



THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

Phone # 413-785-5664 * E-mail: wearemtzion@gmail.com * Website: wearemtzion.com

Volume 24: Issue 7 * Rev. Dr. Atu White, Pastor * December 2022

IN-PERSON SERVICES

Anyone wishing to attend Sunday service in person must be at the Church by 9:55 a.m. Doors will close at 10:00 a.m. No pre-registration is required.

In addition, all who attend must:

1. Have their temperature taken upon entering.
2. Wear a mask throughout the service.
[Note: Masks are still required to be worn while inside the building.]
3. Practice social distancing (i.e., stay at least 6 feet apart, which means, no hugs, handshakes, close contact, etc.)

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



LOVE,
THE NEWSLETTER MINISTRY

DECEMBER WEEKLY SERVICES

Worship Service

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

In Person in the Sanctuary or Livestreamed on Facebook.com; YouTube.com; or on our website, wearemtzion.com

If you desire special prayer or would like to join Mt. Zion, call the Church and leave a message. Someone will return your call.

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#### DECEMBER CANCELLATIONS

##### Prayer & Meditation Call

**Wednesdays at 12 noon**

##### & Bible Study

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

*Both will resume in January.*

### **Watch Night Service --To Be Held Twice!**

Please join us to watch the old year leave and the new year come in on  
**Saturday, December 31, 2022.**

#### **12 Noon**

Service will be held both Live in the Sanctuary & Virtually on our Social Media Platforms.

*Livestreamed on Facebook.com; YouTube.com; or <http://www.wearemtzion.com>.*

#### **11:00 p.m.**

Watch Night Service will be Virtual Only.

*Livestreamed on Facebook.com; YouTube.com; or <http://www.wearemtzion.com>.*

## HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 2.....Sis. Alonzetta Gabriel  
 Dec. 2.....Bro. Marcus Holmes  
 Dec. 3.....Sis. Aunesty May  
 Dec. 5.....Sis. Arlene Garner  
 Dec. 5.....Sis. Diane Jacobs  
 Dec. 10.....Sis. Delania Barbee  
 Dec. 11.....Sis. Carla Connell  
 Dec. 11.....Bro. Solomon Hinds  
 Dec. 11.....Sis. Akisha Maddox  
 Dec. 11.....Sis. Yanitza Nogue  
 Dec. 14.....Sis. Patrice Wood  
 Dec. 15.....Sis. Tonya Shippy-Brice  
 Dec. 15.....Sis. Kathy Griffin  
 Dec. 16.....Bro. Kelvin Baldwin  
 Dec. 18.....Bro. Darrell Coppedge, Jr.  
 Dec. 19.....Sis. Carolyn Herring  
 Dec. 19.....Sis. Sharna Grayson  
 Dec. 22.....Sis. Catherine Bass  
 Dec. 22.....Sis. Lynda Long  
 Dec. 25.....Sis. Tracetta Caudle  
 Dec. 25.....Sis. Latora Godbolt  
 Dec. 25.....Sis. Christine Hartsfield  
 Dec. 26.....Bro. Geordan Dillard  
 Dec. 27.....Bro. Edward Caudle  
 Dec. 28.....Sis. Victoria Washington  
 Dec. 30.....Sis. Keturah Mahdi

## HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 2.....Sis. Tina Garner-Tucker  
 & Bro. Reggie Tucker

## SOME 'TIDBITS' FOR CHRISTMAS

“This is the day the Lord  
has made. We will rejoice  
and be glad in it.”  
Psalm 118:24

“And there were in the same  
country shepherds abiding in  
the field, keeping watch over  
their flock by night.”  
Luke 2:8

“Joy rises in my heart until  
I burst out in songs  
of praise to Him.”  
Psalm 28:7

“...We saw His star in the  
East and have come  
to worship Him.”  
Matthew 2:2

“All good and perfect gift is  
from above, coming down  
from the Father of lights.”  
James 1:17

“You have made known to  
me the paths of life; You will  
fill me with joy in  
Your presence.”  
Acts 2:28

“Glory to God in the  
highest, and on earth peace,  
good will toward men.”  
Luke 2:14

*Submitted by Sis Andrea Dixon*



## CANCELLED MEETINGS

The following meetings  
and fellowships are  
**CANCELLED**  
for the month of  
**December.**

There will be **NO...**  
**JOINT BOARD MEETING**  
**DEACON MINISTRY MEETING**  
**MISSIONARY MINISTRY MEETING**  
**MAN CAVE FELLOWSHIP**  
**SHE SHED FELLOWSHIP**  
*ALL will resume in January!*

## DECEMBER CHOIR REHEARSALS

### Male Chorus Rehearsals:

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 12 noon  
 Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6 p.m.

### Mass Choir Rehearsals:

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m.  
 Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6 p.m.

### Children's Choir Rehearsal:

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 p.m.

## ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Our Annual Church Business  
Meeting will be held in person on  
Sunday, January 22, 2023,  
following the 10:00 a.m. service.

All Mt. Zion members  
are encouraged to attend.

Mark your calendars! More infor-  
mation to come in January.

## *New Members*

Joining Mt. Zion in November was:

**BRO. TERRANCE CAWLEY**

**Date Joined:** November 20, 2022

**Method:** Candidate for Baptism

**BRO. TIMOTHY MORRIS**

**Date Joined:** November 27, 2022

**Method:** Christian Experience

**SIS. SYERIA SEABROOKS**

**Date Joined:** November 20, 2022

**Method:** Candidate for Baptism

*Welcome All!*

## **THANK YOU!**

The Deacon Ministry would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's Christmas decorations. Along with members of the Deacon Ministry, several other Mt. Zionites came out on Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> to lend a hand. Special thanks to **Sis. Arlene Garner, Sis. Angela Westbrook**, and members of our **Volunteer Maintenance Crew** for your manpower, creative ideas, and most of all your beautiful spirit and willingness to help to make the holidays more festive.

## **NO MOBILE FOOD TRUCK**

The Western Mass Food Bank's Mobile Food truck will **NOT** be on our property in December. It is scheduled to resume in January.

## **Pastor to Preach in Holyoke**

Our friend and sister in Christ, Rev. Paula Alexander, is retiring as the Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Community Church, Holyoke, MA. Several events are planned in her honor:

On Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be a banquet at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee, MA. Anyone interested in buying tickets can contact Mary Maddox at 413-788-4249.

On **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**, our Pastor, **Rev. Dr. Atu White**, will be the guest preacher at Bethlehem Baptist Community Church, 304 Elm Street, Holyoke, MA 01040, for a **3:00 p.m.** service. All who can, please plan to accompany the Pastor and honor Rev. Alexander.

## **The Pastor's Birthday**

Pastor White's birthday was November 17<sup>th</sup>, but the Church recognized it on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service.

As Pastor White made his way to the front of the Church after the benediction, he was serenaded by the congregation with a rendition of "We at Mt. Zion Wish You a Happy Birthday," led by our Minister of Music, Rev. Frank Thompson. At the same time, **Deaconess Deborah Jones**, Ministry Leader of the Pastor's Aid Ministry, entered the sanctuary with a tiny cake, lit with just one candle. Deaconess Jones then proceeded to present the Pastor with two gifts from the Church and invited anyone else with gifts and well-wishes to come forward and do the same. Everyone did.

As members left the sanctuary, they were given slices of birthday cake (already in to-go containers) to take home and enjoy.

## **A SOLDIER GONE HOME**

### **SIS. EULA B. JOHNSON**

went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, November 19, 2022.

Sis. Johnson, who served as our Interim First Lady in 2010, and joined Mt. Zion in 2011, will be sorely missed.

## **Christmas Service On Christmas Day**

Please join us at our 10:00 a.m. Christmas Service on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the preached word from our Pastor, there will be a mini-Christmas concert from our Music Ministry.

What better way to celebrate our Savior's birth than coming together to worship and praise His name on Christmas Day. Please invite family & friends.

## **Missionary Christmas Program at Mason Wright**

The Missionary Ministry will have a small Christmas Program for the residence of Mason Wright Assisted Living on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. The program will be at the Mason Wright Facility, 74 Walnut Street in Springfield. Our own Minister of Music, Rev. Frank Thompson will deliver a sermonette and **Dea. Dan Jones & Deaconess Deborah Jones** will sing.

# 2022 TITHES, OFFERINGS, & OTHER DONATIONS

For your tithes, offerings, or other donations to be credited to your 2022 giving, monies must be received by 12/31/2022, if giving via Sunday offering or submitting funds electronically via Givelify or CashApp, or monies must be postmarked by 12/31/2022, if sending via USPS.

Mt. Zion currently offers four (4) ways to make a financial donation to the Church:

1. **SENDING IT THROUGH THE MAIL (USPS)** to **Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 33 Oak Street, Springfield, MA 01109.** [Note: Only checks or money orders should be sent via the United States Postal Service.]
2. **DROPPING IT OFF IN PERSON** in the brown mailbox labeled "Mt. Zion Only," which is to the right of the Orleans Street entrance.
3. **GIVING IT ON-LINE THROUGH GIVELIFY:** Download and use the free app, 'Givelify.' A picture of the outside of the Church should assure you that you have the correct organization.
4. **GIVING IT THROUGH CASH APP:** Download and use the free app, "Cash App." **When you give a donation/ offering through Cash App, it is extremely important that you use the correct Cash App Tag. Our Cash Tag is...**

**\$mtzionbaptistchurch**

[Note: The name is spelled out completely, using the abbreviation 'mt' for 'mount.']

The 2022 Giving Statements will be available by January 31, 2023.

## Funfest 413 Returns

by Sis. Charlette Scott



It all started with a thought that after a 2-year hiatus, this was going to be a scaled down version of previous Funfest 413 events - at least that's what the Pastor and the Trustees of Mt. Zion Baptist Church planning committee believed; but the community thought differently. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, in conjunction with the Shriners Suez Court 149 and Suez Temple no. 114, welcomed over 300 people to Funfest 413. This year's event did not disappoint. It was a great night of fellowship, good fun and games.

To create a New England Harvest experience at this year's event, The Dunbar Center gym was decorated with a theme centered around scarecrows and hay. Visitors were offered treats from the Apple farm: cider donuts, apple cider, candied apples, Rice Krispies, pizza, chips, unlimited candy, and a beverage. Followed by games of "Guess how much candy corn in jar?" "Guess the weight of the pumpkin" and the grand finale game was a "Trunk or Treat" contest where participants were judged on the decoration of their car trunks. All the trunks entered were nicely decorated with themes that represented various organizations or themes. The winners of this year's Funfest 413 trunk or treat were:

1<sup>st</sup> place: **Sis. Patrice Wood** with a theme of "Blessed."

2<sup>nd</sup> place: **Sis. Tashia Jordan** theme of "Frankenstein."

3<sup>rd</sup> place: **Sis. Andrea Dixon** theme of "Scarecrows & Webs."

We would like to thank the following supporters of this event: UMass Five Federal Credit Union, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services, Shriners Suez Court 149, Suez Temple no. 114, **Sis. Debra Gary** for the delicious candy apples, **Bro. Brian Ozenne** for DJ services, City Councilor Tracye Whitfield, and C-3, and all the members and volunteers from Mt. Zion who donated candy and funds, and/or volunteered their time to participate in this wonderful event. We thank God for the resources, partnerships, and the ability to host another safe and successful Funfest 413 Event!

## UBC at MT. ZION

Due to the lingering COVID-19 issues, the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the United Baptist Convention of MA, RI, & NH (UBC), which would normally have been held in July, was moved to November. Mt. Zion served as the host church.

From Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 23 member churches, their delegates, and a host of other attendees experienced powerful worship services, enjoyed delicious food, and rekindled old relationships through wonderful fellowship.

For several reasons, including surgery and severe weather delaying flights, the original schedule of preachers had to be modified. Ultimately...

- Rev. Dr. Lester Taylor, Jr., senior pastor of the Community Baptist Church of Englewood, NJ, and Vice President of the Northeast Region of the National Baptist Convention USA, preached the Opening Service on Thursday evening.
- Rev. Philippe E. C. Andal, senior pastor of Community Baptist Church, New Haven, CT, preached the Missions Service Friday morning.
- Rev. Jennifer L. Carner of House of Hope Church, Atlanta, GA, preached the Centennial Celebration Service on Friday evening.
- And our own Pastor, and President of the UBC, **Rev. Dr. Atu White**, preached the Closing Service on Saturday morning.

All-in-all, it was an awesome Session, one befitting 100 years of ministry.  
Mt. Zion congratulates the UBC on this amazing milestone!

Special thanks to all the Mt. Zion Volunteers  
for giving of your time and talents to make this event so successful!!

## PUZZLES!

### LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE: "PHONE-ETICS"

*Last month you were tasked to use the rotary dial of the long forgotten rotary phones to spell out a Bible quotation. How did you do? Here's the quote:*

6 5672 697 5672, 469 302355368 48 840 6153 46 155 843 31784!  
O LORD, OUR LORD, HOW EXCELLENT IS THY NAME IN ALL THE EARTH!

946 4188 838 840 35670 11693 843 4319368.  
WHO HAST SET THY GLORY ABOVE THE HEAVENS.

~ PSALMS 8:1



### THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: "SIMON'S SQUARES"

For this month's puzzle, fit the letters 'S', 'I', 'M', 'O', and 'N' into the grid in such a way that each horizontal row, each vertical column, and each of the heavily outlined sections of five squares contains a different letter. Some letters are already in place. Good Luck! Answers will be in next month's newsletter.

|          |          |  |          |          |
|----------|----------|--|----------|----------|
|          |          |  |          | <b>I</b> |
|          |          |  |          |          |
|          | <b>N</b> |  |          |          |
| <b>M</b> |          |  |          | <b>S</b> |
|          |          |  | <b>O</b> |          |