

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR AND TEACHER



Reflecting on the 156 Year Journey

I greet you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am excited as we begin the month of September to join with our church family in celebrating 156 years of faith and service in the city of Cleveland. Our journey began downtown on the corner of 9th and Carnegie, on what used to be called Erie street. Over the years, we have had six locations, including where we are now in University Circle.

Our pathway to progress began prior to the abolition of slavery, and before the end of the Civil War. Mt. Zion was started by 19 free Africans living in Cleveland who were a part of a Bible Study group at Shiloh Baptist Church. Soon after, Mt. Zion's congregation began assisting in the work of the Underground Railroad, helping those who had made their way to Cleveland and freedom. During the Great Depression, Mt. Zion was a clearinghouse for the needs of the African American community. At that time, Mt. Zion operated a day care and nursery for the children of working mothers and was the site of the first African American Girl Scout troop in Cleveland.

Mt. Zion has always been a community center for African American Clevelanders where issues relating to the needs and concerns of this population was addressed. In 1929, Mt. Zion, then known as Mt. Zion Temple, was the host site for the 1929 NAACP Annual Session. Among the many luminaries present for that meeting was W.E.B. DuBois and J. Rosamond Johnson. A photo of those in attendance at that meeting was taken on the steps of Mt. Zion Temple and has become a part of the national archives of the NAACP. It is featured on the cover of *The Spire* along with a picture of the 57th March on Washington held last month.

Mt. Zion pastors have always been community and national leaders. Many have gone on to great prominence in national leadership and service after leaving their Mt. Zion pastorates. Rev. Sterling N. Brown became the Dean of Howard University School of Religion. Rev. Jessie P.

Mooreland became a prominent historian and archivist. Rev. Grant Reynolds, Esq. was one of the attorneys who worked with A. Phillip Randolph to convince President Harry Truman to desegregate the U.S. military. Rev. Joseph Evans became the first African American President of the United Church of Christ, and Rev. F. Allison Phillips, became the first African American General Secretary of the American Missionary Association.

Today, Mt. Zion continues in this great legacy of Christian dedication and service through the work of the JOBS program, the Christian Business League, the Bountiful Harvest, Parakaleo/GriefShare and the Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous. Further, each year, Mt. Zion continues to be the location for numerous community meetings, concerts, and gatherings.

Throughout our history, Mt. Zion has faced many challenges, but our commitment to selfless giving has continued undaunted. The current global and national challenges that we face, will not hinder us from continuing this journey in God's service.

Some of the activities on the schedule for September 2020 are:

- Bountiful Harvest Produce Giveaway, September 3, 4:00 pm - 6:00 p.m.
- Annual Mike Shinn Memorial Golf Outing, September 12 Black Brook Golf Club, Mentor, Ohio, 9:00 a.m.
- 156th Church Anniversary Worship Service and 2021 Commitment Campaign Kick-off on Facebook Live and Zoom, September 13, 11:00 a.m.
- Mt. Zion's Drive-In Service, September 20, 11:00 a.m.
- CBL Master Class with the Honorable Bradley Sellers, Mayor, City of Warrenville Heights on Zoom, September 25, 7:00 p.m.
- Phenomenal Women Awards Celebration on Zoom, September 27, 1:00 p.m.

With all of this on our schedule, I am sure there will be something of interest for everyone. I want to wish each and every one of you,a very Happy 156th Anniversary and pray that God's blessing, power, and protection will be yours as well.

With Anniversary Blessings,

Rev. Paul

In the know at Mt. Zion...

September 3 @ 4pm BOUNTIFUL HARVEST Drive Through Produce Giveaway Mt. Zion Parking Lot

September 12 @ 9am ANNUAL CBL MICHAEL SHINN MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Black Brook Golf Club, Mentor, OH

September 13 @ 11am
156th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP
SERVICE & 2021 COMMITMENT
CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

Facebook Live and Zoom

September 20 @ 11am MT. ZION'S DRIVE-IN WORSHIP SERVICE Parking Lot

September 25 @ 7pm
CBL MASTER CLASS WITH
MAYOR BRAD SELLERS,
WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OH
Via Zoom

September 27 @ 1pm
PHENOMENAL WOMEN LEGENDS
AWARDS CEREMONY
Via Zoom

The Spire is a monthly publication of Mt. Zion Congregational Church United Church of Christ 10723 Magnolia Drive Cleveland, OH 44106 216.791.5760 www.mtzioncleveland.com

The deadline for articles and advertisements is on the 16th of each month. Please email your materials to:
kimmesadler@gmail.com

Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler, Sr., Senior Pastor and Publisher

> Kim Martin Sadler, Editor and Writer

Joyce Shinn & Donaldson Hill Contributing Photographers

Is creative writing one of your talents?
If yes, email samples of your writing to
Lady Kim.
We welcome skilled writers to cover
Mt. Zion events.

Racial Equality, Then and Now



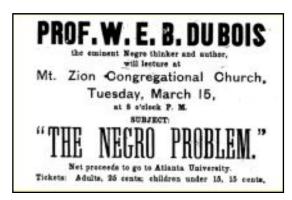
W.E.B. DuBois with Delegates in front of Mt. Zion Temple, 1929

"We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered. Out from the gloomy past. Til now we stand at last. Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.'

These memorable words from "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," written in 1900 rings true today. Dubbed, the Negro National Anthem in 1919 by the NAACP, James Weldon Johnson wrote a beautiful poem that his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, set to music. As Mt. Zion celebrates 156 years of service to God and the greater Cleveland community, we are thankful for its faithful and visionary members who have stood the test of time. Surly they "tread the path through the blood of the slaughtered." According to OhioLink, a website that connects libraries, learning and discovery, "Mt. Zion's congregation played a significant role in the settlement of freed slaves in Cleveland after the Civil War, the founding of the Cleveland Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the founding of Eliza Bryant Village."

The church's role in the success of the NAACP is without question. The august body of representatives at the 1929 Annual Meeting is evidence of their work. Founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation.

Mt. Zion's historical commitment to justice continues today, through it's support of the organizations it helped to establish. Mt. Zion makes an annual financial gift to the Eliza Bryant Village through the Board of Mission and Outreach. Additionally, through the years, Mt. Zion members and pastors have served as Board members and volunteers.



From The Cleveland Journal. 03/12/1904



THE SCHOMBURG CENTER'S BLACK LIBERATION READING LIST

For 95 years, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture has preserved, protected, and festered a greater

All the Women Are White, All the Blacks Are Men, But Some of	Breathe: A Letter to My Sons Insel Pary	Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower	Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Falsition of a	
Us Are Brave: Black Women's Studies Alsoha Gloria Hall, Patricia Bell Scott &	A Brief History of Seven Killings: A Novel Harton James	Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's	Foundations of a Movement Angels Y Danis	
Serbera Smith, eds. American Sonnets	Brown: Poems Kryin Young	Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land Lish Persinan	☐ From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation	
For My Past and Puture Assassin Terrance Hopes	Brutal Imagination Camelus Eady	Feel Free: Essays Zade Smith	Kosanga-Tumahdia Taylor Harliem Noctumes	
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BEAUTY IN WORSHIP

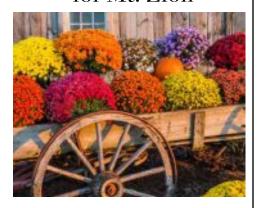


Help us adorn the pulpit with beautiful flowers during our virtual worship services.

You can celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and memorials to loved ones with flowers. Beautiful bouquets can be purchased for \$75. If your flowers are honoring a loved one or for a special occasion, please send your information to Lady Kim at mtzioncleveland@gmail.com.

You may pay via mail or via our online giving. You may also pick up your flowers following Sunday worship.

"Mums the Word" Purchase Mums for Mt. Zion



As we approach fall, help us beautify our campus by donating \$20 to purchase one large mum plant! Your donations can be made via check or through our online giving portal. Look for "Mums the Word."



Mt. Zion Congregational Church and Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2020

Each year, members of Mt. Zion Congregational Church pause to give back a portion of their many blessings to the United Church of Christ's (UCC) special offering in support of Neighbors in Need (NIN). The offering supports UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Specifically, two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries for direct grant awards to fund community organizing and advocacy of systemic issues.

The year 2020 has proven to be a year of issues, specifically, systemic injustices. From a national health pandemic to systemic racism, including the loss of lives, we must end all forms of injustice.

As stated by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his book "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Additionally, Desmond Tutu stated,

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

Our God has been too good for us to remain neutral! Anything that is systemic must end! The season of injustice is ripe and the world is beyond ready for a change!

On Sunday, October 4, 2020, UCC congregations will receive the NIN offering as part of the World Communion Sunday observance. In our virtual environment, you can make your offering on-line at any time (https://www.myegiving.com/App/Giving/mtz1072198). Be sure to select the *Special Offerings* fund name. Also, you can mail your offering to Mt. Zion Congregational Church, 10723 Magnolia Dr, Cleveland, OH 44106. Let's make it our priority to have our voices counted by donating to Neighbors in Need.



Leaders Announce Assessment of UCC's 'Racial Diversity, Equity, Inclusion' from ucc.org

Noting that the United Church of Christ is "among the whitest Christian denominations in America," the church's leaders are launching an assessment of "racial diversity, equity and inclusion" throughout the church. The United Church of Christ Board of Directors announced the assessment in a Sept. 1 "letter to the wider church" and began seeking consultants to the process by posting a request for proposals at the UCC website. The letter was signed by UCC Board Chair Yvette Wynn and the three national officers of the church, the Revs. John Dorhauer, Traci Blackmon and Karen Georgia Thompson. Here is the text of the letter:

A Letter to the Wider Church

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is among the whitest Christian denominations in America. In spite of our strong commitments to racial diversity, equity, and inclusion, our congregational reality remains 84% White with no other racial or ethnic group representation exceeding 6%, according to the UCC Center for Analytics, Research & Development, and Data gleaned from the 58% of UCC churches reporting. Given all churches did not report, it is estimated

the racial divide is even more stark.

"Regardless of public statements and actions, such empirical data presents a sobering reality for a church that makes bold commitments to anti-racism and toward the dismantling of White supremacy in our institutions of faith. The U.S. population is 62% White. Not only is there dissonance between our stated aspirations and our present reality, there is dissonance between many of our churches and the communities we are called by God to serve.

But there is more to the story.

The perpetual call to discipleship means such data need not be an indictment of who we are, but rather can serve as an opportunity to transform our theological, social, and cultural traditions in ways that more closely align with the gospel we preach. We believe the unity of the church is not of its own making. It is a gift of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit we are a united church and a uniting church.

We are certainly no stranger to such movement of the Spirit. Our historical narrative and current commitment remind us that such transformation is possible.

As the church continues to align our operations, culture, and ministries with our values around racial diversity, equity, and inclusion, we recognize denominational leadership must lead by example.

Everyone has their personal experience of the UCC and of the national setting, and all of those experiences matter. In order to engage the deeper emotional and spiritual work of building an equitable ministry, empirical data is necessary to establish a baseline from which to identify challenges and measure progress.

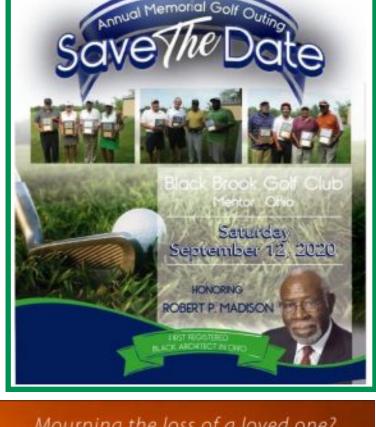
Toward this spiritual call, the United Church of Christ Board voted, unanimously, to lead both the UCCB and national setting in an institutional racial diversity, equity, and inclusion assessment. Just as we audit finances annually to assess fiscal stability and viability, on September 1, 2020, the UCCB will issue a public Request for Proposals to several identified racial equity organizations to accompany us on this journey of self-examination by leading us through an objective racial equity assessment from which we will challenge and hold ourselves accountable.



DRIVE THROUGH PRODUCE GIVEAWAY

Mt. Zion Parking Lot @4pm

September 3
October 1



hristian

Michael G. Shinn

Job Opportunities Breakthrough Services (JOBS)

Transforming Lives & Energizing Minds





The next MT Z JOBS Class will begin

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6 p.m. (Virtual)

Mt. Zion Congregational Church, UCC 10723 Magnolia Drive, Cleveland, Oh 44106 Phone 216-791-5760 (across from the VA Hospital)



FALL 2020 SESSIONS VIA ZOOM Thursday, August 13 -Thursday, November 12

For more information Email mtzioncleveland@gmail.com or Call 216.791.5760 and leave a message on the GriefShare line

The Zoom link will be available for members via the Weekly Update

November Presidential Election Vote-by-Mail

Request or print your Vote-by-Mail ballot application at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us.

Who can vote by mail?

All Ohio voters whose registration information is up to date can vote by mail.

Why should I vote by mail?

- Vote in the comfort of your own home!
- Avoid the lines at the polls on Election Day.
- Take your time researching candidates and issues.
- Absentee ballots are the first votes counted on Election Night!

How do I vote by mail?

- 1 Complete a vote by mail application for the upcoming election.
- 2 Once you have completed your application by providing all of the required information, **print and sign** if
- Mail the application back to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections: 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.
- 4 Wait to receive your ballot in the mail.
- If you have questions about your Vote-by-Mail ballot request, you should call the Board of Elections at 216-443-VOTE (8683) or you can track the status of your ballot request on our website at www.443vote.us.
- 6 Return your voted ballot.

When is the deadline to vote by mail?

- Your application must be received by the Board of Elections by 12:00 p.m. on the Saturday before Election Day, October 31, 2020
- Your ballot must be received by the Board of Elections:
 - By 7:30 p.m. on Election Day if delivered in person by the elector or a close family member; or
 - Postmarked by the post office by the day before Election Day and received by the Board of Elections no later than 10 days after the election if sent by *U.S. Mail.*

For more information about voting by mail, go to: www.sos.state.oh.us. To print a blank/generic Vote-by-Mail ballot application, go to:

A voter with a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may vote remotely using the remote ballot marking system. For more information about the remote ballot markingsystem, go to: boe.cuyahogacounty.us.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS!

ANY ERRORS WILL CAUSE YOUR BALLOT TO BE DISQUALIFIED!

SIGN, FILL IN, COMPLETE, AND DATE ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION!

SEPTEMBER 2020								
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
	MONDAYS Day of Sabbath for Rev. Paul	7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom	Z 7am Prayer Call	4pm Bountiful Harvest 6:15pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare via Zoom	7am Prayer Call 6:30pm Sisters in the Spirit via Zoom	5 11:30am Christian Stew. 12pm Deacon Board		
		Joseph Greene		Deneen Terrell	Lady Kim Martin Sadler			
7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY 12:30pm Virtual Coffee Hour & Children's Church School	7	7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom	7am Prayer Call 2pm Staff Meeting	6:15pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare 7pm Leadership Mtg via Zoom	7am Prayer Call	9am CBL Michael Shinn Memorial Golf Outing		
via Zoom	Marguerite Parries		Shirley Lee	Cassandra Green Robert Reynolds	Annette Coleman Donaldson Hill	Eric Brown Ernest Malone, Sr. Darlene Sallie		
7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live Worship 12:30pm Virtual Coffee Hour & Children's Church School 1:30pm Whosoever Min. via Zoom	14	7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom	7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study	6:15pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare	7am Prayer Call	11am New Mbr Orient. via Zoom 12pm Women's Fellowship via Zoom		
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