



# THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

## THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

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**Volume 25; Issue 8**

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

**January 2024**

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

### **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 to the right.)

### **PARKING LOT REMINDER...**

**WE HAVE THREE (3) ON-SITE PARKING LOTS:  
ORLEANS STREET, UNION STREET, & OAK STREET.  
IF MARKED-OFF SPACES ARE FULL IN ONE LOT,  
PLEASE USE ONE OF THE OTHER TWO (2) LOTS.  
PLEASE DO NOT CREATE SPACES.**

### **WEEKLY SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024**

#### **Worship Service**

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

*In-Person or Livestreamed  
on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com); [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com); and  
on our website, [wearemtzion.com](http://wearemtzion.com)*

If you desire special prayer or would like to join  
Mt. Zion, call the Church  
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 or Livestreamed on  
[Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com); [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com); and  
on our website, [wearemtzion.com](http://wearemtzion.com)*



# HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- January 6----Bro. John (Larry) Charles
- January 7-----Bro. Alfred Dixon
- January 10-----Min. James Coppedge
- January 10-----Sis. Jedda Coppedge
- January 14-----Sis. Marguerita Lee
- January 15-----Sis. Tawanda Kitt-Bass
- January 15-----Sis. Awilda Oxios
- January 17-----Bro. Jahleel Gabriel
- January 20-----Bro. William Freeman
- January 21-----Bro. Zakahri Caldwell
- January 22-----Sis. Karla Davis
- January 22.....Bro. Cole Maddox
- January 23-----Sis. Kenzona Ledbetter
- January 25-----Bro. Samuel R. Bass
- January 25-----Sis. Ida Williams
- January 26.....Sis. Niye Gillerson
- January 26-----Dea. Jesse McKnight
- January 27-----Bro. Justin Culp
- January 27-----Sis. Naomi Hardimon
- January 27---Deaconess Lucille Hogan
- January 28-----Sis. Danielle Ware

## Happy January Anniversaries



- January 19-----Bro. Ronnie Williams  
& Sis. Linda Williams
- January 26-----Bro. Tavis Scott  
& Sis. Charlette Scott

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Author Unknown

*To leave the old with a  
burst of song;*

*To recall the right and  
forgive the wrong,*

*To forget the things  
that bind you fast*

*To the vain regrets  
of the year that's past.*

*To have the strength  
to let go your hold*

*Of the not worthwhile  
of the days grown old;*

*To dare go forth with  
a purpose true,*

*To the unknown task  
of the year that's new.*

*To help your brother  
along the road,*

*To do his work and  
lift his load;*

*To add your gift to the  
world's good cheer*

*Is to have and to give a  
Happy New Year.*

<http://www.geocities.com/bellajanela/newyear2.html>

## JANUARY 2024 MEETINGS

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

### JOINT BOARD

The Joint Board will meet on  
Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

All Joint Board members  
should be present.

### DEACON MINISTRY

The Deacon Ministry will meet on  
Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

All Deacons & Deaconesses  
should attend.

### USHERS MINISTRY

The Ushers Ministry will meet on  
Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

All Ushers should attend.

### MISSIONARY MINISTRY

The Missionary Ministry will meet on  
Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

All Missionary Ministry members  
should be present.

### Man Cave

Man Cave will meet on  
Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

All MEN are invited to attend.

### SHE SHED

She Shed will meet on  
Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

All WOMEN are invited to attend.  
[See 'She Shed' article in this issue.]

### CHOIR REHEARSALS

#### MASS CHOIR

Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

#### MALE CHORUS

Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.  
Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

# THE FIRST 48 DAYS OF 2024

*Written by Pastor Atu White*

*God allowed us to experience a new calendar year. A solid devotional life drastically improves our focus and meaning. The benefits of a healthy devotional life ground us in God's reality for our lives. By implementing these five (5) steps daily, we will grow closer to God.*

**1. PRAISE ~ Psalm 34, Psalm 47:1, Psalm 146, Psalm 150**

We start our day with gratitude by magnifying, bestowing adoration and honor to our God. Praise is also demonstrative. We clap our hands, we sing praises, we dance, we revere God with movement.

**2. PRAY ~ Philippians 4:4-9, Luke 18:1, Luke 11:1-13, Mark 6:30-31**

Prayer is a delicate dance between speaking and listening. Prayer is exchanging our wants and desires for what God has in mind.

**3. PAUSE ~ Psalm 46:10, Mark 6:30-31, Isaiah 40:31**

After we praised and prayed, we sit in God's presence. We keep company with God. In stillness and with a quiet soul, we sit and allow the Holy Spirit to write on our hearts and minds. While busy and many concerns compete for our attention, God calls us to pause. We cannot tend to everything, be everywhere, and show up for everyone if we are not spiritually grounded. God calls us to pause.

**4. PLAN ~ Proverbs 16:1-3, Luke 14:28-31, Habakkuk 2:1-3**

To accomplish what God is guiding and instructing us to do, we will need a plan. Make the most of each day by writing, journaling, documenting, and educating ourselves. The plan (creating an agenda) makes us accountable to the vision (direction) God reveals to us. The plan helps us to be intentional.

**5. PURSUE ~ Colossians 3:17, 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 1 Samuel 30:7-9**

In 2024, develop a healthy devotional life. While we celebrate monumental growth, we should also appreciate incremental movement. Each day, move with divine intentions while making a step toward accomplishing the plan.

## Save the Date: 1/21/2024

*Written by Sis. Gwen Ozenne*

**Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> is Mt Zion's Debt Reduction Kickoff Sunday!**

Wear your Mt Zion T-shirts and get ready to be part of something special!

On *this* Sunday, we will commit as Individuals or Teams  
to pay off our mortgage and invest in eternity!

God is using our Church to change the...



# THE PUZZLE PAGE

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE: "FIND THE CHRISTMAS CAROLS"

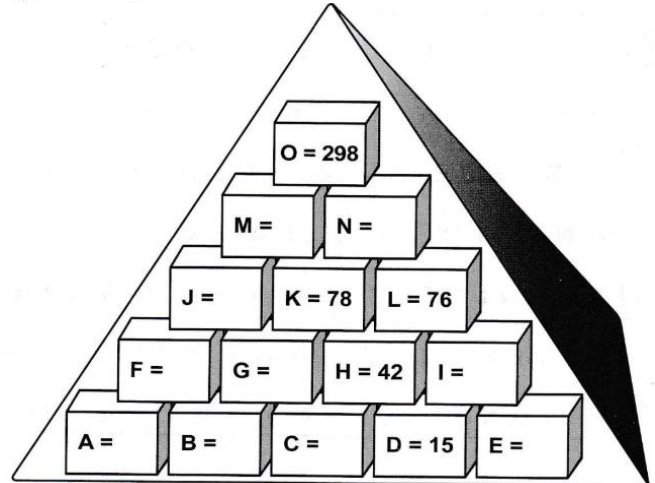
Last month, you were asked to combine the words below to find the names of ten (10) very popular Christmas Carols with just one stipulation...All 38 words could only be used once. How did you do? See the answers below:

**The 38 Words:** A, All, Be, Beginning, Bells, Bells, Bethlehem, Christmas, Christmas, Christmas, Come, Faithful, For, Holy, Home, I'll, It's, Jingle, Joy, Like, Little, Look, Lot, Night, Night, O, O, O, Of, Silent, Silver, The, To, To, Town, White, World, Ye.

**The Answers:** 1) Jingle Bells, 2) O Little Town of Bethlehem, 3) White Christmas, 4) Silver Bells, 5) O Holy Night, 6) Silent Night, 7) It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas, 8) Joy to the World, 9) I'll be Home for Christmas, 10) O Come All Ye Faithful.

## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: "PHARAOH'S PYRAMID"

To start 2024, let's brush up on our math skills. Every brick in this pyramid contains a number which is the sum of the two numbers below it, so that  $F=A+B$ , etc. All you have to do is work out the missing numbers! Good Luck, Answers will be in next month's newsletter.



## STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP

In early November, Pastor White presented **Sis. Tracetta Caudle**, daughter of **Bro. Ed & Sis. Patrice Caudle**, a scholarship in the amount of \$1,100.00 from the Pastors' Council of Greater Springfield. Tracetta is currently a first-year student at Springfield College, majoring in Sports Management and Marketing.

*Congratulations, Tracetta!!*

### A NOTE FROM TRACETTA:

*"I would like to thank the Pastors' Council for giving me this award. I'm grateful because it will help me continue to pursue higher education. I would also like to thank Pastor White and everyone here at Mt. Zion for supporting me and believing in me."*

## NEW MEMBERS

*Joining Mt. Zion in last month:*

### **BRO. CLIFTON GARNER**

**Date Joined:** December 31, 2023

**Method:** Restoration

### **SIS. NIYE GILLERSON**

**Date Joined:** December 31, 2023

**Method:** Christian Experience

### **SIS. ANJA MIDDLETON**

**Date Joined:** December 31, 2023

**Method:** Christian Experience

### **SIS. ARIAH MCKENZIE (CHILD)**

**Date Joined:** December 31, 2023

*Welcome All!*

## BAPTISM

On Monday, December 11, 2023, over 40 Mt. Zionites, family and friends came together to witness five (5) baptisms. The 6 p.m. service was held at Solid Rock Community Baptist Church in Springfield. Congratulations to the following members who took that most important step in their faith walk:

**Bro. Dwayne Brice**  
**Sis. Camilla Coppedge**  
**Bro. Darnell Coppedge**  
**Bro. Reginald Mills**  
**Bro. George Ward**

## PASTORS' COUNCIL'S MLK SERVICE

The Annual MLK, Jr. Day Service, sponsored by the Pastors' Council of Greater Springfield, will be **Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** at St. John's Congregational Church, 45 Hancock Street. The guest preacher will be Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III, Pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas, TX. The service will be both in person and virtual.

## ADVERTSIEMENT

**FREE. FREE. FREE.**

**Bro. Al & Sis. Mimmie Dixon** have a Portable Toilet & a Walker to GIVE AWAY--FREE. If interested, please see either one of them or call (413) 783-6367.

## Deacon Ministry's 2024 Message

Inside of the Christmas cards that were sent to members from the Pastor and Deacon Ministry last month, was not only an annual message from the Pastor, but a message from the Deacon Ministry as well. It read:

**“One of our goals for 2024 is to keep in touch with our members. As such it is our plan to reach out to you periodically throughout the year, either in person, by phone, text, mail, etc. If, however, you need to speak to a Deacon/Deaconess at other times, we want you to be able to do so.**

Enclosed is a business card with the names of two Deacons/Deaconesses on it. The first name is your primary contact. The second name is your secondary contact. If you need prayer, have a church/religious-related question, want to share information about yourself or a family member, etc., pick up the phone and call. If you are unsuccessful in reaching either of these two people, do not hesitate to contact any Deacon/Deaconess.

**We want to make 2024 a year of connections. Let's stay in touch...”**

**NOTE:** If you don't know your Deacon or Deaconess, or if you did not receive a Christmas card, please see any Deacon or Deaconess immediately. Either your address on file is incorrect, or your name has been omitted from the Church records. Regardless, we want to ensure every member is assigned to a member of the Deacon Ministry.

### MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Western Mass Food Bank mobile truck is scheduled to be in our Union Street parking on **Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>** from **1- 2 p.m.** Invite family and friends. Fresh produce is free and available to all, regardless of income.

## It's Story Time!

In 2024, we are encouraging members to share their journey to salvation. Throughout the year, members will give a 2-3 minute testimony during the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service about how and when they received Christ. If you are interested in telling *your* story, please see **Min. James Coppedge** to get on the schedule. You never know how sharing your journey might be a blessing to someone else. It's story time!

### PASTOR'S JANUARY PREACHING ENGAGEMENT

Our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White**, will be the guest preacher at New Creations Discipleship Ministries on Sunday, **January 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** All who can are invited to accompany him to this service. Bishop Charles Pink is Pastor. New Creations' address is 893 Boston Road, Springfield.

### 13 YEARS AND COUNTING! WE ARE SO GRATEFUL!

**Rev. Dr. Atu White** preached his first sermon as Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Watch Night Service on December 31, 2010. Saturday, December 31, 2023, marked his 13<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary.

Pastor White has been a blessing not only to Mt. Zion with his preaching, teaching, leadership, counseling, and even his sense of humor, but to the Springfield community at large. We are grateful to have him as our Pastor.

To show our appreciation and commemorate this milestone, a love gift from the Church was presented to him by **Deaconess Luz White** at our 10 a.m. New Year's Eve service.

*Thank you, Pastor White, for all you do, and for being our Pastor these past 13 years!*

## ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Our Annual Church Business Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 28, 2024** following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

The meeting will be in-person only. We invite and encourage all Mt. Zion members to attend.

## Special January She Shed

*Written by Sis. Angela Westbrook*

Ladies, Ladies, Ladies, we are inviting you out for our January 2024 She Shed Meet and Greet. We are kicking off the New Year with creating our very own vision boards showing your life direction, goals, dreams, and what you want to accomplish in 2024. Start saving your old magazines, newspapers, key phrases, words, pictures, anything you would want on your board. Come out to connect and encourage your sisters in Christ. Let's see what God has in store for the women of Mt Zion as we grow deeper in Him. Let us move forward boldly on one accord in a safe place to let your mask down and just be you. As women we have so much to bring to the table through our testimony. Hope you can join us on every last Friday of each month at 6:00 pm and bring a friend. All are welcome!

### 2023 GIVING STATEMENTS

A statement of your 2023 financial giving (i.e., tithes, offerings, and other donations) will be available on or before January 31, 2024. Statements will be handed out or mailed to your home. If you have moved or changed your address since joining Mt. Zion, please notify the Church to ensure you get your statement and any future Church correspondences.