



# THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

## THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

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**Website: [wearemtzion.com](http://wearemtzion.com)**

**Volume 26; Issue 3**

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

**August 2024**

### **WEEKLY SERVICES FOR AUGUST**

#### **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](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 & Meditation Call**

**(Begins, August 7<sup>th</sup>)**

**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 (**Begins, August 7<sup>th</sup>**); See article to the right.

*and*

Virtual/Livestreamed (**Begins August 14<sup>th</sup>**) on

*Facebook.com; YouTube.com; or our website,*

*[wearemtzion.com](http://wearemtzion.com)*

### **IN-SANCTUARY 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.)

### **\*About Bible Study This Month**

For the next 4 weeks, starting **August 7<sup>th</sup>**,

in-person Bible Study will be taught by

Min. Matthew Rivera.

Min. Rivera will be leading a series entitled,

*"Moving According to God's Word,"*

exploring times in the Bible where people did or

did *not* move according to God's Word.

Please join us for what is sure to be an interesting and informative Bible Study series.

**BE SAFE & ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER!!**



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- August 2-----Sis. JoAnn Lawson
- August 3-----Sis. Tina Garner
- August 5-----Sis. Carolyn Scarnici
- August 6---Bro. Brian Lawrence, III
- August 7-----Sis. Andra Cole
- August 8---Bro. Michael Housey, Jr.
- August 10-----Sis. Vertis Holmes
- August 13-----Sis. Cierra Bacon
- August 13-----Bro. Rocky Edge
- August 15-----Bro. Isaac Crapps, Sr.
- August 20-----Sis. Alice Koonce
- August 21----Sis. Camilla Coppedge
- August 21----Sis. Betty Mayweathers
- August 22-----Sis. Amanda Mills
- August 28-----Rev. Bert Johnson



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- August 3-----Bro. Alfred Dixon  
& Sis. Andrea "Mimmie" Dixon
- August 8-----Rev. Milton White, Jr.  
& Deaconess Luz White
- August 20-----Deacon Steve Powell  
& Deaconess Wanda Powell

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

## You are So Blessed

Author Unknown

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won't survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, especially in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

You are so blessed in ways that you may never even know.

*From the Archives:*

*Submitted by Sis Jackie Bryant, 2004*

## 2024 AUGUST MEETINGS

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### JOINT BOARD MEETING

The Joint Board will meet on  
**Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**  
All Joint Board members should attend.

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### MISSIONARY MINISTRY MEETING

The Missionary Ministry will meet on  
**Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**  
All Missionaries should attend.

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### USHERS MINISTRY MEETING

The Ushers Ministry will meet on  
**Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**  
All Ushers should attend.

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### DEACON MINISTRY, MAN CAVE FELLOWSHIP, & SHE SHED FELLOWSHIP

Will not meet this month.  
All will resume in September.

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### CHOIR REHEARSALS

#### MALE CHORUS

Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>--7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> --11:00 a.m.

#### MASS CHOIR

Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>--7:00 p.m.

## TAG SALE THIS MONTH!

Our Community-Wide Tag Sale  
Is just around the corner...

Saturday, August 10, 2024  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

in our  
Union Street Parking Lot.

**Volunteers are still needed.** If you haven't signed up to help, please do so. See **Sis. Kim Weir**.

**Donations (no clothing) to the Church's table are needed.** If you don't plan to have a table yourself, but you have items you'd like to get rid of, they can be donated to the Church's table. To do so, see **Sis. Wanda Powell**.

**If you would like to have your own space** or know friends, relatives, or organizations that would, the cost for a table is...

\$15 for Members

\$20 for Non-Members

To purchase space, please again see **Sis. Kim**, or call the Church at (413) 785-5664.

**Finally, please come out and support the Tag Sale on August 10<sup>th</sup>.** There will be some awesome bargains, and it will be a fun time to just fellowship with one another.

## MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

The Western  
Mass Food  
Bank Mobile  
Food truck



will be at  
The Dunbar Center in the Union Street parking lot on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of this month--**Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 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.

## GRANDMA'S BIBLE

Coming soon to a stage (very) near you is "*Grandma's Bible*."

"*Grandma's Bible*" is a play about "faith and the power of prayer that comes from reading the Word of God." This is a production that you don't want to miss. It will be performed right here at Mt. Zion and will be our first such event since we moved to our current location. More information will be available in coming weeks.

### From the Nurses' Ministry ANOTHER CPR CLASS

Due to several requests, and the success of the CPR Class last month, the Nurses' Ministry will be offering another CPR Class here at Mt. Zion. It will be held on **Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** The cost for the class is \$55.00 per person and is open to anyone who would like to be certified in CPR. Mr. Louis Gallo will again be the instructor. If interested, see **Sis. Earlene Caldwell** to sign up or answer any questions that you might have.

## Missionary Ministry's Toiletry Drive

*Written by Sis. Anna Howell*

The Emergency Academy Program needs personal items for migrants in the Springfield, MA area. The Missionary Ministry is sponsoring a drive to collect toiletries and other items to support this worthy cause. Some items needed are toothpaste, soap, deodorant, lotion, socks, female personal items, shampoo, etc. The drive will run from now until Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Please support this drive by donating.

## A SOLDIER GONE HOME

**SIS. DEBORAH STONE**

went home to be with the Lord on  
Sunday, July 28, 2024.

Sis. Stone was a member of the  
Nurses' Ministry.

She will be sorely missed.

## Pastor's Preaching Engagement

Our Pastor, **Rev. Dr. Atu White**, will close out a 3-day revival at Third Baptist Church, 149 Walnut Street Springfield, on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

The schedule for the Revival is...

Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Harold P. Dixon,  
Solid Rock Community Baptist Church

Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Marcus T. McCullough,  
Bethel AME Church

Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Atu White,  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Each evening, prayer will commence at 6:00 p.m., with the **worship service beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m.**

The theme for this revival is drawn from Ezekiel 37:3, where the question is posed, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

All are welcome to attend and participate in this sacred time of renewal and spiritual growth.

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## A Thought for the Month

Remember...

You are in charge of your own  
Happiness!

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## MY STORY

As many did at the start of the year, members are encouraged to share the story of their faith journey with the congregation. Each testimony, which should only be 2 to 3 minutes long, will be given during Sunday morning service.

If you have a testimony that you want to share, please see **Min. James Coppedge** to get on the schedule. You never know how your journey might help someone else.



*Just a reminder...*

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, the Youth Ministry holds Children's Church simultaneously with our regular worship service—at 10:00 a.m.

Bring your children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and neighborhood kids 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**

### Relative-ly Speaking...

Kennedy Middleton, niece of **Sis Anna Howell**, is a National Honor Society graduate of Whale Branch Early College High School in Beaufort County School District, Seabrook, SC. She was a dual enrollment student at the Technical College of the Lowcountry. She is pursuing a degree in nursing. Sis. Howell is very proud of Kennedy's accomplishments.



**IN THE SANCTUARY, PLEASE!!**

Each Sunday, following worship service, you might be surprised at how much trash is found in chairs and on the floor in the sanctuary—including food. There are chips, Cheerios, cracker crumbs, candy wrappers, and at least once, some type of purple goopy stuff that we still don't know what it was. There have been stains in chairs that we have been unsuccessful in removing, so instead of the stain, we've had to remove the chairs.

Food and beverages, other than water, are NOT allowed in the sanctuary. This is for a couple of reasons: 1) The sanctuary is NOT an arena, but a sacred place where we come to seek blessings and worship God; and 2) Because it is God's Holy Temple.

Our services are generally one hour long—sometimes an hour and 15 minutes. If you eat before arriving to church, you should be able to make it through a one-hour service food-free. However, if you or your child(ren) have to have a snack, or a jolt of coffee during this 60 minute service, please show reverence to God's House by stepping outside of the sanctuary to eat, feed your child(ren), or drink beverages other than water.

Ezra 7:27 (NLT) says in part, "Praise the Lord, the God of our ancestors, who made the king want to beautify the Temple of the Lord..." This is God's House, and it's our Church. We too, should want to beautify the Temple of the Lord by keeping it clean.

## It's Not Too Late to Help with Debt Reduction

Have you signed up for a team or started making individual contributions to our Debt Reduction effort? As a reminder....

At the start of the year, we announced "Project Impact III," a plan to pay off our mortgage by the end of 2025. We asked individuals or teams to commit to paying \$3,500 over this 2-year period (i.e., all of 2024 and 2025.) We are well on our way with a number of members supporting this project, but many have not even begun. If you are one of the ones who have not yet gotten involved, please change that today. It's not too late to be a part of this historical undertaking. We still have 17 months to go.

If you have any questions, want to create/join a team, or want to start paying your individual commitment, please see **Sis. Gwen Ozenne**, our Trustee Ministry Chair, who is spearheading this project.

### DEVOTIONAL CORNER

*"Dear Jesus. As You bless me, may I respond by blessing You. As Your blessings overflow in my life, may they in turn bless others. In all this may You alone receive the glory, honor, and praise due Your name."*

Amen, the blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 7:12

*Submitted by  
Deaconess Deborah Jones*



# PUZZLE PAGE

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE: "CONNECTIONS"

*Submitted by Dea. Steve Powell*

Last month, we gave you 25 names/words and asked you to group them in sets of five. Each group had to have a connection--something in common. Here were the rules: The commonality will always be more specific than just "5-letter-words, Names, or Verbs;" There is only one solution. [Watch out for words that seem to belong to multiple categories!] And finally, for last month's puzzle, each set of 5 in some way related to either Mt. Zion or the Bible. We gave you a 6<sup>th</sup> category along with the answers to get you started (See the first row below). How did you do? Here are the answers with the first column showing the "connection"—the thing they have in common:

|                               |         |           |         |              |            |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|--------------|------------|
| <b>Church Border Streets</b>  | Union   | Princeton | Bay     | Orleans      | Oak        |
| <b>Mt. Zion Veterans</b>      | Al      | Walker    | Richard | Jesse        | Ronnie     |
| <b>Pastor's Sermon Series</b> | Hope    | Life      | God Is  | Focused      | Gratitude  |
| <b>Bible _____</b>            | Verse   | Belt      | Study   | Lesson       | School     |
| <b>Soup Kitchen Members</b>   | Lucille | Mimmie    | Shirley | Betty        | Kim        |
| <b>_____ Sunday</b>           | Easter  | Communion | First   | Ugly Sweater | Graduation |

## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: "CONNECTIONS 2"

Now that you understand how "Connections" work (from last month's puzzle and the answers above) let's try it again. This time, there are only 16 words. Your job is to group them in sets of four (4), again with the four (4) in each group having something in common. A clue...three (3) of the groups are Bible-related. Now, the same rules last month apply this month--The commonality will always be more specific than just "5-letter-words, Names, or Verbs;" There is only one solution, so watch out for words that seem to belong to multiple categories! Good luck. Answers will be in next month's issue.

|       |        |        |       |
|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| USHER | FISH   | SILVER | PALE  |
| IRON  | DONKEY | BLACK  | RAM   |
| GUIDE | WHITE  | LEAD   | STEER |
| RED   | GOLD   | ASP    | TAKE  |

## THE OLYMPICS!



As you know, the Summer 2024 Olympics began last month in Paris, France, and will continue until August 11th. (If you haven't watched any events, you really should!)

In honor of these Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, here are some quotes from Olympians that are true not only in sports, but in life...

"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning, but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering, but fighting well."

**Baron Pierre de Coubertin., Founder of the Modern Olympics**

"He who is not courageous enough to take risks, will accomplish nothing in life."

**Muhammad Ali, Olympic light heavyweight champion, Rome 1960**

"If you fail to prepare, you're prepared to fail."

**Mark Spitz, 9-time Olympic swimming champion**

"Never put an age limit on your dream."

**Dara Torres, Four time Olympic champion, swimming**

"I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

**Michael Jordan, Double Olympic champion, basketball**

"Each of us has a fire in our hearts for something. It's our goal in life to find it and keep it lit."

**Mary Lou Retton, Gymnastics, Gold medalist at the Los Angeles Games, 1984**