



# The Spire

September 2025

**CELEBRATING  
161 YEARS  
OF MINISTRY**





## New Beginnings

Grace, mercy, and peace from the God we serve and from our Lord Jesus Christ. September is here and we can surely say we have had one of the most beautiful

summers ever in Cleveland and at Mt. Zion. Our Homecoming Salute to Veterans and Classic Car Show was an awesome blessing to our veterans and all who participated. Now as we prepare to move into the fall, there is much excitement before us as a church. Our **10<sup>th</sup> Annual CBL Mike Shinn Memorial Golf Outing** is on Saturday September 13 and promises to be another great event. Our **161<sup>st</sup> Church Anniversary on Sunday September 14**, will launch our **Commitment Walk**, when we present our Commitment Cards for the 2026 budget. This will allow us to celebrate a great milestone. Mt. Zion is the third oldest historically African American congregation in Cleveland, and the first historically African American United Church of Christ congregation started in the state of Ohio.

**On Anniversary Sunday, there will be a special surprise** for all our members as we unveil a beautiful art Installation in the narthex that was a part of the original vision of Architect Calvin Singleton. The artist who designed and facilitated the beautiful renderings is Andrea Johnson, daughter of our member Gwen Johnson. We are excited about the completion of this beautiful project that will have a lasting impact for Mt. Zion members and visitors.

Our **Parakaleo/GriefShare ministry** has started and is in full swing. This ministry designed to meet the needs of the bereaved is a powerful tool for healing that reaches members and friends across the country. Please join them on Zoom each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Our **Pastor's Wednesday Bible Study** starts again on September 17. Please join us on Wednesdays, at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., as we grow together in

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR AND TEACHER

the power of God's Word. **Sisters in the Spirit Women's Bible Study** will begin Friday September 5, at 6:30 p.m. All women of Mt. Zion are invited, and friends are welcome. **Men in the Word** continues their gatherings on each 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at UnBar Café on Larchmere, at 9:00 a.m. All men are welcome to join.

Sunday, September 21, will be an amazing day at Mt. Zion as the **Board of Mission and Outreach hosts their Mission and Ministry Fair** immediately following worship in the Social Hall **On Thursday, October 16, we will have a Special Church Meeting** to approve amendments to our constitution. Please join us as we strive to make our constitution more relevant to contemporary times and current practices at Mt. Zion.

On the last Sunday of the month, September 28, **Men in the Word will host a Hot Dog sale and the Board of Christian Stewardship will host a Designer Thrift Shop** in the Social Hall following worship. Please come and support these fundraising efforts of our church ministries.

As I prepare to transition into the next phase of my journey in ministry, I continue to be excited by the opportunity of working with our Designated Pastor Rev. Marvin J. Owens, Jr. as he moves into his role as Mt. Zion's Senior Pastor. I have been overwhelmed by the love and embrace that has been shown to Pastor Marvin and his wife Lady Barbara Owens as they respond to the call to lead this great and historic church. I am sure that Pastor Marvin's gifts and expansive influence in the City of Cleveland will be an extraordinary gift and blessing to God's work at Mt. Zion and will help to take Mt. Zion to new heights of service to this community and the world. I pray with faith for what God is going to do in, and through Mt. Zion under Rev. Owens leadership.

Let us all remain prayerful for God's guidance and direction for our church and let us each be open to the movement and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we strive in this 161<sup>st</sup> Anniversary year to be the church that God is calling us to be.

In Faith and Hope,  
Rev. Paul

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

September 4  
**BOUNTIFUL HARVEST PRODUCE GIVEAWAY**  
Parking Lot

September 11  
**MT. ZION'S 161ST ANNIVERSARY**

September 13 @ 8 a.m.  
**10TH ANNUAL MIKE SHINN MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING**  
Highland Park Golf Course

September 14 @ 11 a.m.  
**161ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

September 21 @ 1 p.m.  
**BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH MINISTRY FAIR**  
Rozel Threat Social Hall

September 27 @ Noon  
**COMMUNITY MEAL**  
Parking Lot

*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](http://www.mtzioncleveland.com)

The deadline for articles and  
is on the 16th of each month.  
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 &  
Deacon Jocelyn Taylor  
Contributing Photographers

For advertisements, please email  
Lady Sadler for the Fee Schedule.



## AT MT. ZION

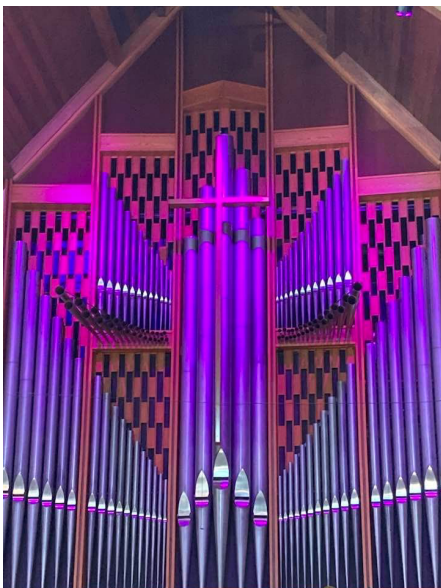


The 161st anniversary of Mt. Zion Congregational Church, United Church of Christ holds historical and cultural significance. Founded in 1864, the church has been a pillar of the African American

community and a center for social and spiritual growth. Its long history reflects the resilience and strength of the congregation in the face of racial adversity and challenges. The anniversary celebrates the church's contributions to the spiritual, social, and cultural fabric of the community, as well as its ongoing commitment to faith, justice, and unity.

The year 1864 was a significant juncture in American history, marked by a tumultuous period of the Civil War and the ongoing struggle for African Americans' rights and freedom. As the nation grappled with the deep-rooted issues of slavery and racial inequality, African Americans played pivotal roles in shaping the course of history, both on and off the battlefield. In spite of the fact that enslaved African Americans were searching to find their way in a country that never embraced them, Mt. Zion Congregational Church became the first Congregational church organized by and for African Americans in the state of Ohio.

“Developed on June 8, 1864 out of a prayer group led by Edward Woodliff, a member of Shiloh Baptist Church, Woodliff and other brave Shiloh members formed Mt. Zion. They had a hope for an unknown future, but yet, a future nestled in the strength of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The former members of Shiloh decided, after much discussion, that the Congregational order best suited their religious needs. This was largely due to the many abolitionists who were



members of the Congregational church at that time. With guidance and encouragement from local Congregational churches, formal organization of Mt. Zion took place at Plymouth Congregational Church on September 11, 1864. Rev. J. H. Muse was appointed the first minister and a building was erected at Erie (E. 9th) St. and Webster Ave. Subsequent moves included occupation of church buildings at Maple (E. 31st) St., E. 55th St. and Central Ave (in a structure formerly occupied by the Temple, 1928), 9014 Cedar Ave (1938), and the YMCA. In 1953, members of Mt. Zion purchased the Grandin Mansion on Magnolia Avenue near University Circle, to erect a new modern brick edifice. Although the property was bombed soon afterward, the congregation resolved to remain and a new sanctuary at 10723 Magnolia Avenue was dedicated on September 30, 1956.”

Over its long history, Mt. Zion Congregational Church has witnessed and been a part of various historical events, cultural shifts, and social changes. It has played a role in advocating for civil rights, supporting community development initiatives, and providing a safe haven for African Americans during challenging times. The church's commitment to faith, justice, and unity, as well as its ability to adapt and evolve over the years, underscores its significance as an institution that has helped shape the narrative of African American history and progress in Cleveland and beyond.

Woodliff and the other forward thinking founders of Mt. Zion Congregational Church would be proud of their legacy.





## *Members in the Spotlight*

### CONGRATULATIONS



**Dr. Melissa Burrows, Church Moderator, was honored as one of Cleveland, Ohio's Phenomenal Women.**



**Deacon Anthony Peebles has returned to his Alma Mater as the Alumni Engagement Director.**



**Kevin Steele, Cleo Warren's grandson, will study and play football at Reedley College in Reedley, California.**



**First Lady Kim will deliver the Alice Dunbar Nelson Professional Keynote at the 2025 Great Lakes African American Writers Conference.**



**Deacon Robin Sadler has started a new podcast that can be heard on Apple Podcast, Spotify, and iHeart**





CHRISTIAN BUSINESS LEAGUE

## 10th Annual Mike Shinn Memorial Golf Outing

**September 13, 2025**



### Highland Park Golf Course

3550 Green Road  
Highland Hills, Ohio 44122  
(216) 348-7225



**Michael J. Taylor**  
Retired Senior Executive, PNC Bank



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

## 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. Zenobia Earls  
Highland Point Rehabilitation Center  
402 Golf View Lane, Highland Heights, OH  
44143

†

Mrs. Geneva Green  
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  
950 Vineshire #1, Cleveland, OH 44118

†

Ms. Judy Kincaid  
1545 East 195th Street, Cleveland, 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. Narihsha Smith  
6099 Ridgeway Drive, Bedford Heights, OH 44146

†

Mr. George Whitehead  
(In hospital)

†

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





## Mission and Ministry Fair

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday  
September 21, 2025**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE  
Rozel Threat Social Hall**

**GET CONNECTED!  
GET INVOLVED!**

**"A Church for the Whole Family of God"**

**Hosted by the Board of Mission & Outreach**

## Bible Study at Mt. Zion

Make a commitment to strengthen your understanding of God's Holy Word.

Join us for Bible study. Make time today!

### Pastor's Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesdays @ 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Meeting ID: 834 6416 7124

Passcode: 402093

Dial-In: 301-715-8592, or 929-205-6099



### Sisters in the Spirit

First Friday of the month via Zoom

(except on Fridays preceding holidays)

Meeting ID: 830 6516 0510, Passcode: 691769

Dial-In: 301-715-8592, or 929-205-6099



### Men in the Word

Third Saturday of the month

UnBar Cafe, 12635 Larchmere Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44120

Rev. Stephen Mullen, Sr., Convener

216.598.0157



## COMMITMENT WALK - REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR GIVING CARD



### 2026 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

*"The Blessing of Living is The Reason for Giving"*



---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Tithes:** ☐ I/We commit to giving 10% of my/our gross income by tithing.

Current Expenses: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Weekly ☐ Bi-Weekly ☐ Monthly

**Offering:**

☐ Building for the Future Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Weekly ☐ Bi-Weekly ☐ Monthly

☐ Missions \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Weekly ☐ Bi-Weekly ☐ Monthly

**YOUR GIFTS TO MISSIONS WILL SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." **Luke 6:38***



# GriefShare®

*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.*

**FALL SESSION 2025**  
**August 7 – November 6**  
**Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**  
**via Zoom**

Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler, Sr., Senior Pastor  
Mt. Zion Congregational Church UCC  
10723 Magnolia Drive  
Cleveland, OH 44106  
mtzionparakaleo@gmail.com  
216-791-5760

Mt. Zion Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

## SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

**\*\*NEW DATE\*\***

**Thursday,**  
**October 16, 2025**  
**7 p.m. via Zoom**

REV. PAUL HOBSON SADLER, SR., SENIOR PASTOR  
Mt. Zion Congregational Church  
10723 Magnolia Drive, Cleveland, OH 44106  
mtzioncleveland@gmail.com  
216.791.5760

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

### **BOUNTIFUL HARVEST DRIVE-THRU PRODUCE GIVEAWAY**

**Every 1st Thursday of the Month**  
**May - October @ 4 pm**  
**May 1, June 5, July 3,**  
**Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2**

REV. PAUL HOBSON SADLER, SR.,  
SENIOR PASTOR  
10723 Magnolia Drive  
Cleveland, OH 44106



# SEPTEMBER

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|
|   | <b>1</b><br><b>Day of Sabbath for Rev. Paul</b><br><br><i>Theresa Ryba</i> | <b>2</b><br><b>7:30am</b> Care Shep.<br><b>6pm</b> FA via Zoom<br><br><i>Olivia Knox</i>                                      | <b>3</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><b>6:30pm</b> Praise Tm Rehear.<br><br><i>Deneen Wiley Dean</i>   | <b>4</b><br><b>4pm BOUNTIFUL HARVEST</b><br><br><b>6:30pm</b> GriefShare via Zm<br><b>7pm</b> Leadership Team via Zm<br><br><i>First Lady Kim</i> | <b>5</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><b>6:30pm</b> Sisters in the Spirit via Zm | <b>6</b><br><b>9am</b> Board of Deacons via Zm  |
| <b>7</b><br><b>COMMUNION</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><b>11am</b> Worship   | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b><br><b>7:30am</b> Care Shep.<br><b>6pm</b> FA via Zoom<br><br><i>Deacon Cassandra Green</i><br><i>Robert Reynolds</i> | <b>10</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><b>6:30pm</b> Praise Tm Rehear.<br><b>7pm</b> Constitution Committee via Zm<br><br><i>Deacon Cassandra Green</i><br><i>Robert Reynolds</i> | <b>11</b><br><b>MT. ZION'S 161ST ANNIVERSARY</b><br><b>6:30pm</b> GriefShare via Zm<br><br><i>Donaldson Hill</i>                                  | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b><br><b>8am</b><br><b>10th ANNUAL MIKE SHINN MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING</b><br><b>11:30am</b> Bd of Mission & Outreach via Zoom<br><br><i>Zenobia Earls</i> |
| <b>14</b><br><b>161ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><b>11am</b> Worship  | <b>15</b><br><br><i>Gloria Burrows</i>                                     | <b>16</b><br><b>7:30am</b> Care Shep.<br><b>6pm</b> FA via Zoom<br><br><i>Faye Alexander</i>                                  | <b>17</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><b>10:30am</b> Morn Bible Stdy<br><b>6:30pm</b> Praise Tm Rehear.<br><b>7pm</b> Evening Bible Stdy   | <b>18</b><br><b>6:30pm</b> GriefShare via Zm  | <b>19</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><br><i>Deacon Maurcita Warner</i>         | <b>20</b><br><b>9am</b> Men in the Word - UNBar Cafe<br><b>12pm</b> Women's Flwsp via Zm  |
| <b>21</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><b>11am</b> Worship<br><b>BOARD OF MISSION &amp; OUTREACH MINISTRY FAIR</b>  | <b>22</b><br><br><i>Dr. Aaryn Green</i><br><i>Michelle Rankins</i>         | <b>23</b><br><b>7:30am</b> Care Shep.<br><b>6pm</b> FA via Zoom   | <b>24</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><b>10:30am</b> Morn Bible Stdy<br><b>6:30pm</b> Praise Tm Rehear.<br><b>7pm</b> Evening Bible Stdy<br><br><i>Al Crump Madison</i>          | <b>25</b><br><b>6:30pm</b> GriefShare via Zm  | <b>26</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><br><i>Cassandra Ellis</i>                | <b>27</b><br><b>12pm</b><br><b>COMMUNITY MEAL</b><br><b>5:30pm</b> Trustee Bd via Zm  |
| <b>28</b><br><b>7am</b> Prayer Call<br><b>11am</b> Worship<br><b>1PM</b><br><b>MEN IN THE WORD HOT DOG SALE</b><br><br><b>BOARD OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP</b><br><b>DESIGNER THRIFT SHOP</b> | <b>29</b><br><br><i>Jerome Givens</i>                                      | <b>30</b><br><b>7:30am</b> Care Shep.<br><b>6pm</b> FA via Zoom   |   |   |  |   |



MT. ZION UCC MEN IN THE WORD

# Hot Dog Roast

*Grilled Beef, Turkey, and Vegan Hot Dogs*

**Sunday, September 28, 2025 @ 1 p.m.**

**\$10 combo**

(hot dog, chips, cookie, and drink)

*Karibu Ministry meal for college students*



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