

The Spire

July 2020

BLACK LIVES MATTER

A Publication of Mt. Zion Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler, Sr., Senior Pastor

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR AND TEACHER



Doing the Right Thing

It is essential to do what is right. But it is sometimes hard to know what the right thing is. It is in these times that we must look to the word of God and the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction. God's word is filled with wisdom stories of how God has guided God's people down through the ages. There is no situation that we face that God's word does not cover with wisdom and understanding. When you match the faithful and true instructions of the Bible with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you have a perfect combination. This dynamic duo can provide the guidance needed to do the right thing during troubled times.

These days, I am abundantly grateful for God's guidance and direction as we have traversed uncharted territory as the Body of Christ. There have been many important and life-impacting decisions that we have needed to make. In each case, I have sought the Holy Spirit's guidance, the instruction of God's word, and the wisdom of counselors. Proverbs 11:14 teaches us that "In the multitude of counselors there is safety." With this guidance and in cooperation with the leadership of our church, I have made every decision in what I wholeheartedly believe to be the best interest of God's people. In this light, we have chosen to continue to operate the ministries of our church virtually.

We continue to hold our Worship via Facebook Live, and our Bible Studies, board, committee, and ministry meetings via WebEx and Zoom. Last Sunday, June 28, we held our first Virtual Coffee Hour at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. This will continue each

Sunday at the same time following worship. The Zoom link for the Virtual Coffee Hour will be in the *Weekly Update* and will not change, so please save it. Please invite those members who may not be aware of joining us for fellowship and fun.

Kudos to Leslie Oliver and the Bountiful Harvest team for their hard work in serving our community with our monthly produce giveaways on the first Thursday of each month from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. On Sunday, July 5, also at 12:30 p.m., we will hold our first virtual Church School class for all ages. Teachers, Grady and Melissa Burrows look forward to seeing all of our young people on Zoom for Christian Education.

We are so grateful to Deacon Sharon Mackel and the Parakaleo/GriefShare team for presenting a four-week Summer GriefShare session, entitled "Grief and COVID 19." The series began Thursday, July 2. Meetings will continue each Thursday thru July 23 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The Christian Business League (CBL), will host Unfurl: A Virtual Trailblazer Tribute Event on Monday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m. CBL's Co-Chairperson, Joyce Shinn and I, are excited to announce that our Michael G. Shinn Business Trailblazer for 2020 will be Rev. Hilton O. Smith, retired Senior Vice President of Turner Construction. This will be a stellar virtual event, and all are invited to join us in the celebration. Check out the *Weekly Update* for registration information. The donation of \$10 is for the CBL Scholarship fund.

A special Summer Bible Study will be held on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. from July 22 - August 12. All board, committee, ministry chairpersons, and Birthday Team captains, are encouraged to be present for our Zoom Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. on July 23. Our Virtual Vacation Bible School will take place on July 28 - 30 via Zoom.

We look forward to a great Vacation Bible School for the whole family at 6:30 p.m. nightly. The Gallery at Shinn House will hold the first Virtual Art Show entitled, "The Best of the Gallery at Shinn House." Check the *Weekly Updates* for dates and times. Once again, I want to personally say thank you to our church family

for your faithfulness and dedication to the work and support of God's church through these extraordinary times. God will bring us out on the other side, bigger and better, in the service of the Savior. Stay safe, be well, and dwell in the blessings of God.

With Grace and Gratitude,
Rev. Paul

In the know at Mt. Zion...

July 2 @ 4pm
BOUNTIFUL HARVEST
Drive Through Produce Giveaway
Mt. Zion Parking Lot

July 2 @ 6:30pm
GriefShare Covid-19 Summer Session
via Zoom

July 5 @ 12:30pm
EACH SUNDAY
VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR &
CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL
via Zoom

July 13 @ 7pm
CHRISTIAN BUSINESS LEAGUE
UNFURL TRAILBLAZER TRIBUTE
via Zoom

July 22 @ 10:30am & 7:00pm
Summer AM and PM Bible Study
via Zoom

July 23 @ 7pm
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
via Zoom

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

Congratulations to the 2020 Class of Deacons

Qualifications of Deacons

8 Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; **9** they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. **10** And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. 1 Timothy 3: 8-10



**Deacon
Cassandra Green**



**Deacon
Jabreel Gould**



**Deacon
Debra Landrum**



**Deacon
Robert Lampley**



**Deacon
Rochelle Mitchell**



**Deacon
Anthony Peebles**



**Deacon
Robin Sadler**



**Deacon
Roberta Smith**



**Deacon
Jocelyn Taylor**



**Deacon
Mary Thornton**

Black Lives Matter - They Always Have Mattered

Each New Year's Day, as our ancestors had done, in the homes of many African Americans, there is a traditional meal of meat, greens, and black-eyed peas and rice. The greens are for prosperity and the black-eyed peas and rice is for good luck. No one, however, but God, could foresee the seismic shift that would take place in the first five months of 2020. The shift would greatly affect one's health and wealth. Interesting enough, the 2020 theme given to Rev. Paul by God for Mt. Zion was, "A Season of Shift." And what a shift it has been.

In January, Trump's impeachment trial began. In February, news broadcasters briefly shared sound bites about a contagious illness that many people in China had contracted. Without much publicity, three white men murdered a 25-year-old black jogger, Ahmaud Arbery. In March, the disease is identified as COVID-19. Cases in the U.S. surpass that of China and Italy. In April, Bernie Sanders suspends his candidacy for President. In Louisville, Kentucky, local news outlets report the death of a black woman named Breonna Taylor, who was killed by police as she slept in bed. In May, a 17-year-old girl uses her cell phone to film the murder of George Floyd, another African American man who would die at the hands of police. His death, however, was like none other. It sparked the largest global social justice protests in support of Black Lives Matter that the world has ever seen. Five months into 2020... the world has made a seismic shift.

So what is Black Lives Matter, the organization that has been labeled as the largest 21st century civil rights organization to a terrorist group? Why has this slogan been taken from America, to England, to Australia, to India and beyond? And why is it important for you to know about it?

Black Lives Matter was co-founded in 2013 by three women: Patrisse Khan-Cullars, Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi. They decided such an organization was needed following the shocking murder of Travon Martin, an innocent 17-year-old high school student and the acquittal of his murderer, George Zimmerman. Its goal is to "expose institutional systems of violence targeted against African American populations."



Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi and Patrisse Khan-Cullars

"Khan-Cullars is an artist, organizer, and

freedom fighter from Los Angeles. She is a New York Times best-selling author, Fulbright scholar and a popular speaker." "Garza is an Oakland, California based writer, organizer and freedom dreamer who is currently the Special Projects Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance, the nation's leading voice for domestic workers." "Tometi is a Nigerian-American writer, strategist and organizer residing in New York City. She is currently at the helm of the country's leading Black organization for immigrant rights, the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI). Founded in 2006, BAJI is a national organization that educates and advocates to further immigrant rights and racial justice together with African-American, Afro-Latino, African, and Caribbean immigrant communities."

"Black Lives Matter started from a post that I put on Facebook after the acquittal of George Zimmerman. I woke up in the middle of the night sobbing, just trying to process what had happened and wanting to find community around being in a lot of grief and having a lot of rage."

Alicia Garza



Travon Martin

As is typically done when African Americans make the decision to take control of the narrative of their lives, those in opposition denounced the group by dismissing the organization and latching on to phrases such as "All lives Matter" and/or "Blue Lives Matter." Trump has tweeted that it is a racist organization and now a hate group.



George Floyd

On May 25, #BlackLivesMatter took a different and dramatic turn. The death of George Floyd was the "straw that literally broke the camel's back." Enough was enough. Now white people were outraged. In 8 minutes and 46 seconds, they watched a man die because he allegedly used a counterfeit \$20 bill in a

corner grocery store. How and why did this heinous act take place — AGAIN???

People around the world now began to understand why Colin Kaepernick took a knee. It wasn't about disgracing the American flag as so-called patriotic Americans believed. Kaepernick's simple, nonviolent protest of kneeling during the National Anthem signified his protest to police brutality against black people. This is what he always tried to get others to understand. It finally hit home to people.

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

Colin Kaepernick



Since Floyd's murder, protests have erupted across the nation and around the world. The people yelling, "Black Lives Matter!" and pumping their fists in the air are now white people, Asian people, India people, rich people and poor people. Black Lives Matter hit a global cord. Oppressed citizens around the world are protesting the injustices in their countries.

On June 5 after a continual dispute with Trump concerning who owned the streets of Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser had a section of 16th street that leads straight to the White House named, Black Lives Matter Plaza. This action has spawn cities across the nation and the world to paint Black Lives Matter on streets.



We are now living in the seventh month of the year, July. In four months, the presidency of the United States will be decided. Only God knows how 2020 will end. With God's help, 2021 will be the year of hope, peace and justice.

Spotlight on Mt. Zion Members



Welcome to Mt. Zion's New Member
Alphonso McDuffie

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Pinkney-Nichols
on their wedding



Congratulations to Linda Green on her
virtual art show which can be seen on
YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/fFABFCVPUO0>



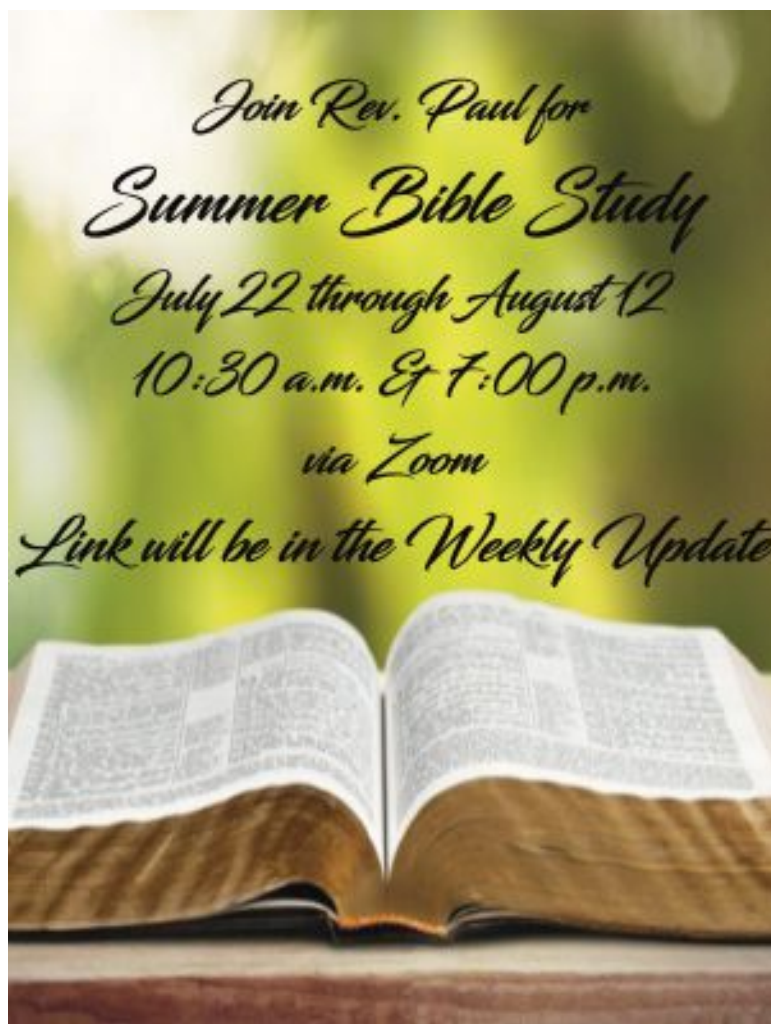
Mt. Zion's Virtual Coffee Hour

"It's so good to see you." "Hi everybody!" "I miss you all!" "I like your background!" These were just a few of the greetings and words shared during Mt. Zion's first Virtual Coffee Hour. Members shared information about how they were doing and they were also able to see Minister Detra's and Terry's pets.

Rev. Paul would like everyone who can, to meetup following Mt. Zion's Facebook Live Worship Service. The link to the Zoom Coffee Hour will be in your Weekly Update. Please read it as it will have important and pertinent information regarding your church.

Social distancing doesn't mean, social isolation! You are missed! So join us each Sunday for Coffee Hour.





ISSUE ONE-PAGER: RACIAL JUSTICE

The UCC on Racial Justice:

- The United Church of Christ remains committed to being an anti-racist church and supports equal access for communities of color to vote without restrictions
- During General Synod 23 an addendum was added to 1993 Pronouncement calling the UCC to become a Multiracial, Multicultural Church. The addendum called the UCC to also become an "Anti-Racist" denomination. In doing so, we encourage all Conferences and Associations and local churches of the UCC to adopt anti-racism mandates, including policy that encourages anti-racism programs for all UCC staff and volunteers.
- When a church claims boldly "Black Lives Matter" at this moment, it chooses to show up intentionally against all given societal values of supremacy and superiority or common-sense complacency. By insisting on the intrinsic worth of all human beings, Jesus models for us how God loves justly, and how his disciples can love publicly in a world of inequality. We live out the love of God justly by publicly saying #BlackLivesMatter.

Take Action:

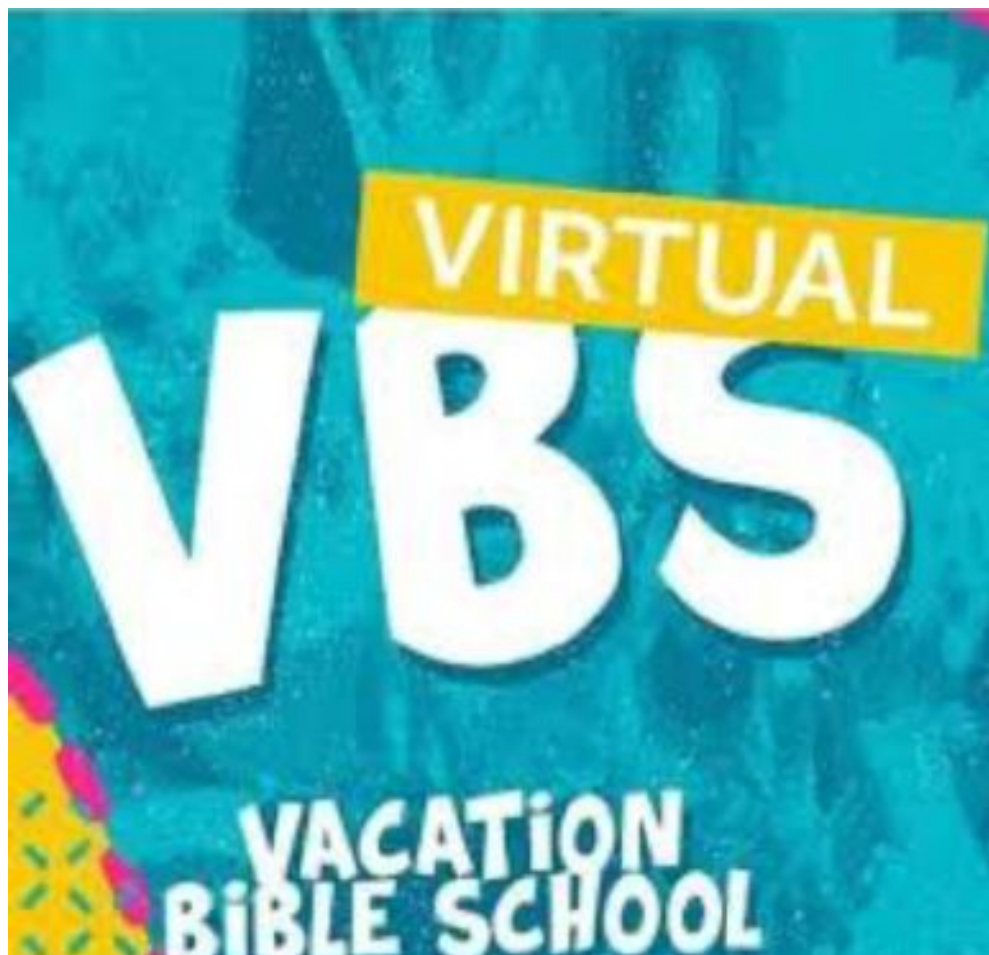
- Fight Voter Suppression Laws: Contact the American Civil Liberties Union: www.aclu.org/issues/voting-rights/fighting-voter-suppression
- Report Acts of Racism, Extremism, and Violence: <https://www.spicenter.org/>
- Know your rights. Contact Equal Justice Under the Law www.equaljusticeunderlaw.org



Questions for your candidates

- What actions can citizens take to reverse Stand Your Ground laws?
- How do we restore voting rights for all citizens and prevent gerrymandering?
- What safety measures are in place to guarantee communities of color have equal access to register and vote?

Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ | ourfaithourvote.org
Contact: Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Racial Justice Minister lovev@ucc.org




Mt. Zion's
Intergenerational
Virtual
Vacation Bible
School
July 28, 29, 30
at 6:30 pm
via Zoom

The Zoom Link will be in
the Weekly Update

GRIEF SHARE
Summer SUPPORT

COVID-19 & Grief



**Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m.
July 2 - July 23
via Zoom**

Email mtzioncleveland@gmail.com
for the link or call 216.791.5760 and leave a
message on the GriefShare line

THE CHRISTIAN BUSINESS LEAGUE PRESENTS

Christian

Unfurl

MON JULY 13TH 2020

A Virtual Trailblazer Tribute

HONORING
REV. HILTON SMITH

A VIRTUAL EVENT | **zoom**
BEGINS 7PM | TICKET PRICE \$10

REGISTER
WWW.MTZIONCLEVELAND.COM/CBL

RECOGNIZING
CBL
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS
+
SUPPORTING
MINORITY BUSINESSES
AFFECTED BY
COVID - 19

NAUTICAL THEME
ATTIRE: WHITE OR NAUTICAL

VP OPTION
DINNER & SIGNATURE BEVERAGE
DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

DEADLINE: JULY 6, 2020



The Christian Business League appreciates the support of our sponsors



BOUNTIFUL HARVEST DRIVE THROUGH PRODUCE GIVEAWAY


Mt. Zion Parking Lot @4pm

**July 2
August 6
September 3
October 1**

Christian

Michael G. Shinn

Annual Memorial Golf Outing Save The Date




Black Brook Golf Club
Mentor, Ohio

**Saturday
September 12, 2020**

HONORING
ROBERT P. MADISON

FIRST REGISTERED
BLACK ARCHITECT IN CWO



JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div>MONDAYS</div> <div>Day of Sabbath for Rev. Paul</div> <div>Please honor this.</div>		<div>1</div> <div>7am Prayer Call 2pm Staff Meeting</div>	<div>2</div> <div>4pm Bountiful Harvest 6:30pm GriefShare via Zoom</div>	<div>3</div> <div>7am Prayer Call</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Independence Day</div>
<div>5</div> <div>7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY 12:30pm Virtual Coffee Hour & Children's Church School via Zoom</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Olivia Martin</div>	<div>7</div> <div>7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom 7pm UnFurl mtg via Zoom</div>	<div>8</div> <div>7am Prayer Call 2pm Staff Meeting</div>	<div>9</div> <div>6:15pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm Parakeleo/ GriefShare via Zoom Danette Smith</div>	<div>10</div> <div>7am Prayer Call ReAnna Dickerson Barbara Essex Patsy Harris</div>	<div>11</div>
<div>12</div> <div>7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP 12:30pm Virtual Coffee Hour & Children's Church School via Zoom 1:30pm Whosoever Min. via Zoom</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7:00pm CBL UNFURL TRAILBLAZER TRIBUTE via Zoom</div>	<div>14</div> <div>7:30am Care Shep. 1pm Golf Outing Mtg 6:00pm FA via Zoom ReAnna Dickerson Barbara Essex</div>	<div>15</div> <div>7am Prayer Call 2pm Staff Meeting</div>	<div>16</div> <div>6:15pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm Parakeleo/ GriefShare via Zoom</div>	<div>17</div> <div>7am Prayer Call Janice Richardson</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Ayanna Augustine Janice James Stephanie Miller</div>
<div>19</div> <div>7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP 12:30pm Virtual Coffee Hour & Children's Church School via Zoom Clifford Johnson Lauretha Brown Malone</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div>7:30am Care Shep. 6:00pm FA via Zoom</div>	<div>22</div> <div>7am Prayer Call 2pm Staff Meeting 10:30am Summer AM Bible Study via Zoom 7pm Summer PM Bible Study via Zoom</div>	<div>23</div> <div>6:15pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm Parakeleo/ GriefShare via Zoom 7pm CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING via Zoom Clover Elliot</div>	<div>24</div> <div>7am Prayer Call</div>	<div>25</div> <div>2pm Trustee Bd via Zoom</div>
<div>26</div> <div>7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP 12:30pm Virtual Coffee Hour & Children's Church School via Zoom 1:30pm Whosoever Min. via Zoom</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>7:30am Care Shep. 6:00 pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL via Zoom</div>	<div>29</div> <div>7am Prayer Call 2pm Staff Meeting 10:30am Summer AM Bible Study via Zoom 6:30pm VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL via Zoom</div>	<div>30</div> <div>6:30pm VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL via Zoom</div>	<div>31</div> <div>7am Prayer Call Maudine Henderson</div>	