



The Spire

December 2025

*Merry
Christmas*





O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

The words of my favorite Advent hymn, "O come, O come Emmanuel," speak to the meaning of Advent and represents what the faithful must

have felt at the coming of Christ 2000 years ago. Even today, when we sing that great hymn of the church, by J.M. Neale, we beseech Christ to return and take us unto Himself. This Advent is very special and different for me because it is my last Advent serving as your Senior Pastor. There are many emotions that come with this season: joy and sorrow, anticipation, and expectation as well as a profound sense of unknowing. I can only imagine how Mary felt when God called her to be the mother of our Lord...to bring forth a child who would not only save the world but herself as well.

As I come to this Advent season, there are many memories that flood my soul. I remember our first Christmas Morning Prayer on Christmas day, many years ago at Mt. Zion when I didn't know if anyone would get up on Christmas day to come to a Service of Song and Testimony. I remember how pleasantly surprised I was when the Christmas morning worshippers showed up and shared their testimonies of gratitude to God for the abundant blessings God had showered upon them throughout the year.

I remember when we had three services, two in University Circle and one in Solon that Paul III, (Pauly) called the "souled out church" because we sang Hezekiah Walker's song, "Souled Out" so frequently. I remember our once-a-month Healing Services, on Sunday evenings when Elder Rodney Hubbard would play and sing until the Spirit said it was time for us to begin the work of bringing healing to God's people. I remember when we had one Christmas tree in the narthex that greatly resembled the one from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and I remember the day when Deacon Martha Bullock called me and told me she had found a 12- foot Christmas tree on sale and asked if I wanted her to purchase it for the church. That "yes" began a great Mt. Zion Christmas tradition of "decking the halls." It has

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR AND TEACHER

expanded, thanks to Deacon Ann Gibson, to a total of ten trees throughout the sanctuary and Shinn House.

There are memories of rib burn-offs, Covenant Couples gatherings, Community festivals, Church Picnics in Wade Oval, and Car Shows. There were Christmas Vesper Services, Faith and Finance Breakfasts and Community Meals and Produce Giveaways and Golf Outings. And yes, there were great parties (with a purpose) and protests at City Council on Monday nights, and many, many, many, amazing meals cooked by Deacon Mollietta Dorsey for any reason I could come up with! I will never forget the first rehearsal of the Praise Team that took place in my basement, and how Mike Shinn would sing with us every Sunday to give credibility to this new music and worship style that we were introducing to Mt. Zion.

Now, there are some reading this who may choose to remember the conflicts and challenges we faced over the twenty-two years, but I choose not to give energy to those memories. A long time ago, I learned the importance of letting go of hate and hurt and holding onto love and light. So, since this is my story, I choose to remember and recount it in this way. The last twenty-two years of my ministry has been the greatest part of my journey in God's service. I have learned and grown, and I pray you have too. I have nothing but gratitude, love, and praise to God for our joyful journey together.

My prayer for Mt. Zion is that you will embrace your new Senior Pastor with love and openness, and genuine anticipation of what God is going to do in and through you as you strive together to be the church that the world needs in this place at this time.

With the Love of Christ,

Rev. Paul



In the know at Mt. Zion...

December 5 @ Noon
CBL FAITH & FINANCE LUNCHEON
WITH WILLY JOLLEY
Rozel Threat Social Hall

December 11 @ 6:30 p.m.
PARAKELEO/GRIEFSHARE ANNUAL
MEMORIAL ORNAMENT DECORATION
Zoom

December 14 @ 4 p.m.
A JAZZY CHRISTMAS WITH
HUBB'S GROOVE
Sanctuary

DECEMBER 21 @ 11 A.M.
CONGREGATIONAL VOTE FOR
PASTOR MARVIN OWENS

December 25 @ 11 sa.m.
CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
Sanctuary
12 p.m.
CHRISTMAS MEAL
Rozel Threat Social Hall

December 28 @ 11 a.m.
LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATION FOR REV. PAUL
1 p.m.
KWANZAA CELEBRATION
Rozel Threat Social Hall

December 31 @ 6 p.m.
WATCH NIGHT DINNER
RozelThreat Social Hall
7 p.m.
WATCH NIGHT WORSHIP
Sanctuary

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www.mtzioncleveland.com

The deadline for articles and
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Beginning January 2026, all
correspondence should be sent to
Deacon Renee Taylor,
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Please email your materials to:
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Joyce Shinn, Donaldson Hill &
Deacon Jocelyn Taylor
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AT MT. ZION

A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE: HONORING FIRST LADY KIM MARTIN SADLER

On Sunday, November 16, Mt. Zion Congregational Church joyfully gathered to honor First Lady Kim Martin Sadler. The celebration recognized her 22 years of faithful partnership in ministry alongside her husband, Rev. Paul, as he pastored Mt. Zion, and the impact she has had on countless members through her compassion, encouragement, and steadfast presence. Mt. Zion members, family, and members of her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., worshipped with her.

The morning worship experience was made even more meaningful as her daughter, Deacon Robin Sadler, delivered a powerful and heartfelt sermon. Her sermon topic was "Who Are You?" And her three points were: 1. Who Does God Say that I am?, 2. Once You Know Your Name, You Have to Accept Your Position, and 3. The Suffering is Not the Consequence, It's the Confirmation.

Following the sermon, Deacon Robin lead Delta members into the

sanctuary where they presented red and white roses to Lady Kim along with a beautiful inscribed crystal elephant and ed plaque.

Following worship, a lovely reception was held in First Lady Kim's honor in the Rozel Threat Social Hall. In honor of Lady Kim's sorority, the Social Hall was decorated in red and white. Guests enjoyed fellowship, shared memories, and expressed their appreciation for her decades of love and leadership. The atmosphere was filled with both joy and sadness of Rev. Paul's and Lady Kim's upcoming retirement of their ministry at Mt. Zion.

The afternoon concluded with a spectacular gospel concert that brought the entire celebration to a spirit-filled close. Rev. Dave Gulley and the Cleveland Chorale delivered a soul-stirring performance, filling the sanctuary with spirit-filled praise. Their musical offering provided a fitting finale to a day dedicated to honoring Lady Kim.



AT MT. ZION

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH PASTOR MARVIN OWENS AND LADY BARBARA OWENS

MT. ZION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

Fireside Chat with Rev. Marvin J. Owens, Designated Pastor and First Lady Barbara Owens

Sunday, November 23, 2025
following worship



Following a blessed worship service, members of Mt. Zion remained in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 23 to have a fireside chat with Pastor Marvin and Lady Barbara Owens.

After setting the atmosphere, Rev. Paul, Pastor Marvin, Lady Barbara and Lady Kim gathered together to begin a cozy informative session with Mt. Zion members. Rev. Paul moderated the chat and opened it with a question to Pastor Marvin.

Members learned that Pastor Marvin is a native Clevelander who grew up in Glenville. He shared stories of his childhood and fond memories of growing up at Crawford Road Christian Church, under the leadership of Bishop Robert Hubbard, Sr. A Harvard graduate, Pastor Owens attended University School where he was a classmate of Deacon Tony Peebles. He has pastored churches in Brooklyn, New York, and Washington, D.C.

Currently, Pastor Owens works with Mayor Justin Bibb as his Senior Strategist, Southeast Side. He enjoys getting his hands involved in building projects.

Lady Barbara, who is completing her second Masters Degree in Social Work, is a native of Texas and met Pastor Owens at Jarvis Christian College. She has a passion for the ministry of children and grief. Lady Barbara reminded the congregation about grief and the importance of recognizing the grief that will come with the pastoral transition. She also shared that her first priority is Pastor Marvin and her family.

We all had an opportunity to get to know Pastor Marvin and Lady Barbara by hearing their stories. The love between them was evident. We are all praying for God's richest blessings upon the Owens family as they begin this new adventure in ministry at Mt. Zion.

At Mt. Zion

PARAKELEO/GRIEFSHARE'S AFRICAN MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE CELEBRATION



Mt. Zion Blesses Wade Park Elementary School Families with Thanksgiving Gift Cards

On Sunday, November 23, Mt. Zion celebrated Wade Park Sunday. Dr. Charlene Hilliard, Wade Park's principal, and her husband, joined the Mt. Zion family in worship. Over several months, the Mt. Zion community faithfully donated money to provide 75 Wade Park Elementary School families with \$75 Dave's grocery store gift cards.

Dr. Hilliard thanked Rev. Paul and the congregation for their generosity. She shared that Cleveland Public Schools had started an online grade book and only 27 parents had signed up. She, however, shared that she was going to use the cards to encourage more families to participate in the online program.

Mt. Zion has had an ongoing relationship with Wade Park Elementary School over 40 years. The relationship started under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. F. Allison Phillips. Over the years, Mt. Zion members have tutored students, participated in Career Days, and helped celebrate teachers by providing lunch.



Member in the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS



PAUL HOBSON SADLER III



Paul Hobson Sadler III officially signed his letter of intent to attend Bowling Green State University. On Friday, December 5, he and his teammates, the Glenville Tarblooders, won their third 4th Division State Championship. Pauly will enter BGSU in January.

Mt. Zion's Sick & Shut-In

Deacon Betty Barnett
13415 Shaker Blvd., Suite 9G4
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

†

Mrs. Wanda Burch
1493 E. 106th Street
Cleveland, OH 44106

†

Mrs. Geneva Smith
McGregor Home
14940 Private Drive, #4213
East Cleveland, OH 44112

†

Mrs. Shirley Kilpatrick
Hudson Grande Senior Living, 5400 Darrow Road, Rm
B21, Hudson, OH 44236

†

Mrs. Jean Kincaid
Daughters of Miriam Center for Nursing
Rehabilitation, 1 David Myers Parkway, Room 103
Beachwood OH 44122

†

Ms. Judy Kincaid
The Willows Health & Rehab Center in Euclid
1500 E. 191st Street,
Euclid, OH 44117

†

Mrs. Josie Lindsay
14801 Pennfield Circle, #311,
Silver Spring, MD 20906

†

Mr. Willie Richardson
The Pavilion
13900 Benning Road,
North Royalton, OH 44133

†

Mrs. Evelyn Renee Sadler
436 Hill Road,
Honeybrook, PA 19344

†

Ms. Narihsa Smith
6099 Ridgeway Drive,
Bedford Heights, OH 44146

†

Deacon Marshall (Rudy) York Jr.
987 Pembroke Road,
Cleveland Heights, OH 444210



Year after Year, Your Gift Brings Joy!

The Advent season of waiting and watching is also a season of preparing. Our generosity prepares the way for hope, peace, justice, and community. United Church of Christ retired clergy, servants of the church, have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering God's people.

Now, through the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, we can sustain and empower them. Our gifts of gratitude and love bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the sorrowful, and deep love to those who have ministered in God's love for so long. By giving generously to the Christmas Fund, we will help retired clergy, church staff, and their families to pay bills, maintain health insurance, and meet emergency needs. Year after year, our gifts make a difference, easing the anxiety of constant financial worries. **The Christmas Fund Offering will be collected on December 21, 2025.** However, if you cannot be here with us, please make your Christmas Fund offering by going to our website www.mtzioncleveland.com! Click on the "**Online Giving**" tab, then click "**Fund**," and finally, click "**Christmas Fund**" to complete your donation. You can also make a donation via **Cash App** to **\$MTZCLE**, please put *Christmas Fund* on the note line, and finally, by check, send to **Mt. Zion UCC, 10723 Magnolia Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44106**, put *Christmas Fund* on the memo line. Your generous gifts will make a difference in the lives of the retired clergy and employees of the United Church of Christ!

In this season of giving, please give as generously as you are able this year! Thank you, Mt. Zion!

The Board of Mission & Outreach

A poster for a New Year's Eve Watch Night Service & Meal. The background is dark blue with many yellow and orange stars of various sizes and shapes. The text is centered and reads: "New Year's Eve Watch Night Service & Meal" in a large, elegant, yellow cursive font. Below this, "Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 6 p.m." is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Underneath that, "PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the contact information for Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler, Sr., Pastor of Mt. Zion Congregational Church, UCC, is listed in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font.

*New Year's Eve
Watch Night Service & Meal*

Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 6 p.m.

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE

REV. PAUL HOBSON SADLER, SR., PASTOR
Mt. Zion Congregational Church, UCC
10723 Magnolia Drive
Cleveland, OH 44106



CHRISTIAN BUSINESS LEAGUE



FAITH & **FINANCE** LUNCHEON

**DEC 5
2025**

**FRIDAY
12 PM**

RICH IS GOOD WEALTHY IS BETTER

SPEAKER DR. WILLIE JOLLEY
DONATION \$40

📍 MT ZION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
10723 MAGNOLIA DR. CLEVELAND, OH, 44106

Mt. Zion Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

A Celebration of Ministry

Rev. Paul

Lady Kim



Desmond Pringle
4 p.m.
10/12/25



Dave Gulley and the
Cleveland Chorale
4 p.m.
11/16/25



Hubbs Groove
4 p.m.
12/14/25

\$22 per concert

FREE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 0-18 YEARS OLD
Ticket Available at www.mtzioncleveland.com

Mt. Zion Congregational Church in University Circle
10723 Magnolia Drive, Cleveland, OH 44106

Mt. Zion Congregational Church, UCC

Parakelev/GriefShare

ANNUAL MEMORIAL ORNAMENT DECORATION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025, 6:30 P.M., VIA ZOOM

Pre-registration is required



MT. ZION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

KWANZAA

UJIMA - COLLECTIVE WORK & RESPONSIBILITY



Sunday, December 28, 1 p.m.

Bring a dish to share

REV. PAUL HOBSON SADLER, SR., SENIOR PASTOR
10723 MAGNOLIA DRIVE
CLEVELAND, OH 44106

After 22 years of blessed ministry together, Rev. Paul and I extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for the privilege of serving alongside you. These years have been filled with worship, fellowship, challenge, growth, and immeasurable joy, and we are profoundly grateful for every moment shared in faith and love. Over the past six years, it has been a privilege to edit and write The Spire. As Rev.

Paul and I retire and enter a new season of life, we carry with us cherished memories, lasting friendships, and a deep appreciation for the trust and support you have so graciously given us. May God continue to guide, strengthen, and uplift you and our beloved Mt. Zion. With full hearts, we say thank you, we love you, and may God's peace remain with each of you.

Lady Kim

Thank you for 22 years of ministry!



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 SABBATH FOR REV. PAUL <i>Deacon Renee Taylor</i>	2 7:00am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom 6pm Bd of Trustees Christmas Party <i>John Horn</i>	3 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Morn Bible Stdy 6:30pm Praise Tm Rehear. 7:30pm Evening Bible Stdy <i>Dr. Audley Mackel III</i>	4 <i>Dr. Melissa Burrows</i>	5 7am Prayer Call 12PM CBL FAITH & FINANCE LUNCHEON WITH WILLEY JOLLEY 6:30pm Sisters in the Spirit via Zm <i>Jacquelyn Lee-Ivey</i>	6 9am Board of Deacons via Zm
7 COMMUNION 7am Prayer Call 11am Worship 	8 <i>Rev. Roberto Ochoa</i>	9 7:00am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom 	10 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Morn Bible Stdy 6:30pm Praise Tm Rehear. 7:30pm Evening Bible Stdy 	11 6:30 pm PARAKELEO/ GRIEFSHARE ANNUAL MEMORIAL ORNAMENT DECORATION 	12 7am Prayer Call <i>Wendy Woods</i>	13 11:30am Bd of Mission & Outreach via Zoom <i>Dr. Woodrow Whitlow</i>
14 7am Prayer Call 11am Worship 4PM A JAZZY CHRISTMAS WITH HUBB'S GROOVE 	15 <i>Joyce Shinn</i>	16 7:00am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom <i>Calvin Singleton, Jr.</i>	17 7am Prayer Call 6:30pm Praise Tm Rehear. 	18 	19 7am Prayer Call 	20 9am Men in the Word - UNBar Cafe 3pm Innercity Cruisers Car Club Christmas Party
21 7am Prayer Call 11am Worship CONGREGATIONAL VOTE FOR PASTOR MARVIN OWENS <i>Brian Harris</i>	22 	23 6pm FA via Zoom <i>Peter Lawson Jones Saunchez Perry</i>	24 7am Prayer Call <i>Deacon Mary Thornton</i>	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 11 AM CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP NOON CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY MEAL 	26 FIRST DAY OF KWANZAA 7am Prayer Call 	27 5:30pm Trustee Bd via Zm
28 7am Prayer Call 11am Worship LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION CELEBRATION FOR REV. PAUL 1PM KWANZAA CELEBRATION <i>Tracy Peebles</i>	29 	30 6pm FA via Zoom <i>Lisa Payne Jones</i>	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 7am Prayer Call 6 PM BRING A DISH MEAL 7 PM WATCH NIGHT SERVICE 			