

# Happy New Year

## A LETTER FROM PASTOR ADDIS MOORE & FIRST LADY GWENDOLYN MOORE

Beloved Mt. Zion Family,

As we pause to reflect on the year 2025, our hearts overflow with gratitude and praise to God for what He has done in and through Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. This has truly been a year of divine accomplishment, spiritual growth, and faithful execution of God's Word. We celebrate not only what God has allowed us to achieve, but who we are becoming as a church committed to His purpose.

Throughout 2025, we witnessed the hand of God moving mightily among us—strengthening our worship, deepening our discipleship, expanding our outreach, and empowering every generation within our congregation. Together, we have remained steadfast in vision, united in mission, and committed to excellence in ministry. These accomplishments were not accidental; they were the fruit of faithful people walking in obedience, sacrifice, and love.

As we now look ahead to 2026, we do so with great expectation and renewed faith, embracing our theme: **“Rooted, Ready, and Resilient”** (Jeremiah 17:7–8). The Word declares that those who trust in the Lord are like a tree planted by the waters—firmly rooted, unafraid of heat, and consistently fruitful. That is who we are in this season. We are **rooted** in God's Word, **ready** for every assignment He places before us, and **resilient** in the face of every challenge.

In 2026, we anticipate an even greater move of God as Mt. Zion continues to be an instrument of **transformation, hope, and healing** for the greater community. God is positioning us to impact lives beyond our walls—bringing hope to the discouraged, healing to the broken, and practical solutions to real needs. We believe Mt. Zion will continue to stand as a beacon of light, faith, and compassion in Kalamazoo and beyond.

We thank each of you for your prayers, faithfulness, service, and generosity. Your commitment makes ministry possible and allows God's work to flourish through this church. As we move forward together, let us remain confident that “the Lord is our trust,” and because of Him, our future is fruitful and secure.

With joyful hearts and great expectation, we look forward to all that God will do in 2026. The best is yet to come!

With love and gratitude,

**Pastor Addis Moore**  
**First Lady Gwendolyn Moore**

*“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord.” —  
Jeremiah 17:7*



**PICK-A-FIGHT**

**PAGE 2**

**IN THE BUSINESS  
WORLD**

**PAGE 4**

**FAMILY FALL FEST**

**PAGE 6**

# PICK-A-FIGHT: AWARENESS SUNDAY



Rev. Sis. Diane Jones

Even though it is never a good idea to “pick a fight,” sometimes it can be for a very good reason. On October 19, 2025, we had an incredible day that we called “Pick A Fight” Sunday. It was for bringing awareness to Breast Cancer, Mental Health, Domestic Violence, and Infant Loss. Members were asked to choose a “fight” and to wear that particular color as a demonstration of standing in solidarity of those impacted. What a beautiful array of colors filled our sanctuary that morning, as well as our choir stand filled with ladies and young girls dressed in colorful attire as they raised their voices in praise. We had two dynamic preachers that morning who delivered powerful messages reminding us that “Our Faith Fights for Us,” (8:00 AM) delivered by Elder Nicole Coleman, from First Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Battle Creek, MI. Our second service message titled “All Things” (11:00 AM) was delivered by Minister Kaneesha Moore, from Second Mount Zion Baptist Church, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. What a wonderful day of “Awareness” as we all celebrated together in solidarity for these four groups.





# FAMILY MINISTRIES

By Minister Dr. Betty Dennis

As a congregation, we are studying the book ***"I Am a Christian"*** by Thom Rainer. At Mt. Zion, we take pride in the fact that our children are the church of today. Faith is not just reserved for adulthood. Regardless of their age, kids are capable of learning about God, obeying His Word, experiencing His presence, drawing closer to Him, and living out their faith in meaningful ways. The Bible has taught us, with Rainer's book as a guide, that as a Christian:

## I AM A BELIEVER

The children are taught that being a Christian begins with the belief in Jesus Christ. They know that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and God raised Him from the dead. They know that to be followers of Jesus Christ, they must have a personal relationship with the Savior who loves them deeply.

## I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

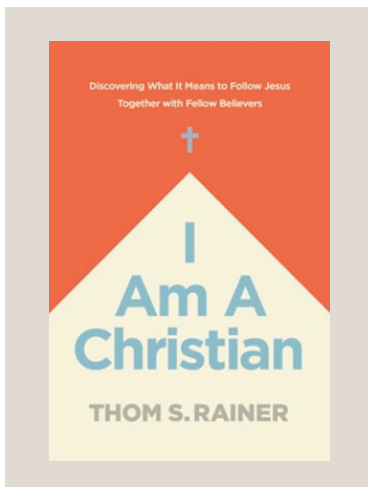
We must make coming to church a priority. Church is not just a place, but a spiritual home where they are nurtured, challenged, and supported. They might have to miss football or cheerleading practice.

## I AM A DISCIPLE

They must act differently from other kids. Whether in school, at home, or in church, they are called to live in a way that honors God. They understand that their behavior reflects their belief. This principle encourages self-discipline, respect, and a heart for righteousness.

## I AM A CHRISTIAN

They must love people who are different from them. They are taught to extend the love that God has given us and show that love to everyone, regardless of their background or circumstance. The children are learning empathy, compassion, and a sense of inclusion for all people. Together, these truths form a spiritual identity that empowers children to live boldly and faithfully. They are not just learning about Christianity—they are embodying it. Mt. Zion's approach ensures that every child knows they are seen, valued, and equipped to walk in God's purpose.



# IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

By Sis. Kamille Gleaves



Barnes Enterprises consists of B & W Shirtworks, which provides full service garment imprinting and embroidery, Reflections Photography, providing photography for weddings, events, senior photos, head shots, and family photos, as well as Impact Consultants, which provides clinical and organizational psychological services.

At Mt. Zion we are surrounded by members whose gifts quietly bless those around them. This month The Voice is honored to highlight the Barnes family, whose steady dedication and heartfelt service have become a meaningful part of our church community.

The Barnes family brings intention and warmth into everything they do. Their business reflects their character: steady, thoughtful, and rooted in genuine care. Whether they are offering a service, sharing their talents, or extending kindness, their work carries the calm strength of people who believe in serving with purpose.

What stands out most is their commitment to relationships. Their business grew from a desire to help, support, and connect. They value the familiar faces who stop by and the opportunity to offer something meaningful to others. Their faith shines through in their patience, sincerity, and the gentle way they show up for people.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Barnes' shared how deeply grateful they are for the support they have already received from members of Mt. Zion. That support has encouraged them and reminded them that in this church, no one stands alone.

*"We are fortunate that some members already support our businesses," they said. "We would love to deepen our relationships with current customers and develop relationships with others who might be interested in the products and services we offer."*

Their hope is to continue growing their connections, expanding their reach, and strengthening the closeness and care they already pour into their work. For them, service is personal, rooted in community and guided by faith.

## FAITH AND IMPACT

Faith is at the center of all the Barnes do. Their steady and humble approach reflects Proverbs 16:3:

*"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."*

This Scripture captures their heart perfectly. Everything they build is done with intention, trusting God to guide their efforts and shape their path.

Their business is more than a service. It is an extension of who they are, people who value connection, community, and the chance to make others feel supported and seen. Looking ahead, they remain committed to honoring God through their service, deepening relationships within the church, and continuing to let their work be a quiet expression of grace and purpose.



# FAMILY FALL FEST



October brings cool weather, vibrant fall colors, and the much-anticipated Mt. Zion Family Fall Fest! On October 25, 2025, children, families, and adults alike enjoyed an afternoon filled with games, bounce houses, and the always-popular Trunk-or-Treat. Costumes, candy, and laughter filled the air as members of Mt. Zion and the community came together to celebrate the season.

This year, our adult fulfillment hour classes joined in the fun by participating in the contest for the best-decorated car. Their imaginative displays transformed vehicles into whimsical, spiritual, and heartwarming scenes that delighted visitors of all ages. The creativity and enthusiasm on display made it difficult to choose a winner. However, the votes were cast. After much anticipation and enthusiastic voting, Sisters Davette Whitaker and Sheletha Manuel were crowned the winners, taking first place, earning a well-deserved trophy for their outstanding decorated car. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, decorated, donated, or simply showed up to celebrate. You made this year's Fall Fest a joyful and memorable occasion for all.

By Dr. Betty Dennis

## MOTHER'S CORNER

Knowing God and what He has done for me has carried me through many tough times. In areas such as my marriage, processing grief, dealing with forgiveness, and witnessing sickness in my family, my faith has guided and seen me through.

I was taught by my mother that no matter what people may do to you, treat them with the love and compassion that God has shown us. It is extremely important that we listen to God and truly understand that He gave us the power to do what He instructed us to do, and as followers we have to let Him do the rest.

I love to tell people about my God and that nothing is impossible. Believe and trust that God can do all the things that He said He will do, and I guarantee that you will be amazed! I encourage them to be in a church that teaches the word of God. I thank God for Pastor Moore who teaches the Word and encourages all of us to read His Word and to share it with others. God wants us to share His Word, go to church, and consistently attend Bible Study and Fulfillment Hour so that we will see growth. We must pray without ceasing, and remember that faith without works is dead. I wake up every morning and say, *"This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it!"* He woke me up in the morning, gave me the ability to see and to talk, so even when I am in pain, I still praise him despite the circumstances

Be encouraged: no matter what you are going through, or how lonely you may feel, God is right there with you and will never leave you nor forsake you. And when you overcome (because you're going to!), remember to share and encourage others with your testimony. We are called to live out our faith so that other people can get to know Jesus through us. I try to exude that by upholding values of kindness, forgiveness, and patience in all aspects of my life, no matter how hard it may be. Faith is trust, assurance, and belief in God, knowing all things come from Him. Romans 4:20-21 tells me faith is trusting God and having confidence that he will fulfill His promises.



**Mother Franklin**

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

By Sis. Trish Gelbaugh

Over 20 years ago, Pastor Moore wanted to broadcast the Mt. Zion services to keep homebound members connected to the church family. But he didn't want to go on air without a professional level production. In 2003, he came across a recording produced by Bro. Dexter Prevo. Impressed by the quality and attention to detail, he approached Brother Prevo about leading a Media Ministry. Within a year, the ministry quickly grew and Brother Prevo was on staff full-time as Media Coordinator.

The ministry quickly expanded to multiple networks and online streaming and what began as an outreach to the homebound became an opportunity to *"take a message from Pastor Moore and cast it to the world"* (Deacon Corey Dunigan). With Pastor Moore's vision and Reverend Chris' oversight, Brother Prevo has taken the Media Ministry *"from a single camera to building a studio"* (Rev. Doreen Gardner). This has included everything from adding on-screen lyrics and Scripture to closed captioning for the hearing impaired, and everything in between! Brother Prevo's professionalism and quality of work was apparent in all he did and he passed those values on to everyone on his team, earning a reputation for "no retakes."

Brother Prevo's Ministry perfectly positioned Mt. Zion to spread the Gospel message worldwide when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and many were experiencing a spiritual hunger for the Lord. Viewership skyrocketed and with over 1.5 million views on youtube, the impact of the ministry has far exceeded anyone's expectations. God took a desire to keep members connected to the church and used it to spread the Gospel message far beyond the walls of Mt. Zion, and He transformed the passionate hobby of one man into a calling that will have eternal impact on too many to count.

Brother Prevo's powerful influence and leadership has been deeply felt, and at his retirement reception on November 9th, tears were shed, hugs were shared, and Kleenex was passed as members of the Mt. Zion family came to the microphone one by one to share the impact he has made on them. *"He challenged me to see something I didn't see in myself"* (Brother Jason Berry). *"(He) helped me realize my love for cameras and graphics."* (Sis. Ari Milliner).

***"Everything you touched is better because you are here." - Deacon Corey***

BROTHER DEXTER PREVO

**Thank you  
for your  
years of  
service!**



## TESTIMONIALS

"Creative"

"Loyal"

"Steadfast"

"Unmoveable"

"A Man of God"

"Humble"

"Dedicated"

"A Doer of the Word"

"Faithful"

"Conscientious"

"Passionate"



# THE WELLNESS CORNER



*The Mt. Zion community embraces the mission of supporting health education, advocacy, and prevention, emphasizing the holistic approach to healing. Healthcare in this context addresses not only physical but also emotional and spiritual needs, fostering lasting positive change. Professionals in the community play a crucial role in uplifting others through compassion and service.*

*Dr. Henry is a board certified Internal Medicine doctor serving the Kalamazoo Area for 15 years. She is committed to providing compassionate healthcare including the management of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.*

## Honoring God by Caring for Our Health

*Humbly submitted by Dr. Amanda R. Henry*

Scripture reminds us that our bodies are gifts from God:

*"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...? Therefore honor God with your bodies" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

As we begin a new season, it is a fitting time to take an honest look at our health and consider the habits that strengthen or weaken our physical well-being.

Many conditions common in our community - such as obesity, high blood pressure, and heart disease - develop slowly and quietly. Excess body weight increases the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and stroke. High blood pressure and cholesterol often show no symptoms but can still cause harm. Family history, stress levels, and lack of regular activity contribute as well.

The encouraging news is that small, realistic changes can have a lasting impact. Choosing whole foods instead of heavily processed ones, drinking more water, adding daily movement, and staying current with health checkups are all practical steps to honor the body God has entrusted to us. Proverbs 4:23 reminds us, "Above all else, guard your heart," which applies both spiritually and physically.

As a church family, we can walk this journey together - supporting, praying, and motivating one another. Caring for our health is not just self-improvement; it is an act of gratitude to the One who created us.



# 2026 Goals

365 Days Remaining

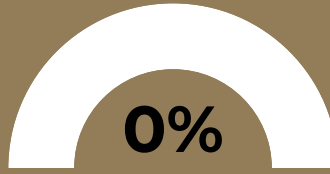


**Souls added to the Body**

0



Annual Target  
**500**

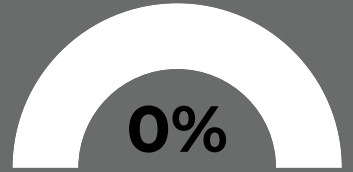
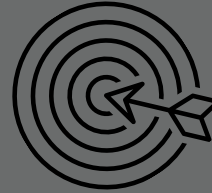


**0%**



**Members in Life Group**

600



**0%**

**Endowment Fund**

\$100K



**Sacrificial Giving**

\$200K



## Upcoming Events

### JANUARY

**8th**

City Lead @ Mt. Zion

**10th**

Church Readiness  
8:00 am

**18th**

NMA MLK Program  
4:00 pm

**21st**

Installation of Officers  
6:30 pm

### FEBRUARY

**9th - 11th**

Spiritual Awakening  
Revival



**12th**

CityLead @ Centerpoint

**14th**

Valentine's Day

### MARCH

**8th**

105th Church  
Anniversary

**12th**

CityLead @ Mt. Zion

**18th**

Oratorical Contest

#### MTZ VOICE MINISTRY

Sis. Cassandra Bridges  
Sis. Nancy Buchanan  
Sis. Ashlee Franklin  
Sis. Trish Gelbaugh  
Sis. Kamille Gleaves  
Sis. Deborah Jackson  
Sis. Ashley Moorehead

#### PHOTO CREDITS

Dr. Toni Barnes  
Sis. Angie Daniels  
Sis. Diane Jones  
Rev. Michael Moore, Sr.

#### FOLLOW AND LIKE



120 Roberson Street Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
269.388.3111 | mtz.church