



THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

THE GOOD NEWSletter

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, 33 OAK STREET, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109

VOLUME 22; ISSUE 12

REV. DR. ATU WHITE, PASTOR

MAY 2021

WEEKLY SERVICES FOR MAY

Virtual services, on Sundays and Wednesdays, are livestreamed on our social media platforms and are also accessible by phone. Here's how:

Virtual Worship Service

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on Facebook.com; YouTube.com;

or <http://www.wearemtzion.com>; or

**Dial-in Number: 1-646-749-3117*

Access Code: 140-800-541

If you desire special prayer or would like to join Mt. Zion, call the Church at 413-785-5664 following Sunday service until 12 noon.

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#### Prayer & Meditation Call

**Wednesdays from**

**12 noon to 12:10 p.m.**

*\*Dial-in Number: 1-646-749-3117*

*Access Code: 140-800-541*

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Virtual Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Livestreamed on

Facebook.com; YouTube.com; or

<http://www.wearemtzion.com>

IN-SANCTUARY SERVICES

In-sanctuary services, which began last month, will continue with a limited capacity this month. If you are interested in attending Sunday services in person, you can register by doing the following:

Each Sunday, at the conclusion of the service, call the Church [413-785-5664] between 11:00 a.m. and 12 noon if you want to attend the *following* Sunday service. Someone will take your information (i.e., name, telephone number, etc.) and you will receive a phone call the *following* Thursday to confirm your attendance.

Remember, there is reduced seating in the sanctuary. Also, anyone attending services must...

1. R.S.V.P. for each service.
2. Sit in an assigned seat.
3. Wear a mask throughout the service.
4. Practice social distancing (i.e., stay at least 6 ft apart).

[Note: Additional requirements may be added.]

While in-person services have resumed, livestreaming continues. (See instructions in article to the left.)

**To All Mothers &
Those Who Fill this Role...**



PHONE # FOR MINISTRY MEETINGS

The phone number for any Ministry wishing to have a conference call is...

(470) 480-9021.

HAPPY

MAY BIRTHDAYS



May 5.....Bro. Bobby Hartsfield

May 5.....Sis. Stacey Teasley

May 6.....Bro. Marquis Cole

May 7.....Sis. Deja Ware

May 8.....Sis. Rubie Jackson

May 9.....Sis. Yvonne Thompson

May 11.....Sis. Jacqueline Flowers

May 12.....Sis. Margaret Brown

May 19.....Bro. Earl Baker

May 19.....Deaconess Sarah Jones

May 19.....Sis. Jessica Rapter

May 21.....Bro. Brian Ozenne

May 26.....Bro. Sedric Ramsey

May 27.....Sis. Mary Moore

May 27.....Sis. Linda Parris

May 28.....Sis. Lee Ware

May 30.....Sis. Kimberly Weir

May 31.....Sis. Patricia Ramsey



HAPPY

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 26.....Sis. Pamela Miller
& Bro. Alphonso (Danny) Miller

May 29.....Bro. Ernest Lawson
& Sis. JoAnn Lawson

HAPPY MAY

Author Unknown

May ~ You TRUST God that you are exactly where you are meant to be!

May ~ You not forget the infinite possibilities that are born in FAITH!

May ~ You use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the LOVE that has been given to you!

May ~ You be content knowing you are a child of GOD!

May ~ His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, and bask in HIS SON!

May ~ TODAY, you have peace within!

And...

May ~ ALL the members in the club called MOTHERHOOD—the ones who filled the shoes of, the ones that stood in the gap for, the ones who walked the walk, the ones who talked the talk, the ones who cried the tears, and especially, the ones who prayed the prayers—have a...

Happy Mother's Day!

And to All,
Stay Safe & Stay Blessed!

Revamped & Submitted by
Sis. Andrea "Mimmie" Dixon



MAY 2021

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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### JOINT BOARD MEETING

This month's virtual Join Board Meeting will be held on **Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** All Joint Board members should attend.

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YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Friday, May 14th
at 6:00 p.m.

All YOUTH are invited to attend
via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 893 5399 9325
Passcode: 208710

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### SHE SHED

She Shed will not  
meet this month.

## MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Western Mass Food Bank Mobile Food truck will be in the Union Street parking lot on **Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.** Free fresh produce is available to all, regardless of income. Please tell family and friends.

## TOILETRY DRIVE

The Missionary Ministry is sponsoring a Toiletry Drive to benefit the Springfield Rescue Mission. The drive will run from now until the end of this month—Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Toiletries, including deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, etc., can be dropped off at the Church.

# 44<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH ANNIVERSARY



Please mark your calendars, invite family and friends, and plan to join us virtually or in-sanctuary (if you register in advance) for this special service!

The celebration and recognition of Mt. Zion's **44<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary** will take place this month on **Sunday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m.** Our guest preacher will be Rev. Art J. Gordon, Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Boston. (See bio this page.)

## Some Historical Highlights

In late 1976, a small group of Christians, mostly from Faith Baptist Church in Springfield, MA stepped out on faith to start a new church. On February 6, 1977, this group of 42 members was officially set aside as Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Greater Springfield.

For almost nine months, the Church worshiped each Sunday in the basement of Gardner A.M.E. Zion Church on Carew Street. By the end of 1977, Mt. Zion purchased property at 368 Bay Street and moved there on November 6, 1977.

In May 1978, Rev. Willie Wilkerson was called to be the first Pastor of Mt. Zion.

On Wednesday, August 1, 1979, the Church was struck by lightning, destroying the sanctuary. For almost a year, services were held in the lower auditorium of the building. On October 5, 1980, the congregation "marched" into their new sanctuary, where several changes had occurred. Three of the more dramatic changes were:

- The entrance to the building was changed from Bay Street to Princeton Street.
- The building had been lengthened by 16 feet, where a balcony was added.
- A drop ceiling had been removed so that the A-frame beams could be seen.

Rev. Wilkerson resigned as Pastor in August 1990. In July 1991, Rev. Morris A. Goggins, Sr. was installed as Mt. Zion's second Pastor.

The Church started a weekly community Soup Kitchen in February 1999, and the first issue of the Church's monthly newsletter, "THE MT. ZION MESSENGER: THE GOOD NEWSletter," was published in June 1999.

Rev. Morris A. Goggins, Sr. resigned on December 31, 1999, and Rev. James B. Williams was installed in May 2001 as the Church's third Pastor.

In June 2008, Rev. Williams was called home to be with the Lord.

On December 31, 2010, at Watch Night Service, the tenure of Rev. Atu White began as Mt. Zion's fourth Pastor. He received his doctorate degree and was installed as Pastor in May 2011.

In 2016 When the historic Dunbar Community Center faced the threat of padlocks, Mt. Zion stepped in to stave off foreclosure. Mt. Zion purchased the facility in October 2016 and moved the Church to this campus in May 2017.

In the last 4 ½ years, by God's grace, we have made significant improvements to the property here at 33 Oak Street that we now call home.

## Anniversary Offering

For the Church Anniversary, members are reminded of our sacrificial offering, above our tithes and offerings, of \$244.00 each. If you haven't already, please begin paying on yours now. Money from this offering will go toward purchasing a new boiler on the historic side of the building.

### Brief Bio of Anniversary Preacher

## REV. ART. J. GORDON

Rev. Art J. Gordon was born in Warner Robins, Georgia. He attended Savannah State University where he received his Bachelor's degree in History, graduating with honors.

Rev. Gordon was licensed to preach the Gospel at the Greater Victory Church in Warner Robins.

He attended Boston University School of Theology to prepare for Pastoral Ministry and local politics. He graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2016 with a focus in Theological Ethics.

In the summer of 2018, Rev. Gordon was a recipient of the prestigious FASPE Fellowship (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics) where he studied the role of clergy professionals in Nazi-occupied Germany and Poland.

Rev. Gordon served on the Ministerial Team under Rev. Arthur T. Gerald at the historic Twelfth Baptist Church, He was ordained in August of 2017.

Rev. Gordon became the assistant to Interim Pastor Jeffrey Brown at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in September 2016 and was voted Pastor-Elect in June 2017.

Rev. Gordon is a fourth-generation Baptist pastor and a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He is most proud of being married to Portsha P. Franklin-Gordon of Pace, Mississippi who serves as a College Success Coach at the West End House Boys and Girls Club in Allston.

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE AS OF APRIL 29, 2021

| LOCALE        | CONFIRMED CASES | RECOVERIES  | DEATHS    |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| MASSACHUSETTS | 686,243         | 641,344     | 17,578    |
| UNITED STATES | 32,983,949      | 25,584,747  | 588,341   |
| Globally      | 150,378,992     | 127,924,966 | 3,167,227 |

source: [worldometers.info](http://worldometers.info)

### KEY THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
- Side effects after vaccination are normal.
- You are not fully vaccinated until 2 weeks after the 2nd dose of a two-dose vaccine or two weeks after a one-dose vaccine.
- Everyone 16 years and older is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination.

Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov))

# I REMEMBER MAMA

*Written by Dea. Steve Powell*

No, I'm not talking about the 1948 movie, "I Remember Mama," starring Irene Dunne. I am talking about my Mama, Ethel, and her advice.

When I think about or remember my Mama, two (2) things immediately come to mind: 1) My Mama's advice or instruction was often given as one-liners—a simple sentence or phrase with a powerful meaning, and 2) Mama was great at substitutions—not complaining about what she didn't have but seemingly always knowing how to make do with what she did have.

Mama had a slew of one-liner sayings, such as: 1) "Boy, be particular now."; 2) "Don't argue with a drunk man."; 3) "In decorating a room, alternate a high and a low."; 4) "Sometimes a person is known more for his advocacy than his vocation." As a youngster, I often asked Mama, "What do you mean?", or sometimes, I just interpreted the meaning for myself.

Take the saying, "Boy, be particular now." These were her last words to me when I wanted to "borrow" the family car, or when I was going out on a date, or when I was meeting up with a group of people who I considered "friends." Depending on the situation, "be particular" meant to be careful, be smart, be wise, be observant, "keep your head," be thoughtful, behave yourself, "don't forget your home training," etc.

"Don't argue with a drunk man." Why? Because you'll never win. While you're using logic in an argument, a drunk man (or fool) is probably contemplating how to hit you over the head with a brick. "In decorating...alternate..." Why? Don't think there's only one way to do something. Always consider alternatives or variations and include differences where appropriate. Don't look at decorating – or life -- just one way. "Advocate...vs...vocation." What's the lesson? Sometimes your hobby, secondary or side job will gain you more recognition or pay you more "dividends" than your regular job.

Mama was a high school home economics teacher. Among other things, she was a great cook. She understood food chemistry. I majored in chemistry in college, but often I swore she knew more chemistry from her mastery of home economics and cooking than I did from my classes. If we were out of meat for a meal, she would substitute cheese. Leftovers from one meal often ended up in a casserole or pot pie or soup for the next day. (To this day, I still enjoy a one pot dish.) Mama's father, my granddaddy, best summed up Mama's cooking by saying, she "could take nothing and make it taste like something." If "all-purpose" lye soap was not available, Mama would use kerosene to wash her hair, with a simple explanation, "It's just an oil." When Mama sold the old house, she saved the old, partially rust-colored, black, wood- and coal-burning, cracked potbelly stove. She had it painted black, and then repurposed it as both a magazine rack and family memento for the new house. What's the advice/lessons from the substitutes? Don't be quick to say that this won't or can't work. Be creative. Don't waste.

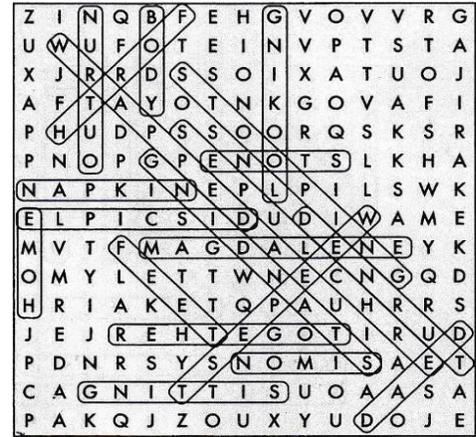
I can still hear in my ear Mama's sage advice today. I hear "Be Particular" the loudest and most often if no more so than because Mama said it to me most often.

Thank you, Mama, and Happy Mother's Day!

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE, "WOMAN, WHY WEEPEST THOU?"

Submitted by Sis. Pamela Medlock

In last month's puzzle this word search puzzle, in recognition of Easter, you were asked to find certain words in John 20:1-14. Words were in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and could be read either forward or backward. Hope you had fun. Here are the answers:



## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: "ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE"

Written by Dea. Steve Powell



**ANIMAL HUNT:** Did you know that there are over 120 species of animals mentioned in the Bible? How many of these animals can you find in the story below? Some animals like to "hibernate" or play hide-and-seek. Look for animals almost anywhere and everywhere. Ignore punctuation when looking. It's almost embarrassing to find where animals hide. [Hint! For instance, there's one animal hiding in the previous sentence!] In the story/puzzle below, at least nine (9) animals appear twice and two (2) appear at least three (3) times. There is a grand total of at least 68 animals.

### At Home Due to the Pandemic

Roxy Crane lived in an A-framed house in a woody region of Alaska with her mother, Camella, and father, Grant. Her schoolmates, Lauren Craven, Tina Lambert, Meg Natter, Clio Newton, and Liz Ardsley lived within a half-mile of her. Vi Perry lived closer as did Kit Eden and Leo Pardee. During normal times, she and her dog, a cute beagle, named Prowler, would often visit her friends, where "hello" customarily was their greeting. However, with the rampant COVID-19 virus, now wasn't normal times. In fact, these days, she and Liz, her best friend and confidante, loped around in the woods like gazelles rather than walk at a snail's pace. On long walks, they would add erringly along Liz's brother, Buzz Ardsley, who would leech their snacks while clasping or hugging trees at the same time. On some of their treks, using a quicker pace, they would run into Vi's cousin, Levi, at Hang-Out or Stork's, each of which is a general store.

Mostly, now, she stayed at home. Today, after she wolfed down her favorite breakfast of waffle and egg, oatmeal, and raisins, she slowly swallowed her juice. She looked out of the big picture window in the living room. She knew that it was cold and windy outside. She had an eye like a hawk. She could see gecko-looking creatures, grazing reindeer, and an occasional fox, and at the bottom of a nearby mountain, sheep. Out of the rear window of the house she could see a battered kite nesting beneath a real tall tree and view the small seaplane "parked" in the backyard near the lake, which was filled -- overstocked-- with a variety of fish, including some bass (though not native). Her father, who has a pilot license, could fly off at any time.

The wi-fi she had access to was spotty. Sometimes Zoom worked. Sometimes not. Sometimes, she smiled. Other times, she scowled. It seemed lonesome without the regular in-person contact with her friends. To escape the pandemic, these days she dove into reading or least into books. Sometimes she would leapfrog from book to book or use the books for horseplay. She did not like being pigeonholed. She did not consider herself a bookworm, but rather a "bookgrasshopper." Her only regret at times was a shortage of books. She has been down in spirit several times but refused to be muleheaded and stay there. She would bat around ideas of how to stay pepped up. She knew she had to grin and bear whatever circumstances and not drag on and on about the pandemic. It would not steal her joy as she twisted the amulet chain around her neck. She had heard recently that anyone 16 and older in her state of Alaska could get vaccinated. She thought, "It is now March 2021. With the vaccines out there, I'll soon be 'out of the woods.'" She smiled!