



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 11

Rev. Dr. Atu White, Pastor

April 2024

WEEKLY SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

*In-Person or Livestreamed
on Facebook.com; YouTube.com; and
on our website, 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.

Will resume Wednesday, April 17th

*In-Person or Livestreamed
on Facebook.com; YouTube.com; and
on our website, wearemtzion.com*

**Bible Study will be both in-person and
livestreamed**

IN-PERSON SERVICES

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

Masks are optional.

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO A Mother's Day Brunch

On **Sunday, May 5, 2024**, the Sunday *before* Mother's Day, we are having a Mother's Day Brunch. (This will allow mothers to spend Mother's Day with family and friends.) The free Brunch will begin immediately following morning service, and *everyone*--not just mothers--is invited.

To the Men of the Church,

If you haven't already signed up to help with the Brunch, please see **Bro. Ronnie Williams** as soon as possible.

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- April 1-----Sis. Angela Westbrook
- April 2-----Bro. Alvin Parker
- April 7-----Deaconess Wanda Powell
- April 8-----Bro. Brian Lawrence
- April 8-----Sis. Jean Frazier
- April 10-----Sis. Ebony Jordan
- April 16-----Sis. Rhonda Sherrell
- April 17-----Bro. Timothy Williams
- April 19-----Bro. Kimble Reaves
- April 21-----Sis. Chicana Cousby
- April 24-----Sis. Billie Jo Spears
- April 24-----Sis. Phyllis Tolbert
- April 27-----Sis. Tai Lanae Brantley

THE DIFFERENCE

By Alan Grant

I got up early
one morning
And rushed right
into the day;
I had so much to
accomplish
That I didn't have time
to pray.

Problems just tumbled
about me,
And heavier came
each task.

"Why doesn't God help
me?" I wondered.
He answered,
"You didn't ask."

I wanted to see
joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on,
gray and bleak;
I wondered why God
didn't show me.

He said,
"But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into
God's presence.
I used all my keys
at the lock.
God gently and lovingly
chided,
"My child,
you didn't knock."

I woke up early
this morning,
And paused before
entering the day;
I had so much to
accomplish
That I had to take
time to pray.

[THE DIFFERENCE by Alan Grant \(angelfire.com\)](http://angelfire.com)

APRIL 2024

MEETINGS

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

JOINT BOARD

The Joint Board will meet on
Monday, April 15th at 6 p.m.
All Joint Board members should attend.

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### DEACON MINISTRY

The Deacon Ministry will meet on  
**Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m.**  
All Deacons & Deaconesses  
should be present.

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MAN CAVE FELLOWSHIP

Man Cave will meet on
Friday, April 26th at 6 p.m.
Scripture: Jeremiah 29
Topic: "I know the Plans I Have
for You"
All Men are invited to attend.

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### SHE SHED FELLOWSHIP

She Shed will meet on  
**Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**  
Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-17  
Topic: "Grace for Change"  
All Women are invited to attend.

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USHERS MINISTRY MEETING

The Ushers Ministry will meet on
Saturday, April 27th at 11 a.m.
All Ushers should attend.

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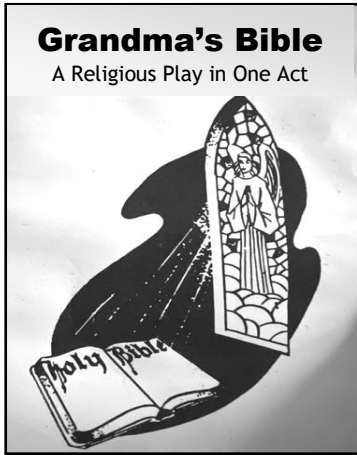
### CHOIR REHEARSALS

Malle Chorus  
Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Children's Choir  
Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

Mass Choir  
Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

## WE'RE HAVING A PLAY!



Mt. Zion is putting on a gospel play entitled, "Grandma's Bible." The play is about "Faith and the Power of Prayer that comes from Reading the Word of God."

We need actors, actresses, stagehands, sound engineers, and costume designers. If you have a passion to work in the field of drama, here's your chance! Please see **Sis. Alonzetta Gabriel** or **Sis. Angela Westbrook** at your earliest convenience.

## CPR Class Being Offered

The Nurses' Ministry is sponsoring a CPR Class on **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The 2-hour class will be taught by a certified CPR instructor and will cover CPR for adults, children, and infants, and instruction on using AED's (Automated External Defibrillators). Upon successful completion of the class, participants will receive a CPR Certificate.

The cost for the class is \$55.00 per person. If you would like to become CPR certified, please see **Sis. Earlene Caldwell** by Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> to sign up for this class.

## MENTAL HEALTH PRAYER LUNCHEON

The Missionary Ministry invites you to a "Mental Health" Prayer Luncheon on **Saturday, April 13, 2024**, starting at **11:00 a.m.** The Luncheon is **FREE**, and will be held here at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The speaker for the luncheon will be Rev. David Lewis.

To R.S.V. P, or if you have any questions, you should see or call **Sis. Anna Howell** at (413) 783-0454. Walk-ins are also welcome.

We hope you will be able to attend.

## PASTOR TO PREACH IN CAMBRIDGE

On Sunday, **April 21<sup>st</sup>**, Pastor White will be the guest preacher for the Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Brenda Brown, Pastor of Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church, 146 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA. 02139. The service starts at **3:00 p.m.**

Members are encouraged to accompany Pastor White to this service. As such, we are arranging transportation via motor coach. The cost is \$10 per person. Sign-ups will be in the Welcome Center after service.

## Free Fitness Saturdays Continue in April

Free fitness classes will continue for another month.

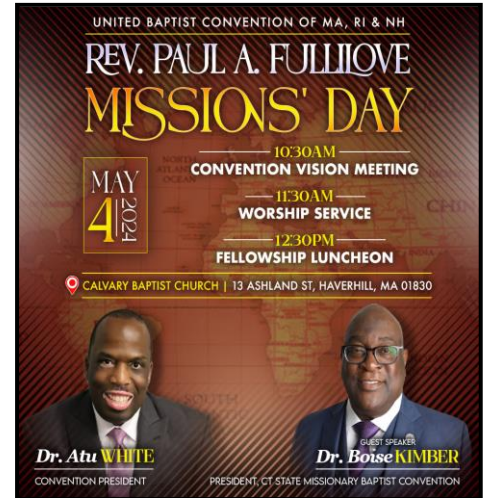
Each Saturday in April, here at **Mt. Zion**, from **9 to 10 a.m.** free fitness classes will be offered. Classes are for men, women, and children of all abilities. If you haven't tried it yet, please come out this month. It's not only great exercise, but good fun and fellowship as well.

## A SOLDIER GONE HOME SIS. HELEN BURSTON

went home to be with the Lord on  
Wednesday, March 8, 2024.

Our prayers are with her family.

## UBC MID-YEAR SESSION



The Mid-Year Session of the United Baptist Convention of MA, RI, & NH, Inc, will be held on **Saturday, May 4, 2024**, at Calvary Baptist Church in Haverhill, MA.

The Business Meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. when UBC auxiliaries will provide updates, and the By-Laws Committee will give a preliminary report. The worship service begins at 11:30 a.m., when the National Baptist Convention Presidency candidate, Dr. Boise Kimber, will be the guest preacher. The day concludes with a Fellowship Lunch at 12:30 p.m.

If you are interested in attending, please see **Sis. Wanda Powell** so we can determine if we need to provide transportation.

Our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White**, is the President of the UBC.

## New Member

Joining Mt. Zion in March was:

**BRO. RICHARD GARDNER**

Date Joined: March 3, 2024

Method: Christian Experience

*Welcome Bro. Gardner*

## Missionary's Easter Program a Success

*Written by Sis. Anna Howell*

On Saturday, March 23, 2024, the Missionary Ministry held an Easter worship service at the Mason Wright Assisted Living Community Center here in Springfield. **Sis. Andrea Dixon** was the speaker and did an awesome job. Music was rendered by **Dea. Dan Jones** and **Deaconess Deborah Jones**. They sang beautiful songs of praises that made many souls happy.

The Missionary Ministry was also blessed to have two soul stirring special guest singers, Dea. Raymond Betterson and Sis. Diana McCloud from Mount Cavalry Missionary Baptist Church. They were an inspiration to our program.

We would like to thank everyone for their participation that made our worship program a great success. A very special thank you to Dea. Raymond Betterson and Sis. Diana McCloud for their attendance and beautiful soul stirring songs. May God bless each of you.

## MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Western Mass Food Bank Mobile Food truck will be in the Union Street parking lot on **Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** from **1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Please come and invite friends and neighbors to get free fresh produce.

## FREE Homebuyer Seminar

Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Here at The Dunbar Center



**TANYA HARVEY GROUP**

# 2024 HOMEBUYER SEMINAR

Navigate the 2024 housing market with confidence. Learn how to make a wise financial decision when buying a home, even if it's a second home.

**Tanya Harvey**  
REALTOR®  
REMAX CONNECTIONS

### GUEST SPEAKER

|                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>Van Johnson III</b><br>Attorney<br>RAIPHER LAW | <br><b>Zack Cameron</b><br>Mortgage Loan Officer<br>ANNEMAC HOME MORTGAGE | <br><b>Ernest Harris</b><br>Home Inspector<br>HARRIS PROPERTY INSPECTION | <br><b>Yesenia Cruz</b><br>Insurance Agent<br>HOLELAND INSURANCE |
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#### Key Discussions & Insights

- ✔ Mortgage Info & Grants Available
- ✔ Title & Closing Cost
- ✔ Home Inspection & Appraisal
- ✔ How Much Can You Afford

<https://dreamhome2024.eventbrite.com>

**FREE EVENT RSVP**



**APRIL 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**05:30PM - 07:00PM**

**DUNBAR COMMUNITY CENTER**  
33 OAK ST, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109

413-364-0025



Just as reminder...Children, ages 5 to 12, are invited and encouraged to attend Children's Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. This month, it will be Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Children's Church is a worship experience for our young attendees, filled with learning activities, crafts, and snacks. If you have questions or want to volunteer to help, please see Youth Ministry Leader, **Sis. Pamela Medlock**.

## It was a Wonderful Easter Egg Hunt!

*Written by Sis. Gwen Ozenne*

On Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup>, Mt Zion Baptist Church partnered with Loomis Lakeside, and Suez Temple #114 of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of the Noble Mystic Shrine Inc. for a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt.

Around 150 kids attended the scavenger hunt, took pictures with the Easter bunny, ate pizza and cookies, and received plenty of candy.

I would like to thank everyone who attended and a special thanks to all of the Mt Zions volunteers!!!

# MY STORY

Each Sunday, at our 10 a.m. service, one member will take 2-3 minutes to recount their faith journey. Last month, we heard from three (3) Mt. Zionites who shared their journey to salvation. **Each of their powerful testimonies can be heard on our website, [wearemtzion.com](http://wearemtzion.com), on the dates indicated below.** We encourage you to listen to each.

**Sis. Angela Westbrook, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Sis. JoAnn Lawson, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Sis. Anna Howell, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

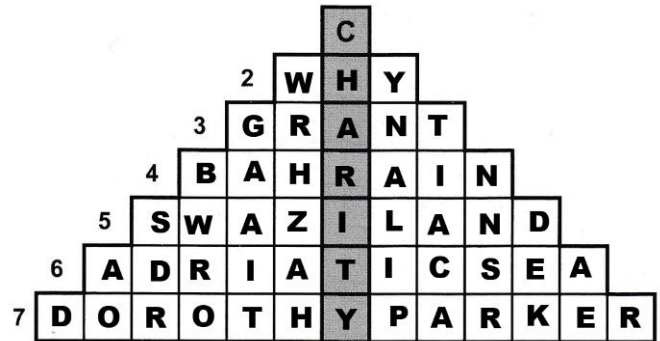
If you would like to share your testimony, please see **Min. James Coppedge** to get on the schedule.

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## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE "PYRACROSS"

Last month, you were asked to solve the clues on each level of the pyramid and reveal the word in the central column of bricks. Below are the clues you were given, and the answers are on the pyramid..

2. For what reason?
  3. Ulysses Simpson \_\_\_\_\_, 18<sup>th</sup> president of the USA.
  4. Island country in the Persian Gulf off the coast of Saudi Arabia
  5. Country, capital Lobamba
  6. Body of water to the east of Italy (8,3)
  7. US Writer and poet noted for her sharp wit (7,6)
- The central column reads: CHARITY



## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: SCRIPTURE KNOWLEDGE

How's your knowledge of scriptures? This month's puzzle is simple. See if you can answer the questions below, all of which are found in the scriptures. Answers will be in next month's newsletter.

1. The marriage at Cana was the location for which of Jesus's miracles?
2. How many Apostles were there?
3. Which Old testament prophet stated that "Gold and silver will not be able to deliver people from God's wrath."?
4. According to The Book of Revelation 13:18, what is the "number of the Beast"?
5. In the Book of Esther, who was the Persian minister who plotted to exterminate all Jews?
6. On which Mediterranean Island was St. Paul shipwrecked in 60 A.D.?
7. Which king's throne had six steps with two lions on each step?
8. According to the Book of Job, a lion may perish for lack of what?