-center the importance of this issue for houses of worship, for individuals, and for the nation as well as updating us on the current threats to religious liberty and how we can participate in the work of protecting freedom for all people.

While the BJC has its history and heritage among Baptists, it is committed to protecting the religious liberty of people all faiths and none. All are invited to join us for this important conversation.

### **Date, time, location:**

Community Event: Monday, April 16 6:30pm | First Baptist Church of Rochester | 175 Allens Creek Rd.

No cost and no need to register, but we'd love to know you're coming: <https://www.facebook.com/events/337655049974628/>

### **Amanda Tyler's Bio**

Amanda Tyler is the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. She leads the organization as it upholds the historic Baptist principle of religious liberty, defending the free exercise of religion and protecting against its establishment by government.

Tyler often speaks in churches, educational institutions and denominational gatherings, and she provides commentary on church-state issues to the media. A member of the Texas and U.S. Supreme Court Bar, she has experience working in Congress, in a private legal practice and serving as a law clerk for a federal judge.

A graduate of Georgetown University and the University of Texas School of Law, Tyler previously served on the staff of U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett.

Tyler grew up hearing about the cherished Baptist principles of religious liberty and the separation of church and state in her Baptist church in Austin, Texas, and she first sought out the Baptist Joint Committee 20 years ago

when she moved to D.C. to attend college. She first served on the BJC's staff as assistant to the general counsel from 1999-2001, which included coordinating the broad coalition in support of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.

Tyler became executive director of the BJC in January 2017. A member of First Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., she lives in the city with her husband, Robert Behrendt, and their son, Phelps.

### **General Information on the BJC**

Primarily an education and advocacy organization, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty is a leading voice in Washington, D.C., fighting to uphold the historic Baptist principle of religious freedom. It stands guard at the intersection of church and state, defending the first freedom of the First Amendment by protecting both the free exercise of religion and defending against its establishment by government.

Composed of representatives of 15 national, state and regional Baptist bodies in the United States and supported by thousands of churches and individuals across the country, the BJC is the only faith-based agency devoted solely to religious liberty and the institutional separation of church and state. The organization often combines its efforts with a wide range of religious and civil liberties groups to provide education about and advocacy for religious liberty.

The BJC fights for religious liberty for all, working with other Christian groups as well as with groups that represent Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and other religious and non-religious perspectives.

### **Subscribe:**

Amanda will also be with FBC in worship on Sunday, April 15 at 10am. After worship she will be our featured speaker for our Adult Education Forum addressing specifically the topic of Christian Advocacy.

### **For more information:**

585.244.2468

FBCRochester.net

[office@fbcrochester.net](mailto:office@fbcrochester.net)

For more on the Baptist Joint Committee or Amanda Tyler: [Bjconline.org](http://Bjconline.org)

### **Other Publicity Resources:**

The BJC has given permission to use the following information for publicity.

BJC Intro Video: [vimeo.com/213152820](https://vimeo.com/213152820)

Photos, etc: Attached along with this message OR request from [brent@fbcrochester.net](mailto:brent@fbcrochester.net)