



THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

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Rev. Dr. Atu White, Pastor

January 2023

*Happy
New Year*

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.)

WEEKLY SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Worship Service

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

In-Person or Livestreamed

*on Facebook.com; YouTube.com; and
on our website, wearemtzion.com*

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.**

The Dial-in Number is (470) 480-9021.

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***Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Livestreamed on

*Facebook.com; YouTube.com; and
on our website, wearemtzion.com*

***There will be no Prayer & Meditation Call, nor Bible Study on the first two Wednesdays of the month. Both will resume on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.**



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- January 6----Bro. John (Larry) Charles
- January 7-----Bro. Alfred Dixon
- January 10-----Min. James Coppedge
- January 10-----Sis. Jedda Coppedge
- January 11-----Sis. Aaliyah Flowers
- January 14-----Sis. Marguerita Lee
- January 15-----Sis. Tawanda Kitt-Bass
- January 15-----Sis. Awilda Oxios
- January 17-----Bro. Jahleel Gabriel
- January 18-----Sis. Carinia Taylor
- January 20-----Bro. William Freeman
- January 21-----Bro. Zakahri Caldwell
- January 22-----Sis. Karla Davis
- January 22-----Bro. Dyonte Duke
- January 23-----Sis. Kenzona Ledbetter
- January 25-----Bro. Samuel R. Bass
- January 25-----Sis. Ida Williams
- January 26-----Dea. Jesse McKnight
- January 27-----Bro. Justin Culp
- January 27-----Sis. Naomi Hardimon
- January 27---Deaconess Lucille Hogan
- January 28-----Sis. Danielle Ware

Happy January Anniversaries



- January 19-----Bro. Ronnie Williams
& Sis. Linda Williams
- January 26-----Bro. Tavis Scott
& Sis. Charlette Scott

If you're looking for a New Year's resolution, consider this...

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER?

Author Unknown

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that "just belongs"?

Do you ever work on committees
To see there is no trick?
Do you do your job well
And without a kick?
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

We have quite a program
scheduled
That I'm sure you'll hear about
And it would be appreciated
If you would come and help out.

Think this over, fellow member
You know right from wrong,
Are you an active member
Or do you "just belong"?

Please come to the
meetings often
And practice with hands
and heart
Don't be "just a member"
Take an ACTIVE part!!!

Submitted by Sis. Andrea Dixon
From our Newsletter Archives--January 2012

JANUARY 2023 MEETINGS

All the following meetings will
be held in person at the Church:

JOINT BOARD

The Joint Board will meet on
Wednesday, January 11th at 6 p.m.

All Joint Board members
should be present.

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### DEACON MINISTRY

The Deacon Ministry will meet on  
**Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.**

All Deacons & Deaconesses  
should attend.

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USHERS MINISTRY

The Ushers Ministry will meet on
Saturday, January 14th at 11 a.m.

All Ushers should attend.

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### MISSIONARY MINISTRY

The Missionary Ministry will meet on  
**Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m.**

Business of importance!  
All Missionary Ministry members  
should be present.

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Man Cave

Man Cave will meet on
Friday, January 27th at 6 p.m.

All MEN are invited to attend.

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### SHE SHED

She Shed will meet on  
**Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6p.m.**

The scripture is Exodus 3:14-17.

The topic is "God Is."  
All WOMEN are invited to attend.

## AROUND THE BUILDING

In the last three months, several improvements have been made in the building:

**#1.** In late October, the Dance Studio was updated with a new coat of paint and a refinished and waxed floor. In addition, a removeable stage has been set up in the room, making the use of the room more versatile, including using it for meetings, etc.

**#2.** In early November, the Church received a financial donation from two members to install new flooring in the Youth Room on the historic side of the building. As a result, work began on November 4<sup>th</sup> and was completed prior to the start of the United Baptist Convention's Annual Session, November 11<sup>th</sup>, which Mt. Zion hosted. (See the November 2022 newsletter for more information about the UBC Session.) The newly installed floor on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level is, in a word, "awesome!" If you have not seen it, you should.

**#3.** Recognizing the need for more round tables, in December, two other members donated money to purchase two (2) such tables. These tables, along with the ones we already have, will prove invaluable as Mt. Zion hosts, or allows others to hold, such events as, meetings, luncheons, banquets, etc. in our facility.

We thank the Volunteer Maintenance Crew for coordinating these activities; we thank the members who made the donations; but most of all, we thank God for His faithfulness!

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH IS BACK!

Like so many other programs and activities, Children's Church was sidelined in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting this month, however, Children's Church is back!

Beginning **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**, and each 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday thereafter, the Youth Ministry will hold Children's Church simultaneously with our regular worship service—at 10 a.m. Children between the ages of 5 and 11 will have their own worship experience filled with learning activities, crafts, and snacks. (Note: Let a Youth Ministry Leader know if your child has any food allergies).

The Bible Says, "*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*" [Proverbs 22:6] Please bring your children to Children's Church. If you have questions or want to volunteer to help, see Youth Ministry Leader, **Sis. Pamela Medlock.**

### 12 YEARS AT THE HELM... AND WE ARE GRATEFUL!

**Rev. Dr. Atu White** preached his first sermon as Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Watch Night Service on December 31, 2010. Saturday, December 31, 2022, marked his 12<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary.

Pastor White has been a blessing not only to Mt. Zion with his preaching, teaching, leadership, counseling, and even his sense of humor, but to the Springfield community at large. We are grateful to have him as our Pastor.

To show our appreciation and commemorate this milestone, a love gift was presented to him from the Church at the 12-noon Watch Night service.

*Thank you, Pastor White for all you do, and Congratulations on 12 years as our Pastor!*

## ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

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

The meeting will be in-person only. We invite and encourage all Mt. Zion members to attend.

## STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP

Last month, Pastor White awarded **Jordan Holmes**, daughter of **Sis. Tina Tucker-Garner**, a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Pastors' Council of Greater Springfield. Jordan, a first-year student at UMass Boston majoring in Nursing, finished her first semester with all A's & B's.

*Congratulations, Jordan!!  
Keep up the Good Work!*

## CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY



### Male Chorus

Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.  
Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon



### Mass Choir

Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

# THE PUZZLE PAGE

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES: SIMON'S SQUARES

Last month, you were asked to fit the letters 'S,' 'I,' 'M,' 'O,' 'N' into a grid in such a way that each horizontal row, each vertical column, and each of the heavily outlined sections of five squares contained a different letter. How did you do. Here's the answer.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | M | O | N | I |
| N | I | S | M | O |
| O | N | I | S | M |
| M | O | N | I | S |
| I | S | M | O | N |

## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE RIDDLE-ME-REE

For this month's puzzle, you need to solve the riddles by finding one letter per line, following the clues given in the verse below. For example, 'My first is in houses, but never in homes' gives the letter 'U' as the first letter. When you have finished, the letters will spell a name.

My first is in TEETH, and also in CHEW.

My second is in FALSE, as well as TRUE.

My third is in UNDER, but not in BENEATH.

My fourth is in FLOWER, but not found in LEAF.

My fifth is in WINDOW, as well as in DOOR.

My whole is a king: one you've heard of, I'm sure.

| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup> |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR...

- "Celebrate endings—for they precede new beginnings." -- Jonathan Lockwood Huie, author
- "And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been." -- Rainer Maria Rilke, poet
- "The way I look at it, every day that I'm moving forward is a day I'm not moving backward." -- Bobby Bones, radio personality
- "It is often easier to make progress on mega-ambitious dreams. Since no one else is crazy enough to do it, you have little competition." -- Larry Page, entrepreneur
- "Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable." -- Mary Oliver, poet
- "A surplus of effort could overcome a deficit of confidence." -- Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court Justice

# COMMUNITY NEWS!

## Pastors' Council's MLK, Jr. Worship Service

The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service, sponsored by the Pastors' Council of Greater Springfield, will be held **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.** at St. John's Congregational Church. The service will be held live at St. John's,, 45 Hancock Street in Springfield, as well as virtually on St. John's website, Facebook, and YouTube social media platforms. The guest preacher this year will be Bishop Frank A. White, Pastor of Zion Cathedral Church Of God In Christ, in Freeport, New York. Everyone is invited to attend.

## 2022 GIVING STATEMENTS

A statement of your 2022 financial giving (i.e., tithes, offerings, and other donations) will be available on or before January 31, 2023. Statements will be handed out or mailed to your home. If you have moved or changed your address in the past year, please notify the Church to insure you get your statement.

As a reminder...For 2023, there are four ways to give:

- **Mail** checks or money orders to:  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
33 Oak Street  
Springfield, MA 01109
- **Place** tithes & offerings in the brown mailbox (labeled 'Mt. Zion Only') attached to the building near the Orleans Street entrance.
- **Cash App**: Give using your mobile phone. Find us at Cash App Tag: \$mtzionbaptistchurch
- **Givelify**: Give online using the Givelify App.

## MOBILE FOOD TRUCK IS BACK

After a 2-month holiday hiatus, the Western Mass Food Bank mobile truck is scheduled to resume distribution of food in our Union Street parking lot this month. Please stop by on **Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.** and invite family and friends. The fresh produce is free and available to all, regardless of income.



## We Want to Hear from YOU!!

As we begin a new year and continue our efforts to stay connected, the Newsletter encourages you to share news and individual accomplishments with readers of "THE MT. ZION MESSENGER." **The deadline for submitting articles to the Newsletter is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.**

## A Thank You Note



Front: Thank You

Personal Note Inside: To my Pastor and my Mt. Zion Baptist Family, I feel truly blessed for just knowing you! Thank you for all the good you do! May God continue to use you to bless many more people.

I love you,  
Rev. Bert A. Johnson