



# THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

## THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

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**Volume 24; Issue 12**

**Rev. Dr. Atu White, Pastor**

**May 2023**

### **MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>.**

To all Mt. Zion Mothers and anyone who has stood in the gap for Mothers...



### **IN-SANCTUARY SERVICES**

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

- Temperature checks are no longer taken.
- Masks are now optional.
- Social distancing is encouraged, especially while inside the building.

Those who are not attending services in the sanctuary, can continue to worship via live-streaming.

(See article to the right.)

### **WEEKLY SERVICES FOR MAY**

#### **Worship Service**

**Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

*In Person in the Sanctuary, or*

*Livestreamed on*

*Facebook.com; YouTube.com; or our website,*

*[wearemtzion.com](http://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.**

*In-Person and Livestreamed on*

*Facebook.com; YouTube.com; or our website,*

*[wearemtzion.com](http://wearemtzion.com)*

### **MEMORIAL DAY IS MONDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>**

On this day, let us not forget all the brave men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.



# 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 ANNIVERSARY

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

## A TRIBUTE PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

by Amy Young

To those who gave birth this year to their first child,  
we *celebrate* with you.

To those who lost a child this year,  
we *mourn* with you.

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains,  
we *appreciate* you.

To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away,  
we *mourn* with you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment,  
we *walk* with you.

Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms,  
we *need* you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children,  
we *celebrate* with you.

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children,  
we *sit* with you.

To those who lost their mothers this year,  
we *grieve* with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother,  
we *acknowledge* your experience.

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood,  
we are better for having you in our midst.

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year,  
we *grieve and rejoice* with you.

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising,  
we *anticipate* with you.

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst.  
We *remember* you.

Global Christian Worship - A Tribute Prayer for Mother's Day  
(by Amy Young) (tumblr.com)

## MAY 2023 MEETINGS

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

### JOINT BOARD

The Joint Board will meet on  
**Monday, May 15<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, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.**  
All Deacons & Deaconesses  
should be present.

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### MISSIONARY MINISTRY

The Missionary Ministry will meet on  
**Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.**  
All Missionary Ministry members  
should be present.

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### Man Cave

Man Cave will meet on  
**Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**  
**Discussion Questions:**  
**"Should We Judge the World?"**  
All Men are invited to attend.

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### SHE SHED FELLOWSHIP

She Shed will meet on  
**Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**  
**Scripture: Ephesians 6:11-18**  
**Topic: "I'm Covered"**  
All Women are invited to attend.

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### CHOIR REHEARSALS

Male Chorus  
**Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon**

Mass Choir  
**Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

## New Members

*Joining Mt. Zion in April was:*

**SIS. CAMILLA COPPEDGE**

Date Joined: April 9, 2023

Method: Christian Experience

*Welcome Sis. Coppedge!*

### NEW MEMBER CORRECTION:

In last month's newsletter, we welcomed new member, **Bro. Edward Doniell Hogan** as a Candidate for Baptism, when in fact, he joined by way of Christian Experience. We apologize for this error, and again welcome Bro. Hogan.

## Prayer Hour Resumes

Another casualty of the COVID-19 Pandemic was the stoppage of Saturday Morning Prayer Hour. Another sign of our recovery is...Prayer Hour is back!

Starting **Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** from **8:00 to 9:00 a.m.**, you are invited to come to the Church for an hour of reflection, meditation, & prayer. What better way to begin your day than with community prayer with other brothers and sisters in the faith. All are welcome.

## Toiletry Drive

The Missionary Ministry is holding a Toiletry Drive **now through Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**. Donations needed include items for newborns through age 5 and toiletry items such as toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc. for all family members. Donations can be brought to the Church on Sundays between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. or Wednesdays during Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. Please donate to and support this important event!

## Mobile Food Truck

This month, the Western Mass Food Bank Mobile Truck will be in our Union Street Parking lot on **Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 p.m. All are invited to come get free produce.

## IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

For those members who have been asking when in-person Bible Study will resume, the answer is **NOW**.

Starting this month, Wednesday Bible Study will be taught both in-person as well as continuing live-streamed on our social media platforms. Bible Study begins at **7:00 p.m.**

## ALL HANDS-ON DECK... PLEASE!!

*Written by Sis. Angela Westbrook*

The April showers bring in the May flowers! It's that time of year again for our yearly Mt. Zion Baptist Church clean-up, both inside and out.

Our perennial flowers are starting to pop out in beautiful blooms to showcase a rug of color throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons. Our benches and tables can use a fresh coat of waterproof rustoleum paint making ready to sit upon and meditate, pray, or just be still among all of God's beauty within our gardens. There will be something for every age group to do in the upkeep of the blessing God has made us stewards over.

We are missing some of our bulbed flowers due to the picking of the flowers along with the bulbs, leaving them exposed above ground to dry out. If you have any extra flowering bulbs or perennial plants to spare, we can use them to restore the flowers.

So, please come out with your yard tools, brooms, gloves, cleaning supplies, and a great working mindset to help get the job done.

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Place:

**Mt Zion Baptist Church/Dunbar**

A hot soup & sandwich lunch will be served!

## A SOLDIER GONE HOME

### SIS. CATHERINE BASS

went home to be with the Lord on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Sis. Bass was a founding member of Mt. Zion and a faithful member of the Gospel Choir. Please keep her family in prayer.

## Members Baptized

Last month, on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at Third Baptist Church in Springfield, we held our first Baptism Service since the COVID-19 Pandemic. In front of over 30 members, family, and friends, four (4) candidates were baptized. Congratulations and welcome to the faith:

Sis. Dreya Gullatt

Sis. Shameika Ingram

Sis. Quadnesa Kelly

Bro. Rondell Walker

## ANNIVERSARY SERVICE POSTPONED

Earlier this year, it was announced that the celebration of our 46<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary would take place this month--on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. However, the **Anniversary Service has been postponed!**

Please stay tuned. A new date will be announced in upcoming weeks.

*In the meantime...*

All members are asked to give a sacrificial offering of \$246.00 above your normal tithes and offering to help mark the Church's 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The postponement of the celebratory date means you have even more time to make this assessment, which you can begin paying now, if you are not already doing so.

# We Had an Egg Hunt

Written by Sis. Angela Westbrook



On April 8, 2023, three organizations came together to help children have fun. Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Suez Temple No 114, and Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing sponsored a free, community, Easter Egg Hunt.



On a beautiful, brisk, sunny day, volunteers from each organization accepted their bunny ears and began setting up. Over 125 kids came onto the beautiful property to hunt for an abundance of colorful candy-filled eggs. No one left without an overflowing bag of eggs and treats, and those that found one of 10 golden eggs, could trade them in for a special basket.



There were games like 'Place the Tail on the Bunny,' carry the egg on a spoon races, and guess how many jellybeans were in the jar. Children could take pictures with the Easter Bunny, as well as mingle with some city officials who stopped by to say 'hello.'



So many wonderful things can be done in our community as we work together. A great big 'THANK YOU' to all who had anything to do with this event. Next year, it can only get bigger and better!

## We're Looking for Donations of Vases

Perhaps you have noticed the beautiful floral arrangement which has adorned the lectern in the sanctuary since Palm Sunday. It was designed and created by our own **Sis. Angela Westbrook**. Recently, **Dea. Steve Powell** and **Sis. Wanda Powell** made donations of more silk flowers which Sis. Westbrook plans to use to create additional seasonal pulpit floral arrangements, but... **WE NEED MORE VASES**. If you have two (2) matching vases that are at least 15" tall that you would like to donate to the Church, it would be appreciated. See Sis. Westbrook if you do.

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE: "BIBLE BOOK FINDS"

Last month, you were asked to see if you could find names of at least sixteen (16) books of the Bible hidden among the scrambled letters below. There were only two rules: 1) Books that have the same name could only be counted once; and 2) Letters can be used multiple times in a name. Below are the letters and the 16 books that we found. How did you do?

**A B E H I J M N O R S T U**

- |             |            |          |            |           |              |
|-------------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1) AMOS     | 2) ESTHER  | 3) HOSEA | 4) ISAIAH  | 5) JAMES  | 6) JEREMIAH  |
| 7) JOB      | 8) JOHN    | 9) JONAH | 10) JOSHUA | 11) NAHUM | 12) NEHEMIAH |
| 13) NUMBERS | 14) ROMANS | 15) RUTH | 16) TITUS  |           |              |

## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: A 'MEMORIAL DAY' WORD SCRAMBLE

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is a federal holiday in the United States honoring U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30, but since then, it is observed on the last Monday of May. [Memorial Day - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day)

In recognition of Memorial Day, here is a Word Scramble puzzle with 20 words that are related to this patriotic holiday. Unscramble the letters to find the words. Good luck! Answers will be in next month's newsletter.

NOROH \_\_\_\_\_ NICAERMAFGLA (2 words) \_\_\_\_\_ TEVRANE \_\_\_\_\_

DBLAGLEAE \_\_\_\_\_ DLRIEOS \_\_\_\_\_ RAWKANROE (2 words) \_\_\_\_\_

WIIRVAQL (2 words) \_\_\_\_\_ DNPNEEINDECE \_\_\_\_\_ TAIONN \_\_\_\_\_

EVABR \_\_\_\_\_ EIWAVTAMRN (2 words) \_\_\_\_\_ YERIBTL \_\_\_\_\_

BNEMCMREEARE \_\_\_\_\_ AYRTMILI \_\_\_\_\_ DFOEMRE \_\_\_\_\_ TROIPAT \_\_\_\_\_

AIILRDW&OWRI (several words) \_\_\_\_\_ GOYLR \_\_\_\_\_

RYEAMDAILMO (2 words) \_\_\_\_\_ OMEENAYILRAETTNC (2 words) \_\_\_\_\_

# PASTOR TO BE HONORED

Our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White** will be honored at the ‘Champion of Character Award’ banquet on Sunday, June 11, 2023. This event will be held at St. Mark Armenian Apostolic Church, 247 Wilbraham Road in Springfield at 5:00 p.m. (Doors open at 4:30 p.m.). Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and under. Mt. Zion will offer a \$10 discount to our members who attend. The deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. See **Sis. Wanda Powell** if interested.

## UBC 2023 REPORT

*Written by Sis. Andrea P. Dixon*

On March 18, 2023, I was in attendance on a Zoom class entitled, “Praying through Problems and Predicaments,” instructed by Bishop Regina Shearer. The scriptural reference was 2 Chronicles 20:1-30. WHAT a wonderful class it was!!

Everyone should take the opportunity to attend a class, which are offered by the United Baptist Convention (UBC) Congress of Christian Education. OUR PASTOR is the President of the UBC Parent Body, AND, this year, the classes were FREE!!! We all should take advantage of any chance we get to learn more about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bishop Shearer said, first, we must TRUST and BELIEVE, because we know NOT when a problem or predicament will arise. BUT we do know WHO brings us through—GOD. (She sang, “Have Faith in God.”) We must focus on God in all situations and that’s because we DO TRUST and BELIEVE!!! If you’ve gone or have gotten out of character, it’s time to get back to the basics—PRAYER.

PRAY. Whatever is going on, PRAY. (1 Thess. 5:15-18) Be in reverence of our God, because prayer changes things!!! (2 Chronicles 20:3-4) Always remember, GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE!!! Be thankful for your trials! Praise God for those trials because through them (trials) God is perfecting YOU! (Song—“How Could I Forget What He’s Done For Me!”) Pray to God, then LISTEN to HIM! Take your position and STAND FIRM (Ephesians 6:14). Wait on the Lord; don’t be destructive to yourself by taking matters into your hands!!! Keep the Faith and Stand on His Word!!

We also praise God through singing (2Chronicles 20:21-22) and the songs lift up the spirit of God within us. Praise and Prayer go hand-in-hand. Sing unto the Lord (Song—“Praise Him, Praise Him”). Keep a song in your heart and in your spirit.

Bishop Shearer ended by saying, we walk by Faith, NOT by Sight. People will mislead you. GOD won’t!!! God has a plan for you, me, Mt. Zion, and all who TRUST and BELIEVE, and that plan is for us all to have the VICTORY in Him. Amen. Amen. And AMEN!!

### ...AND SPEAKING OF UBC

## THE ANNUAL MID-YEAR SESSION

of the United Baptist Convention of MA, RI, & NH, Inc., will be held on **Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** in Taunton, MA at The Baptist Church of All Nations. The Lecturer for the Session is Rev. Art Gordon (St. John Missionary Baptist Church), and the Worship Service Preacher is Rev. Willie Bodrick, II (Twelfth Baptist Church). The Mid-Year Theme is “Steps to Growing Again.” Last month, several members signed up to attend. Our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White**, serves as President of the UBC.

