

Mt. Zion's Senior Brunch

By Sis. Diane Jones

Mt. Zion Baptist Church hosted a wonderful "Senior Brunch" on Thursday, August 21st, in our Otha Gilyard Fellowship Hall. Our Assistant Pastor, Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Moore gave the "Welcome and Purpose" of today's gathering, and after "Scripture and Prayer" by Bro. Clarence and Rev. Doreen Gardner, we enjoyed a "Musical Selection" by Bro. Sheldon Turner. We listened to motivating speeches from three of our church members. Sis. LaDora Smith spoke on 'Committed Through Giving,' Dr. Ollie Barnes spoke on 'Connected Through Relationships,' and Sis. Nancy Buchanan spoke on 'Contributing Through Service.'



Prayer was rendered by Rev. Keisha Gardner, after which we enjoyed a delicious Brunch which was prepared by our very own LaToya Gleaves of 'Gleaves Gifted Hands Catering Company.' After enjoying our midday meal, we settled back for another musical selection followed by the "Inspirational Message," based on Psalms 145:1-4, 'Leaving a Godly Legacy' delivered by Rev. Ron Franklin.

It's always wonderful seeing our "Older Folks" gathered together on one accord. Food, Fun and Fellowship was surely enjoyed by all who were in attendance, as you can see on the photos.

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Church Women United Valiant Woman Award

By Sis. Rebecca Moore & Sis. Rida Jones

Every year the local unit of Church Women United, Inc. honors two local women with the Valiant Woman Award. A valiant woman, among other great things, is a woman who gives exemplary service to her church and who lives the gospel message in her everyday life.

This year, Sis. Rosie Woods was one of the recipients of the 2025 Valiant Woman Award. She is a long standing member of Mt. Zion and continues to serve God's people with unwavering love, kindness and humility.

Sis. Woods currently leads the Care Ministry and serves in several other ministries. She is gifted with a servant's heart, serves quietly and never calls attention to herself. Her service displays a sense of humility that reminds one that serving is a privilege. Congratulations to Sis. Woods on receiving the award and for being a great example of a Valiant Woman of God.



Sis. Davette Whitaker also received a 2025 Valiant Woman Award. Although a desire to be a teacher from a young age, the reality for Sis. Whitaker would entail a very adventurous and circuitous path. Born in San Antonio, TX, Sis. Whitaker attended the San Antonio Schools through high school followed by one year of Junior College at the then San Antonio Junior College. She married in December 1965 and moved to Benton Harbor, MI where she had two children.

While in Michigan, she continued her education at Lake Michigan College taking day and night courses while working at Whirlpool Corporation as a Lab Technician. She continued her education earning a B.S. and a M.S. in Chemistry.

Her teaching career finally started in 1995 at Mt. Zion. Since completing teachers training, she has taught adults with a break while serving as the Christian Education Director. She has taught at the local, district, and state levels of Christian Education over the years. God has been so gracious and faithful through the years. Always being there to lead, guide and protect, but she continues to teach with a grateful heart.

In the Business World



Gleaves Gifted Hands Catering Co.

By Sis. Kamille Gleaves



Sis. Latoya Gleaves is a devoted wife, mother, and dynamic entrepreneur committed to faith, family, and community service. Growing up in Saginaw, Michigan, with her mother, brother, and sister, she learned responsibility early by stepping in as a “second mom” while her mother worked. That season built maturity, independence, and a deep compassion that still guides her today. Her family was full of laughter, honesty, and love, even through ups and downs. Now, as a mother herself, she considers it one of her greatest honors. “I’m so grateful God chose me for this role,” she says. She works to instill values in her family: love God, love yourself, love others, and always count on family support.

Cultural Roots | Her Afro-Caribbean heritage has also deeply shaped her journey. With a Jamaican father, she was raised in a culture overflowing with food, music, faith, and family. “Food is central to our culture; it’s how we love, gather, celebrate, and even heal,” she shares. Cooking with those values allows her to pour not just flavor, but also tradition, love, and identity into every meal. Her roots gave her resilience, pride, and a calling to let her culture shine through her work.

Her Business | Balancing family and purpose, Sis. Gleaves launched her business with her husband’s support and God’s direction.

She wanted to remain present at home while still contributing financially. The beginning wasn’t easy; undercharging and over-giving left her drained. But prayer, wisdom, and growth gave her the strength to restructure and value her gifts. What makes her work unique is simple: love. “I don’t just feed people’s stomachs, feed their souls,” she explains. Every dish is prepared with care, encouragement, and joy. Food, to her, is more than a meal it’s a ministry.

Faith & Impact | Faith is the foundation of everything, Sis. Gleaves does. Guided by Philippians 4:13 and Matthew 5:16, she lives her mission: to glorify God by serving others with excellence. Her service extends beyond catering. Whether donating meals, uplifting her community, or simply offering a kind word, she hopes people feel loved and valued through her presence. Looking ahead, she envisions serving in new ways, whether through leadership, administration, or food—always carrying her purpose of faith, love, and service.

Did You Know?

- Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:13
- Heritage: Afro-Caribbean,
- Jamaican Roots Cooking Style:
- Food made with love, culture, and faith.
- Biggest Joy: Serving others through her gifts

Through her Afro-Caribbean roots, her faith, and her perseverance, Sis. Latoya Gleaves reminds us that food can be more than nourishment—it can be love, culture, and ministry in every bite.

Family Ministries

By Sis. Talanda Ollie

Back to School Prayer Service

One of our culminating events of the summer is our annual Back-2-School Prayer Service.

This service is a special opportunity for our entire community - families, the church, leaders in education, community members, and city and public safety officials - to come together in unity seeking God's guidance, protection, and favor over the upcoming academic year. While typically it's held on Wednesday, this year we held it on a Sunday during our Fulfillment Hour time (there's just something special about Sunday mornings). The sanctuary was packed with youth, adults, and special guests from our city - including our Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Darren Slade - all on one accord, praying and claiming God's Word over one another. God's presence was felt, the love of Christ was on full display, and now we wait in anticipation to see how God is going to move this year!

Promotion Sunday

September marks a significant time of year: summer turns to fall, kids go back to school, and here at Mt. Zion it means Promotion Sunday! The second Sunday of September is reserved for recognizing and celebrating what God has done through our youth, and to officially move them up to the next level in their Fulfillment Hour life groups. This year's theme was "The **G.L.O.W.** Up." Our youth have been **G**rowing, **L**earning, and **O**beying God's **W**ord...hence the GLOW Up! And the GLOW Up was definitely real and evident in our youth. From a powerful Scripture and prayer, to the meaning of the Glow Up, and the sharing of personal growth...from start to finish our youth truly shined! We are immensely proud of all of them, both big and small, and are excited to see what the next year will bring for them.





Mt. Zion's First Responders: Nurse Ministry



By Sis. Diane Jones

What a remarkable Sunday we had at church on Sunday, August 10, 2025! As usual, there were wonderful Songs of Praise as well as a very Inspirational Sermon. But a surprise came at the end of our service, when Pastor Moore and our Assistant Pastor Rev. Chris, had all of the First Responders of our Nurse Ministry come forward for Dedication and Prayer for their Uniforms.



It was amazing seeing that we are blessed to have so many compassionate, competent members in our church family willing to serve in this ministry. Our very own First Lady Sis. Gwen has a wealth of nursing experience. At the age of 17, she started college and had earned her BSN Degree (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) by age 22. As a Registered Nurse, she has over 47 years of Nursing experience, 15 of these years include being a Critical Care Nurse, a Nurse Manager, as well as A CPR Instructor for over 40 years. Moving to the Kalamazoo area, over three decades ago, she worked at the VA Hospital in Battle Creek. Retiring from there, she opened an Assisted Living Home called 'Amazing Grace.'



Sis. Pamela Chapman became a Registered Nurse after receiving her BSN from Ferris State in 1975. She worked for many years in multiple areas of practice. She says that all of her life, she knew that Nursing was what God called her to do. There are so many other wonderful stories and testimonies of the many Doctors and Nurses who have answered the call to serve in this ministry. As you look at these photos of our First Responders Nurse Ministry, it is good to know that there is always those who are standing by, ready to assist us if the need arises. Praise God for these blessings.

5th Annual NMA Community Carnival

By Sis. Diane Jones

What a wonderful sight, seeing so many exuberant children, along with their families and friends, enjoying a fun day of carnival rides, thrilling games, great prizes, food, a petting zoo, entertainment, and excitement at the 5th Annual Northside Ministerial Alliance Carnival. Taking place on the campus of Lincoln International Studies School, on the morning of August 24, 2025, crowds of people started arriving a little before the 11:00 o'clock starting time, with full anticipation of the fun ahead!

Imagine, if you will, the ability to enjoy time with your family, children, friends, and not have to pay a single penny. Everything was FREE!! The 40 foot Ferris Wheel, the Spinning & Twirling Rides, the "Choo-Choo Train," the Tall Slide, the Pony Rides—the children were able to have a good time—again, all free!

Lots of planning, organizing, and volunteering goes into having an event go so smoothly. We would like to sincerely thank all of the involved Churches, Pastors, Community Partners and the many Organizations that contributed to the success of this phenomenal event. Enjoy the photos showing just a few of the events.



Mother's Corner

By Sis. Ashlee Franklin

Mother's Words of Wisdom

When I think about the Lord and what he has done for me, I get excited! He is such a merciful and kind God, and I reverence him. He has given us the opportunity to minister to others in order to see growth in his kingdom, and wants all of us to be equipped. When I think about God, I can't help but to think about how good he is. No matter what we as people have done, he has yet shown us mercy. When I go in to situations, I am confident that God hears me because of Hebrews 6:10. This Scripture gives me certainty that my works which have been created and carried out through love are seen by him. Faith has guided me to know that all problems, questions, and concerns that I present to God, he will answer me and I trust him to do that. Mt. Zion has impacted my life and faith because of the Word of God being presented in such a way that ministers to my spirit and my heart. Mt. Zion encourages me to not just be a hearer of the word but to also internalize it and to be a doer of His Word. Through the teachings of Pastor Moore, I have grown to be more of a listener but with a spirit of discernment I can also be guided to reach out to others and start conversations. God speaks through Pastor Moore, and I can share with others what God has shared through him to me. When I was younger, I listened to the Mother's Ministry, how they prayed, and how they encouraged the pastor. That still inspires me to this day. My prayer is for everyone to continue to walk in righteousness and let's stir up the gift that God has placed in to each one of us!



Mother Vanessa Hayes

HEBREWS 6:10

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

2025 Goals

90 Days Remaining

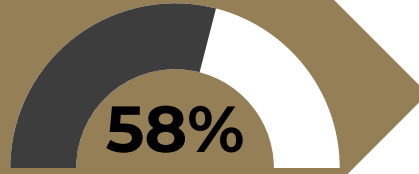


Souls added to
the Body

292

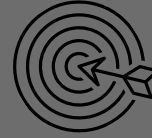


Annual Target
500

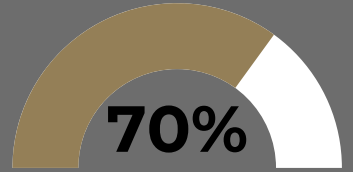


*Life is better
together!*

Members in
Life Group
419



Weekly Target
600



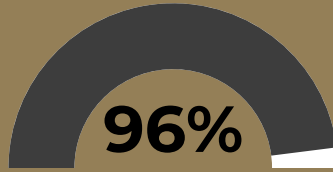
6 AM PRAYER CALL



96



Weekly Target
100



*Join us for 6 am Wednesday
morning prayer.
Zoom Meeting ID
832 0607 6105.
Passcode: 21*



Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

9th

CityLead @ Centerpoint
Church

24th

Movie Matinee

25th

Family Fall Fest

NOVEMBER

4th

Election Day

9th

Sacrificial Giving Sunday

13th

CityLead @ Mt. Zion

15th

Fall Family Fusion

26th

Thanksgiving Eve Service

DECEMBER

9th

Annual Family Meeting

11th

CityLead @ Centerpoint
Church

21st

Christmas Program

25th

Christmas Day Service

31st

New Year's Eve Service

MTZ VOICE MINISTRY

Sis. Cassandra Bridges
Sis. Nancy Buchanan
Sis. Deborah Jackson
Sis. Kamille Gleaves
Sis. Ashley Moorehead
Dr. Wraegen Williams

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