



THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

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Volume 24; Issue 10

Rev. Dr. Atu White, Pastor

March 2023

IN-SANCTUARY SERVICES

In-Person worship services start at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday.

- Starting this month, we will no longer be doing temperature checks.
- We are continuing to require masks until such time a change is announced.
- We still encourage social distancing, especially while inside the building.

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

PASTOR TO PREACH AT THIRD BAPTIST

On Sunday, March 19, 2023, our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White**, will be the guest preacher at Third Baptist Church for their Senior Ushers Anniversary. The service starts at 4:00 p.m. The Church is located at 149 Walnut Street, Springfield, MA.

Please mark your calendars and plan to accompany the Pastor to this service.

WEEKLY SERVICES FOR MARCH

Worship Service

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

In Person in the Sanctuary or Livestreamed on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/wearemtzion); [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/wearemtzion); or on our website, [wearemtzion.com](http://www.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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**THIS MONTH, THERE WILL BE  
NO**

#### **Prayer & Meditation Call**

**on Wednesdays at 12 noon**

**& NO**

#### **Bible Study**

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

*Rather, we are encouraged to participate in the Pastors' Councils' Lenten Services each Wednesday.*

*The Lenten Services schedule is inside this issue.*

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME...**



**... begins Sunday, March 12, 2023.**

Remember the adage:

**"Fall back; Spring forward."**

**Set your clocks ahead one hour.**

## HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 2.....Sis. Josie Ross  
 March 3.....Bro. Ronnie Williams  
 March 5.....Sis. Lillian Dickerson  
 March 5.....Deaconess Deborah Jones  
 March 6.....Bro. Alton King  
 March 7.....Bro. Malik Coppedge  
 March 8.....Bro. Zachary Caudle  
 March 8.....Sis. Tonya Hayes  
 March 8.....Sis. Tiffany Hogan  
 March 11.....Bro. Jackie Hammond  
 March 11.....Sis. Brianna Woodard  
 March 12.....Bro. Bruce Brice  
 March 15.....Sis. Rene Garner  
 March 13.....Bro. Craig Godbolt  
 March 16.....Bro. Shawn Asiamah  
 March 16.....Sis. Keisha Lewis  
 March 17.....Bro. Chauncey Hammond  
 March 18.....Bro. Kyle Evans  
 March 18.....Bro. Charles Winston  
 March 19.....Sis. Vera Daniels  
 March 21.....Bro. Daunte Cole  
 March 21.....Bro. Robert Stokes  
 March 26.....Sis. Kamara Jackson  
 March 27.....Sis. Lori Garner  
 March 28.....Bro. Michael Housey  
 March 29.....Sis. Jacqueline Brown-Hazard

## HAPPY MARCH ANNIVERSARY

March 16.....Sis. Mable Kenney  
 & Bro. Jasper Kenney  
 March 16.....Bro. Clycon Hinds  
 & Sis. Valerie Hinds

## TWOS

Author Unknown

*According to the Word of God,  
there are:*

**Two** classes of people in the world, the tares, and the wheat, the wicked and the righteous. To which group do YOU belong? (*Matthew 13:36-43*)?

**Two** great rulers in the universe, God, and Satan. Jesus says “Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Whom are you serving? (*Matthew 6:24*)

**Two** gates: one is wide that leadeth to destruction, while the other narrow which leadeth into life. Which gate have you entered? (*Matthew 7:13,14*)

**Two** kinds of trees, good trees, and corrupt trees. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. What kind of tree are YOU? (*Matthew 7:16-20*)

**Two** ways to build, wisely upon the Rock, or foolishly upon the sand. How and where are you building? (*Matthew 7:24-27*)

**Two** roads, the broad road, and the narrow road. Both lead from time to eternity. Right now, you are walking on one of these roads. (*Luke 13:24; John 14:6*)

### WHICH ONES

**Two** places in eternity, Heaven, and hell. You will go to one of these. (*John 5:28,29*).

Consider these facts and...  
 “...Choose you this day whom ye will serve...” (*Joshua 24:15*).

*From the Newsletter Archives: 2003 March Issue*

## MARCH 2023

### MEETINGS

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

#### JOINT BOARD

The Joint Board will meet on **Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**  
 All Joint Board members should attend.

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DEACON MINISTRY

The Deacon Ministry will meet on **Saturday, March 11th at 10 a.m.**
 All Deacons & Deaconesses should be present.

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#### USHERS MINISTRY

The Ushers Ministry will meet on **Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.**  
 All Ushers should attend.

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MISSIONARY MINISTRY

The Missionary Ministry will meet on **Saturday, March 11th at 11 a.m.**
 All Missionary Ministry members should be present.

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#### Man Cave

Man Cave will NOT meet this month.

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SHE SHED FELLOWSHIP

She Shed will meet on **Friday, March 31st at 6 p.m.**
Scripture: Luke 19:28-44
Topic: “War Cry”

All Women are invited to attend.

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#### CHOIR REHEARSALS

MASS CHOIR:  
**Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**  
**Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

MALE CHORUS  
**Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**  
**Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m.**  
**Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon**

## A Heart Health Prayer Luncheon Thank You

*Written by Sis. Anna Howell*

Over 60 people--comprised of members and friends from seven different churches, plus from Mt. Zion--were in attendance at our Heart Health Prayer Luncheon on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> here at the Church. In addition to a delicious lunch, those in attendance were treated to very valuable information regarding heart health from our speaker and Mt. Zion member, **Dr. Patrice Caudle**.

The Missionary Ministry would like to thank everyone for their attendance, hard work, and dedication to our Luncheon. Your support helped to make this program a great success.

We also would like to give special thanks to **Dr. Caudle**, **Sis. Andrea Dixon**, **Sis. Mary Moore**, and **Sis. Wanda Powell** and all the participants for a job well done!

May God continue to bless you to serve in our Church and our community.

## A New Member

*Joining Mt. Zion in February was:*

**SIS. SHAMEIKA INGRAM**

**Date Joined:** February 12, 2023

**Method:** Candidate for Baptism

*Welcome, Sis. Ingram!*

## MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Western Mass Food Bank Mobile Food truck will be in the Union Street parking lot on **Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** from **1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Please come and invite friends and neighbors to get free fresh produce.

## Church Anniversary Assessment

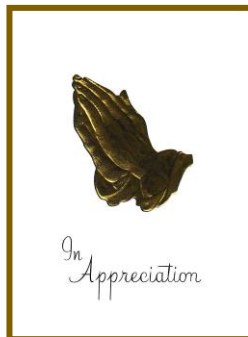
Our 46<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary will be celebrated on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. In recognition of this blessed milestone, all Mt. Zionites are reminded to give a \$246.00 sacrificial offering—an amount over and above our normal tithes and offering. You can begin paying on your assessment now--just note "Church Anniversary" on your offering envelope.

## About the She Shed

*Written by Sis. Awilda Oxios*

I would like to give accolades to **Sis. Renee Baldwin** for taking the leadership in the She Shed fellowship ministry and to the wonderful ladies that attend it. Also, I am commending **Sis. Angela Westbrook** for overseeing the previous sessions. I am very happy that it has returned to be enjoyed by us. I am grateful for this event. It is always so encouraging to see the commonality but with individual voices and strengths that we as women share and support one another. The refreshments are a wonderful touch. **I am encouraging all women in the sanctuary to attend. You will be glad you did.**

## A THANK YOU NOTE



**On the Front:** *In Appreciation*

**Inside:** *Gratefully acknowledging and thanking you for your kind expression of sympathy.*

**Sis. Carolyn Herring & Family**

## Family Fun Night

*Written by Sis. Angela Westbrook & Sis. Alonzetta Gabriel*

They entered in with their game faces on ready to compete. We started our evening out with prayer and greetings. Mt. Zion BINGO lead by **Sis. Andrea Dixon** kicked things off with a twist to the game, it was everything Mt. Zion. We sat down for piping hot bowls of chili made by our own **Sis. Kasha' Gabriel** who put her foot in it, and the nachos had every kind of topping including hot creamy cheese sauce running over it. Old fashion Dad's root beer, and cream sodas, cakes, and more cakes to satisfy every sweet tooth.

With bellies full and ready to get their sleep on, we had to wake things up with our first team challenge called "Trust Me." It involved one blindfolded team member at each table using a spatula to scoop marshmallows, which had been spread all over the table, into a bowl. The blindfolded teammate had to "trust" the teammates' directions to accomplish this task in a specified time period.

For the next game, the big screen lit up with the first phrase to the game "Mad Gab." In this game, jumbled letters appeared on the screen, which when sounded out, were actually well-known names, places, or phrases. When a team thought they had figured out the phrase, they signaled with their very own unique noisemaker. It got to be a pretty spirited contest, with Team #2 walking away with the win and bragging rights.



Overall, it was a night of much fun, laughter, prizes, and good eats, and a want-to-do-it-again. Thank you to all who helped to make the evening possible, especially **Sis. Marcia Borders** who took care of all our technical items, and to everyone who came out to share in our first Family Fun Night of 2023.

## ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Last month, you were tested on how much you know about Black people with ties to Massachusetts? You were asked to unscramble the names to the left, and then match each one to a description to the right, placing your answer in the last column. How did you do? Let's see.

| Unscramble Name     | Historical Clue                                                                                             | Match Letter to Number |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. AMEJNIS UGY      | A. Taught in <b>SPRINGFIELD</b> School System in the 1940's. 1 <sup>st</sup> Black Principal in Springfield | 1—JASMINE GUY (D)      |
| 2. RIPUSCS TAUTSKC  | B. Born in <b>WORCESTER</b> ; Starred as "Mother Jefferson" on the 70's sitcom, <i>The Jeffersons</i>       | 2—CRISPUS ATTUCKS (E)  |
| 3. VARTIS STEB      | C. Born in <b>SPRINGFIELD</b> ; Played Pro-basketball in NBA from 1995 to 2005                              | 3—TRAVIS BEST (C)      |
| 4. LILMAIW BREWEDRY | D. Born in <b>BOSTON</b> ; Starred on the 80's sitcom, <i>A Different World</i>                             | 4—WILLIAM DEWBERRY (G) |
| 5. RAZA LUCYL       | E. From <b>FRAMINGHAM</b> , 1 <sup>st</sup> person killed in the Boston Massacre                            | 5—ZARA CULLY (B)       |
| 6. THRU CARRET      | F. Born in <b>SPRINGFIELD</b> ; 1 <sup>st</sup> Black person to win Oscar for Best Costume Design           | 6—RUTH CARTER (F)      |
| 7. BACREEC NNOOJSH  | G. Moved to <b>SPRINGFIELD</b> in 1899; Community Leader; Pastored St. John's Congregational Church         | 7—REBECCA JOHNSON (A)  |

## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: STOP GAPS

*Certain words from the text below have been removed and are listed below in alphabetical order. This month, all you have to do is replace them in their correct positions. Try it first, and then if you don't want to wait until next month's issue (when the answers will be revealed) check the Bible.*

**CORRUPTION      EVERLASTING      FAINT      FLESH      HOUSEHOLD  
OPPORTUNITY      SEASON      SPIRIT      WEARY**

**Galatians 6:8~ For he that soweth to his \_\_\_\_\_ shall of the flesh reap \_\_\_\_\_; but he that soweth to the \_\_\_\_\_ shall of the Spirit reap life \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Galatians 6:9~ And let us not be \_\_\_\_\_ in well doing; for in due \_\_\_\_\_ we shall reap, if we \_\_\_\_\_ not.**

**Galatians 6:10~ As we have therefore \_\_\_\_\_, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith.**

**UBC Congress of Christian Education**  
**Course List for Annual Session 2023**  
**Saturday, March 18, 2023 ~ 10a.m.-12 noon ~ Virtual Only**

*The annual session of the UBC Congress of Christian Education will be held virtually, Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm. Courses will be offered using Zoom as described below. You can take only one course. **The courses are free.** To register, contact **Dea. Steve Powell** with your name, e-mail, & course selection by **Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**. Once you register, you will be able to attend the Zoom class with the following information.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83181325929?pwd=ejhyaGduejN4SmpQZnM3dVo5Uldrdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 831 8132 5929      **Passcode:** Congress

**ADULT CLASSES**

**Course Title:** Praying Through Problems & Predicaments

**Instructor:** Bishop Regina Shearer

**Course Description:** This course is designed to walk students through 2 Chronicles 20 and identify the steps taken by King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah as they prayed to God regarding the armies against them.

**Course Title:** The Doctrine of Salvation

**Instructor:** Rev. Charles & Rev. Niki Hightower

**Course Description:** This course examines Salvation from the viewpoint of redemption and reconciliation, both acts made possible through Jesus Christ. Redemption views the saved as a purchase by His blood; reconciliation marks His accomplishment, bringing man and God back into fellowship.

**Course Title:** Faith & Fitness

**Instructor:** Rev. Jerrell Riggins

**Course Description:** This course will teach students how to live out their faith according to God's design, and also focus on healthy living to achieve holistic well-being.

**Course Title:** Baptist Doctrine

**Instructor:** Rev. Kenneth Simms

This course examines the basic teachings of the Baptist Faith with simplicity and clarity. Students will explore each doctrinal position and the biblical basis for each doctrinal position taught in the Bible.

**Course Title:** Women in Ministry

**Instructor:** Rev. Laura Reyes

**Course Description:** This course will deal with the Biblical function and role of women in ministry. Along with exploring the biblical concept of ministry in general, emphasis will be given to the working relationship of women in ministry with God and others, along with understanding and addressing the challenges faced, including issues of trauma.

**Course Title:** Integrity in Ministry

**Instructor:** Rev. Ryan Tankersley

**Course Description:** The biblical definition of integrity is truth or the state of being true. As people of God, we must demonstrate truth. Having integrity in ministry is critical and failure to do so will ultimately lead to a disastrous outcome for all who are connected to the ministry. Thus, it is necessary that God's people continuously and authentically maintain the highest degree of integrity.

**Course Title:** Using Media to Enhance Your Ministry

**Instructor:** Sis. Cori Peele

**Course Description:** This course will teach participants how to use media as a tool to enhance the various ministries in their church as well as the church in general. Select media tools and resources will be discussed. We will use BoxCast to present an easy-to-use live video streaming solution for your Church that will broaden your exposure in your local community and beyond.

**YOUNG ADULTS (18-35)**

**Course Title:** The Post Covid Church: How does that Look? \*

**Instructor:** Sis. Shanice Maxwell

**Course Description:** Covid has come, and services have changed? We cannot go back, nor should we go back to some ways of old. In this course we will identify what the Post Covid Church looks like and how do we adapt the uncharted territories that now present themselves before us.

## UBC Congress of Christian Education Courses (Continued)

**Course Title:** New Wine for New Wineskins: Millennials

**Instructor:** Rev. Art Gordon

**Course Description:** Gone are the days when young people flocked to church. The current generation always asks the question "Where are the young people?" This course will focus on the relationship between the church and millennials (also known as Generation Y born 1981-1996). Using Jesus' parable in the Synoptic gospels about the Wineskins, attention will be given to the current social, political, and religious challenges that millennials face and how the Black Church can reach, evangelize, and reclaim millennials. (course is open to interested ministry leaders, youth/young adult ministry leaders/teachers).

**Course Title:** Young Adults in the Church

**Instructor:** Rev. Kenneth Young

**Course Description:** This course will help young adults to identify ways that they can be involved and stay true to the mission of the church. The course deals with practical, simple ways of discovering the needs and interests of young adults, of focusing on appreciating the normal developmental process of this age group, and of studying the concerns and problems peculiar to them.

**Course Title:** Discovering and Walking in Your Purpose

**Instructor:** Bro. Joe Devoe

**Course Description:** Are you interested in learning about why God created you? This course aims to teach students to achieve the goals that God has for their lives. Students will be taught how to discover their unique purpose and will walk away knowing how they specifically can be a light in the world.

### TEEN CLASSES (13-17)

**Course Title:** Keeping it Real & Being Saved

**Instructor:** Min. Tanya Lamar

**Course Description:** This course aims to teach youth how to stay true to God when being exposed to peer pressure and the related temptations that they face each day. Students will explore Scriptures, examples and share experiences that teach them that with Jesus, they can be leaders and stand against peer pressure.

**Course Title:** Being Christian, Single & Happy \*

**Instructor:** Sis. Abiah Floyd

**Course Description:** The focus of this course is to provide strategies to live a godly life as a single young adult Christian. Managing family life, school and work while also being active in the church can at times be a balancing act. How can one find balance when facing life demands? Students will be guided through the Scriptures that give insight and describe the abundant life of a Christian.

**Course Title:** Me, Myself, & I: A Study of Character\*

**Instructor:** Min. Adrienne Floyd & Sis. Darlene Hines

**Course Description:** This course will present an overview of the fruits of the spirit and help students to understand the importance of God's Word and how it should be evident in our daily living. Students will discover how to maintain a Christian identity in a demoralized world."

### YOUTH CLASSES (6-12)

**Course Title:** Yes, Jesus Loves Me

**Instructor:** Sis. Dawn Dubose

**Course Description:** Through songs, games, arts/crafts, children will engage in activities that will teach them about the love of Jesus, and how special and important that they are to God and the church in general.

\*New Class



Children's Church will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of this month, **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**, simultaneously with our regular worship service—at 10:00 a.m. Parents are encouraged to bring their children between the ages of 5 and 11 to have their own worship experience, filled with learning activities, crafts, and snacks. The

Youth Ministry is in charge of Children's Church.

If you have questions or want to volunteer to help, or if your child has any food allergies, please see Youth Ministry Leader, **Sis. Pamela Medlock**.

# YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

1st Term Marking Period: 2022-2023

Students in grades 1-12 who earned A's during the 1<sup>st</sup> marking period of the 2022-2023 school year were recognized on Sunday, February 26, 2023, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. **Pastor White** presented seven (7) students \$5.00 for each 'A' they received (up to 5 'A's'). A total of \$145 was awarded. Congratulations to each of our Young Scholars for their hard work, perseverance, and results. Keep up the excellent work!

| Student's Name           | Ministries                  | School                          | Grade | # of A's | Comments                |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------|
| Tracetta Caudle          | Junior Ushers               | Pope Francis Preparatory School | 12th  | 5        | High Honors<br>GPA 4.31 |
| Zachary Caudle           | Children's Church Assistant | Pope Francis Preparatory School | 11th  | 5        | High Honors<br>GPA 3.81 |
| Sophia Coppedge-Nicholas | Children's Church           | Bowles Elementary               | 2nd   | 4        |                         |
| Isaiah Garner            | Media Ministry              | High School of Commerce         | 10th  | 2        |                         |
| Marcus Holmes            | Media Ministry              | Renaissance School              | 12th  | 3        |                         |
| Kai Levi Motley          | Children's Church           | Springfield Charter School      | 3rd   | 5        |                         |
| Danielle Ware            | Children's Church Assistant | Baystate Academy Charter School | 7th   | 7        |                         |

## THE PASTORS' COUNCIL OF GREATER SPRINGFIELD'S 2023 LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAMED ON [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEPASTORSOUNCIL](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEPASTORSOUNCIL)

| DATE                                    | PREACHER                                                                                                                                                        | CHURCH                                 | LOCATION                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | Rev. Catharine Cummings                                                                                                                                         | Wesley United<br>Methodist Church      | 741 State Street,<br>Springfield, MA       |
| Wednesday, March 1 <sup>st</sup>        | Rev. Gail Hill                                                                                                                                                  |                                        |                                            |
| Wednesday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>        | Bishop Talbert Swan, II                                                                                                                                         | Mt. Zion Baptist Church                | 33 Oak Street,<br>Springfield, MA          |
| <b>Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Rev. Dr. Atu White</b>                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                            |
| Wednesday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>       | Rev. Dayhige Wright                                                                                                                                             | Deliverance Center<br>Ministries COGIC | 336 Springfield Street,<br>Springfield, MA |
| Wednesday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>       | Rev. Mark Baymon                                                                                                                                                |                                        |                                            |
| Wednesday, April 5 <sup>th</sup>        | Rev. Dr. L. A. Love                                                                                                                                             | Mission Church Ministries              | 20 Bowdoin Terrace,<br>Springfield, MA     |
| GOOD FRIDAY<br>April 7 <sup>th</sup>    | Rev. Paul Starnes<br>Rev. Jesse Williams, Jr.<br>Rev. Robert Carter<br>Rev. Maxine Moore<br>Rev. Samuel Saylor<br>Bishop Andrew Daubon<br>Rev. J.P. Morgan, Jr. | St. John's Congregational<br>Church    | 45 Hancock Street<br>Springfield, MA       |

### Pastors' Council's 2022-2023 Leadership Team

Rev. Catharine Cummings, President

Rev. Mark Baymon, Vice President

Rev. Jesse Williams, Jr., Secretary

Rev. Maxine Moore, Assistant Secretary

Bishop Robert Jones, Treasurer

Rev. Angelo Dawson, Assistant Treasurer

Rev. Michael DeVine, Chaplain

Rev. James Munroe, Parliamentarian