

Justice for George

The Spire

May 2021



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR AND TEACHER



Seeking Justice

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you but
to do Justice, and to love kindness and to
walk humbly with your God?*

Micah 6:8

The dictates of God, spoken by Micah the prophet, give us a clear perspective of what God expects of us. By the mouth of the prophet, God expects us to do Justice. That means that we cannot sit idly by and observe injustice without stepping up, speaking up, and doing whatever is necessary to right wrongs and correct injustices. After nearly five hundred years, America has finally been caused to face the systemic injustice on which the country was founded. This systemic injustice began with the genocide of the Native American Indian population and continued with the enslavement of more than 12 million Africans brought to this country for free Labor. Today, the rampant racism in this country extends to every person of color in this land. This nation has just now come face to face with the reality that ignoring the systemic racism that has been the order of the day in America has allowed our law enforcement system to be infested with white supremacists and racists. The justice work of this nation now must begin with eradicating this spirit of evil from the ranks of our law enforcement and radically reforming our policing system in this country.

This is not a new problem for America. It has existed since the first European settlers came to these shores with the misconception that they discovered something that was already here. People of good conscience in this nation must now unite in the struggle for justice that has long

been delayed. The conviction of Derick Chauvin for the brutal murder of George Floyd has sent an overdue message to the world that Justice can be achieved for America's oppressed populations.

We are living in a time when there will soon be no majority population in this country. How interesting that it has taken five hundred years for this nation to come to grips with the injustice it has historically perpetrated against its citizens of color, just in time for such a shift in this land. Our responsibility as believers is to do justice, just as Micah said, but to do it while loving kindness and walking humbly with our Creator. We must fight for the liberation of oppressed people anywhere and everywhere. In the words of singer, songwriter, and actor Leslie Odom, Jr., we must "speak now."

Mt. Zion is uniquely poised in this season to make our voice heard through our ministries of outreach, uplift, and advocacy. Amid a global pandemic, we have fed the hungry, supported minority entrepreneurs, provided for the educational needs of the children of our community, built bridges of community between the races, and advocated for Justice at every level. Our response to Micah's call has not stopped -- it has accelerated.

I am excited to say we are drawing closer to a time when we will be able to safely meet together for worship, but we need the help of each of our members to do so. Our denomination has encouraged local congregations that it is advisable to reopen for public worship when 50-75% of church members are vaccinated. We have set the goal of 75% vaccination for ourselves before we join together for worship in our sanctuary. To reach that goal, we need as many Mt. Zion members as possible who can get vaccinated. Currently, vaccines are abundant in Ohio. In fact, many doses are going unused. Please arrange to go and get vaccinated as soon as possible so that we may meet our goal.

May is a month of graduations and culminations, and I want to take this time to celebrate all who are graduating from any academic or vocational program in 2021. Your work and accomplishment deserve recognition, and your church family is proud of you.

As we look forward to what is ahead, we know many things will be new and different. In some ways, however, they may be better than what we have done in the past. Let us embrace the new normal with hearts filled with anticipation of what God will do in, through, and with God's

church in the days to come. As we do this, we will bring the attitude necessary for us to become the church that God desires and the world needs in this present age.

Seeking Justice, peace, and hope with great anticipation,

Rev. Paul

In the know at Mt. Zion...

May 6 @ 4pm
**DRIVE-THROUGH
PRODUCE GIVEAWAY**
Parking Lot

May 9
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



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JUSTICE FOR GEORGE FLOYD



Darnella Frazier



George Floyd



Lisbon, Spain



Seoul, Korea



Amsterdam



Stockholm

It wasn't a reality TV show, nor the latest episode of "Cops." It was live. It was uninterrupted and unscripted. There were no television commercials. A 17 year-old girl, who was going to pick up snacks from the corner store, had no idea that her life would forever change. She saw police, a man lying on the ground, handcuffed and pleading for help. Another Black man being harassed, arrested and endangered. For what?

Like any Generation Z teen, she had a phone. An iPhone. And as any teen would do, she pulled it out and started taping. She had absolutely no idea that what she was taping would be the most pivotal event of her life — and of the man who was lying on the ground under the knee of a police officer. Her phone captured everything. Most importantly, it captured the 9 minutes and 29 seconds of the last breaths the man, who she did not know, would take.

The 17 year-old teenager was Darnella Frazier. Today, because of Frazier, the world knows the dying man was George Floyd and the officer was Derek Chauvin. Like David, who took out his cling shot and picked up a rock, she slew Goliath. Frazier's phone camera changed the lens in which the world would view black lives.

Frazier's posting of the video on social media went viral — across the entire world — and people responded. in protest. Korea, Helsinki, Spain, Africa, England, and Tehran. These were just a few cities where millions of people came out to protest injustice in the United States. You name the place, there was a protest in support of Black Lives Matter. Enough is enough! How many more Black men and women would cry, "I can't breathe," in the hands of racist police officers?

With bated breath, the entire world watched as 12 jurors decided Chauvin's fate. The verdict was announced on Tuesday, April 20. Guilty of all three charges - second degree murder, third degree murder, and manslaughter. Thank you Darnella Frazier for the videotape that provided justice for George.



Darnella Frazier taping Floyd's murder



Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck



Chauvin in court



Chauvin Guilty



Christ is Risen!



Mt. Zion Congregational Church, UCC
Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler, Sr., Pastor

Easter Drive-In Service

View our Broadcast
on Facebook Live
and Zoom

APRIL 4, 2021 @ 11 A.M.
Mt. Zion's Parking Lot
10723 Magnolia Dr., Cleveland, OH 44106

Please Register with Lady Kim at
mtzioncleveland@gmail.com



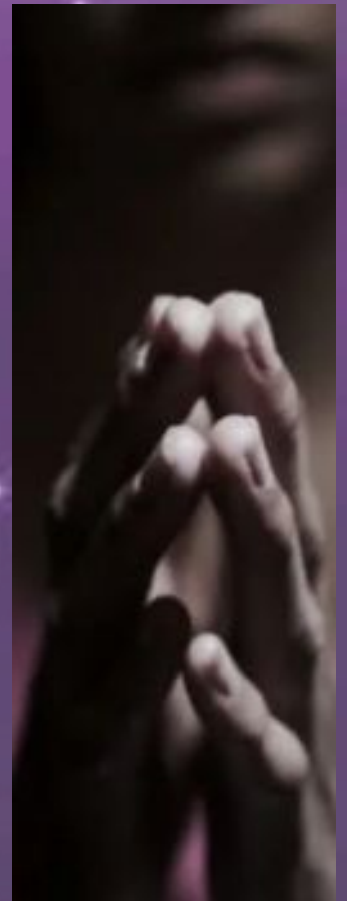
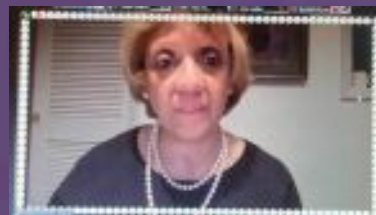
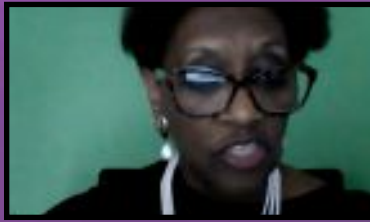
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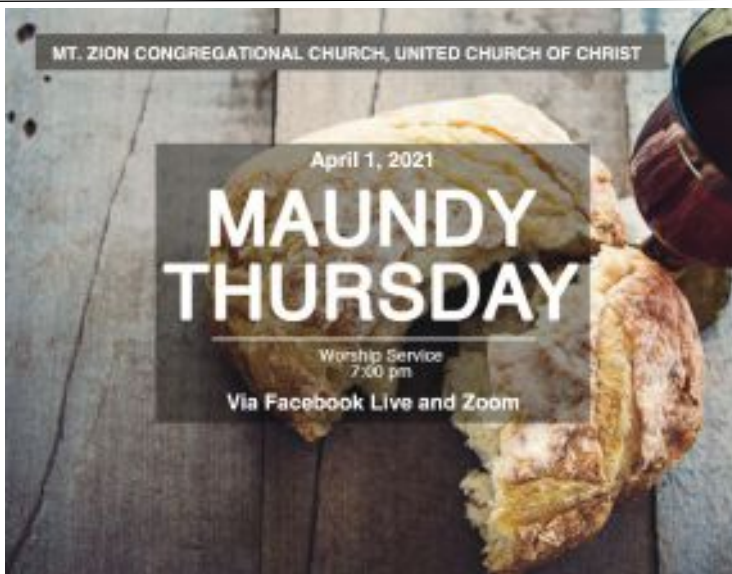


On April 1, Sisters in the Spirit held a spirit-filled Good Friday Virtual Worship service with Rev. Dr. Susan K. Williams Smith as the guest preacher. Rev. Smith, who was the last clergy person to grace Mt. Zion's pulpit last March, blessed the congregants with her sermon highlighting the theme, "Women at the Cross."

First Lady Kim was the presider of the program and members of Sisters in the Spirit lead the worship. The beautiful music

that was a part of worship was shared to God's glory by Psalmist Pat Harris, the featured soloist, along with the Praise Team. Under the direction and leadership of Darnell Epps, members of the Praise Team and the band spent weeks rehearsing and taping the music. Everyone was blessed by the worship and look forward to other programs hosted by Sisters in the Spirit. The next Sisters in the Spirit Bible study will be held on Friday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. All women of Mt. Zion, family and friends are welcome.





Maundy Thursday Service Blesses Mt. Zion

Mt. Zion's Holy week observances were a blessing to its church family again this year. On Maundy Thursday, the Sacred Service of Scripture and Dance that was first experienced last year, was reprised. Rev. Paul shared the scriptures of the traditional Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service which begins at the Last Supper and follows the last hours of the life of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Nehemiah Spencer and Olivia Knox provided sacred dances choreographed to complement the scriptures and the overall theme of the service.

Knox was particularly powerful in her interpretation of CeCe Winans "Alabaster Box," a song that describes how Mary, a disciple of the Lord, used precious ointment to anoint the feet of Jesus and wipe it with her hair. Spencer ushered worshippers to the throne of grace with his interpretation of Paul Morton's song, "Bow Down and Worship Him." This song is a riveting rendition that is also a favorite of the Mt. Zion Praise Team.

The entire service was broadcast on Facebook live for our viewing congregation to experience and enjoy and the response to the service was again extremely positive. Special thanks to all who helped to make our Holy Week Services a blessing to all.



Mt. Zion Members in the Spotlight



Rev. Barbara Essex held a virtual discussion about her best-selling book, *Bad Girls of the Bible*, at Cleveland's Loganberry Bookstore. Her book will be the text used by Sisters in the Spirit for their upcoming virtual monthly Bible Study meetings.



Denise Barnett Gardner, daughter of Mt. Zion member, Betty Barnett, was named chairperson of the governing body for the Art Institute of Chicago and the School of the Art Institute. She will be the first African American and the first woman named to this position. Gardner, who has a nearly 30 year relationship with the Art Institute, has served as a philanthropist and volunteer and spent 15 years as a trustee and five years in her current role as vice chair of the board. She said her

POETRY NIGHT

April 16, 2021
@ 7 p.m. via Zoom

The Cultural Arts Ministry
Mt. Zion Congregational Church, UCC

The Cultural Arts Ministry, under the leadership of Michelle Rankins, held a Poetry Night to celebrate National Poetry Month. As people gathered, they were welcomed with the soulful, poetic music of Gill Scott-Heron. The evening began with a video of Amanda Gorman reciting her poem, "Fury and Faith." She was followed by members reading their favorite poems and discussing the works of favorite poets such as Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikki Giovanni and Maya Angelou. Mt. Zion's poet laureate, Linda Green, read some of her poems. The evening closed with a poem performed by poet and actor Omari Hardwick on Verse and Flow. He is best known for his role as "Ghost" in the Stars network hit television series, "Power."



GRIEF SHARE®

You are not alone



Mt. Zion Parakaleo Ministry presents:
GriefShare

Grieving the loss of someone close to you?
Find comfort and support with *GriefShare*.

A 13-week seminar/support group
March 4 – June 3, 2021
Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. EST
held virtually via Zoom

Cost: \$15, scholarships are available
Materials will be sent via mail
directly to participants.

For more information and to register for the spring
2021 class, please go to:
<https://www.griefshare.org/groups/132016>

Walk-Ups Welcome!

Ohio's Mass Vaccination Clinic at the
Wolstein Center: No appointment
necessary now until May 17.



CLEVELAND

Ohio's
Mass Vaccination
CLINIC

Open to anyone eligible
under the Ohio Department of
Health's COVID-19
Vaccination Program.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

Walk-Ups Welcome
8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

- No Identification Necessary
- Interpretation Services On-Site
- Vaccinations are Free

Or book your no-cost COVID-19 vaccination
appointment at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov
or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or 1-833-427-5634.

Wolstein Center - FREE PARKING
2000 Prospect Ave E.
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Dial 2-1-1 for Free Transportation

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CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank C. Jackson



**Mt. Zion Congregational Church, UCC
Women's Fellowship**

BOUNTIFUL HARVEST DRIVE THROUGH PRODUCE GIVEAWAY

**Every 1st Thursday of the Month
May - October
4 P.M.**

REV. PAUL HOBSON SADLER, SR., PASTOR
10723 Magnolia Drive
Cleveland, OH 44106
216.791.5760
mtzioncleveland.com



In light of the global pandemic that has caused us all to interact differently and at a distance, God has called our congregations to be the church in new ways. Fortunately for those of us in the UCC, there exists a mission called Strengthen the Church. It is through your generosity, that we can plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. It is a blessing to be able to be a part of a global community designed to help in times such as these.

As we continue to explore new ways to be the church that people need in this time, your support of the Strengthen the Church offering is now needed more than ever. The Strengthen the Church offering builds up the United Church of Christ by providing the financial resources to be a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. Funding supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation; all strategies needed as we work through this current challenge and beyond. Conferences and the National Setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. Strengthen the Church is one of the Five for Five offerings.

We are amid a crisis that is demanding that we remain physically distant at a time when so many need the love and hope of a strong church to walk with them through an extraordinary global emergency. As many of us now present our ministries online, we pray that our love is being felt across technology, reaching those who need us most. Being church in new ways has demanded much of us as we have faced this challenging time together.

The Strengthen the Church offering ensures that together, we grow stronger.



**ENVIRONMENTAL
AND CREATION
JUSTICE**
federated act



**May 2nd at 1:00 PM
Tree Planting at the FLC**

SJAM Creation Justice team is planting trees at the Family Life center in collaboration with the Collaborative Life Center and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

The trees are donated to this effort by Stacy Cianciolo who collected donations last year for her birthday. The funds collected are being used to buy the trees. Thank you Stacy.

And the Western Reserve Land Conservancy will support and guide the tree planting.

The Tree Planting is taking place on May 2 at 1:00 PM.

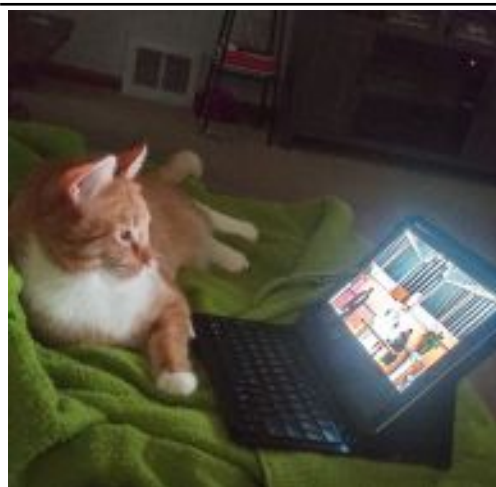
Planting trees native to the environment is one of the most impactful actions each of us can take to combat the devastating effects of climate change.

All are welcome to come out that day, help with the planting, take pictures and enjoy the outdoors. Masks required.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please email: Rebecca Woerhle at: rfwoerhle@westernreserve.org

Join a movement to be part of the solution!



Ellis, Michelle Rankin's cat, loves watching Mt. Zion on Sunday morning! Join us on Facebook, Zoom and YouTube for a spirit-filled worship service!

MAY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Day of Sabbath for Rev. Paul					1 11:00am Deacon Board 1:00pm Christ. Stewds
2 7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP 12:30pm Coffee Hour & Children's Church School via Zoom <i>Effie Kendall</i> <i>Darwin Saunders</i>	3	4 7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom	5 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study <i>Brian Hall</i>	6 4pm PRODUCE GIVEAWAY 5:30pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare	7 7am Prayer Call 6:30pm Sisters in the Spirit <i>Terry Moore</i>	8 10am Sacred Conversations via Zoom 11:30am Mission & Outreach
9 7am Worship Prayer Call HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP 12:30pm Coffee Hour & Children's Church School via Zoom	10	11 7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom	12 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study	13 5:30pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare <i>Maria Smith Warren</i>	14 7am Prayer Call <i>Janice Brown</i> <i>Braxton Harris</i>	15 10:00am New Mbrs Orientation <i>Michael K. Jones</i>
16 7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP 12:30pm Coffee Hour & Children's Church School via Zoom	17 <i>Verona Gardner</i>	18 7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom <i>Gwendolyn Johnson</i>	19 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study	20 5:30pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare	21 7am Prayer Call	22
23 7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP 12:30pm Coffee Hour & Children's Church School via Zoom	24	25 7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom	26 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study <i>Velma Phillips</i>	27 5:30pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare <i>Ly'Nette Cordaro</i>	28 7am Prayer Call	29 <i>Monica Reese</i>
30 7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP 12:30pm Coffee Hour & Children's Church School via Zoom	31 <i>Sonali Bustamante Wilson</i>					