



THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

THE GOOD NEWSletter

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

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Rev. Dr. Atu White, Pastor

May 2024

TODAY IS THE DAY! A Mother's Day Brunch

Immediately following service this morning, **Sunday, May 5, 2024**, we're having a Mother's Day Brunch. The men of Mt. Zion, under the direction of 'Chef' **Bro. Ronnie Williams**, will be preparing and serving the food.. Everyone—not just mothers—is invited.

MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 12TH.

To all Mt. Zion Mothers and anyone who has stood in the gap for Mothers...



WEEKLY SERVICES FOR MAY

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 & 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 and Livestreamed on
Facebook.com; YouTube.com; or our website,
wearemtzion.com*

*** Note: On Wednesday, May 22nd,
Bible Study will be virtual only!**

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 above.)

HAPPY

MAY BIRTHDAYS



- May 5.....Bro. Bobby Hartsfield
- May 5.....Sis. Stacey Teasley
- May 6.....Bro. Marquis Cole
- May 7.....Sis. Deja Ware
- May 8.....Sis. Rubie Jackson
- May 9.....Sis. Yvonne Thompson
- May 11.....Sis. Jacqueline Flowers
- May 19.....Bro. Earl Baker
- May 19.....Deaconess Sarah Jones
- May 21.....Bro. Brian Ozenne
- May 22.....Bro. Stevan Jackson
- May 26.....Bro. Sedric Ramsey
- May 27.....Sis. Mary Moore
- May 27.....Sis. Linda Parris
- May 28.....Sis. Lee Ware
- May 30.....Sis. Kimberly Weir
- May 31.....Sis. Patricia Ramsey



HAPPY

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- May 7.....Bro. William Holmes-Murphy
& Sis. Kaitlin Holmes-Murphy
- May 26.....Sis. Pamela Miller
& Bro. Alphonso (Danny) Miller
- May 30.....Bro. Brian Ozenne
& Sis. Gwendolyn Ozenne

HANDS

by Judith Peitsch

Thank you Lord for dirty hands
That touch my stove and fridge;
For sticky little fingers that
Try to build a bridge.

For careless hands that go astray
In search of something new;
For hands to hold and show the
way
As mothers often do.

For precious little hands in which
Great faith so abounds;
For silly little hands that reach
To touch a mother's frown.

And thank you for your guiding
hand

That leads me to the light;
That lifts me when I stumble
And points me to the right.

As little hands reach out to me
To show them what to do,
I'm steadied, reassured, and loved
As I reach up to you!

Submitted by Sis. Andrea Dixon



Happy Mother's Day
to all that's in the
Role of Motherhood!
Have a Wonderful, Blessed Day and
Be Loved On!!

Sis. Mimmie



Happy Mother' Day
especially to my mother,
Edna Pearl Roberts Pertillar
9-14-1924 ~ 3-5-2000
Deeply Love & So, So Missed!

Mimmie

MAY 2024 MEETINGS

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

JOINT BOARD

The Joint Board will meet on
Monday, May 13th at 6 p.m.
All Joint Board members should attend.

DEACON MINISTRY

The Deacon Ministry will meet on
Saturday, May 11th at 10 a.m.
All Deacons & Deaconesses
should be present.

USHERS MINISTRY

The Missionary Ministry will meet on
Saturday, May 11th at 11 a.m.
All Ushers should be present.

MISSIONARY MINISTRY

The Missionary Ministry will meet on
Saturday, May 18th at 11 a.m.
All Missionary Ministry members
should be present.

MAN CAVE

Man Cave will meet on
Friday, May 31st at 6 p.m.
All Men are invited to attend.

SHE SHED FELLOWSHIP

She Shed will meet on
Friday, May 31st at 6 p.m.
Scripture: Book of Ruth
Topic: "Pain to Purpose"
All Women are invited to attend.

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## CHOIR REHEARSALS

Children's Choir  
Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

## Male Chorus

**Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon**

## Mass Choir

**Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

## CPR CLASS

*Written by Sis. Earlene Caldwell*

The CPR Class, which was held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, was great! The in-



structor, Mr. Louis Gallo, did an awesome job. He explained and demonstrated everything, so we knew what we were supposed to do. Everyone participated in performing CPR on one of the three mannequins—an infant mannequin, an adolescent mannequin, and an adult mannequin.

Mr. Gallo also explained about the A.E.D, what A.E.D. means (automated external defibrillator), and he demonstrated how to use it.

The class participants' ages ranged from 79 years old to 11 years old. There was a total participant count of 18 individuals. Healthy snacks were provided to everyone, and everyone participated in the Q & A.

Because of the success of this CPR class, the Nurses Ministry is looking to offer another one this summer. If you missed it this time, mark your calendars for Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 1-3p p.m. More information to come.

## Mobile Food Truck

This month, the Western Mass Food Bank Mobile Truck will be in our Union Street Parking lot on **Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>** beginning at **1:00 p.m.** Please tell friends and family. All are invited to come get free produce.

## IT'S CLEAN UP TIME

*Written by Sis. Angela Westbrook*

It is that time of year when we will all come together to beautify our outdoor grounds at Mt Zion Baptist Church.

On **Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.** immediately after morning prayer hour, we will come out together to refresh the mulch, plant new flowers, trim bushes, pull weeds, and clean around our grounds. All ages are welcome to come out to support.

We must always be good stewards of the blessings God has given to us. We want Mt. Zion to be that beautiful light on the hill right in the middle of the community. Lunch will be served!

## NO MORE FITNESS SATURDAYS

The free fitness classes that have been held here at Mt. Zion on Saturdays since February, have unfortunately ended. Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> was our last exercise day. For those who attended the classes, we hope they were both beneficial as well as fun!

## 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 four (4) 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.*

**Deaconess Deborah Jones:** April 7<sup>th</sup>  
**Sis. Awilda Oxios,** April 14<sup>th</sup>  
**Sis. Patrice Wood,** April 21<sup>st</sup>  
**Sis. Renee Baldwin,** April 28<sup>th</sup>

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

## “GRANDMA’S BIBLE”

We are still looking for people to help with the play, ‘Grandma’s Bible,’ that will be performed this fall. If you have any interest, please see **Sis. Alonzetta Gabriel** or **Sis. Angela Westbrook** as soon as possible.

**To those who already have a script or anyone else interested...**

There will be a meeting regarding the play on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of this month, **May 25<sup>th</sup>**, immediately after worship service. Please plan to attend!

## Mental Health Luncheon

*Written by Sis. Anna Howell*

The Missionary Ministry would like to thank everyone for their attendance, hard work, and dedication to our Mental Health Luncheon held last month on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Your support helped to make this program a great success.

We would like to give special thanks to our guest speaker, Rev. David Lewis, for his enlightening information. We would also like to thank **Sis. Andrea Dixon, Sis. Arlene Garner, Deaconess Debra Jones, Dea. Dan Jones, Sis. Pamela Medlock, Sis. Mary Moore, Bro. Richard Scroggins, Sis. Angela Westbrook**, and all the participants for a job well done. Several churches attended our luncheon. May God continue to bless you to serve in both our church and community.

## A Get Connected Event

*Written by Sis. Angela Westbrook*

Save the date:

**Friday, August 23, 2024**

for a movie date to see

**“The Forge”**

directed by Alex Kendrick,

& co-written by Stephen Kendrick.

More details to come!

IN HONOR OF MOTHER'S DAY..

## A PRAYER FOR OVERWHELMED MOTHERS

Dear God,

Thank you for my beautiful children and for all the love and joy they bring to my heart. Lord, I long to be the Mom that you want me to be, but sometimes I just get so overwhelmed with the tasks at hand that I forget to lean on You. Lord, please use these times to remind me of your loving arms— remind me to be as patient with my children as I know you have been with me. Remind me to rest in You, Lord, and give me the strength and wisdom I need to carry out your will for my life. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

[A Prayer for Overwhelmed Mothers \(dayspring.com\)](http://dayspring.com)

## PUZZLES

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE: "SCRIPTURE KNOWLEDGE"

Last month, we tested your knowledge of the Bible. How much did you know? Below are the questions, along with underlined answers.

1. The marriage at Cana was the location for which of Jesus's miracles? Turning water into wine.
2. How many Apostles were there? Twelve
3. Which Old testament prophet stated that "Gold and silver will not be able to deliver people from God's wrath."? Ezekiel
4. According to The Book of Revelation 13:18, what is the "number of the Beast"? 666
5. In the Book of Esther, who was the Persian minister who plotted to exterminate all Jews? Haman
6. On which Mediterranean Island was St. Paul shipwrecked in 60 A.D.? Malta
7. Which king's throne had six steps with two lions on each step? King Solomon
8. According to the Book of Job, a lion may perish for lack of what? Prey

### THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: "SCRIPTURE KNOWLEDGE"

Now that you are warmed up from last month's puzzle, let's do it again! Here are eight (8) more questions to test your Bible knowledge. Answers will be in next month's newsletter.

1. According to the Sermon on the Mount, what kind of fruit will be borne by a good tree?
2. In chapter 6 of the Book of Revelation, what are the names of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse?
3. What are the colors of each of the four steeds ridden by the Four Horsemen?
4. What is carried by the third Horsemen, Famine?
5. Which kind of fruit was taken by Eve from the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden?
6. According to Genesis 14, to which king did Abraham give a tenth-part of everything?
7. To whom did King Balak of Moab offer a high reward if he could put a curse upon the Israelites?
8. Who was the leader of the victorious Israelites at the Battle of Jericho?

## Memorial Day



Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is a federal holiday in the United States honoring U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30, but since then, it is observed on the last Monday of May.

[Memorial Day - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day)

This year, Memorial Day is celebrated on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Let us remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can be free.

# Debt Reduction

Written by Sis. Charlette Scott

Our debt reduction kickoff was a huge success! We love your individual and team names.

Here are a few tips to follow when making a debt reduction donation, especially if you are on a team:

Remember the goal is to pay off our mortgage in 2025!!!

- On your offering envelope, please write "Debt Reduction" or "Project Impact" in the section labeled, 'Other.'
- If you are contributing as a member of a team, be sure to also include both *your* name and the name of your team on the envelope.
- If you are contributing via Givelify or Cash App, please note your team's name in the memo section.
- For those who write checks or money orders, there are several ways you can assist in the recording of both your regular offering and debt reduction contributions: You can write two (2) separate checks, cash split, or do a mixed contribution of cash & check. Regardless of how you give, the envelope must note where you want your contributions applied.

Although we record individual and team contributions, your designated team captain should also keep a record to capture individual member's contributions.

Finally, if you have not made a commitment to help with debt reduction, it's not too late to do so. With everyone's commitment to giving, we are confident that as a church we will meet the goal of becoming a debt free place of worship or facility.

The image shows a form for Mt. Zion Baptist Church. At the top left is a logo with three stylized figures. Below it is the church's name and address: "MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, A PLACE OF HEALING, HELP & HOPE, 33 OAK STREET, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109, TELEPHONE # 413-785-5664 - FAX # 413-737-2856, WEAREMTZION@GMAIL.COM - WEAREMTZION.COM". To the right of the logo are four rows for contributions: "TITHES (10% of Income): \$ \_\_\_\_\_", "OFFERING: \$ \_\_\_\_\_", "BENEVOLENCE (Sick & Shut-in): \$ \_\_\_\_\_", and "OTHER: DEBT REDUCTION \$ \_\_\_\_\_". A red arrow points to the "OTHER" row. Below these rows is a "TOTAL" box with "\$ \_\_\_\_\_" and another red arrow pointing to it. At the bottom, there are fields for "No.", "YOUR NAME/ TEAM NAME", "E-MAIL", "ADDRESS:", and "PHONE #:". At the very bottom is a quote: "ACTS 20:35 '...the words of the Lord Jesus...It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

## ANNUAL UBC MID-YEAR SESSION

The Rev. Paul A. Fullilove Missions Day of the United Baptist Convention of MA, RI, & NH, Inc., will be held on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at Calvary Baptist Church in Haverhill, MA. At this Annual Mid-Year Session, Rev. Boise Kimber, President of the CT State Missionary Baptist Convention will be the guest speaker.

Several Mt. Zionites plan to attend. Our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Atu White, serves as the UBC Parent Body President.

The poster is for the "REV. PAUL A. FULLILOVE MISSIONS' DAY" on "MAY 4 2024". It is held at "CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH | 13 ASHLAND ST, HAVERHILL, MA 01830". The schedule includes: "10:30AM CONVENTION VISION MEETING", "11:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE", and "12:30PM FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON". At the bottom, there are two photos: "Dr. Atu WHITE, CONVENTION PRESIDENT" and "Dr. Boise KIMBER, GUEST SPEAKER, PRESIDENT, CT STATE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CONVENTION".