



# THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

## THE GOOD NEWSletter

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**Volume 26; Issue 8**

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

**January 2025**

**Have a Happy  
& Blessed  
New Year!**  
★  
**2025**

### **DEVOTIONAL CORNER**

As you begin the new year...  
Leave your worries and fears in God's  
loving and capable hands.

*"See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you  
along the way and to bring you to the place I have pre-  
pared." Exodus 23:20 (NIV)*

New Year Devotional: Encouragement for 2023 - Guideposts

### **WEEKLY SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2025**

#### **Worship Service**

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

*In-Person or Livestreamed  
on Facebook.com; 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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### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

**THE FOLLOWING WILL RESUME ON  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025:**

#### **Prayer & Meditation Call**

**Wednesdays from  
12 noon to 12:10 p.m.**

The Dial-in Number is (470) 480-9021.

**&**

#### **Bible Study**

**Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

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



# HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 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 15-----Sis. Cora Robinson
- January 17-----Bro. Jahleel Gabriel
- January 22-----Sis. Karla Davis
- January 25-----Sis. Ida Williams
- January 26.....Sis. Niye Gillerson
- January 26-----Dea. Jesse McKnight
- 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

# A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Author Unknown

*O Lord,*

*Thank You for a  
New Year  
and a fresh start.*

*Please give us  
wisdom and strength  
to serve You with  
integrity  
and faithfulness  
in this coming year.*

*We pray that  
Your work be done  
in our lives as we offer  
ourselves,  
our plans,  
and our future to You.*

*We pray this through  
Jesus,  
our intercessor  
and Lord.*

*Amen.*

*Submitted by Sis. Andrea Dixon  
from her Aunt Minnie Dickey,  
Los Angeles, California*

*P.S. Wishing Each of You a  
Happy & Blessed New Year!  
Sis. Mimmie*

# JANUARY MEETINGS

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

## JOINT BOARD

Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.  
Joint Board members should attend.

## DEACON MINISTRY

Saturday, January 11<sup>h</sup> at 10 a.m.  
Deacons/Deaconesses should attend.

## MISSIONARY MINISTRY

Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.  
All Missionary Ministry members  
should attend.

## USHERS MINISTRY

Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.  
All Ushers should attend.

## Man Cave

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.  
All MEN are invited to attend.

## SHE SHED

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.  
Topic: "Stay Focused"  
All WOMEN are invited to attend.

## STEP DANCE MINISTRY

Every Wednesday starting  
January 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:45 p.m.

## CHOIR REHEARSALS

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

During Children's Church

### MALE CHORUS

WILL SING ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY THIS MONTH

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m.  
Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

### MASS CHOIR

Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

## **YAM Ministry's December Advent Social Recap &**

### **January Event Preview Written by Sis. Jolene Snowden**

Last month, the YAM Ministry hosted a wonderful Advent Social, bringing together our community in an intimate and reflective setting. We gathered to discuss the four themes of Advent—Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace—sharing meaningful conversations and moments of connection. The highlight of the evening was our gingerbread competition. While the creativity and effort put into each gingerbread house was truly impressive, we decided that everyone was a winner that night!

Looking ahead, we're excited to kick off the new year with our "Power of the Pen" event on **Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** It's going to be an evening of engaging fellowship, creativity, and fun. As always, there will be food and great conversation to enjoy.

We hope to see you there, and don't forget: this event is open to all young adults ages **\*\*18-39\*\***. Bring a friend and come ready to connect!

See you soon! Sign up with the QR code below



## **ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING**

The date of the Annual Church Business Meeting has been changed from the previously advertised date.

Instead...

The Meeting will be held on  
**Sunday, January 19, 2025**

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.

## **14 YEARS OF FAITHFUL PASTORAL SERVICE**

**Tuesday, December 31, 2024**, marked the 14<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary of **Rev. Dr. Atu White**.

It was at Watch Night Service in 2010 that he preached his first sermon as the 4<sup>th</sup> Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. We were blessed then, and we continue to be blessed through his preaching, teaching, leadership, counseling, and even his wonderful sense of humor. Pastor White has not only been a blessing to Mt. Zion, but to the Springfield community at large. We are grateful for his presence and to have him as our Pastor.

*Thank you, Pastor White,  
for all you do,  
and for being the  
Pastor that you are!*

## **Married Couples Ministry Written by Sis. Lakisha Coppedge**

We're introducing a new ministry in 2025—a Married Couples Ministry. Consider joining members of Mt. Zion, to build and shape this new ministry's mission, and vision to impact the lives of married couples in their new or seasoned stages of their marriage.

Join us on **Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** at **7:00 p.m.** at Mt. Zion.

Come with an open mind and WHY this ministry can enrich your **MARRIAGE** as we learn from each other.

Let's work together to build this ministry and meet our individual & collective needs.

Please sign up and direct questions to **Sis. Lakisha Coppedge**.

## **2024 GIVING STATEMENTS**

A statement of your 2024 financial giving (i.e., tithes, offerings, and other monetary donations) will be available on or before **January 31, 2025**.

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.

### **MOBILE FOOD TRUCK**

The Western Mass Food Bank mobile truck is scheduled to be in our Union Street parking on **Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>** from **1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Please come and invite family and friends. Fresh produce is free and available to all, regardless of income.

# THE PUZZLE PAGE

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE: "RIDDLE-ME-REE"

Last month, you were asked to find one letter per line, following the clues given in the verse below. You were told that when you finish, the letters will spell a name. How did you do? Here are the answers:

My first's found in AUGUST, but never in JUNE--answer 'T' (T)

My second's in RHYTHM, but never in TUNE--answer 'H'

My third is in SECOND, but never in TIME-- answer 'O'

My fourth's found in MONEY and also in DIME--answer 'M'

My fifth is in SCREAMING, but never in SHOUTING--answer 'A'

My sixth's in DISCIPLE. Now, are you still doubting?--answer 'S'

The finished letters spell 'THOMAS'

## THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: "CRYPTOGRAPHY"

Each letter of the alphabet below has been replaced by another. Can you decipher the code to reveal the quotation, which is taken from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the book of Ruth? Good Luck! The answer will appear in next month's newsletter.

EFJ GQAO ZEBJ, DFAGDEA ND FHA AH MDEPD  
AODD, HG AH GDAQGF TGHN THMMHXBFY ETADG  
AODD: THG XOBAODG AOHQ YHDZA, B XBMM YH;  
EFJ XODGD AOHQ MHJYDZA, B XBMM MHJYD: AOI  
CDHCMD ZOEMM RD NI CDHCMD, EFJ AOI YHJ NI  
YHJ.

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## PASTORS' COUNCIL'S MLK, JR. SERVICE

The Annual MLK, Jr. Day Service, sponsored by the Pastors' Council of Greater Springfield, will be **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.** The service will take place at Third Baptist Church, 149 Walnut Street, Springfield. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Our Pastor, Dr. Atu White, serves as President of the Pastors' Council.

## PARKING LOT REMINDER...

...We have three (3) on-site parking lots:

- 1) Orleans Street parking lot
- 2) Union Street parking lot
- 3) Oak Street parking lot

If marked-off spaces are full in one lot, please use one of the other two (2) lots.

DO NOT create spaces where parking spaces don't exist. Parking in unauthorized areas creates congestion and unsafe parking lot conditions for both other vehicles and pedestrians.

## MISSIONARY MINISTRY SAYS, "THANKS!"

The Missionary Ministry held another successful Coat Giveaway in December. They would like to thank everyone who supported them in this event.

The Ministry sends a very special "thank you" to our Pastor's mother, Sis. Beulah White, for her generous donations of coats that she sent all the way from South Carolina. Thank you, Sis. White.

## PLEASE...



## News from the Nurses Ministry

### CPR Class in 2025

The Nurses Ministry is sponsoring another CPR class, scheduled for **Saturday, March 29, 2025**, from **1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** here at Mt. Zion. The cost is \$65.00 per person and is open to anyone interested in getting CPR certified or re-certified. To sign up, or if you have any questions, see **Sis. Earlean Caldwell**, Nurses Ministry Leader.

### Nurses Meetings

The Nurses Ministry's first meeting of the year will be held **Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**. Following that, the Ministry's regular meetings will be every other month on the second Saturday from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. All members of the Nurses Ministry should plan to attend, and anyone interested in joining can see Sis. Caldwell.

### Brown Bag Program Returns To The Dunbar

The Urban League of Springfield's Brown Bag Program, a collaborative initiative with the Western Mass. Food Bank, has returned to The Dunbar Center. The program provides over 360 bags each month to eligible seniors 55 years of age or older. For a number of years, The Dunbar was one of the locations where families could pick up their bags of nutritional food. The program moved to another location in 2021, but starting this month, is returning to The Dunbar, resuming its partnership with Mt. Zion.

## SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER HOUR

For the next few months (during the winter), the weekly Saturday Morning Prayer Hour, 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. is being suspended. Plans are to resume it in the spring.

## Last Month's Holiday Gatherings

December was filled with several holiday events. We hope you enjoyed each.

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at our 10 a.m. service, the congregation was full of "ugly" Christmas sweaters. Five members, (at least according to our anonymous judges), stood out among the rest. Congratulations to the contest winners. They were **Sis. Andrea Dixon**, **Sis. Karla Davis**, **Sis. Jolene Snowden**, **Bro. Cedric Lee**, and **Bro Walker Bryant**. Following service on that same day, **Sis. Angela Westbrook** spearheaded a Sweet Treat Swap event. There were cookies, cupcakes, pies, candy, and so much more to satisfy any sweet tooth. To Sis. Angela, and anyone who brought in a sweet treat, "Thank you!"

On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> we had a special Christmas service, which concluded with a moving candlelight service. Thanks to everyone who participated in the service, including **Min. James Coppedge** who served as narrator, our Music Ministry for rendering wonderful Christmas music, the guest saxophonist, Bro. Joseph Wilson and the guest liturgical dancer, Sis. Kamai Norman. This day ended with everyone moving to the Christmas-decorated gymnasium for a delicious meal, headed up by our Trustee Ministry.

Finally, on Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon, we held a service to bring in the new year. The approximately 100 people in attendance were blessed by the guest soloist, Sis. Melissa Johnson and the guest preacher, Evangelist Ebony Robinson. What a joyous time we had ushering in 2025!