



# THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

## THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

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**Volume 25; Issue 5**

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

**October 2023**

### **Mt. Zion Receives Non-Profit Security Grant**

On September 26, 2023, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that a total of \$4,013,340 has been awarded through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) to address priority security needs at faith-based and community service organizations at heightened risk of a hate crime or terror attack.

“Communities rely on nonprofit and faith-based organizations for essential social services, spiritual support, and guidance,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Our Administration is deeply committed to ensuring these vital organizations have the tools and resources needed to create safe, inclusive, and protected environments. These federal funds provide critical support to our nonprofit and faith communities while strengthening Massachusetts’ ability to uphold our values and celebrate our diversity.”

**We are pleased to announce that Mt. Zion is one of the recipients, receiving \$149,565.** With this grant, plans are to update and increase our security through better cameras, doors, windows, etc. Over the next two years, as we expend these funds, our focus will be on taking proactive steps to better secure our property and facility. More information will be shared in upcoming weeks.

We are grateful to Governor Maura Healey, Lt. Governor Kimberly Driscoll, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for including Mt. Zion in this very beneficial grant. On behalf of Mt. Zion...

**THANK YOU!!**

### **WEEKLY SERVICES FOR OCTOBER**

#### **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 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/Mediation Call**

Wednesday at 12 Noon

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#### **Bible Study**

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study Lesson: “The Articles of Faith”

### **IN-PERSON SERVICES**

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

Masks are optional.

Social distancing is encouraged.

Those who are not attending services in the sanctuary, can continue to worship via live streaming. (See article above.)

## HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

October 2.....Sis. Helen Hayes  
 October 6.....Bro. Adrian Garvin  
 October 7.....Sis. Kasha Gabriel  
 October 7.....Sis. Jordan Holmes  
 October 7.....Bro. Cameron Scott  
 October 11.....Sis. Quadnesa Kelly  
 October 10.....Sis. Beverly Caldwell-Echols  
 October 13.....Sis. Alesia Spears  
 October 14.....Sis. Stephanie Fahey  
 October 14.....Sis. Gail Little  
 October 15.....Sis. Anna Howell  
 October 16.....Sis. Beverly Hindle  
 October 19.....Bro. Steven Ramsey  
 October 23.....Sis. Andrea Elliot  
 October 24.....Sis. Dawn Faniel-Hall  
 October 24.....Sis. Donna Seymour  
 October 25.....Bro. Qumar Bilal  
 October 25.....Bro. William Holmes-Murphy  
 October 28.....Deaconess Mable Kenney  
 October 30.....Sis. Bethune Andrews

## HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

October 2.....Sis. Karla Davis  
 & Bro. Blake Davis  
 October 9.....Sis. Mary Moore  
 & Bro. Willie Moore  
 October 15.....Bro. Edward Caudle  
 & Sis. Patrice Caudle  
 October 16.....Bro. Steven Ramsey  
 & Sis. Patricia Ramsey  
 October 30.....Min. James D. Coppedge  
 & Sis. Lakisha Coppedge

## HE ASKS SO LITTLE AND GIVES SO MUCH

Author Unknown

WHAT MUST I DO  
 To ensure peace of mind?  
 Is the answer I'm seeking  
 Too hard to find?

HOW CAN I KNOW  
 What God wants me to be?  
 HOW CAN I TELL  
 What's expected of me?

WHERE CAN I GO  
 For guidance and aid  
 To help me correct  
 The errors I've made?

The answer is found  
 In doing THREE THINGS  
 And great is the gladness  
 That doing them brings...

“DO JUSTICE,”  
 “LOVE KINDNESS,”  
 “WALK HUMBLY WITH  
 GOD”

For with these  
 THREE THINGS  
 As your “rule and your rod”

All things worth having  
 Are yours to achieve  
 If you follow God's words  
 And have  
 FAITH TO BELIEVE!

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## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time  
 ends on the  
 1st Sunday of next month,  
**Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.**  
 Remember the adage,  
 “Spring forward; Fall back!”  
 Set your clocks back one hour!



## OCTOBER 2023 MEETINGS

**DEACON MINISTRY MEETING**  
**Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 10:00 a.m.**

All Deacons & Deaconesses should attend.

**JOINT BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:00 p.m.**

All Joint Board members should attend.

**MISSIONARY MINISTRY  
MEETING**  
**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> h**  
**at 11:00 a.m.**

All Missionaries should attend.

**USHER MINISTRY MEETING**  
**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**at 11:00 a.m.**

All Ushers should attend.

**MAN CAVE FELLOWSHIP**  
**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:00 p.m.**

The Topic: “*Sometimes You Have to  
Dig in with The Lord.*”

Scripture: Genesis 32

All Men are invited to attend.

**SHE SHED FELLOWSHIP**  
**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:00 p.m.**

The Topic: “*Give & Take*”  
 Scripture: Prov. 3:5-7; Jer. 29:11-14  
 All Women are invited to attend.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS**  
**MALE CHORUS**

**Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 12 noon**

**MASS CHOIR**  
**Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:00 p.m.**

## NEW MEMBER

Joining Mt. Zion in September was:

**SIS. ALNITA WILLIAMS**

**Date Joined:** September 3, 2023

**Method:** Christian Experience

## UBC Will Be Held at Mt. Zion Again



Like last year, the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of the United Baptist Convention of MA, RI, & NH, Inc. will be held here at Mt. Zion. The dates are Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, November 9, 10, & 11, 2023. Again this year, UBC members from all over the northeast will convene here in Springfield for this 3-day event.

Mt. Zion will be looking for volunteers to help host this large group. When the call goes out for volunteers, please answer.

## CALLING ALL VETERANS!

If you are a veteran of the United States Military and have not submitted your name to the Newsletter Staff in the past, please do so by Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. We want to recognize you in our November issue.

## MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Western Mass Food Bank Mobile Food truck will be at The Dunbar Center on **Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** in the Union Street parking lot 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. Invite family & friends.

## PASTOR WHITE IS A NEW AUTHOR

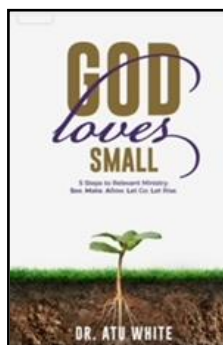
Congratulations to our Pastor, **Rev. Dr. Atu White**, on the recent publication of his new book,

### **God Loves Small**

**5 Steps to Relevant Ministry**

**See, Make, Allow, Let Go, Let Rise.**

In honor of this wonderful achievement, the Pastor's Aid Ministry is planning a book signing for Pastor White



on **Sunday, October 15, 2023**, immediately following morning service. Please come out and purchase a book. The price of the book at the Book Signing is \$15.00 per book. If you can't make it on the 15<sup>th</sup>, pre-orders are being taken each Sunday leading up to signing.

## WINTER COAT GIVEAWAY THIS MONTH!

The Coat Drive for children and adults, sponsored by the Missionary Ministry, continues through Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. The actual Coat Giveaway will be **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** here at the Church.

Donations of new or gently used coats are being accepted for adults. **For children, we are looking for ALL NEW coats and hoodies.**



**If you, (or someone you know), need a coat, please come by on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.** See **Sis. Anna Howell** if you have any questions.

## Pastor's Fall Engagements

*Below are some preaching engagements involving our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White** during the months of October & November:*

### **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>:**

**10:00 a.m.:** Pastor White will preach here at Mt. Zion, followed by a preaching engagement at Zion Community Baptist Church here in Springfield.

**3:00 p.m.:** Pastor White is the guest preacher at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Malden, MA. Emmanuel will be celebrating their Pastor's, Rev. Wayne Gadie's, 35<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary. **For those who signed up to go on the bus...The bus will leave the Church at 1:00 p.m. Please be on time.**

### **Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Pastor White will be the guest preacher at the 77<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary service for Oak Valley Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, TN.

### **Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor White will be the guest lecturer/training facilitator at the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM) Leadership Training Institute in Groton, MA.

### **Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**7:00 p.m.** Pastor White will preach a Revival at St. John's Congregational Church here in Springfield. **The Male Chorus will accompany him and provide the music.**

## Church Summit Postponed

The "Black Church Summit" that was noted in last month's newsletter has been postponed. Once a new date is scheduled, it will be announced.

# A Woman of the Movement: MRS. WILLIE PEARL MACKEY KING

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, Mt. Zion was blessed to have as our guest, Willie Pearl Mackey King.

Mrs. King, a legend of the Civil Rights Movement, engaged in an hour-long conversation with our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White**, discussing everything from her childhood, her time at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) where she worked from 1962-1966, and her experience transcribing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "*Letter from Birmingham Jail*" in April 1963. In addition, she shared personal insights on the 1963 March on Washington and the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, where four (4) Black girls were killed, in 1963.

On a damp and raining morning, over 100 people came out to listen to the conversation between Mrs. King and Pastor White. It was an extremely interesting and educational opportunity to hear from someone who was not only an eyewitness to some of the Civil Rights events, but a participant as well. Her candor, humor, and recollection of events was simply spellbinding.

Following the "Conversation," a luncheon was held in the gym for Mrs. King where she so graciously posed for pictures with the many people who requested a photo with her. She also returned to Mt. Zion on Sunday morning and joined us in our worship service.

Special **THANKS** to everyone who helped make this event so successful. To...

- **Sis. Andrea Dixon** and her **Culinary Team** for preparing and serving a wonderfully delicious meal.
- **Sis. Angela Westbrook** for the amazing stage set-up in the sanctuary and coordinating table decorations in the gymnasium. The African-patterned motif was striking.
- **Bro. Richard Scroggins, Bro. Al Dixon, Bro. Rondell Walker**, and the rest of the **Volunteer Maintenance Crew** for the heavy lifting of the desk & chairs on the stage and all the tables and chairs in the gym.
- **Sis. Brianna Woodard** for designing the impressive poster used to advertise the event.
- Dea. Ericc Powell who not only traveled with Mrs. King from Maryland to Springfield, but who did a marvelously poetic job of introducing her at the event.
- **Pastor Atu White** for his very insightful questions and excellent interview skills.
- And finally, to **EVERYONE ELSE**—Ushers, Officers, people who invited others and/or handed out flyers...and especially everyone who attended, **THANK YOU!**

## THANK YOU!

*Written by Sis. Andrea Dixon*

I would like to first thank God for giving us the strength and **Pastor Atu** for entrusting us with this awesome opportunity to serve!!

We (Mt. Zion) have the BEST Culinary Team around! A GREAT BIG Thank you to all my sisters: **Angela, Arlene, Debbie G. (& Co.), Keturah, Kim, Pam, Shirley**, and **Sis. Anna** & the Missionaries! A Job Well Done! A Huge Hug for always going the extra mile! We received nothing but great accolades from Ms. Willie and those in attendance! I can't leave out the brothers who helped with the set-up and breakdown for this event. Just can't praise you fellas enough!

We are truly a Blessed People here at Mt. Zion! God Bless You All!

*Mimmie*

# FUNFEST IS COMING!!

This year, on Tuesday, **October 31<sup>st</sup>**, we will have "FunFest" in our Gymnasium and Orleans Street parking lot. Starting at **6 p.m.** and ending at **8 p.m.**, kids will be able to enjoy games, costume & dance contests, a bounce house, 'trunk or treat', food, prizes, and much more.

We are asking Mt. Zion members to...

- Donate individually wrapped candy and healthy snacks, which can be brought in between now and Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>
- Decorate your cars and fill the trunks with candy, to be part of 'trunk or treat!' Prizes will be awarded to the best decorated cars.



**Funfest is Coming and  
It's Free, Fun, and Safe**

- **Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 6-8 p.m.**
- **Mt. Zion/Dunbar Center Gym and Parking Lot**
- **Games, Costume Contest, Bounce House, Dance Contest, Trunk or Treat, Food, Prizes and Much, Much More...**
- **Community is Invited!**

TRUNKS, TREATS & MORE!  
**TRUNK OR TREAT**



Anyone wishing to participate in 'trunk or treat' or has any questions regarding FunFest, should see **Sis. Charlette Scott, Sis. Gwen Ozenne** or any Trustee Ministry member.

## YOUNG ADULT GAME NIGHT LOTS OF FUN

*Written by Sis. Patrice Wood*

The Young Adults of Mt. Zion (20s and 30s) along with those who enjoy playing games, came together for a fun-filled night of friendly competition and fellowship on September 14<sup>th</sup>. "Game Master" **Sis. Marcia Borders** was instrumental in leading Mad Gab, with the 'Teamsters' group walking away with the win and "bragging rights"... at least until the next game night!

Special thanks to **Sis. Andrea 'Mimmie' Dixon** for providing a delicious meal for the evening. Our Young Adults offered great feedback to grow their ministry. If you have ideas, please contact **Sis. Patricia Johnson-Housey, Sis. Jolene Snowden, Sis. Tina Tucker-Garner, or Sis. Patrice Wood.**

Also, **mark your calendars for Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** for another evening of fellowship and fun with a **Paint Night & Mindfulness / Stress Reduction Conversation.**

## Member Chosen to Display Artwork At "Carry It On 2023"

The Massachusetts Communities Action Network's (MCAN's) annual friendraising fundraiser, "Carry It On," will be celebrating the art of community organizing in Boston's Seaport Neighborhood. This family friendly and interactive afternoon event will feature Art Of Action, a seven piece art series, created by artists from around the Commonwealth bringing to colorful life the work of MCAN affiliate organizers and leaders. One of the featured artists is our own member, **Sis. Brianna Woodard**, who was chosen to display her artwork at this year's event. Tickets are \$35.00 per adult.

"Carry It On 2023" will be...

- Sunday, October 15, 2023
- From 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- At District Hall, 75 Northern Avenue, Boston, MA, 02210

For more information see. Sis. Woodard



**Date Change:  
10-15-2023**

Children's Church will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday this month, NOT the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. We invite you to bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors, etc.—ages 5-11, to Children's Church on **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

In November, Children's Church will return to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

# PUZZLES

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ:

### "JACOB'S LADDER"

*Submitted by Sis. Pamela Medlock*

Last month, your task was to change one letter at a time (but not the position of any letter) to make a new word, moving from the word at the top of the ladder to the word at the bottom, using the exact number of rungs provided. (Note: There may have been more than one solution.) How did you do? Here is a solution.

|          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>R</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>T</b> | <b>H</b> |
| R        | U        | S        | H        |
| R        | A        | S        | H        |
| C        | A        | S        | H        |
| C        | A        | S        | E        |
| C        | A        | R        | E        |
| C        | O        | R        | E        |
| <b>C</b> | <b>O</b> | <b>R</b> | <b>N</b> |

## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: MOSES ANAGRAM

The instructions for this month's puzzle are quite simple...Unscramble the letters to find the words in this Anagram about Moses. Answers will be in next month's newsletter.

ABEKST \_\_\_\_\_

AAHHOPR \_\_\_\_\_

DEEHHPRS \_\_\_\_\_

ACEILMRS \_\_\_\_\_

BGINNRU BHSU \_\_\_\_\_

AEGLPSU \_\_\_\_\_

AEOPRSSV \_\_\_\_\_

AEEILRSST \_\_\_\_\_

ACDEMMMNNOST \_\_\_\_\_

ADEELR \_\_\_\_\_

## OUR 46<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH ANNIVERSARY ~ GOD IS FAITHFUL!

The recognition of Mt. Zion's 46<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary was held Sunday, September 24, 2023, at our 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Pastor White outlined the 'State of the Church,' sharing several upcoming plans, including looking for a Youth Pastor and a plan to eliminate our mortgage. (See next article.) As a church body, we also paid reverence to the three (3) members who had gone on to Glory since our last Anniversary celebration. Finally, Pastor White continued his sermon series, "Walking With God," preaching from Exodus 32:1-8 on the subject, "Patience or Resistance."

How blessed we are!!

### Project Impact, Phase III—Mortgage Elimination

In 2016, Pastor White introduced us to a plan that he called, Project Impact. Project Impact Phase I was searching for a new home. (In October 2016, we purchased our current facility here on Oak Street.) Project Impact Phase II began in 2017 and continued for about 3 years. This phase focused on preparing our new home for worship by designing and constructing a sanctuary/performing arts theater, updating the facility with a new roof on the historic side, bringing security and elevator systems up to code, creating an Administrative wing of offices, and a lot more. All of which were accomplished. So now we are at Project Impact Phase III—Eliminating our Mortgage.

In 2016, we took out a 20-Year Mortgage. As of today, if we continue to make payments at our current rate, we can pay the mortgage off in another 4 1/2 years, decreasing a 20-year mortgage to 11 1/2 years. Our goal, however, is to pay it off by the end of 2025. **To do this, we need at least 40 individuals, couples, and/or groups to donate a minimum of \$3500 between January 2024 and December 2025.** (If you choose to do so as a group, get with family and friends, create a team, and name one team member as team captain.)

**On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, "Commitment Sunday," we will ask individuals, couples, and team captains to sign a pledge committing to a payment of \$3500 over the next two years.** Donations can be made weekly in regular offering envelopes by simply marking your envelope, 'Project Impact,' 'Debt Reduction,' or 'Mortgage.' You should also use either of these notations when giving via Cash App or Givelify. Donations can also be made in honor or memory of a loved one, or just from you.

More information will be shared during October, but on November 5<sup>th</sup>, please make a commitment!

#### MATTOON STREET ART FESTIVAL

Artist **Awilda Oxios**, a member of Mt. Zion, was recently pictured in the Point of View exhibiting her artwork at last month's Mattoon Street Art Festival.



#### Go Pink on Sunday, 10-22-2023!

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is this month, Mt. Zionites are asked to wear PINK on the 4th Sunday, **October 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

