



THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

Phone: 413-785-5664

E-mail: wearemtzion@gmail.com

Website: wearemtzion.com

Volume 25; Issue 4

Rev. Dr. Atu White, Pastor

September 2023

WEEKLY SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

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/Mediation Call & Bible Study

12 Noon Prayer & Meditation Call  
& 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

**will resume on Wednesday, September 20, 2023.**

Bible Study will begin a 6-week session on 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.)

A CONVERSATION AND Q&A WITH

# A WOMAN OF THE MOVEMENT

**WILLIE PEARL MACKEY KING**

**A LEGEND OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

**WORKED WITH DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. & THE SCLC**



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023  
11:00 AM

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH  
33 OAK STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109  
REV. DR. ATU WHITE, PASTOR

FREE ADMISSION



### SOULS TO THE POLLS

SPRINGFIELD CITY HALL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> ~

12 p.m. ~ 2 p.m.; Early Voting!

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Sept. 1-----Bro. Thomas Garner  
Sept. 2-----Sis. Kelli Powell  
Sept.3-----Sis. Michelle Murphy  
Sept. 4-----Bro. Kenneth Asiamah, Jr.  
Sept. 5-----Dea. Ivrie Thompson  
Sept. 6-----Sis. Deborah Gary  
Sept. 6-----Sis. Samantha Hamilton  
Sept. 6-----Bro. Camren Housey  
Sept. 9-----Sis. Tameka Bennett  
Sept. 9-----Sis. Thomasina Jones  
Sept. 10-----Sis. Andrea Dixon  
Sept. 11-----Sis. Nicole Taylor  
Sept. 14-----Sis. Angela Caldwell  
Sept. 15-----Sis. Alycia Drake  
Sept. 17-----Sis. Earlean Caldwell  
Sept. 17-----Sis. Tracy Johnson  
Sept. 18-----Bro. Samuel Thomas  
Sept. 21-----Sis. Lakisha Coppedge  
Sept. 21-----Sis. Diane Ledbetter  
Sept. 21-----Sis. Ebony Shippy  
Sept. 23-----Sis. Adreana Caldwell  
Sept. 24-----Sis. Tracy Sasnecki  
Sept. 25-----Sis. Suzetta Crane  
Sept. 25-----Sis. Deborah Stone  
Sept. 26-----Bro. Earl 'Mitch' Andrews  
Sept. 26-----Bro. Amari Brown  
Sept. 27-----Sis. Tashia Jordan  
Sept. 28-----Sis. Aundrea Paulk-Lopez

## It Couldn't Be Done

By Edgar A. Guess

Somebody said that it  
couldn't be done  
But he with a chuckle replied  
That "maybe it couldn't," but  
he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

So he buckled right in with the  
trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried  
he hid it.  
He started to sing as he  
Tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done,  
and he did it!

Somebody scoffed:  
"Oh, you'll never do that;  
At least no one ever has done it;"  
But he took off his coat and  
he took off his hat  
And the first thing we knew  
he'd begun it.

With a lift of his chin and  
a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he  
tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done,  
and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you  
it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to  
prophesy failure,  
There are thousands to point out  
to you one by one,  
The dangers that wait  
to assail you.

But just buckle in  
with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat  
and go to it;  
Just start in to sing as you  
tackle the thing  
That "cannot be done,"  
and you'll do it!

It Couldn't Be Done by Edgar Albert Guest |  
Poetry Foundation

## SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETINGS

**DEACON MINISTRY MEETING**  
**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 10:00 a.m.**  
All Deacons & Deaconesses should attend.

**MISSIONARY MINISTRY  
MEETING**  
**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 11:00 a.m.**  
All Missionaries should attend.

**USHER MINISTRY MEETING**  
**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 11:00 a.m.**  
All Ushers should attend.

**JOINT BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:00 p.m.**  
All Joint Board members should attend.

**MAN CAVE FELLOWSHIP**  
**Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:00 p.m.**  
The Topic: "*DON'T let Anger Remove  
You From God.*"  
Scripture: Psalms 37  
All Men are invited to attend.

**SHE SHED FELLOWSHIP**  
**Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:00 p.m.**  
The Topic: "*Not Easily Broken*"  
Scripture: Luke 8:32-38  
All Women are invited to attend.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS**  
**MALE CHORUS**  
Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>  
at 12 noon  
**MASS CHOIR**  
Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00 p.m.

## Young Adult Game Night

Written by Sis. Patrice Wood

Are you in your 20's or 30's—either biologically or in your soul? Then...

Join other young adults for a fun-filled game night on **Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** at **6:00 p.m.** here at the Church. Bring a friend and let's enjoy good food, games, and fellowship.

## FUNFEST413 IS COMING

Written by Sis. Charlette Scott

FunFest, a safe alternative to Halloween's trick-or-treating, is coming.

### Where?

Here at Mt. Zion in the gym and the parking lot--both turned into a center for fun.

### When?

Tuesday, October 31, 2023, from 6:00-8:00p.m

### What will there be to do?

Games, costume contest, bounce house, dance contest, trunk or treat, food, prizes and more...

### How much will it cost?

It's FREE!

### Who can come?

It's a Community Collaboration, open to all.

### How can I help?

Volunteers are needed, as well as donations of individually wrapped candies and healthy snacks.

To volunteer or donate, see Sis. Charlette Scott!

## Pastor's Fall Engagements

As we enter the fall season, here are some upcoming preaching engagements involving our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White**. More information will be forthcoming about those identified with an asterisk (\*).

### 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. **Mt. Zion is looking to provide transportation to this service. Sign-ups will begin next week.**

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

Pastor White will be preaching the 77<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary service for Oak Valley Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

### 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 at St. John's Congregational Church here in Springfield for their Revival. **He is asking the Male Chorus to accompany him to this service.**

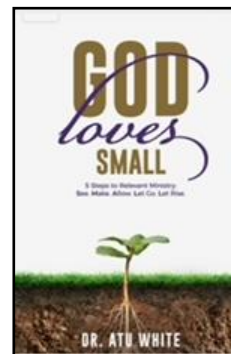
## PASTOR WHITE IS A NEW AUTHOR

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 (Mt. Zionites will get a special rate of \$15.00 per book.) If you can't make it on the 15<sup>th</sup>, pre-orders will be taken each Sunday leading up to signing.

## CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THIS MONTH

Our 46<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary will be celebrated at our 10:00 a.m. service on **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**. Mark your calendar. More information to come.

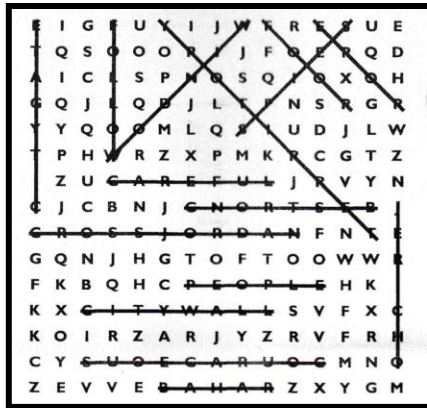
*Regarding our Anniversary...*

It is not too late to pay or pay on your Anniversary assessment of \$246.00, a sacrificial offering over and beyond your tithes. This is in recognition of our 46 years as a church body. Anniversary offerings can be placed in our regular offering envelopes, simply mark the envelope "Church Anniversary."

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE: "JOSHUA PREPARES"

*Submitted by Sis. Andrea Dixon*

Last month, you were asked to find words in the group of scrambled letters from the book of Joshua. Words could be in straight lines either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally in the diagram. They could also read forward or backward. How many did you find? Hopefully, all of them, while at the same time, learning a little more about Joshua. Here are the answers:



- |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>BE STRONG</b></p> <p><b>CITY GATE</b></p> <p><b>COURAGEOUS</b></p> <p><b>FOLLOW</b></p> <p><b>PEOPLE</b></p> <p><b>ROOF</b></p> <p><b>SPIES</b></p> <p><b>WINDOW</b></p> | <p><b>CAREFUL</b></p> <p><b>CITY WALL</b></p> <p><b>CROSS JORDAN</b></p> <p><b>JERICHO</b></p> <p><b>RAHAB</b></p> <p><b>ROPE</b></p> <p><b>TERRITORY</b></p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## THIS MONTH'S QUIZ: "JACOB'S LADDER"

*Submitted by Sis. Pamela Medlock*

Change one letter at a time (but not the position of any letter) to make a new word. Move 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 be more than one solution.) Good luck. Answers will be in next month's issue.

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

## **THE MATTOON STREET ART FESTIVAL**

*Written by Sis. Awilda Oxios*

Hope everyone had a good summer. School is back in session. I pray our children absorb all the education that is being offered to them.

I say all this to remind you of the Mattoon Street Arts Festival. The festival is known for having over 100 vendors displaying paintings, jewelry, woodwork, textiles, and more. There are also food vendors and strolling musicians. Don't forget the famous tin man handing out candy and taking pictures with him

This will take place Saturday and Sunday,  
 September 9 & 10, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.  
 on Mattoon Street in Springfield.  
 Free parking at the TD parking lot.

Please stop by my booth to say "hello." Remember to support the Arts. Thank you.

# WILLIE PEARL MACKEY KING

*On Saturday, September 23, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., Mrs. Willie Pearl Mackey King, a Civil Rights legend, will be the guest of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 33 Oak Street, Springfield. Mrs. King worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under the leadership of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from February 1962 until February 1966, and was a member of his executive staff. She performed a variety of administrative duties and traveled with Dr. King. Mrs. King's complete bio can be found at [womenshistory.org](http://womenshistory.org).*

*Mark your calendars, invite family and friends, and come out and hear this dynamic woman. Learn firsthand about the Civil Rights movement under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*Below are excerpts about Mrs. King from an article written by Breana Ross found at [Maryland woman helped form MLK's 'Letter from Birmingham Jail'](http://Maryland woman helped form MLK's 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' (wbaltv.com)) (wbaltv.com)*

## **Maryland woman played crucial role in piecing together MLK's 'Letter from Birmingham Jail'**

A Maryland woman helped piece together Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "[Letter from Birmingham Jail](#)." Dr. King wrote the letter in 1963 as a response to eight clergymen who criticized his nonviolent demonstrations against segregation in Birmingham, Alabama, but he did not bring that letter to life by himself.

Willie Pearl Mackey King never figured her name would be etched in history, but she helped piece together the letter that is so well known today. [Mackey King, no relation to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., just happened to marry a man with the same last name.] Yet, at the bottom of the last page of the famous letter, it's signed: "MLK, WM" for Martin Luther King and Willie Mackey. Those are her initials written in ink on one of the most famous documents of the civil rights movement that has been seen by countless eyes...

Mackey King witnessed the moment police arrested Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and took him to jail. That same day, eight ministers published a newspaper article condemning his demonstrations as "unwise and untimely." The letter struck a nerve, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was determined to respond even without a notepad in his cell.

"He started to write on the edges of that newspaper. Then, he wrote on toilet paper, greasy sandwich bags, paper napkins, anything that he could find to write on," Mackey King said. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s lawyer took the fragmented pieces of paper straight to Mackey King and her boss, Wyatt Tee Walker, and together, they pieced together the puzzle of his words.

"There was no order, and they came in at different times, so it was one of the most difficult assignments I guess I ever had," Mackey King said. But she was determined. She used a typewriter to type all 20 pages of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words -- a message that still rings true today.

Asked what she wants people to take away from the famous letters today, Mackey King said: "You need to take a stand. You can't sit back and wait for somebody to do your job."

## **Black Church Summit: The State of the Black Church in Mass**

Mt. Zion will be the site of the Black Church Summit this fall.

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., church leaders from across New England will gather here to discuss "The State of the Black Church in Massachusetts." There will be three discussion panels as well as participation from the audience. The Summit will be livestreamed.

## **UBC to Once Again Be Held at Mt. Zion**

The 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of the United Baptist Convention of MA, RI, & NH, Inc., like last year's 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, will be held here at Mt. Zion on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, November 9, 10, & 11, 2023. Like last year, this event will see UBC members from all over the northeast convene here in Springfield for this 3-day event. Also like last year, Mt. Zion will be looking for volunteers to help host this large group. When the call goes out for volunteers, please answer.

## NEW MEMBER

Joining Mt. Zion in August was:

**SIS. DEBBIE BRANTLEY**

**Date Joined:** August 13, 2023

**Method:** Candidate for Baptism

*Welcome Sis. Brantley*

## Winter Coat Drive

*Written by Sis. Anna Howell*



Again this year, the Missionary Ministry is sponsoring a coat drive for infants, children, and adults. Coats, jackets, and hoodie sweatshirts can be dropped off at the Church during the entire month of September. We ask only that you donate **NEW** or gently used, professional **Cleaned** coats.

All donations are greatly appreciated. May God Bless you to help others. If you have any questions, please contact **Sis. Anna Howell** @ 413 783 0454.

## Please Keep the Sanctuary Clean!

Just a reminder...

There should be...



## MT. ZION'S FAMILY REUNION

*Written by Sis. Charlette Scott*

On Sunday August 20, 2023, Mt Zion held its second Family and friends' Reunion event.

The day began with a sermon by our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White**, titled "Before you Build an Ark," followed with prayer for all educators and students.

The Family Reunion was held in the gym that was tastefully decorated with flags to reflect the cultural identities of the congregation and the community. Approximately 130 people were in attendance and enjoyed listening to a playlist selection by our in-house DJ, **Brian Ozenne**. An all-ages biblical game of "Saved and Sanctified" was played which tested our biblical, church protocol, social media, and gospel music knowledge. Children in attendance participated in a rousing game of musical chairs.

Following the blessing of the food by Pastor White, family and friends were able to "taste and see" cuisine from the following cultures: soul food, Spanish and Jamaican. Thank you, **Bro. Al Dixon**, **Sis. Debra Gary**, and **Sis. Awilda Oxios** for your soul food and Dominican cuisine.

A special thank you to all who volunteered in different capacities to make this event a special reunion.

We hope to expand this event next year to include food and games from other cultures and hope that next time you can join us!

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE:** The Trustee Ministry was in charge of this amazing event. "Thank you" for a job well done!!

## MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Western Mass Food Bank Mobile Food truck will be at The Dunbar Center in the Union Street parking on **Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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.

## You Don't Need A Pulpit

*Intro Written by & Article*

*Submitted by Sis. Andrea Dixon*

**Intro:** As **Pastor Atu** has said, we must walk WITH God, we must walk FOR God, we must be in SERVICE to God, & we must SPEAK of the Goodness of God.

**Article:** Champion figure skater Paul Wylie is a cum laude Harvard graduate and a born again Christian. His mother always wanted him to be a minister, but he had decided to study law. He believes he does not possess the gifts required for pastoral ministry. But he insists—and rightly so—that whether he's performing on the ice or reading in the library of Harvard Law School, he can serve his Savior Jesus Christ.

Whether we are figure skaters, law students, homemakers, mechanics, nurses, bankers, or have some other jobs, we can serve Jesus Christ. The New Testament doesn't assign the tasks of ministry only to those who are officially recognized as pastors. First Corinthians 12:7 indicates that every believer is spiritually equipped for some kind of service.

We don't have to stand behind a pulpit to function as ministers for our Savior. The task of ministering and the privilege of serving have been assigned to everyone who has been born again—VCG

*I want in this short life of mine,  
As much as I can be pressed  
Of service true for God and man  
Help me to be my best!*

-Simpson

# GRANDPARENTS DAY

National Grandparents Day is celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day. This year, Grandparents Day falls on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Grandparents Day is an opportunity to treasure the connection between grandparents and grandchildren and spend some quality family time together.

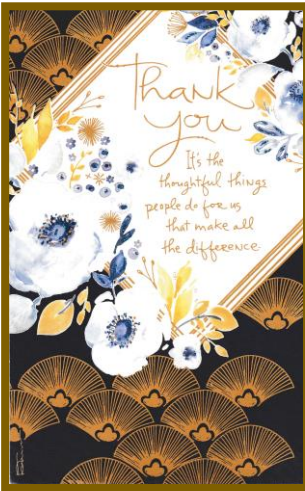
*Grandparents Day — The Full History and How You Can Celebrate (nationaltoday.com)*

If you are blessed to still have your grandparents with you, take a moment to let them know they are loved.

*Happy Grandparents Day to All Mt. Zion Grandparents!!*

\*\*\*\*\*

## THANK YOU NOTES



**Front:**

Thank You! It's the thoughtful things people do for us that make all the difference.

**Printed Inside:** Your thoughtfulness meant so much to me and I just want you to know I truly appreciate it.

**Personal Comments:**

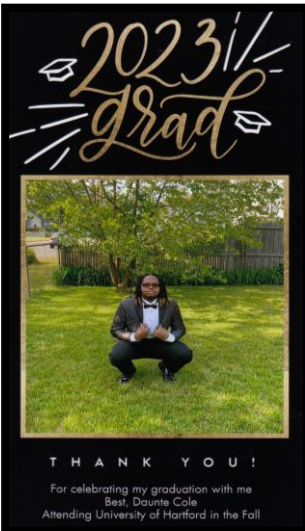
"Praise God"

To The Men of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Thank you with love and may God's blessing be with you always.

Love

*Dea. Ivrie Thompson, Audrey Wise & Family*



**Front:**

2023 Grad

THANK YOU

For celebrating graduation with me.

Best, Daunte Cole

Attending University of Hartford in the Fall

## Thank You!

I would like to thank Pastor Atu and Tracye Whitfield on behalf of the Future Innovators of Springfield for the College "Laundry Bag" full of essential items needed for school! It was a blessing and everything was appreciated!

*Kevin Jackson,  
Freshman, University of Maine*