



The Spire

December 2020

*Merry
Christmas*

*“For Unto Us
a
Child is Born”*

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR AND TEACHER



Joy, Joy, Joy!!!

The season of Advent brings us great joy! Even in the midst of all of the present challenges we face, the celebration of the birth of our Savior gives us great joy. Some may say, “how can we have joy during a global pandemic, challenging economic times, a turbulent social and political environment, and with inconsistent and misguided national leadership?” The answer is simple. If your joy is dependent upon circumstances and the shifting sands of time, you will never experience real happiness that you can trust to remain steadfast.

Real joy comes from a relationship with and surrendering to a trustworthy God and sovereign Savior. I remember seeing a slogan that read “Know Jesus, Know Joy. No Jesus, No Joy.” this states the fact plain and simple, as did Richard Smallwood in his award-winning Gospel song, “Jesus, You’re the Center of My Joy.” When Jesus is at the center of your joy, your joy will be full and complete.

When I was a little boy, I used to help my mother put up Christmas decorations. When she would climb on a ladder to hang the garland, our dog Rusty would get very excited. The only way she could calm him down was to stop and talk to him. I will never forget one time when she came down from the ladder to calm Rusty. She did so with these words, “Rusty, all of this excitement is for the Baby Jesus.” When she said this, Rusty quieted down and sat as if he understood her words. Maybe he did. Folklore of our Savior’s birth says that even the animals paid homage to the newborn King.

I want to share some of the excitement of celebrating the birth of the Baby Jesus that we will experience at Mt. Zion. First, we look forward to GriefShare’s Annual Memorial Ornament Decorating that will take place via zoom on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Deacon Sharon Mackel or any other member of the GriefShare team for more information. On Friday, December 11, Mt. Zion will hold its first-ever Drive-In Christmas Tree Lighting on the church parking lot at 7:00 p.m. There will be fun and games and treats for the whole family. This week, we ask our members to participate in Mt. Zion’s first-ever Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest. To enter, take a photo or selfie wearing your sweater and post it on Mt. Zion’s Facebook page by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. The winner will be announced at the Christmas Tree Lighting program. Please join us!! You don’t want to miss out on this momentous celebration of the holiday season. On December 12 and 13, Sister’s in the Spirit has re-visioned their Annual Holiday Gift Shoppe into a Virtual Christmas Pop-Up Store. Please support Sister’s in the Spirit by shopping with their vendors. You still have time to support the December Birthday Team’s Diamond Necklace Raffle. Entries are \$10 and can be submitted through online giving or by sending your check in the mail. Remember you can enter as many times as you want. The December Birthday Team appreciates your support.

Our Holiday service schedule is as follows: Christmas Day Worship on Facebook Live and Zoom at 10:00 a.m. Our Christmas Community Meal for those in need and our shut-in members will occur at noon on Christmas day. Volunteers are needed. Volunteers should arrive at 11:00 a.m. Kwanzaa will take place on Sunday, December 27, during the Coffee Hour at 12:30 p.m. Our New Year’s Eve Watch Night Service will take place at 7:00 p.m. on December 31. Of course, all of these services will be virtual and on Facebook Live and Zoom. I encourage all to join in these festive celebrations of the holiday as we celebrate the birth of the Baby Jesus.

In The Joy of the Season,

Rev. Paul

Looking Ahead: January 18, 1:00 p.m. -3:30 p.m. - Martin Luther King Day Joint Observance with Federated Church

In the know at Mt. Zion...

December 4 @ 7:00pm
CBL MASTER CLASS
via Zoom

December 10 @ 6:30pm
GriefShare
VIRTUAL MEMORIAL ORNAMENT DECORATING
via Zoom

December 11 @ 7:00pm
DRIVE-IN
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
Mt. Zion Parking Lot

December 12 & 13
10am - 11pm
SISTERS IN THE SPIRIT
VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS POP-UP STORE

December 25 @ 10am
MERRY CHRISTMAS
Virtual Christmas Day Service
via Zoom and Facebook Live
@ 12 Noon
Drive-Thru Christmas Community Dinner

December 27 @ 12:30pm
KWANZAA - Kujichagulia
(Self-Determination)
Virtual Coffee Hour

December 31 @7pm
WATCH NIGHT SERVICE
Facebook Live & Zoom

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

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

Cover Art: “Tenderly” by Keith Mallett
keithmallett.com



*Merry Christmas
Mt. Zion
Family!*

*Blessings & Love,
Rev. Paul &
Lady Kim*



*Join us as we celebrate the
Spirit of Christmas*

*Mt. Zion's
Drive-In*

Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday

December 11 @ 7pm

*Mt. Zion's
Parking Lot*

*Fun and festivities
for the whole family*

UMOJA KARAMU - Celebration of the Black Family



Mt. Zion continued our long tenured tradition of holding Umoja Karamu: A Ritual of the Black Family on Thanksgiving day. With the pandemic and the need to maintain social distance, it was impossible to hold a live event with as many participants as usual in the sanctuary. So, Mt. Zion's ingenious Umoja Karamu team led by Rev. Paul, conceived the idea of a pre-recorded presentation that would enable participants to record each segment separately, allowing everyone to maintain a safe environment in the sanctuary.

In order to do this, Rev. Paul enlisted Musical Director Darnell Epps, who held numerous individual rehearsals prior to the live Praise Team recording of the music (11 songs) in one sitting. Michelle Rankins, Cultural Arts Ministry, Chairperson, envisioned adding a new and exciting twist to our spoken word component by inviting award winning Louisiana journalist, Jarvis DeBerry to read the Katrina section. He recorded live from City Park in New Orleans. His presentation was riveting and powerful. Robert Hubbard, our Recording Engineer, spent countless hours mixing and mastering the musical tracks before turning them over to our stellar video editor Corday Cardwell, a childhood friend of Paul Sadler, Jr., and a graduate of the renowned Full Sail School in Florida. Our own Nehemiah Spencer facilitated the dance component of the Umoja Karamu with skill and prowess. Terry Moore shared her graphic design skills which added beauty to the presentation. Special thanks to all who participated in making this year's celebration a brilliant and moving presentation of our history, heritage and culture.

African Memorial Remembrance Celebration



Taken from the African tradition of celebrating deceased loved ones with music, good food, dancing and fun, Mt. Zion held its first Virtual African Memorial Remembrance Celebration in honor of All Saint's Day.

Hosted by the GriefShare/Parakelo ministry under the leadership of Deacon Sharon Mackel, participants share moving stories and thanksgiving for families who are now resting with the beloved ancestors. Deacons Robert Lampley and Yvonne Dale led the program which included visitors from New York and Chicago. The event was a blessing to all.

Hosted by the GriefShare/Parakelo ministry under the

MT. ZION IN COMMUNITY



All across the nation, people are grappling with the new reality of food scarcity brought on by the loss of employment caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Even though Ohio is quarantined as Covid-19 cases increase, through the generosity of Mt. Zion members, 75 Wade Park families were given joy, hope, and happiness during Thanksgiving.

For the first time in over 40 years, Mt. Zion members could not join together with mountains of collected non-perishable food items, taped boxes, and turkeys to pack in preparation for delivery to Wade Park Elementary School. The need to quarantine caused Rev. Paul and the Diaconate Board to rethink the way in which the ministry of feeding those in need could be done. This year, to keep members safe during the Covid pandemic, \$75 gift cards from Dave's Grocery store were given to 75 Wade Park families.

Rev. Paul took the gift cards to Wade Park and presented them to Dr. Lee Buddy, Jr., Wade Park's principal. Thank you is given to each and every member of Mt. Zion who gave with a generous and loving heart to help others in need. Wade Park families were blessed because of your sacrifice.

Thanksgiving Dinner Drive-Thru

Covid-19 has certainly allowed people to think of new ways to celebrate family traditions and festive holidays. Mt. Zion's annual Thanksgiving dinner was a Drive-Thru and in some cases, walk-up meal giveaway.

While watching the Umoja Karamu in the Social Hall, thanks to an orderly process, kitchen volunteers, meal preparers, and meal handlers, were able to have food ready for distribution in record time. The camaraderie was enhanced when by accident, volunteers realized that members of the Divine Nine, the Pan-Hellenic group of African American Greek sororities and fraternities, was present. Members of Omega Psi Phi Zeta Kappa Kappa were joined by Phi Beta Sigma member, Terrence James, Mt. Zion's Treasurer, Deacon Jibreel Gould, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, and Father Darryl James, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi who was guest of Rev. Paul and Lady Kim, Deacon Robin Sadler and Michelle Rankins represented Delta Sigma Theta.

Nearly 100 meals were given away to people who drove up and those who walked over from the VA Hospital. The meal, not as extravagant and tasty as historically prepared, but nevertheless a blessing. Many thanks to the awesome volunteers who gave of their time to make Thanksgiving a thankful day for others: Rev. Paul, Deacon Mollieta Dorsey, Leslie Oliver, Lady Kim, Deacon Robin Sadler, Deacon Yvonne Dale, Deacon Jibreel Gould, Terrence James, Sharla Harris, Michelle Rankins, Nehemiah Spencer and his nephew, members of Zeta Kappa Kappa chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Father Darryl James, Robin Martin, Brian Harris, and Gordon McGowan.





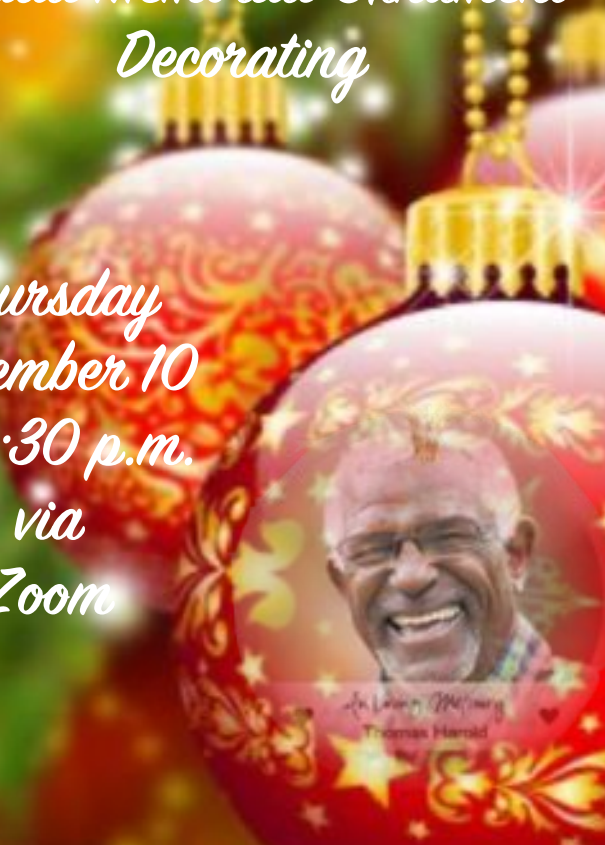
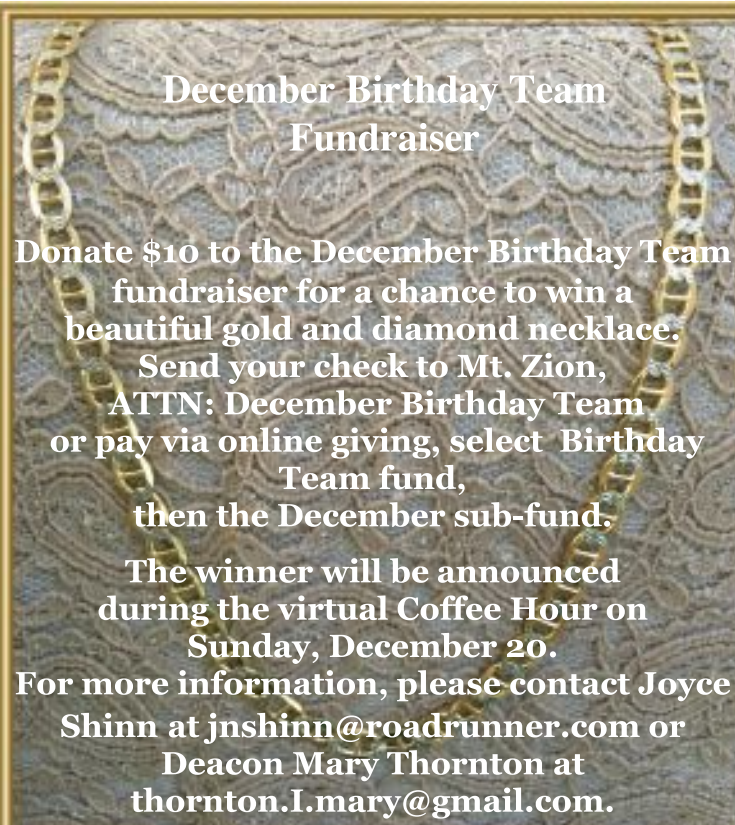
MT. ZION'S UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST

Post a picture of your ugly Christmas sweater on Mt. Zion's Facebook Page by Thursday, December 10 at 11:59 p.m. The winner will be announced at Mt. Zion's Christmas Tree Lighting on December 11 at 7p.m.

Mt. Zion Congregational Church, SCC
 Rev. Paul Babson Sadler, Senior Pastor
 1822 Magnolia Drive
 Cleveland, OH 44114
 216.791.6766
 mtzioncleveland@gmail.com
 mtzioncleveland.com

*GriefShare/Parakeleo
 Virtual Memorial Ornament
 Decorating*

*Thursday
 December 10
 @ 6:30 p.m.
 via
 Zoom*

December Birthday Team Fundraiser

Donate \$10 to the December Birthday Team fundraiser for a chance to win a beautiful gold and diamond necklace. Send your check to Mt. Zion, ATTN: December Birthday Team or pay via online giving, select Birthday Team fund, then the December sub-fund. The winner will be announced during the virtual Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 20. For more information, please contact Joyce Shinn at jnshinn@roadrunner.com or Deacon Mary Thornton at thornton.I.mary@gmail.com.

*Sunday, December 27
 During Virtual Coffee Hour at 12:30 p.m.*



*Happy
 KWANZAA*

*Kujichagulia
 Self-Determination*

Christmas Day Worship

Celebrating
THE BIRTH OF
Christ

*Thursday,
December 25*

*@ 10 a.m.
via Facebook Live
& Zoom*

Mt. Zion Congregational Church, UCC

NEW YEAR'S EVE

WATCHNIGHT

SERVICE

December 31, 7 p.m.
on Facebook Live and
Zoom



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Day of Sabbath for Rev. Paul	1 7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom <i>Renee Taylor</i>	2 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study <i>John Horn</i>	3 6:15pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare <i>Melissa Burrows</i>	4 7am Prayer Call 6:30pm Sisters in the Spirit 7pm CBL MASTER CLASS via Zoom <i>Jacquelyn Lee-Ivey</i>	5
6 7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY 12:30pm Children's Church School via Zoom <i>Peter Inoshita Cornell Vernon</i>	7 <i>Maraya Mullen</i>	8 7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom <i>Roberto Ochos Adrienne Richards</i>	9 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study <i>Calvin Singleton</i>	10 6:15pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare Virtual Memorial Ornament Decorating <i>Agapito Rivera</i>	11 7am Prayer Call 7pm DRIVE-IN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING Church Parking Lot <i>Ann English</i>	12 10am - 11pm SISTERS IN THE SPIRIT VIRTUAL POP-UP STORE <i>Wendy Woods</i>
13 7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live Worship 12:30pm Virtual Coffee Hour & 10am-11pm VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS POP-UP STORE SHOPPING <i>Joyce Shinn</i>	14	15 7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom <i>Joyce Shinn</i>	16 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study <i>Calvin Singleton</i>	17 6:15pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare <i>Agapito Rivera</i>	18 7am Prayer Call	19 11am New Mbr Orient. via Zoom 12pm Women's Fellowship via Zoom
20 7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live Worship 12:30pm Virtual Coffee Hour & Children's Church School <i>Brian Harris</i>	21	22 7:30am Care Shep. 6pm FA via Zoom <i>Joyce Shinn</i>	23 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study <i>Peter Lawson Jones Shanchez Perry</i>	24 6:15pm FA via Zoom 6:30pm GriefShare <i>Mary Thornton</i>	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 7am Prayer Call 10am CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE via Facebook & Zoom 12 Noon DRIVE-THRU CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY MEAL <i>Ann English</i>	26
27 7am Worship Prayer Call 11am Facebook Live Worship 12:30pm KWANZAA during Virtual Coffee Hour <i>William Plummer</i>	28 <i>Tracy Peebles</i>	29 6pm FA via Zoom	30 7am Prayer Call 2pm Staff Meeting <i>Lisa Jones</i>	31 6:15pm FA via Zoom 7pm WATCH NIGHT SERVICE		

Mt. Zion Congregational Church, Sisters in the Spirit
Virtual Christmas Pop-Up Store

Shop Saturday, December 12 & Sunday, December 13
 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 SUPPORT MINORITY BUSINESSES



Yvonne Dale, www.marykay.com/yvonedale
 Skin & Body Care, Fragrance



Diane Linston
www.stylesofimagination.com
 Masks for women, men & kids

Sonyette Farrier, The Shoe Lady
www.foottraffic4u.com
 Shoes, Boots, Clothing, Bags,
 Accessories



Deneen Terrell
www.jusforkit.com
 Delicious Peanut Brittle



Robin "Bijou Star" Sadler
www.powerhaircollection.com
 Hair extensions for every
 desired style and hair texture



Grady Burrows
hbnaturals.com
 Health & wellness products



\$25 Gift Certificates
 for \$20



Cindy Z, Z's Fashions
zaletta_r@yahoo.com
 Jewelry, Purses,
 Clothes



Paul H. Sadler, Jr.
www.saintsadlerwines.com
 Luxury Wines



Monica Reese
 Affordable Jewelry
www.paparazziaccessories.com/111163

Ayanna Augustine
 Yanna's Dough Spot
www.yannasdoughspot@gmail.com
 Delicious Cupcakes



Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler, Sr.,
 Pastor
 10723 Magnolia Drive
 Cleveland, OH 44106
 216-791-5760
mtzioncleveland.com
mtzioncleveland@gmail.com

Merry Christmas from The Board of Missions & Outreach



The Christmas Fund

They came when you needed them. They answered the phone when you called. They baptized and married and buried your loved ones. They gave up weekend after weekend after weekend to care for your spirit, lead you in worship, and point to God in your midst.

Some of them did it for less money than they could easily live on. Some of them did it for less than they would have been willing to do any other job for, because of what they believe about who God is, and what they believe about who *you* are.

For all the sacrifices that clergy and lay church workers have made in our congregations. The **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund** was created to help support them in retirement and during times of emergent need.

The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship.

Over the past nine months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically.

In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever.

Join with us to make "the light shine in the darkness" for those who have given so much to our church.

Mt. Zion members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

Please make your **Christmas Fund offering** by going to our website www.mtzioncleveland.com! **Click on the Online Giving Tab and follow the prompts. 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 GENEROUSLY!**

Peace & Blessings!