



THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

THE GOOD NEWSletter

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 33 Oak Street, Springfield, MA 01109

Volume 23; Issue 4

Rev. Dr. Atu White, Pastor

September 2021

WEEKLY SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

*Virtual services on Sundays & Wednesdays
are livestreamed on our social media platforms
and website and are accessible by phone:*

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 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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***Bible Study** Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Livestreamed on Facebook.com; YouTube.com; or

<http://www.wearemtzion.com>

***Please Note:**

The Prayer & Meditation Call and Bible Study
will resume **Wednesday, September 15th**.

A CHANGE TO ATTEND IN-SANCTUARY SERVICES

In-sanctuary services continue this month--still
with limited seating, but with one major change...

Anyone wishing to attend services at 10:00 a.m. on
Sundays no longer needs to call the Church to reg-
ister. Rather, attendees can simply come to the
Church by 9:55 a.m. (Doors close at 10:00 a.m.)

Everyone in attendance must still:

1. Have their temperature taken upon entering.
2. Wear a mask throughout the service.
3. Practice social distancing (i.e., stay at least
6-feet apart).

For those who choose not to attend services at in
the sanctuary, you can continue to worship via
livestreaming. (See article to the left.)

GRANDPARENTS DAY

National Grandparents Day is celebrated on the
first Sunday after Labor Day. This year the date
falls on September 12th. Grandparents Day is an op-
portunity to treasure the connection between
grandparents and grandchildren and spend some
quality family time together.

Grandparents Day — The Full History and How You Can Celebrate (nationaltoday.com)

If you are blessed to still have your grandparents
with you, take a moment to tell them they are loved.

**HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY TO ALL
MT. ZION GRANDPARENTS!!**

PHONE # FOR MINISTRY MEETINGS

The phone number for any Ministry wishing to
have a conference call is...**(470) 480-9021**.

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 1-----Bro. Thomas Garner
 Sept. 2-----Sis. Kelli Powell
 Sept.3-----Sis. Michelle Murphy
 Sept. 4-----Bro. Kenneth Asiamah, Jr.
 Sept. 5-----Dea. Ivrie Thompson
 Sept. 6-----Sis. Deborah Gary
 Sept. 6-----Sis. Samantha Hamilton
 Sept. 6-----Bro. Camren Housey
 Sept. 6-----Sis. Rosie Madera
 Sept. 9-----Sis. Tameka Bennett
 Sept. 9-----Sis. Thomasina Jones
 Sept. 10-----Sis. Andrea Dixon
 Sept. 11-----Sis. Nicole Taylor
 Sept. 14-----Sis. Angela Caldwell
 Sept. 15-----Sis. Alycia Drake
 Sept. 17-----Sis. Earlean Caldwell
 Sept. 17-----Sis. Tracy Johnson
 Sept. 18-----Bro. Samuel Thomas
 Sept. 21-----Sis. Lakisha Coppedge
 Sept. 21-----Sis. Diane Ledbetter
 Sept. 21-----Sis. Ebony Shippy
 Sept. 23-----Sis. Adreana Caldwell
 Sept. 24-----Sis. Tracy Sasnecki
 Sept. 25-----Sis. Suzetta Crane
 Sept. 25-----Sis. Deborah Stone
 Sept. 26-----Bro. Earl 'Mitch' Andrews
 Sept. 27-----Sis. Tashia Jordan
 Sept. 28-----Sis. Aundrea Paulk-Lopez

BATTERIES

Author Unknown

When a flash-
light grows dim
or quits working,
do you just
throw it away?



Of course not.
You change the batteries.

When a person messes
up or finds themselves in
a dark place,
do you cast them aside?



Of course not!
You help them
change their
batteries:

Some need **AA...**
Attention & Affection.

Some need **AAA...**
**Attention, Affection, &
Acceptance.**

Some need **C...**
Compassion.

Some need **D...**
Direction.

And if they still don't seem
to shine,
simply sit with them
quietly
and share your light.



Submitted by Sis. Andrea Dixon

Pastor to Preach in Taunton

Our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White**, will be the guest preacher for a Deacons Ordination service on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. This service will take place at The Baptist Church Of All Nations, 61 Winthrop Street, Taunton, MA, where Rev. Charles Hightower, Jr. is the Pastor.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The meetings listed below are scheduled for this month:

JOINT BOARD MEETING

This month's Joint Board Meeting will be held via teleconference on **Monday, September 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.** All Joint Board members should attend.

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### YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Youth Bible Study will not meet this month. It will resume in October.

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SHE SHED FELLOWSHIP

She Shed will meet on **Friday, September 24, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.**

All **WOMEN** are invited to attend via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 861 7008 0435

Passcode: 173488

Or the dial-in number is:

+1-301-715-8592

Topic: "God Disciplines the Disciples"
Scripture: Romans 9:14-25

A SUCCESSFUL FOOD GIVEAWAY

Written by *Sis. Andrea Dixon*

On the evening of August 24, 2021, Pastor Atu received a call from Jynai McDonald, who is the Family Child Care Coordinator for SEIU (Local #509). (She's also running for City Council for Ward #4)



Jynai McDonald

On that evening, she was working for the Outreach Unit of Eversource CT. Because this area had not experienced the worst from the previous storms, the Company had an abundance of frozen foods to distribute.

Jynai was looking for a facility to distribute the foods. Well, she called the right person, **Pastor Atu White!** Pastor White called me. We had a 3-way conversation, and made it happen, and we were not the only recipient of this gift. Jynai had this event broadcast on the radio, announced on Facebook, shared through word of mouth, and by phone calls.

On August 25, 2021, around 12 noon, at the gym's door, U-Hauls and private cars arrived with the 'shipment,' which filled 10-12 6-ft. tables of frozen foods: chicken, beef, pork chops, fries, vegetables, breads, rolls, breakfast items, milk, fresh apples, and oranges!!! What a blessing it was, and the people came!!!

Jynai's helper, Devin Streeter, who is also her campaign managers, was so very helpful. (Devin is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and he too, is a community activist.) I pray they keep us in mind if in the future we're needed again.

I would personally like to thank **Sis. Angela Westbrook** for helping organize and distribute the food. A huge thank you and appreciation goes out to our Pastor, Dr. Atu White (the ram in the bush—making things happen) for stepping out again, and making us, Mt. Zion, a focal point for the community which we serve!!

We're a blessed Church!!! With a blessed Leader!!! Oh yes, we are!!!

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Written by *Sis. Anna Howell*

The Missionary Ministry is sponsoring a coat drive for children and adults, September 1st - October 10th. You may drop off coat(s) Monday thru Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and on Sundays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Church.



We ask that you please donate **NEW** or gently used **CLEANED** coats. All donations are greatly appreciated. May God Bless you to help others. If you have any questions, please contact **Sis. Anna Howell**.

THE HENDERSON ROOM

When Mt. Zion purchased The Dunbar Center in 2016, there was only one room in the building with a name on the door. Located on the 2nd floor on the historic side, the "Henderson Room" had been named years earlier in honor/memory of Ernest J. Henderson, co-founder, and former owner (along with his wife) of Henderson's Funeral Home.

Earlier this year (see the June 2021 newsletter) the Henderson Conference Room was redecorated, and a brand new 14-foot conference room table was added. Last month, Paulette Henderson, daughter of the founder and current owner of Henderson's, made a monetary donation to the Church to continue her father's legacy here at The Dunbar.



Thank you, Sis. Henderson!

A SOLDIER GONE HOME

SIS. LETHA HARRISON

went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, August 21, 2021.

Sis. Harrison, who was a member of the Senior Usher Ministry, will be sorely missed.

ARTS FESTIVAL

THIS MONTH

What: Mattoon Street Arts Festival

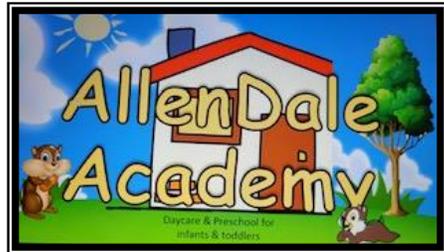
Where: Mattoon Street, Springfield

When: September 11th & 12th

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. both days

Come and enjoy the arts and crafts of over 100 vendors. Also, please stop by and say hello to our member, **Sis. Awilda Oxios**, and see her latest paintings.

Member Opens Business



AllenDale Academy will open on September 7, 2021. The proprietor of this new business is our own member, **Sis. Marcia Borders**.

AllenDale Academy, a daycare & preschool for infants and toddlers (newborns to 3-year-olds), will be opened Mondays through Fridays from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Located at 35 Long Terrace, Springfield, MA, the program will follow the Mother Goose curriculum. **Note:** Transportation is not provided.

For more information or to enroll your child, call 413-306-1821.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE: A WORD SEARCH

"PSALM 47"

Submitted by Sis. Earlean Caldwell

Last month, you were presented with a word search puzzle to locate 20 phrases found in Psalm 47. All the phrases were in a straight line either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, and could be read either forward or backward. How did you do? Take a look and see.

Find These Phrases:

- ALL THE EARTH
- ALL YE PEOPLE
- BELONG UNTO GOD
- CLAP YOUR HANDS
- GATHERED TOGETHER
- GOD IS GONE UP
- GOD REIGNETH
- GREAT KING
- GREATLY EXALTED
- HE SHALL SUBDUE
- HIS HOLINESS
- LORD MOST HIGH
- OUR INHERITANCE
- SHOUT UNTO GOD
- SING PRAISES
- SOUND OF A TRUMPET
- UNDER OUR FEET
- UNDERSTANDING
- UPON THE THRONE
- VOICE OF TRIUMPH



THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: WORD LADDERS

A Word Ladder is a kind of puzzle in which one word is transformed into another specified word of the same length by changing one letter at a time, each step yielding a valid intermediate word. In each of the "ladders" below, fill in the words, using the definitions and the one-letter clue given. [Note: the **bold underline** is the only letter that changes from the word above it.]

LADDER #1

_____ _____
A BRIEF LETTER

_____ _____
A TYPE OF LEARNING

_____ _____
PRICE PER/HOUR

_____ _____
R

_____ _____
HIGHLY UNUSUAL

_____ _____
CONCERNED ABOUT

_____ _____
IT'S A HALLMARK

LADDER #2

_____ _____
THE TOP OF YOUR BODY

_____ _____
TO GET WELL

_____ _____
A BLUISH/GREEN COLOR

_____ _____
SHARE/REVEAL INFORMATION

_____ _____
A

_____ _____
NOT SHORT

_____ _____
BACK OF A DOG

LADDER #3

_____ _____
STORMY SKY COLOR

_____ _____
D

_____ _____
PERSON WITH A DEGREE

_____ _____
UNIT OF WEIGHT

_____ _____
STREETCAR

_____ _____
ORGANIZED GROUP

_____ _____
BLUISH/GREEN COLOR

LADDER #4

_____ _____
NOT HOT; NOT COLD

_____ _____
PART OF A PRECINCT

_____ _____
L

_____ _____
GREASE

_____ _____
PROPRIETOR OF A MANOR

_____ _____
A THIN ROPE

_____ _____
NOT HOT

Good luck! Answers will be in next month's newsletter.

MT. ZION CELEBRATES UNITY!

Written by Sis. Charlette Scott

Sunday, August 29th, Unity Day, was a great day to stand in unison with the congregation and the community. For those of you who are wondering what exactly is Unity Day, read on...

The birth of Unity Day, symbolized by the colors of red, black, and green, came about as Mt. Zion's way of continuing the celebration of Juneteenth! The purpose of Unity Day was not only to celebrate those who came before us, but to uplift those who are still here. This year's event was sponsored by one of our community partners--UMass Five Credit Union.

To commence this day, our featured guest soloist, Shane Davis (also a previous contestant on the TV show, "Sunday Best"), provided the music with a trio of guest singers. The guest preacher, Rev. Ashley Ramsey of the Rehoboth Church of God, Bloomfield, CT, preached from the sermon title, "Asking for a Friend," using John 11:1-4 as her background scripture. At the end of the service, Rev. Ramsey sold and autographed her book, titled, "*Surrender, When God Says No.*"

Following service, over 60 members and friends gathered on the outdoor basketball court for a Juneteenth decorated themed celebration. At this event, 20 backpacks/tote bags filled with school supplies were handed out, and a game to test attendees' knowledge of Juneteenth was played. After the blessing of the food, everyone lined up to be served a delicious meal of fried chicken, fried fish, rice and beans, string beans, potato salad, corn on the cob, hot dogs, hamburgers, cupcakes, and ice cream—all prepared by friends and the men of Mt. Zion. Everything was delicious!

Special thanks to UMass Five Credit Union for their sponsorship, and to **Sis. Gwendolyn Ozenne** and the Trustee Ministry for heading up this wonderful event.



Volunteers pre-packed backpacks and totes with school supplies.



We look forward to seeing you all at next year's Unity "Umoja" Day event!!

MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Western Mass Food Bank Mobile Food Truck will be at The Dunbar Center in the Union Street parking lot on **Friday, September 24th** from **1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Free fresh produce is available to all, regardless of income. Invite family and friends.

COVID-19 INFORMATION Massachusetts Mask Requirements

Effective July 30: The Department of Public Health has issued a new mask advisory in light of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's updated guidance. Fully vaccinated individuals are advised to wear a mask or face covering when indoors (and not in your own home) if you have a weakened immune system, or if you are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is an unvaccinated adult. Masks are still mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings.

[COVID-19 Mask Requirements | Mass.gov](#)

[Note: Here at Mt. Zion, we still require masks be worn while inside the building.]

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2021			
LOCALE	CONFIRMED CASES	RECOVERIES	DEATHS
MASSACHUSETTS	765,584	N/A	18,286
UNITED STATES	40,631,809	31,227,771	663,902
GLOBALLY	220,464,006	196,999,803	4,563,781

source: worldometers.info

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Written by Sis. Andrea "Mimmie" Dixon

For the past 8 weeks, Pastor Atu has been teaching and preaching on the Holy Spirit in relation to our Christian Growth.

At a recent service I attended in Englewood, NJ, at the door of the church were leaflets regarding suggestions for Christian Growth. I thought it would be worth sharing with my church family:

G: Go to God in prayer daily (John 15:7)

R: Read God's word daily (Acts 17:11)

O: Obey God moment by moment (John 14:21)

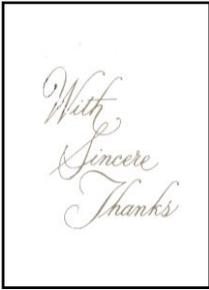
W: Witness for Christ by your life and words (Matt. 14:19 & John 15:8)

T: Trust God for every detail of your life (1Peter 5:7)

H: Holy Spirit—allow Him to control & empower your daily life & witness (Gal. 5:16 & 17, Acts 1:8)

Isn't it a blessing to know that the Word is being spread no matter where you go! Here in Springfield under the watchful eye of our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White**, or in New Jersey under the care of Rev. Lester W. Taylor, Jr., Sr. Pastor of the Community Baptist Church of Englewood. A Blessing! Thank you & May God continue to Bless you both!

THANK YOU CARDS



FRONT: *With Sincere Thanks*

INSIDE:

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card, Or sat quietly in a chair;
Perhaps you sent beautiful flowers, If so, we saw them there.
Perhaps you sent or spoke kind words, As any friend could say;
Perhaps you were not there at all, Just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console the heart, We thank you so much, whatever the part.*

Selera Barcuis & Kelli English



FRONT: *"A blessing is just what you need, right when you need it."*

INSIDE: *To: Rev. White & the Mt. Zion Church Family, Thank you so very much...*

PERSONAL NOTE:

...For allowing my family to use the Church on the service of my brother.

The Grundy & Brantley Family



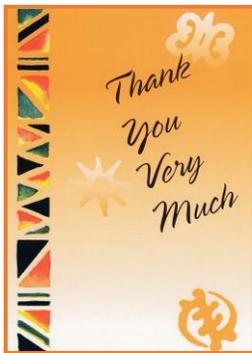
FRONT: *Thank You*

PERSONAL NOTE INSIDE:

Mt. Zion Church Family,

Thank you so very much for continuing to send me your inspiring bulletins (newsletters) every month. I appreciate them (and you)! ♥

Renee Reliford



FRONT: *Thank You Very Much*

PERSONAL NOTE INSIDE:

Rev. Dr. Atu White & Mt. Zion Church,

We, the members of the Building Committee of MLK, Jr. Community Presbyterian Church, offer our sincerest thanks for allowing us to tour your worship edifice.

Rev. White, thank you for the "green light."

Deaconess Wanda Powell, thank you for making the arrangements.

Trustee Richard Scroggins, our phenomenal tour guide, thank you for providing an intricately detailed tour. Trustee Scroggins, you left no question unanswered.

We are grateful to have partners in Christ in Mt. Zion. God's Blessings to you all.

*Elder Rachelle Lee, Deacon Jacquelyn Lee- Washington,
Tiffany Parks-Morgan, James Watts, MLK Church*



A NOTE: *We want to thank the DAV Honor Guards and Mt. Zion Veterans for service during the Homegoing service of **Bro. Ernie Lawson** on Tuesday, August 10th. May God Bless You.*

*From District #9 Commander Walker Bryant &
Chapter #68 Commander Jesse McKnight*