

# The Spire



April 2020

*No Greater Love  
Resurrection*

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR AND TEACHER



### Growing in a Season of Shift

Grace, Mercy and Peace from our awesome God and from our Lord Jesus Christ!

We come to the beginning of this Holy Week observance in an unprecedented time in our world. All of us are grappling with the reality of the radical changes and the uncertainty in our daily lives because of the coronavirus pandemic. Yet, we stand on the threshold of the observance of the last week of our Lord's life on this earth, prior to his crucifixion and the amazing celebration of his resurrection at Easter. Many are concerned about the reality that we will not be together in our sanctuaries to celebrate Easter this year. But, I want to suggest to you two important Biblical and historical realities about Easter. First, let me share something Dr. Cheryl Lindsay reminded all of us in a recent Instagram post – "the early believers, in the first century celebrated Easter every Sunday...not just once a year. Second, many times during the persecution of the first century Christian church, their Easter celebrations had to be done in secret, for fear of arrest, torture and even death."

It was not until the 4<sup>th</sup> century that a form of Christianity was legalized. Thus, having private celebrations of Easter is akin to what took place for many years in the church. This Sunday which will be Palm Sunday, we will celebrate communion in our homes via our Online Virtual Worship Service. I am extremely pleased that the number of persons participating in our online worship has increased weekly. I am also grateful for those who have continued their generosity in their tithes and offerings to God. I know God will

supply all of your needs through Christ Jesus.

This Communion Sunday, I am asking everyone to prepare to participate in communion with whatever you have in your house as elements. Potato chips and soda, a slice of bread and some water, a cookie and some juice or bread and wine. It is not the form of the Lord's Supper/ Communion that we celebrate, it is the substance...the remembrance of the sacrifice that our Savior made on the cross. This is our celebration and the center of the communion experience, not a wafer and grape juice. So, as we virtually share the communion experience, I will ask you to consecrate with me, whatever you will use for your communion, as we share it together.

I am also gratified by the way in which Mt. Zion members have embraced the technology during this season. I encourage everyone to recognize that this is a Season of Shift. If you have never used Facebook; this is the time. If you do not use the internet; this is the time to embrace the technology. If you have never participated in a video conference; now is the time for that new experience. God is using technology to maintain the unity of the Body of Christ. Now is the time to claim it and use it for the Glory of God. Most importantly, it is our only way of staying connected, of fellowshiping together and of worshiping together during this sojourn of sheltering in place. Please reach out with any questions or concerns in regard to use of the internet. It is an amazing gift that God has afforded us to use during such a time as this. I encourage you to reach out to me. I will be happy to provide a tutorial on Facebook, Webex.com, or on the use of the internet in general.

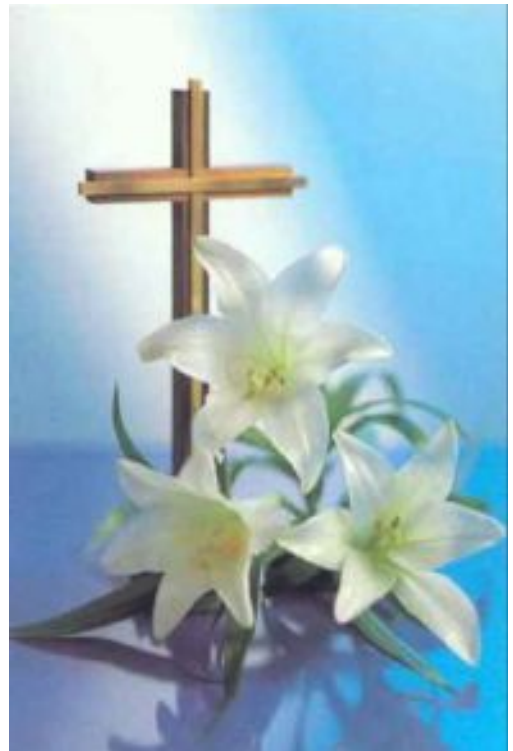
Now is the time to humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face and turn from anything that is not pleasing to God. Let us continue to focus our attention on the journey of Jesus during the days before his crucifixion. By doing this, we will be prepared to celebrate with great joy, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, at Easter.

With Jesus Joy!

Rev. Paul

*13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, 14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

*2 Chronicles 7:14&15*



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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.

## THANK YOU FIRST RESPONDERS AND ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL



**Marcus Jones, Jr.**  
Cleveland Police



**Crystal Lewis**  
Cleveland Police



**Howard Wingard**  
Coast Guard



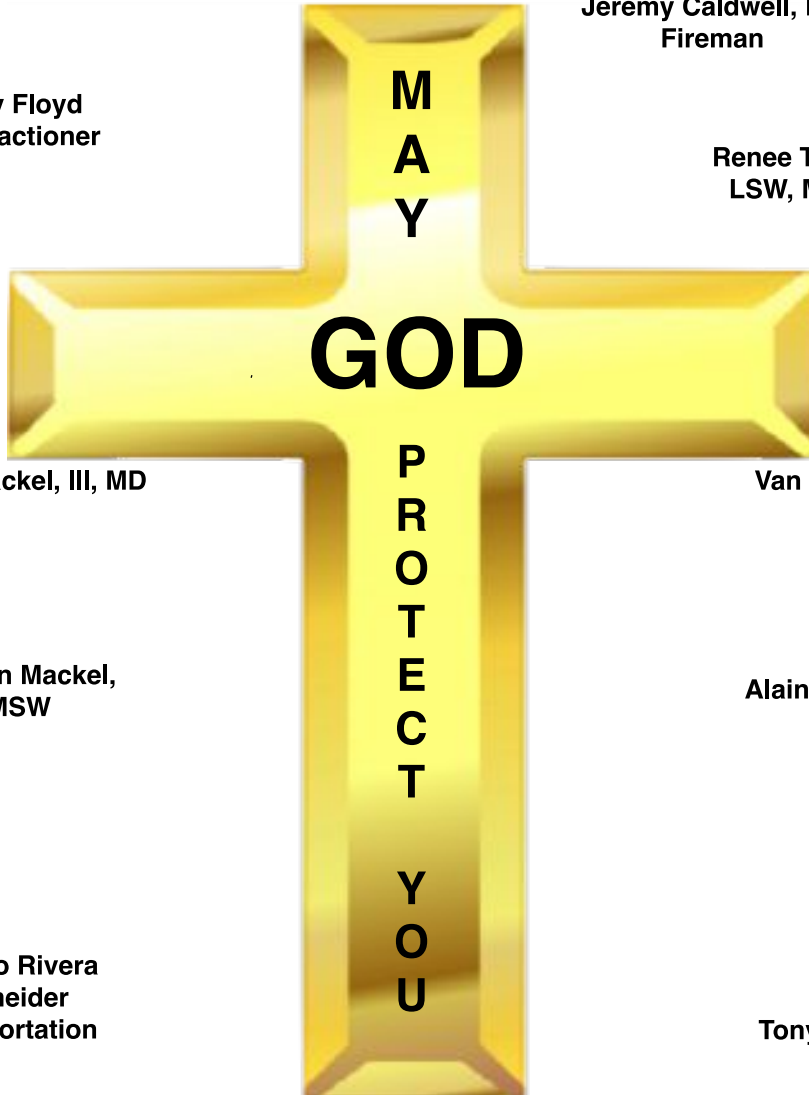
**Jeremy Caldwell, RN**  
Fireman



**Steve Anekwe**  
Cleveland Police



**Brittany Floyd**  
Nurse Practitioner



**Renee Taylor,**  
LSW, MSW



**Audley Mackel, III, MD**

**Van Warren, MD**



**Sharon Mackel,**  
MSW

**Alaina Barrett,**  
LPN



**Agapito Rivera**  
Schneider  
Transportation

**Tonya Pye, RN**



**Ayanna Augustine**  
Shake Shack, Manager



**Robin "Bijou Star" Sadler**  
WZAK.FM



**Maisha and Deneen**  
Terrell  
Serenity Transportation



## Our SPIRITUAL Connection Knows NO DISTANCING

Even as individuals here and across the globe struggle to live through the coronavirus pandemic, God's gift of life surrounds us. Like the budding flowers breaking forth through heavy soil, the singing of birds at sunrise and the approaching Easter morn when we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, God provides a spiritual blessing that knows no distancing.

So, let's stay connected through prayer and various activities. As we anticipate the new life that the Resurrection promises, let us take a minute to explore some things we can do to experience a rebirth in our spirits while we are indoors.

### PRAY

**Prayer is the most important thing that we can do as we shelter inside during this pandemic. Here are two encouraging texts to study:**

#### **2 Chronicles 7:13-14**

13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, 14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**Do not give in to fear...rather lean on your faith in God**

#### **Psalms 91:1-3**

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,[a]

2 I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;

### Explore Online Bible Resources



#### **Biblegateway.com**

Bible Gateway is a searchable online Bible in more than 200 versions and 70 languages that you can freely read, research, and reference anywhere. With a library of audio Bibles, a mobile app, devotionals, email newsletters, and other free resources, Bible Gateway equips you not only to *read* the Bible, but to *understand* it. We recommend reading the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. An array of devotionals are available.



#### **Olivetree.com**

Like Biblegateway.com, the online olivetree.com is designed to assist readers with the Bible. There is a cost to download the NRSV Bible.

### Take a Virtual Tour



**Explore's LiveCams** This is the home of the world's largest collection of live nature cams.

**Google Arts & Culture** Explore arts and culture collections from institutions around the world including National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Museums, Anne Frank House, Acropolis Museum and more.

**Guide to Virtual Museum Visits** Links to museum institutions whose collections can be explored digitally.

**National Museum of African-American**

**History and Culture** Selected exhibits and artifacts are available online in the Smithsonian's Learning Lab.

**UNESCO World Heritage List** UNESCO World Heritage Sites all around the world, including Pompeii, Taj Mahal, and more.

### Learn Something New



**The Art Assignment** A weekly PBS Digital Studios production that explores art and art history through the lens of things happening today.

**Brainfuse JobNow** Live job assistance and professional resume critique, with your library card.

**Brainfuse VetNow** Connect with an expert to learn about eligible VA benefits and community resources, with your library card.

**Coursera** Free courses from more than 190 universities and companies.

**Free Code Camp** Free tech tutorials, especially coding with the ability to earn certifications.

**Free Ivy League Courses Online** Enroll in free online courses in a variety of disciplines from Ivy League universities.

**Instructables** From the stovetop to the workshop, awesome projects are shared every day.

**Khan Academy** Lessons for all ages on topics such as math, sciences, computers, business and art history.

**Lynda.com** Learn business, software, technology and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals, with your library card.

## AT MT. ZION

### Mt. Zion Celebrates Women's Day

Entering the church with the fragrance of disinfectant in the air with clear and direct instructions from Rev. Paul not to touch anyone and to sit six-feet apart, Mt. Zion's Women's Day choir sang from the pews, doing their best to give God glory in the mist of the early onset of Covid 19.

Rev. Dr. Susan K. Williams Smith, social justice advocate, journalist and author was the Women's Day preacher. She drove two hours from Columbus, Ohio, on a mostly empty road, to share a word of hope and encouragement.

The cancellation of events and many church services was evident to the few brave souls who witnessed Mt. Zion's last day of face-to-face worship in March. Nevertheless, Rev Smith brought Luke 8: 40-48, the text concerning the woman with the issue of blood, to life. She reminded us that, no matter what, Jesus is with us; during difficult situations, we must lean into God; in troubling times, we must lean on the Gospels; and Jesus let's us know that in bad times, there is always good news! A word we all so desperately needed to hear.



## MT. ZION SPOTLIGHT

John Horn, son of Mt. Zion member Deacon Renee Taylor, participated in the Inaugural Shark Tank event at Gesu Catholic School on February 29th. He and his partner Alec Thomas, placed second for their business, Raindrop Customized Shoe Company. They won \$75 towards their business.

John is a seventh grade scholar at Gesu and is looking forward to high school. So if you are interested in making your sneakers stand out, contact John!



**John Horn and Alec Thomas**



You never know where you might see a member of Mt. Zion. Mt. Zion member, Officer Crystal Lewis, was pictured in a photo selected to be featured in the National Police Memorial Museum, located in Washington D.C.

The Cleveland Police Department was featured in an exhibit called, "Five Communities." The exhibit featured pictures about community engagement.



# 2020

## MT. ZION *Scholarships*

The Mt. Zion Scholarship Committee invites graduating High School seniors who are members of Mt. Zion to apply for scholarships

**GO TO:**

- 1. [mtzioncleveland.com](http://mtzioncleveland.com)**
- 2. Click “Ministries and Outreach”**
- 3. Click “Scholarships”**

Complete the online application and ensure information is shared with counselors.

For additional information and questions,  
Contact: Dr. Timeka Rashid, Scholarship Chairperson  
[t.l.rashid@csuohio.edu](mailto:t.l.rashid@csuohio.edu)



For the first time, in 2020 the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online.

The process will be quick and secure. You can respond to the census in less time than it takes to finish your morning coffee. You'll still be able to respond by mail.

To learn more about what to expect,  
**visit [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov)**

For those wishing to complete the questionnaire by phone during this pandemic,  
**please call: 844.330.2020**

**HOW TO VOTE IN THE 2020 OHIO PRIMARY**

*The 2020 primary election has changed! Make sure you know the facts and how to make your voice heard!*

Absentee voting has been extended through... **APRIL 28**

If you have not voted yet, you must request a ballot by...

- Calling your local board of elections
- Visiting [voteohio.gov](http://voteohio.gov)

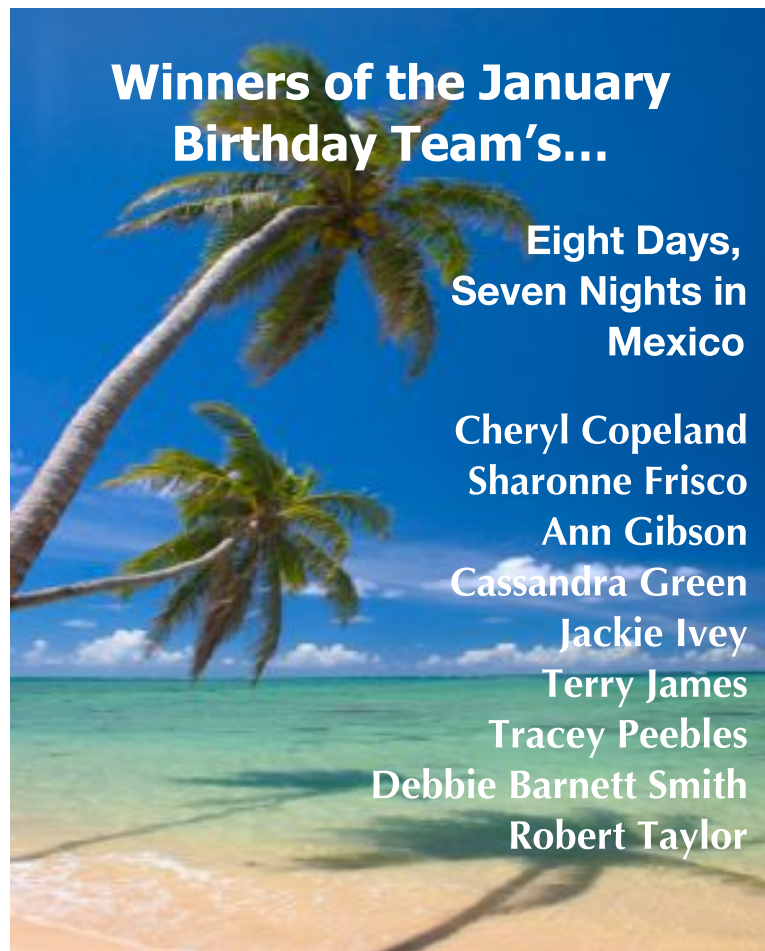
**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Ballots start to be mailed	Ballots applications must be received	Ballots must be returned
<b>MARCH 27</b>	<b>APRIL 25</b>	<b>APRIL 28</b>

For more information about the election go to:  
<https://boe.cuyahogacounty.us>

Request your mail by vote ballot at:  
[https://boe.cuyahogacounty.us/pdf\\_boe/en-US/Applications/VBM2020.pdf](https://boe.cuyahogacounty.us/pdf_boe/en-US/Applications/VBM2020.pdf)





## Job Opportunities Breakthrough Services (JOBS)

*Transforming Lives & Energizing Minds*



**Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.**  
via Conference Call  
**712.775.7100**  
**Access Code: 899967#**

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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.

Contact Us Today

**THURSDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 P.M.**  
**Via WEBEX**  
**1. Go to webex.com**  
**2. Click "Join Meeting" or "Join"**  
**3. Enter the Meeting Room Number**  
**297 646 178**



# APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study via WebEx & Conf. Call 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study via WebEx & Conf. Call  Rudolph Bacchus	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30pm Parakaleo/GriefShare via WebEx	3 7am Prayer Call 6:30pm Sisters in the Spirit via WebEx & Conf. Call	4 9am Deacon Bd via WebEx 11:30am Christian Stew. via WebEx & Conf. Call
5 7am Worship Prayer Call  PALM SUNDAY COMMUNION SUNDAY  11am WORSHIP VIA FACEBOOK LIVE  Kathleen Dorsey	6	7 7:30am Care Shep. 6:00pm JOBS, via Conference Call  Josie Lindsay	8 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study via WebEx & Conf. Call 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study via WebEx & Conf. Call	9 6:30pm Parakaleo/GriefShare via WebEx	10 7am Prayer Call  Steven Terry	11 11:30am Mission & Outreach via WebEx & Conf. Call
12 7am Worship Prayer Call  RESURRECTION SUNDAY  11am WORSHIP VIA FACEBOOK LIVE  Nayiri Karjian Christopher Shannon	13  Noah King	14 7:30am Care Shep. 6:00pm JOBS, via Conference Call	15 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study via WebEx & Conf. Call 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study via WebEx & Conf. Call  Ulysses Tyler Robert Upshaw, Jr.	16 6:30pm Parakaleo/GriefShare via WebEx	17 7am Prayer Call	18
19 7am Worship Prayer Call 11am WORSHIP VIA FACEBOOK LIVE  Earnest Luther Malone, Jr.	20  Carson Burrows Tara Murphy	21 7:30am Care Shep. 6:00pm JOBS, via Conference Call  Marvin Richards Stacey Polk	22 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study via WebEx & Conf. Call 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study via WebEx & Conf. Call	23 6:30pm Parakaleo/GriefShare via WebEx  Patricia Harris Jennifer Ryba	24 7am Prayer Call	25 2pm Trustee Bd  Hadiya Ivey
26 7am Worship Prayer Call 11am WORSHIP VIA FACEBOOK LIVE  Sandra Berry	27	28 7:30am Care Shep. 6:00pm JOBS, via Conference Call	29 7am Prayer Call 10:30am Bible Study via WebEx & Conf. Call 2pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bible Study via WebEx & Conf. Call  Flossie Brisker Wesley Oliver	30 6:30pm Parakaleo/GriefShare via WebEx  Carmilla Perry		