



THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

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Volume 25; Issue 2

Rev. Dr. Atu White, Pastor

July 2023

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 livestreaming. (See article to the right.)

WEEKLY SERVICES FOR JULY

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.

CANCELLATIONS FOR JULY

During the month of July, there will be...

NO

Prayer & Meditation Call

On Wednesdays from 12 noon to 12:10 p.m.

&

NO

Bible Study

On Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Take this month to
RELAX, REFLECT, & BE REJUVENATED!

SPECIAL GUEST IN SEPTEMBER

It is one thing to read about history, but it is quite another to have someone who lived through that history share it with you. Well, we at Mt. Zion will be blessed to have that opportunity.

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, during Women's Month here at Mt. Zion, Civil Rights Activist **Mrs. Willie Pearl Mackey King** will be our guest speaker. Mrs. King worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) under the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a member of his executive staff from February 1962 to February 1966. Among other things, she is credited with assisting in transcribing Dr. King's famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

More information about Mrs. King's visit will be shared in coming weeks, but for now, please save the date of Saturday, September 23rd, and plan to come out and hear this Civil Rights icon.

HAPPY
4TH OF JULY



HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1-----Sis. Barbara Stewart
 July 5-----Bro. Richard Scroggins
 July 6-----Bro. John Brice
 July 7-----Sis. Pamela Miller
 July 9-----Sis. Saryah Brantley
 July 11-----Sis. Taylor Holmes
 July 11-----Sis. Shirley Walker
 July 14-----Sis. Sonya Williams
 July 15-----Bro. Marcus Maddox
 July 23-----Sis. Kaitlin Holmes-Murphy
 July 28-----Sis. Elaine Clough
 July 29-----Dea. Steve Powell
 July 30-----Bro. Isaiah Garner
 July 30-----Sis. Judy Williams
 July 31-----Sis. Valerie Hinds



HAPPY JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 9.....Bro. Kelvin Baldwin
 & Sis. Renee Baldwin
 July 12.....Bro. Bobby Hartsfield
 & Sis. Christine Hartsfield
 July 26.....Dea. Jesse McKnight
 & Sis. Linda Gail McKnight

Note: If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed in the newsletter, please give your information to a Newsletter Staff member.

IF I COULD

by Colette Malone

If I could sing,
 I'd sing you a song.
 If I could patrol,
 I'd make sure you're done
 no wrong.

If I could control your tears,
 Then they'd all be wiped away.
 If I could turn time around,
 You'll have the most adored
 passed day.

If I could be a gardener,
 I'd bring you flowers
 To cheer you during
 These trying hours.

If I could be a dove
 Soaring high in the sky above,
 I'd string a pink ribbon along
 To show the world how much
 you're loved.

If I could be an angel,
 I'd spread my wings
 And lift your burdens
 In trying to understand these
 things.

Nevertheless, I can pray
 And whisper all my days
 That those dark clouds will soon
 Materialize into sunshine of
 rays.

Because I have faith I pray to
 the Lord that you will wait
 As He reveals to you that
 He never makes a mistake.

*Note: The author is the 1st cousin of
 Dea. Steve Powell*

Pastor is on Vacation

Pastor White will be on vacation during the month of July. Anyone needing to speak to him can call the Church and leave a message or contact **Deacon Steve Powell** or **Deaconess Wanda Powell**.

In his absence, guest preachers for Sunday services will be:

July 2nd~Min. James Coppedge
Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Springfield, MA

July 9th~Bishop Curtis Shaird,
*Retired Pastor of Solid Rock Community
 Baptist Church, Springfield, MA*

July 16th~Rev. Trevor Beauford,
*Pastor of Union Baptist Church,
 Hartford, CT*

July 23rd~Dr. Terrlyn L. Curry
*Avery, Pastor of MLK, Jr. Presbyterian
 Church, Springfield, MA*

July 30th~Min. James Coppedge
Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Springfield, MA

JULY CHOIR REHEARSALS

MALE CHORUS

Wednesday, July 12th at 6 p.m.
 Saturday, July 15th at 11 a.m.

MASS CHOIR

Wednesday, July 26th at 6 p.m.

MEETING CANCELLATIONS

FOR JULY:

Joint Board
 Deacon Ministry
 Man Cave Fellowship
 Missionary Ministry
 She Shed Fellowship
 Ushers Ministry

MEETING NOT CANCELLED

Saturday Morning Prayer Hour
 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
 will continue in July.

The Church Cleanup

Written by Sis. Angela Westbrook

After morning prayer, about 20 members came ready to clean up our facility on Saturday, June 10th -- a day ensuring that our church building stays clean and presentable at all times. Weeds were pulled, vines cut back, fresh mulch was spread all around giving the grounds a clean new look. Flowers were planted and transplanted, and trash was picked up on the grounds, in the parking lots, and on the outside basketball court. Unfortunately, due to limited time and man/womanpower, painting of our benches and tables did not happen, but will have to wait until the next clean up.

While most of the volunteers concentrated outside, inside the building, **Sis. Kim Weir** was extremely busy. She gave the sanctuary, restrooms, and the Welcome Center a thorough cleaning.

When completed almost 7 hours from the start, we all were able to sit down together and break bread enjoying the results of hard work.

So, until the next time when the call goes out for cleanup day, be ready to come out and join in all the fun. In the meantime, take a little time to sit and enjoy all of God's beauty within our gardens, say a little prayer, and just be still knowing He is God!

A big special thank you to all who were able to help in any way!

And just a reminder...



MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Western Mass Food Bank Mobile Food truck will be at The Dunbar Center



in the Union Street parking lot on **Friday, July 28th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Free fresh produce is available to all on a first come, first served basis, regardless of income. Come out and bring family and friends.

'Thank You' From The Missionary Ministry

The Missionary Ministry would like to thank each and every one who contributed to last month's Toiletry Drive. It was a huge success!

Although it was labeled a Toiletry Drive for immigrants coming into the area, donations far exceeded just toiletries of soap, shampoo, lotions, toothpastes, etc. In addition to these types of items, Mt. Zionites also donated underwear, socks, wash cloths, towels, clothing for infants up to teens, and much, much more.

Whatever you gave, it was both needed and appreciated. On behalf of the Missionary Ministry, thanks again for your generosity and kindness.

Bro. Walker Bryant
Missionary Ministry Leader

Church Anniversary Assessment

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.

AUGUST HAPPENINGS

For the month of July, we may be 'on vacation' and therefore less busy than normal, but August promises to be just the opposite. Here are some upcoming Church & community events planned for next month that you can put on your calendars now:

Friday, August 4th:

- Pastor White will be preaching at his home church, Macedonia FBH Church, Georgetown, SC.

Monday, August 7th:

- Joint Board meeting at 6 p.m.

The Pastors' Council of Greater Springfield & the NAACP will host:

Wednesday, August 9th:

A Mayoral Candidate

Forum

at St. John's Congregational Church, 45 Hancock Street, Springfield

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 16th:

An At-Large City Council

Candidate Forum

here at Mt. Zion

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 20th:

- Education Sunday. Please invite students and educators to attend the 10 a.m. service.
- Mt. Zion's 2nd Family Reunion following morning Service. (See article below.)

Save the Date!!

Sunday, August 20, 2023

On Sunday, August 20th following morning worship service, members of all ages are invited to our 2nd Mt. Zion Family Reunion. Let's come together for a day of good food, games, laughter, and fellowship! More information to come, but in the meantime, mark your calendars and save the date of Sunday, August 20th! The Trustee Ministry is heading this event.

The Literacy Lab/AmeriCorps Massachusetts

Written by Sis. Angela Westbrook

Over the last four years, I have had 3-, 4-, and 5-year olds, as they would say, “my best friends.” Morning hugs, big smiles, drying tears, pouty faces, dirty noses, and long conversations just about the simple things that really matter to each one of them. Each day brings forth a new situation, and life lesson learned. When we see things through the eyes of a child, we get clarity--their eagerness in wanting to learn new things on a good day, and not wanting to hear anything you have to say the next. The rollercoaster of life even at such a young age takes effect and the reality of life spills over. As a tutor you make sure those ABC’s get taught, counting skills get developed, creativity engaged, and reading daily to develop that vocabulary that will expand as they grow. It is amazing to see the improvement that takes place from September to June with the results showing all the hard work and commitment did matter. It takes working moms and dads doing their parts at home, teachers continuing the task during the day, and tutors working with the educators within the classroom so nothing, or no one falls through the cracks. My experience as a Literacy Lab Pre-K Tutor has enriched my life, and the community I serve. Everyone can make a difference by leading by example to help our young people stay on that right path, as we build up our communities in one way or another no matter how big or small, a little time is all it takes. Our world is so busy now so filled with activities, and the hassle of trying to make ends meet to survive here on this earth. We have missed the mark of what is important in life, our relationship with Christ our Lord, family, friends, and community. My wise old neighbor told me before his passing “**you get what you give**” and that stuck with me throughout my life, and that is why I do the volunteer work, when and wherever I can. Checkout The Literacy Lab/AmeriCorps. It has so many different opportunities available to make a difference in this world. (www.theliteracylab.org/apply)

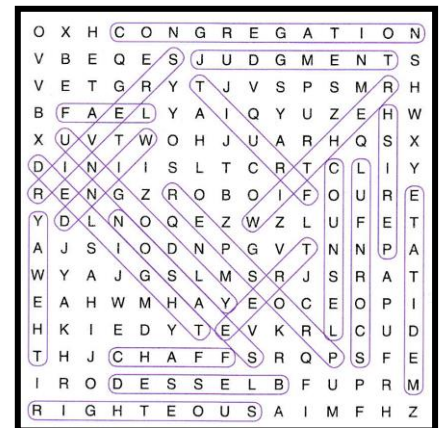
ANSWER TO LAST MONTH’S PUZZLE:

‘PSALM 1’ WORD SCRAMBLE

Submitted by Sis. Earlean Caldwell

Last month, you were tasked to find the words below in the group of letters to the right. Words could be found in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. They could be read either forward or backward. How many did find? See how you did.

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



THIS MONTH’S PUZZLE: A GARDEN & AN ORCHARD

Submitted by Dea. Steve Powell

Embedded in this story are the names of at least 14 fruits and vegetables that a woman planted in her garden and orchard. Their names may stand alone or may be separated into more than one word by punctuation marks and spaces in the middle. Can you figure out what she planted? Answers will be in next month’s newsletter. Good luck!

A woman wanted a garden and an orchard, never having had either before. After planning and strategizing over a dish of strawberry ice cream and a cup of tea with sugar, licorice, and honey, she took a leap of faith and got started. She had very little money, so she used cheap lumber to frame the boundaries. In a corner of her yard, she used a big, orange pot—a totally acceptable idea, so some plants would not be an eyesore. She even became an escape artist to get out of her regular work. Her hope, as she put it, was simply a matter of seeing if she could do it. She was a woman daring to be fruitful.

YOUNG SCHOLARS & GRADUATES RECOGNITION

On Sunday, July 2, 2023, Mt. Zion will recognize our Young Scholars and High School & College Graduates.

Young Scholars are students, in grades 1-12, who are active in Mt. Zion ministries and have earned 'A's' for the 4th marking period. These students were awarded \$5 for each 'A' they received up to a maximum of \$25.

High School and College Graduates are members of Mt. Zion, who have completed the academic requirements to graduate from their various high schools and colleges. They, too, received a monetary gift from the Church.

Congratulations to All!

Mt. Zion Baptist Church Young Scholars 4th Term Marking Period-2022/23

Student's Name	Ministries	School	Grade	Number of A's	Comments
Zachary Caudle	Men's Cleaning & Repair	Pope Francis Preparatory School	11 th	5	4.03 GPA, 1 st Honors, National Honor Society, Perfect Attendance
Sophia Coppedge-Nicholas		Bowles Elementary	2 nd	7	
Isaiah Garner	Audio Ministry	Commerce High School	10 th	3	3.25 GPA, 3 rd Honors
Taylor Holmes	Junior Ushers	Springfield Honors Academy	11 th	4	3.25 GPA, 3 rd Honors
Kai'Levi Motley		SICS	3 rd	5	
Danielle Ware,	Junior Ushers	Baystate Charter School	7 th	3	Most Athletic, Science Achievement Award

Mt. Zion Baptist Church 2023 High School Graduates

Student's Name	Graduating High School	Future Plans	Planned Major	Ministry
Tracetta Caudle	Pope Francis Preparatory School	Springfield College	Sports Management/ Marketing & Law	Junior Ushers
Daunte' Cole	Hampden Charter School of Science	University of Hartford	Physical Therapy	
Marcus Holmes	Renaissance High School	Job Corp	Pharmacy Technician	Audio Ministry
Camren Housey	Putnam Vocational High School	STCC	Traditional Art	

Juneteenth Celebration at The Dunbar

The city of Springfield held several events on the weekend of June 17th and 18th to recognize our newest federal holiday, Juneteenth, which derives its name from combining "June" and "nineteenth." This holiday commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans on the anniversary of the order issued by Major General Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, proclaiming freedom.

Here in Springfield, a city-wide Juneteenth Jubilee Father's Day Brunch was held in the gymnasium of The Dunbar Center on Sunday, June 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Brunch, headed by the Springfield Juneteenth Jubilee Committee, was free, and had a menu that included such items as waffles, scrambled eggs, grits, and sausage. Several Mt. Zionites attended and enjoyed the food and festivities.

Due to rain the day before, Saturday, June 17th, the Juneteenth Jubilee Committee requested to move the Juneteenth Family Fun Day to The Dunbar gymnasium as well. Though the change of venue was unexpected, those in attendance were not deterred. The event was well received.



The 4th of July

Independence Day (often called, the Fourth of July) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.

The Founding Father delegates of the Second Continental Congress declared that the Thirteen Colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. The Congress voted to approve independence by passing the Lee Resolution on July 2 and adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4.

This document, holds immense importance in American history, symbolizing the birth of a nation founded upon principles of freedom and liberty.

[Independence Day \(United States\) - Wikipedia](#)

We Want to Hear from YOU!!

As we 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 3rd Sunday of each month.**

GRADUATING RELATIVES

Last month, members were invited to share their families' good news of high school and/or college graduates. The Newsletter Staff heard from three (3). Congratulations to both the members and their relatives...



GRANDPARENTS' CORNER

Written by Sis. Andrea Dixon

Bro. Al and Sis. Andrea "Mimmie" Dixon would like to announce the graduation of their grandson, Kevin L. Jackson from Central High School with a GPA of 3.9!

Kev has been a joy to watch grow. He developed into a wonderful, hardworking young man.

The next step in his journey will be attending The University of Maine in Orono, ME, where he received a full scholarship for his academic accomplishments and his outstanding performance on the football field. While doing his schoolwork and his football training, practices, etc., he also is employed at SECC (South End Community Center) in Springfield. He has really become an all-around, well-mannered fella!

Along with his mom, Shayla, his sister, Kamara, Uncle Landry, and his much loved cousins, and other relatives, we're ALL very proud of who Kev has become.

Please keep him in your prayers as he begins his next life's venture. Pastor Atu has asked us for our favorite scripture. Well, Kev's is Romans 8:31. So Kevin, fear not--"If God is for you, who can be against you!"

Love ya much, man!! Nana

IT'S ALL RELATIVE

Written by Sis. Phyllis Tolbert

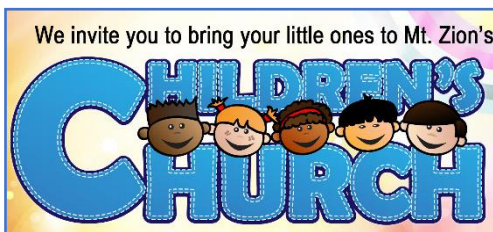
Josiah Samuel Johnson, the grandnephew of **Sis Phyllis Tolbert**, graduated from Grimsley High School in Greensboro, North Carolina. Josiah graduated with honors with a GPA of 3.78 Cum Laude. He was also part of the National Honor Society, Global Language Endorsement of the National Honor Society, the National Spanish Honors Society, and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Josiah will be attending North Carolina Central University, which is an HBCU, where he will study Theater and Music.

Jeremy J. Liddell is the son-in-law of **Sis Phyllis Tolbert**. Jeremy graduated from Springfield Technical Community College in Springfield, MA. with an Associate Degree in Arts. He was also an Honors Graduate with a 3.3 GPA. Jeremy will continue his studies this fall at Westfield State University.

RELATIVE-LY SPEAKING

Written by Sis. Mary Moore

Donovan Elliott Richardson graduated in March 2023 from St. John University in Queens, New York. He received a Master's of Professional Studies in Sports Management. Donovan s **Sis. Mary Moore's** great, great nephew as well as her God Child.



Just a reminder...Children's Church is on the 2nd Sunday of each month. This month, that will be **Sunday, July 9th**, when the Youth Ministry will hold Children's Church 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. (Note: Let a Youth Ministry Leader know if your child has any food allergies).

If you have questions or want to volunteer to help, see Youth Ministry Leader, **Sis. Pamela Medlock**.