

# The Spire

February 2020

## Just Mercy

A Story of Justice and Redemption

Bryan  
Stevenson

"Not since Atticus Finch has a fearless and committed lawyer made such a difference in the American South. Though larger than life, Atticus exists only in fiction. Bryan Stevenson, however, is very much alive and doing God's work fighting for the poor, the oppressed, the voiceless, the vulnerable, the outcast, and those with no hope. *Just Mercy* is his inspiring and powerful story."

—JOHN GRISHAM



**“There is no American History  
without African American History”**

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR AND TEACHER



### The Amazing Legacy of The Children of Africa

As we come to the month of February, once again, I am excited to celebrate my favorite month of the year, Black History Month. In 1926, Black History Month was established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. It was then called Negro History Week, but in 1976, it was expanded to the entire month of February. The month of February was selected because it was the birth month of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Woodson dedicated his entire life to collecting and highlighting the enormous and extraordinary accomplishments of people of African descent. The children of Africa came to these shores as captives, stolen from their motherland and brought to this country, to be the free labor that would build this nation.

Our ancestors overcame the extraordinary obstacles that were placed before them in their path to freedom. In spite of these enormous travails, they achieved and excelled in every area and field of endeavor. The amazing story of the children of Africa teaches us that the faith, fortitude and resilience of a people, can enable them to achieve beyond expectation and accomplish what could once only be imagined. This is the story I love to hear and tell everyone who does not know it. Unfortunately, there are still some African Americans who have been hoodwinked into believing the myth of our inability to strive and excel together. For them, I pray that this month will be an opportunity for growth and exposure to a new school of thought. For them, I pray for a “*Time of Shift*” in their thinking and in their behavior.

During this month, I will preach a Black History Month Sermon Series entitled “Four Black Men.” Each week, I will preach on the life of an extraordinary black man and the spiritual implications of their life for 21<sup>st</sup> Century believers. No one will know who the individuals

are until it is revealed when the sermon title is posted on the screen each Sunday. The young people will study the individuals in Church school and will post a photo of the individual in the narthex during worship each Sunday. We are looking for this to be an awesome time in the Lord as we delve into the ways in which God has used black men to impact the world.

February will also provide us with an opportunity to welcome some of our friends to worship. February 9 will be Wade Park School Sunday. We will welcome the principal, choir and families of Wade Park School, to join us in worship. Their choir will sing for us and students will share Black History Month reflections as a part of our worship experience. During the month of March, Mt. Zion will raise a special offering for the school’s trip to New York for students to be Cultural Ambassadors to schools in the New York Public School System.

On Sunday, February 23, we will have United Negro College Fund Sunday and will welcome the Top Ladies of Distinction to be our guests in worship. We will raise a special offering to support the UNCF. Mt. Zion’s Voices of Praise is preparing special music for worship. On that Sunday, the February Birthday Team will host their Chicken and Waffles Fundraiser in the Rozel Threat Social Hall following worship. I encourage all to support our February Birthday Team in their ingenious and delicious fundraiser.

On Wednesday, February 26, we will begin the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Services, at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm. At these services, we will receive Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes on our foreheads. As we begin this sacred season, I invite the members of Mt. Zion to join me in a time of fasting and prayer over the 46 days of Lent. As we have traditionally done, I am recommending that our members utilize the Daniel Fast or Daniel Plan as a healthy method of practicing your devotion during Lent. I am also encouraging our members to set aside specific times of the day for daily prayer, during Lent... between one and seven times each day.

Let us move into this Black History Month reminded of the tremendous contributions that African Americans have made to the country and to the world. Let us also resolve to never let their labor be in vain.

Living in the legacy,

Rev. Paul



### In the know at Mt. Zion...

February 1 @ 10am  
**LEADERSHIP RETREAT**  
Rozel Threat Social Hall

February 9 @ 11am  
**WADE PARK SCHOOL SUNDAY**  
Sanctuary

February 16 @ 1pm  
**Coffee with the Artists**  
Gallery at Shinn House

February 23  
**UNCF SUNDAY**  
**February Birthday Team**  
**Chicken & Waffles Fundraiser**  
Sanctuary & Rozel Threat Social Hall

February 26 @ 12 noon & 7pm  
**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
Sanctuary

February 28 @ 12 noon  
**September Birthday Team**  
**Lenten Fish Fry Friday**  
Rozel Threat Social Hall



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is on  
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Please email your materials to:  
[kimmesadler@gmail.com](mailto:kimmesadler@gmail.com)

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

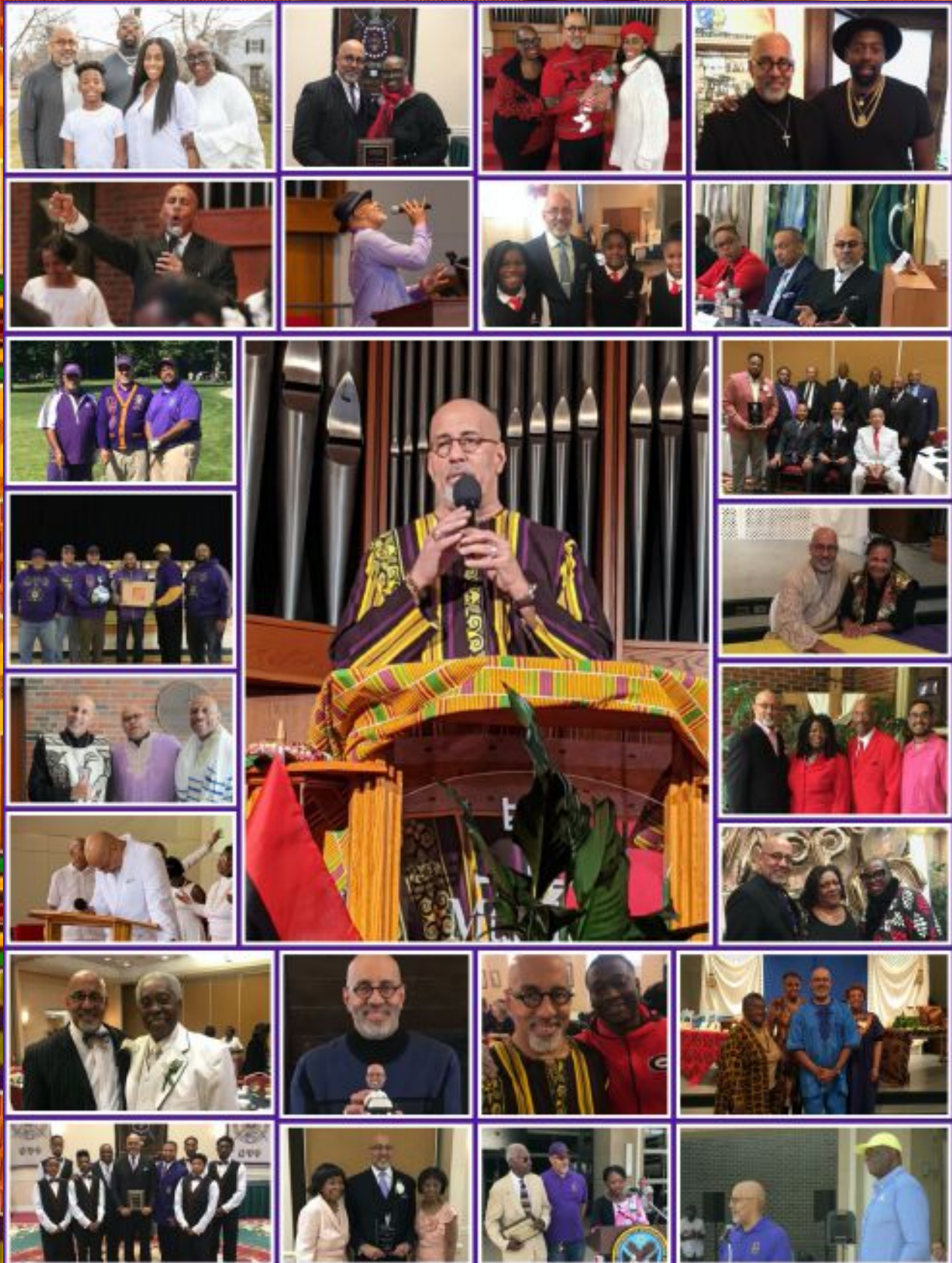
Kim Martin Sadler,  
Editor and Writer

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.



*Happy 37th Ordination Anniversary Rev. Paul*





# MT. ZION IN COMMUNITY

## Mt. Zion UCC and Federated UCC Address Issues of Justice and Redemption

On Monday, January 13, members of Mt. Zion UCC joined with its sister church, Federated UCC, to view the film, *Just Mercy*.

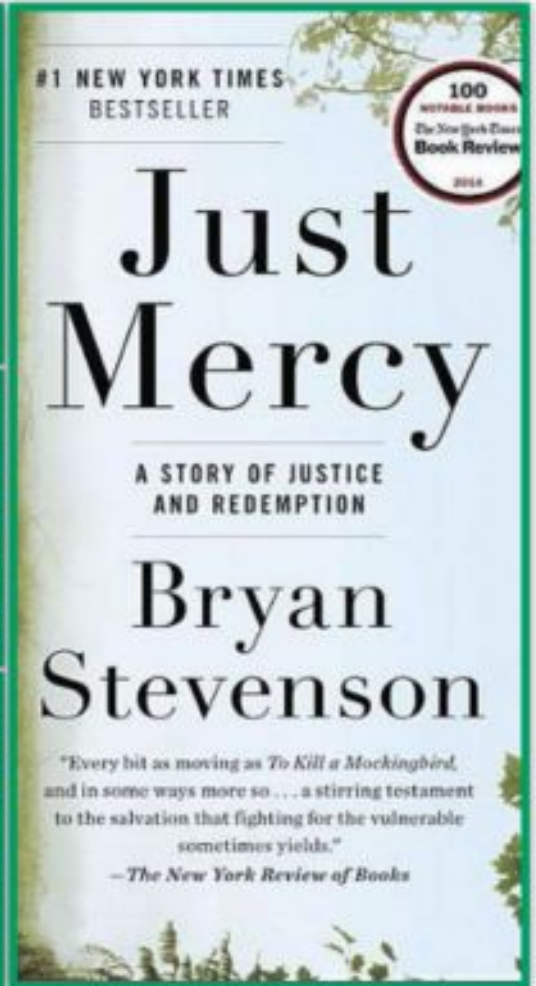
*Just Mercy* is the moving film based on the work by Bryan Stevenson, who has dedicated his life to representing poor people who have been unjustly imprisoned.

"After graduating from Harvard, Bryan Stevenson heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or those not afforded proper representation. One of his first cases is that of Walter McMillian, who is sentenced to die in 1987 for the murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite evidence proving his innocence. In the years that follow, Stevenson encounters racism and legal and political maneuverings as he tirelessly fights for McMillian's life."

On Dr. King's holiday, members of Mt. Zion gathered to discuss the movie. Like other movies that depict the institutional injustices towards and against people of African descent, this movie reopened wounds that have never been healed. Mt. Zion members shared its painful, emotional impact upon them. One visible impact of racism and white supremacy on the psyche of those of African descent is the ever-present knowledge that the color of their skin will place them in eminent danger — irrespective of their social status, or educational status.

During the conversation, members heard about what Mt. Zion is doing and has done in the area of the Criminal Justice System. Mt. Zion's REAL Re-Entry ministry was discussed by Steven Terry and Patsy Harris. REAL is the acronym for Released, Emancipated and Liberated. REAL Re-Entry will begin working with the Cleveland Juvenile Justice Center by incorporating its successful Job Opportunity Breakthrough Services (JOBS) program at the Center. JOBS is a spiritually based ten-week job readiness program that has historically enabled former felons to find employment.

*"Our criminal justice system treats you better if you are rich and guilty than if you are poor and innocent."*  
Bryan Stevenson





## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MAKERS



Dr. Julian M. Earls, is an internationally renowned physicist who was the ninth director of NASA Glenn Research Center. He was the Center's first African American section head, office chief, division chief and deputy director. Dr. Earls has earned 10 university degrees. He retired from the Center in 2005, following which he became the Executive in Residence at Cleveland State University. He and his wife, Zenobia Earls, are members of Mt. Zion UCC.

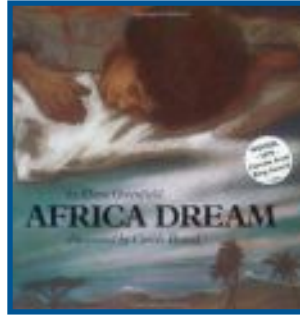


Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, is the president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She is a Theoretical Physicist who received her PhD from MIT. She invented the technology responsible for Caller ID and Call Waiting,



Edward Alexander Bouchet was the first African American to receive a PhD in Physics. He received his degree from Yale University in 1876.

## 10 Affirming Books that will Elevate African American Children's Minds



Africa Dream by  
Eloise Greenfield

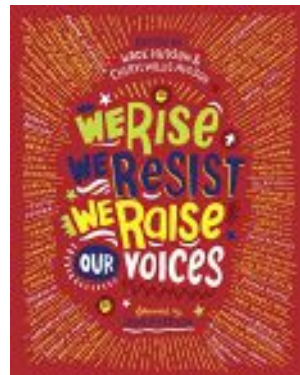
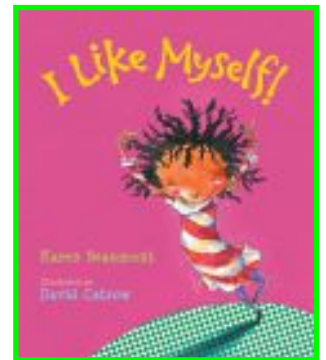
Ellington Was Not a Street  
by Ntozake Shange



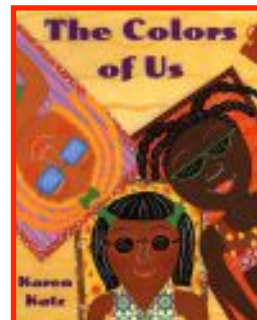
Brothers of the Knight by  
Debbie Allen



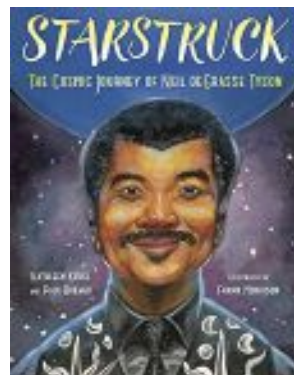
I Like Myself by  
Karen Beaumont



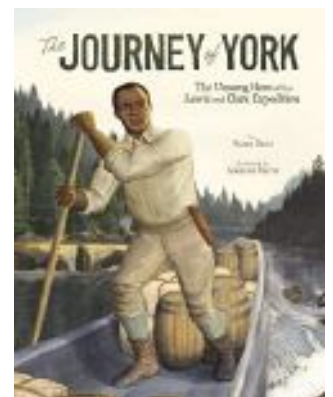
We Rise, We Resist, We  
Raise Our Voices by  
Wade & Cheryl Hudson



The Colors of Us by  
Karen Katz



Starstruck: The Cosmic  
Journey of Neil DeGrasse  
Tyson by Kathleen Krull &  
Paul Brewer



The Journey of York: The  
Unsung Hero of the Lewis &  
Clark Expedition  
by Hasan Davis and Alleanna  
Harris



A Song for Gwendolyn  
Brooks by  
Alice Faye Duncan



## February Birthday Team Chicken and Waffle Sunday Fundraiser



**Sunday, February 23, 2020**  
Following 11am Worship Service  
Rozel Threat Social Hall  
Donation: \$10

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement after the death of  
a spouse, child, family member, or friend

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and  
support group designed to help you rebuild your  
life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by  
caring people who have experienced grief and  
want to help you through the  
difficult days ahead.

We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Contact Us Today

Thursdays beginning March 5, 2020  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Mt. Zion Congregational UCC  
10723 Magnolia Drive  
Cleveland, OH 44106  
216.791.5760  
mtzioncleveland@gmail.com

GRIEF SHARE

Join us for the Sixth Annual African American Read-In



## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER: Celebrating Black Male Poets

**Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020**  
**11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus  
Simon and Rose Mandel Theatre Lobby



The African American Read-In is a nationally recognized literacy initiative  
that introduces students and teachers to books by African American authors.

MORE INFORMATION:

**Michelle Rankins**  
216-987-2922  
michelle.rankins@tri-c.edu

**Mynetta Brower**  
216-987-2094  
mynetta.brower@tri-c.edu



Program sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English  
A collaboration between the Black American Council and Eastern Campus Liberal Arts and Student Engagement

## CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think.  
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

### Everyone counts.

The census counts every  
person living in  
the United States  
once, and in the  
right place.



### It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years,  
the results of the  
census are used to  
reapportion the  
House of  
Representatives,  
determining how  
many seats each  
state gets.



### It's in the Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates  
that everyone in the country be  
counted every 10 years. The first  
census was in 1790.

### It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of  
more than \$675 billion  
in federal funds,  
grants, and support to  
states, counties, and  
communities are  
based on census data.

That money is spent  
on schools, hospitals,  
roads, public works,  
and other vital  
programs.



### It's about redistricting.

After each decennial census, state  
officials redraw the boundaries of the  
congressional and state legislative  
districts in their states to account for  
population shifts.

### Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census  
is mandatory. It's a way  
to participate in our  
democracy and say  
"I COUNT!"





January Birthday Team  
Raffle for an Amazing Vacation at Mayan Palace  
at Vida Resorts in Mexico



8 day/7 night vacation

In Nuevo Vallarta, Riviera Maya, Acapulco or Puerto Penasco

Tickets: 1 for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00

2 adults/2 children - \$1,099 (\$1,858)

4 adults - \$1,299 (\$2,400)

() Same trip on Booking.com

**Air fare and meals are not included**

FEBRUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>EVERY MONDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>DAY OF SABBATH FOR REV. PAUL</p>					<p>I</p> <p>10am LEADERSHIP RETREAT</p>
<p>2</p> <p>7am Worship Prayer Call 9am &amp; 11am WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY</p> <p>Charles L. Scott</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Bryant Berry</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 12:30pm Craft Coop. 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7pm Leadership Team Conf. Call</p> <p>Kevin Weaver</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7am Prayer Call 6:30pm Sisters in the Spirit</p> <p>Harriet J. Smith Myron Evan Gardner</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:30am Mission &amp; Outreach</p> <p>Tyrese D. Eddings</p>
<p>9</p> <p>7am Worship Prayer Call 9am &amp; 11am WORSHIP WADE PARK SCHOOL SUNDAY</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Matthew Green, Jr. William Reese Maisha Terrell</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Stacey Brisker</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 12:30pm Craft Coop. 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>Sonya Durr</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7am Prayer Call HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY</p> <p>Harriett Richardson Jimmy Thornton</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9am New Mbr Orient. 10am Usher Bd 12pm Women's Fell.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>7am Worship Prayer Call 9am &amp; 11am WORSHIP</p> <p>1pm Coffee with the Artists</p> <p>Fuller Woods</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Mary McDavid Banks Kiam McCutchen Marquetta Spencer</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Leola Toles</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 12:30pm Craft Coop. 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>Linda Mack Delon Mallory, Jr.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7am Prayer Call</p>	<p>22</p> <p>2pm Trustee Bd</p> <p>Dwayne Frisco</p>
<p>23</p> <p>7am Worship Prayer Call 9am &amp; 11am WORSHIP</p> <p>February Birthday Team Chicken &amp; Waffles</p> <p>UNCF SUNDAY</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Shelley Hennessy</p>	<p>26</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>7am Prayer Call</p> <p>12pm &amp; 7pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Geneva Green</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7am Prayer Call 12pm Lenten Fish Fry Friday</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11am Men's Fellowship 12pm Community Meal</p>