



THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

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Volume 25; Issue 1

Rev. Dr. Atu White, Pastor

June 2023

WEEKLY SERVICES FOR JUNE

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*

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*

To All Mt. Zion Fathers and
Anyone who has 'Stood in the Gap' for Fathers,

*Happy
Father's
Day!*

Juneteenth is June 19th!

Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Deriving its name from combining "June" and "nineteenth", it is celebrated on the anniversary of the order issued by Major General Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865, proclaiming freedom for slaves in Texas. Originating in Galveston, Juneteenth has since been observed annually in various parts of the United States, often broadly celebrating African-American culture. The day was first recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law.

[Juneteenth - Wikipedia](#)

This year, Juneteenth falls on a Monday. Let us not forget our history.

IN-SANCTUARY SERVICES

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

Masks are 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 above.)

Happy June Birthdays

June 3-----Bro. Justin Nicholas
 June 6-----Sis. Tangie Jackson
 June 6-----Sis. Susan Lesiak
 June 7-----Sis. Lola Caldwell
 June 7---Sis. Kortney Stewart-Carroll
 June 8-----Bro. Tavis Scott
 June 9-----Sis. Cynthia Daley
 June 10-----Sis. Sheree Lawrence
 June 13-----Sis. Renee Baldwin
 June 13-----Sis. Pamela Medlock
 June 14-----Bro. Edward Hogan
 June 14-----Sis. Wanda Hogan
 June 14-----Sis. Charlette Scott
 June 15-----Sis. Shameika Ingram
 June 16-----Sis. Vivian Hines
 June 16-----Bro. Steve Nulls
 June 17-----Sis. Shayvon Holmes
 June 22-----Bro. Noah Borders, Sr.
 June 23-----Sis. Marcia Borders
 June 27-----Sis. Tiffany Jacobs
 June 29-----Sis. Marisabel Perez
 June 30-----Sis. Gwendolyn Ozenne
 June 30----Deaconess Brenda Hogan
 June 30-----Sis. Jolene Snowden

Happy June Anniversaries

June 1-----Sis. Andra Cole
 & Bro. Maurice Cole
 June 3-----Sis. Lee Ware
 & Bro. Dwight Ware, Sr.
 June 12-----Dea. Dan Jones
 & Deaconess Deborah Jones
 June 20-----Bro. Noah Borders
 & Sis. Marcia Borders

*In honor of Father's Day,
 we send this prayer to
 all fathers...*

I SAID A PRAYER FOR YOU TODAY

Author Unknown

I said a prayer for you
 today,
 And I know God must
 have heard.
 I felt the answer in
 my heart,
 Although He spoke
 no word.

I didn't ask for wealth
 or fame,
 I knew you wouldn't
 mind.
 I asked Him to send
 treasures,
 Of a far more lasting kind.

I asked that He'd be
 near you,
 At the start of each
 new day.
 To grant you health
 and blessings,
 And friends to share
 your way.

I asked for happiness
 for you,
 In all things great
 and small.
 But it was for
 His loving care,
 I prayed the most of all.

JUNE 2023 MEETINGS

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

JOINT BOARD

The Joint Board will meet on
Monday, June 12th at 6 p.m.
 All Joint Board members should attend.

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### DEACON MINISTRY

The Deacon Ministry will meet on  
**Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.**  
 All Deacons & Deaconesses  
 should be present.

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MISSIONARY MINISTRY

The Missionary Ministry will meet on
Saturday, June 17th at 11 a.m.
 All Missionary Ministry members
 should be present.

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### USHERS MINISTRY

Senior & Junior Ushers will meet on  
**Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m..**  
 All Ushers are invited to attend.

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MAN CAVE FELLOWSHIP

Man Cave will meet on
Friday, June 30th at 6 p.m.
Scripture: 1 Thessalonian 5:12-28
Topic: "We Mus Uplift Each Other"
 All Men are invited to attend.

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### SHE SHED FELLOWSHIP

She Shed will meet on  
**Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**  
**Scripture: Ephesians 6:11-18**  
**Topic: "I'm Covered"**  
 All Women are invited to attend.

Let's Try This Again...

## ALL HANDS ON DECK

By Sis. Angela Westbrook

The rain came, so we had to postpone last month's Church cleanup to this month. Our new date is **Saturday, June 10, 2023**.

Please join us on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be something for all ages and abilities to do in the upkeep of the blessing God has made us stewards over. Also, we are missing some of our bulbed flowers. If you have any extra flowering bulbs or perennial plants to spare, we can use them to restore the flowers.

So, come out with your yard tools, brooms, gloves, cleaning supplies, and most of all, a great working mindset to help get the job done. We will serve our workers a nice hot lunch afterwards!!!



Again, the date/time is...

**Saturday, June 10, 2023**

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

## CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE POSTPONED

As announced last month, the celebration of our Church's 46th Anniversary has been postponed to the fall. The new date will be announced in upcoming weeks.

*Please remember...*

All members are asked to give a sacrificial offering of \$246.00 above your normal tithes and offering to help mark this special day. If you haven't already done so, please pay or begin paying on this offering now.

## Newsletter Turns 24!

This month marks the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "THE MT. ZION MESSENGER, THE GOOD NEWSletter."

The very first edition of "The Messenger," published on Sunday, June 6, 1999, started with an idea that a monthly church publication would be an effective way to help improve communications among members. The goal then (as it remains today) was to educate, inform, and entertain our readers by sharing information *with, for, and about* Mt. Zionites. We strive to meet this goal in every issue.

The NEWSletter Staff thanks everyone who has supported us over the years by writing and/or submitting articles, and by offering feedback and encouragement. We hope others will do the same. To submit information, you can send it to the Church's e-mail address at [wearemtzion@gmail.com](mailto:wearemtzion@gmail.com), or if you need help writing your thoughts, you can call Steve or Wanda Powell at 413-786-5117.

Let's stay connected! After all... "THE MT. ZION MESSENGER: THE GOOD NEWSletter" is only as good as each Mt. Zionite makes it.

## MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Western Mass Food Bank Mobile Food truck will be at The Dunbar Center in the Union Street parking lot on the 4th Friday of this month, **Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>** from **1-2 p.m.** Free fresh produce is available on a first-come first-served basis, regardless of income. Invite family & friends.



## UBC ANNUAL SESSION

Like last year, Mt. Zion will serve as host church for the Annual Session of the United Baptist Convention of MA, RI, & NH (UBC). This will be its 101<sup>st</sup> Session, and will take place Thursday through Saturday, November 9-11, 2023. Mark your calendars. More info to come.

## Missionary Ministry's Toiletry Drive

The Missionary Ministry's Toiletry Drive, which began last month, continues throughout the month of June. Mt. Zionites are asked to donate toiletry items for refugees who have been relocated to the Springfield area. Items needed include (but are not limited to) such things as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo & conditioner, body wash, etc.

Donations can be brought to the Church on Sundays between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., or on Wednesdays during Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. Please donate to and support this important drive.

## Missionary Bible Study

The Missionary Ministry holds Bible Study on the 4th Saturday of each month at Mason Wright, 74 Walnut Street in Springfield. This month, it will be June 24<sup>th</sup> at **3:30 p.m.**

## Back In-Person Again

*Written by Sis. Angela Westbrook*

Our Man Cave, She Shed, and Saturday Morning Prayer are back up and running in person.

Come out every **last Friday** of each month to join in Bible study, and deep conversations on important life issues. There is nothing more powerful than prayer in the A.M. **Every Saturday** morning, come out and be still in a quiet space, talk with the Lord, be encouraged & encourage others, share testimonies, praise reports, and pray for one another. Prayer does change things!

Your commitment to attend will be the best thing you can do for self-care.

# ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE:

## A 'MEMORIAL DAY' WORD SCRAMBLE

As part of last month's recognition of Memorial Day, you were given a Word Scramble puzzle with 20 words that are related to this patriotic holiday to unscramble the letters and find these words. How did you do? Here are the answers:

- |                                                   |                                                                      |                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>NOROH:</b> <u>HONOR</u>                        | <b>NICAERMAFGLA</b> (2 words): <u>AMERICAN FLAG</u>                  | <b>TEVRANE:</b> <u>VETERAN</u>                |
| <b>DBLAGLEAE:</b> <u>BALD EAGELE</u>              | <b>DLRIEOS:</b> <u>SOLDIER</u>                                       | <b>RAWKANROE</b> (2 words): <u>KOREAN WAR</u> |
| <b>WIIRVACL</b> (2 words): <u>CIVIL WAR</u>       | <b>DNPNEEINDECE:</b> <u>INDEPENDENCE</u>                             | <b>TAIONN:</b> <u>NATION</u>                  |
| <b>EVABR:</b> <u>BRAVE</u>                        | <b>EIWAVTAMRN</b> (2 words): <u>VIETNAM WAR</u>                      | <b>YERIBTL:</b> <u>LIBERTY</u>                |
| <b>BNEMCMREEARE:</b> <u>REMEMBERANCE</u>          | <b>AYRTMIL:</b> <u>MILITARY</u>                                      | <b>DFOEMRE:</b> <u>FREEDOM</u>                |
| <b>TROIPAT:</b> <u>PATRIOT</u>                    | <b>AIILRDW&amp;OWRI</b> (several words): <u>WORLD WAR I &amp; II</u> | <b>GOYLR:</b> <u>GLORY</u>                    |
| <b>RYEAMDAILMO</b> (2 words): <u>MEMORIAL DAY</u> | <b>OMEENAYILRAETTNC</b> (2 words): <u>NATIONAL CEMETARY</u>          |                                               |

## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE:

### 'PSALM 1' WORD SCRAMBLE

*Submitted by Sis. Earlean Caldwell*

Every word listed below is contained within the group of letters to the right. Words can be found in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. They may be read either forward or backward. See how many you can find. Answers will be in next month's newsletter.

- |              |           |         |
|--------------|-----------|---------|
| Blessed      | Leaf      | Season  |
| Chaff        | Meditate  | The Way |
| Congregation | Perish    | Tree    |
| Counsel      | Prosper   | Ungodly |
| Delight      | Righteous | Wind    |
| Fruit        | Rivers    | Wither  |
| Judgment     | Scornful  |         |



## A SEASON OF TRANSITION

*Written by Sis. Andrea Dixon*

On May 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., a few women from our Missionary and She Shed Ministries attended a women's day program hosted at Overflowing Love Church of the Living God on King Street in Springfield, which is pastored by Bishop Naomi Barber and the program was chaired by Deacon Faye Drain. There were women from 25 different congregations. Over 100 women. A great show of support, which we all are in need of.

The theme was "A Season of Transition—Women in Transition!" What a great program, displaying the diversity of women: our beauty, our strength, our struggles, and our GRACE, which are gifts from God. The color theme for the program was orange, which Dea. Faye said was the combination of red and yellow, FIRE! Extreme, FIERY and SASSY, like some of us—LOL! The hues of oranges blended with whites, blues, greens, black, silver and gold were BEAUTIFUL!! The scriptural word was taken from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. "There's a Process in our Development!" (Oh, yes, there is) delivered by Pastor Shekinah Manigault from Holy Tabernacle Ministries in Brockton, MA. WOW, such a powerful young lady!!

Pastor Manigault stated there's a season for EVERYTHING! People, things, situations are all placed in our lives for a reason, BUT their season are "timed!" We, as women, sometime hold on when we should LET GO! (You can't be on a hook for someone else's agenda for YOUR life!) Let it GO, especially if it's no good for you! Which will make you (us) doubt how precious and how wonderfully marvelous we are! Take control of YOU! How things happen in our lives, we cannot control, BUT we can control US!

Trust God with your transition. It's a faith walk, keep, and hold on to your faith! God will not bless disobedience; be in it to win it!! True happiness comes from centering our lives on God. Remember, there's a "Time" for everything. Simply put, don't waste your time on foolishness! Time is flying, and it's passing us by fast! The choir sang a song, "I put it ALL in His Hands." That's what's needed for true transition!

I absolutely love attending "outside" services! We learn from each other, and the fellowship is wonderful. This was a great season of "time" to have spent in the Lord's House! Bless you all and stay safe.



# Youth Ministry News

## Young Scholars

It's again that time to recognize and reward Mt. Zion students for their good grades through our Young Scholars Program. Students in grades 1-12, who are involved in at least one Church ministry, and who earned A's (or A equivalents) for the 4<sup>th</sup> school marking period, are eligible. These students can receive \$5 for each 'A' they earned for the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period (up to a \$25 max).

### To All Parents and Students,

Please fill out a Young Scholars form and hand it in, along with a copy of your grades, to Youth Ministry Leader, **Sis. Pamela Medlock**, by **Sunday, June 25, 2023**. Forms are available after church each Sunday, or they can be found in the "Youth Ministry GroupMe chat." Awards will be given out on **Sunday July 2, 2023**.

## Graduation Sunday

Graduation Sunday will also be observed on **Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup>**. We would like to acknowledge Mt. Zion members who are graduating from high school or college this year. Please submit the following information to a Youth Ministry Leader by Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>: Student's Name; Name of Graduate's High School or College; Location (city/state) of High School or College; For High School Grads--Future Plans; For College Grads--Degree Received.

## Recognition of Relatives

If you are a member of Mt. Zion and you have a relative who graduated from high school or college this year, the newsletter would like to recognize them. Please send us the graduate's name, your relationship to the graduate, and the name and location of the high school or college from which they graduated. In addition, if you have a relative who received an award or a special recognition this past school year, please submit that information as well.

The deadline for submitting information about relatives to the newsletter is **Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**. This information will be published in the July newsletter.

## Mt. Zion to Host Juneteenth Father's Day Brunch

Mt. Zion will host the Springfield Juneteenth Jubilee Father's Day Brunch on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Brunch is free and will be held in the gymnasium here at the Dunbar Center.

Father's Day Guests that wish to attend **MUST** sign up.

To do so, complete the form at...

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJ\\_WDxKCfkcsvzcII\\_rQytYAUoONuFXb5PirvgxH1-0vww0A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJ_WDxKCfkcsvzcII_rQytYAUoONuFXb5PirvgxH1-0vww0A/viewform)

If you have more than 5 names, please complete the form and contact Cheri (413) 250-7029 or Nicole (413) 342-8009 with the additional names.

Other Juneteenth activities are on the flyer to the right.

**Celebrate JUNETEENTH JUBILEE 2023**  
**JUNE 16-18, 2023** IN SPRINGFIELD, MA

**JUNETEENTH JUBILEE FLAG RAISING**  
**THE BLACK VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH | 12:00 P.M.  
MASON SQUARE | VETERANS MEMORIAL-STATE & BEN SWAN WAY

**JUNETEENTH JUBILEE**  
ADULT BLOCK PARTY {21+}  
FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH | 5:00 P.M.  
LEVEL 5 RESTAURANT | LEVEL 5 STATE & ANDREW ST

**JUNETEENTH JUBILEE FAMILY FUN DAY**  
SAT. JUNE 17TH | 1:00PM - 7:00PM  
BLUNT PARK | 1780 ROOSEVELT AVE  
MUSICAL PERFORMANCES, CHILDREN ACTIVITIES, YOUTH AND BUSINESS AWARD PRESENTATIONS, COMPLIMENTARY FOOD FROM LOCAL BLACK-OWNED RESTAURANTS AT THE TASTE OF DINE BLACK, VENDORS, UNDERGROUND RAILROAD WALKING TOURS PRESENTED BY PAHMUSA, AND MUCH MORE!

**JUNETEENTH JUBILEE FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH**  
SUN. JUNE 18TH | 11:00AM - 1:00PM  
THE DUNBAR CENTER | 33 OAK ST

**STEPPIN' INTO JUNETEENTH**