



## 2023 Theme:

From Generation to Generation, Growing Deeper, Growing Stronger, Reaching Higher

*"Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you, . . ."*

*Deuteronomy 32:7*



June 4, 2023  
Volume 19 • Issue 6

## Message from the Pastor

## What's INSIDE

### THANK YOU!

As I reflect on the last few weeks, I am grateful for all acts of kindness to my family and me. I am thankful for the Church and this community of faith.

I am thankful for our graduates and say congratulations to all. We are proud of all your accomplishments and are excited and prayerful of all the things God will continue to do in, and through, you, as you move forward.

June is the month during which we celebrate fathers. . . Happy Father's Day to all fathers!

Finally, summer has officially begun, and I pray God's covering of safety over you all as you enjoy the summer months. Thank you for all you do for the kingdom of God.

*Pastor Luke E. Torian*

*Ms. Constance Torian, Mrs. Clarice Torian, Dr. Luke E. Torian*



*Congratulations  
on 28 years of  
committed  
service to this  
Family of  
Believers!*

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**"There is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."**

— Amanda Gorman



### FMZ WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

Christopher Vega (a/k/a "Vegas"), is our new Audio Visual Director. He can be reached on Extension 1110 or via email at: [cvega@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:cvega@firstmountzionbc.org)

Vicky Borrer is our new Assistant Financial Secretary (Accounts Payable and Payroll). She can be reached at Extension 1107 or via email at: [vborrer@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:vborrer@firstmountzionbc.org)

**LET US GIVE THEM A WARM WELCOME!!!**

# Youth



In April, the Youth Ministry began a series of Bible Study lessons on “anger” and how Christians should view and handle this very powerful emotion. Over the weeks, we referred to scripture to understand that God also became angry. Being made in the image of God, we too at times become angry. God is slow to anger but when He is angry his anger is handled in a righteous way. Ours, even when justified, is not always handled righteously. We continued this study into May with the goal of learning how to control our anger instead of allowing it to control us. We can also harness any righteously angry feelings we have about injustice or other world problems into fuel to work for positive change.

In May, we also had an exciting and educational “First Friday” lead by THE CORE young adult ministry. THE CORE facilitated a discussion on ‘Healthy Relationships.’ Our youth were keenly aware of key ingredients for healthy relationships between family members, friends, and other loved ones. This discussion was followed by several team-related competitions that were not only fun but fostered teamwork and effective communication. We were all very grateful to THE CORE for volunteering to support our youth with such a well-planned and orchestrated event.

In the Youth Ministry, we will continue to have Bible Study “for life” and provide other opportunities for us to grow in our faith and as a community of believers. We always have lively discussions and FUN! So, if you are in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, we welcome you to join us!!

**Youth Bible Study** is held Wednesday nights from 7:40-8:30pm

**“First Friday”** is held on the first Friday of each month from 7-9pm, during the months of September through June.

**Youth Group Meetings** are held every third Sunday of the month after service until 2 pm during the months of September through June.

*Submitted by  
Rev. Beverly Jiggetts  
Youth Minister*



**EVERY 3RD  
SUNDAY OF THE  
MONTH AT  
11 A.M.**

## FMZBC KIDS' KINGDOM WORSHIP YOUTUBE

Worship packs are distributed each month on  
the **Saturday before 3rd Sunday from  
11 am – 12 noon at DOOR A.**

For additional information or questions,  
contact Dr. Holley at

[tholley@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:tholley@firstmountzionbc.org)

## YOUTH GROUP MEETING Grades 6-12

**June 18, 2023**

immediately after service until 2 pm in  
the Lecture Hall. Enter and exit through  
door B.



**STRATEGIC  
PLANNING  
OVERVIEW  
AND  
TRAINING  
EVENTS FOR  
JUNE:**

- June 3rd - 10:00am-12:00pm
- June 10th - 10:00am – 12:00pm
- June 17th - 10:00am-12:00pm

Make-up Date:

- June 24th - 10:00am-12:00pm

**Tucson Mission Trip  
training session:  
June 25th - 12:30-2 pm  
in the Lecture Hall**

**Please bring your mission  
trip binder.  
Lunch will be served.**



**OFFICE WILL  
BE CLOSED ON  
JUNETEENTH:**

**JUNE 19, 2023**



The Pastor's Anniversary Committee and the Pastor's Aide Ministry would like to thank the entire **First Mount Zion Family** collectively, and each and every one of you individually, for your continuous support of our celebration to honor our Pastor and Family, and for whatever part you played in making this anniversary a very special time for the Torian Family. Thank you for your contributions, however great or small; they are much appreciated. Your actions demonstrate your love for our Pastor and your belief that he is deserving of honor. We thank you and pray that God will return unto you one-hundred fold that which you have given to the Torian Family during this Anniversary Celebration.

Special thanks go out to **Reverend Dr. Waller**, for coming and sharing such an inspiring message with us. We thank God for using you to deliver His Word of encouragement and we pray His immense blessings upon you and your family. And to the Ministry of Mime, **Pastor André Reliford**, your gift was a blessing to us and we pray that God will continue to order your steps and direct your path!

Special thanks to the **Prayer Warriors** who undergirded our celebration with prayer; our **Greeters and Health Ministries**; the **Ushers**; our stalwart **Leadership**; the **Music and Arts Ministry**; our **Audio Visual/Media Ministry**; the **Photography Ministry**; the **Grain of Heaven**; our incredible **Administrative Staff**; our **Security and Parking Ministries**; the entire **Facilities Team**; and our **Anniversary Committee**. You have all blessed us tremendously with your participation. We are grateful for the services you rendered, your diligence, and your determination, to make this the best Anniversary possible for our Pastor and his family. **THANK YOU ALL!!!**

And, as always, **Reverend Dr. Sandra K. James**, we thank you for your love and support of our Pastor and for all that you do to make this Ministry an excellent place to worship. God bless you!

**TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY for all that HE has done!  
YES, INDEED, WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER as we move  
FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION!!!**

*We love you all!!!*

*Pastor's Anniversary Committee/Pastor's Aide Ministry*

*Sis. Oonagh Bell, Chair*

*Sis. Pamela Sessoms, Vice-Chair—PAC*

*Sis. Winiford Harvey, Vice Chair—PAM*



We are actively recruiting the following candidates:

**Account Receivable Clerk.** The ideal candidate must have a passion for the accounting process and a heart for ensuring resources of the Church are processed timely, and in accordance with acceptable accounting practices and Christian stewardship. A college degree in accounting or finance is required; minimum of five years of paid work experience in accounting; and a working knowledge of a bimonthly payroll of at least twenty employees.

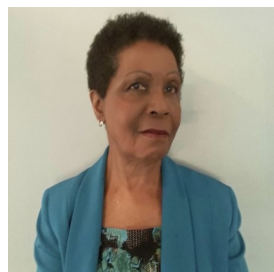
**Women's Choir Director.** The Director will be primarily responsible for leading, teaching, and preparing a medium-sized to large choir, and ensuring that they are prepared to minister on the second Sunday of each month. Contract/Negotiable Rate. For more detailed information, please contact Renee Woolfolk, Church Business Administrator at [rwoolfolk@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:rwoolfolk@firstmountzionbc.org) or call (703) 670-0184.

Selected candidates are subject to a criminal background check and drug screening. Working remotely is not an option. The Church requires proof of COVID-19 vaccination and temperature check upon entry. Recruiting will continue until the positions are filled. Interested candidates should email resume and job application to: [employment@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:employment@firstmountzionbc.org)



- Requesting used or new children's clothing in all sizes
- Sign up in the Narthex
- Bring donations to the church during office hours
- Contact the Deaconess Ministry via email: [deaconessministry@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:deaconessministry@firstmountzionbc.org) for further questions





## FORGIVENESS THERAPY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Forgiveness** is letting go of resentment, anger, shame, hostility, and other associated emotions toward someone who wronged you, even though you are

justified in having these feelings. Forgiveness is the decision to overcome pain that was inflicted by another person. Forgiveness is a mental shift, or change of heart, that develops overtime. Forgiveness is a personal decision that only you can make for yourself. No one can make you forgive another person.

**Benefits of Forgiveness** -Research has shown that forgiveness is important for the mental health of those who have been victimized. It is linked to better mental and physical health. Forgiveness is an opportunity to heal. Forgiveness Therapy has been linked to greater feelings of happiness, hopefulness, and optimism. Forgiveness can reduce symptoms of trauma, anger, anxiety, and depression. Additionally, it can increase hope and self-esteem.

**Forgiveness is not** condoning, approving of, or excusing what happened. Forgiveness is not forgetting how you were wronged, or pretending like nothing happened. Forgiveness is not an agreement to continue a relationship as it was. After forgiving someone, you can choose to resume, modify, or end the relationship. Forgiveness is not simply saying "I forgive you" without meaning. You can forgive without ever saying so. Forgiveness is not something you do for the other person. Forgiveness is for you. Forgiveness is not getting even or getting revenge. Getting even might feel good in the moment, but unlike forgiveness it does not resolve anger and resentment. Forgiveness is not something that can be forced. Just because you want to forgive doesn't mean that forgiveness has been achieved.

Reciting and meditating on the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) is an effective intervention tool for forgiveness therapy. Forgiveness requires a change in your heart and mind. The Lord's Prayer is structured according to what Jesus called the **Greatest Commandment** (Matthew 22:34-40). Matthew 6:9-10, the first part of the Lord's Prayer, focuses on your relationship with God, "love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).

Matthew 6:11-13, the second part of the Lord's Prayer, focuses on your relationship with others, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). Reflecting on Matthew 6:14-15 will help you as well "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do

not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses".

Obediently meditating on the Lord's Prayer will help cultivate forgiveness. This will help you decrease the negative emotions associated with the injustice (s) you have experienced. It will also help you with the negative emotions you may have about yourself and result in self-forgiveness.

**Recommendation:** Set an alarm to remind yourself to recite and reflect on the Lord's Prayer at least three times each day. Over time, this will help prevent excessive and intrusive thoughts about negative experiences and feelings.

Sources:

CE Continuing Education Corner- Forgiveness can improve mental and physical health download 5/18/23 forgiveness.pdf (apa.org)

2017 Forgiveness Information Sheet Provided by TherapistAid.com

2018 The Lord's Prayer [Matthew] - Tim Mackie (The Bible Project) - YouTube

*Submitted by  
Reverend Juanita Stokes  
Licensed Professional Counselor  
Associate Minister*



Happy Father's Day to all the fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and men at First Mount Zion Baptist Church! We honor you for living righteously and walking in integrity as you serve to nurture the lives of the children you and your loved ones have borne into this world or adopted. It takes a special man to be a father to the fatherless and a defender of widows -- and your sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. We recognize all those fathers who have been or are currently serving in leadership roles and have impacted their children enough that they, too, are following in their footsteps in blessing others through their servant-leadership. You are loved. You are admired. May today bring you joy, and may God reward you one-hundred fold!!

*Job Well Done!!!*

# LEADERSHIP THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## A CALL TO SERVE

After serving his country for two decades as a helicopter pilot, James returned home to serve his community as a teacher. However, he missed helicopters, so he took a job as a flying medical evacuation for the local hospital. He flew until late in his life.

Now it was time to say goodbye to him, as family and friends, and uniformed co-workers stood vigil at the cemetery, a colleague called in one last mission over the radio. Soon the distinctive sound of the helicopter circled over the cemetery, hovered briefly to pay its' respects, then headed back to the hospital. Not even the military personnel who were present could hold back their tears.

When King Saul and his son, Jonathan, were killed in battle, David wrote an elegy called "lament of the bow". A gazelle lies slain on the heights, he sang. "How the mighty have fallen!". Jonathan was David's closet friend and brother-in-arms. And although David and Saul had been enemies, David honored them both. "Weep not for Saul," he wrote, "I grieve for you my brother, Jonathan. See (II Samuel 1:17 – 27).

Even the best goodbyes are different and difficult. But for those who trust in the Lord, the memory is much sweeter than bitter, for it is never forever. How good it is when we can honor those who serve.

Our Daily Bread, "The Last Call", April -June 2018

*Submitted by  
Deacon Henry Walker  
on behalf of the FMZ Leadership Chaplains*

## First Mount Zion Baptist Church Men's Ministry

GOD's Discipline For Each Of Us

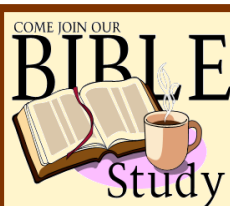


Fellowship Date  
June 10, 2023

Fellowship Time  
9:00 AM

Based on the Book of Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Director: Brother Edward Jones  
Co-Director: Brother Stephen Seaberry



WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT 7:30PM.

**ZOOM Option will no longer be available for adults.**

FMZ/Life Stream:

<https://live.lifestream.tv/first-mount-zion-baptist-church>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/fmzbcumfries>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzFC03nn-QRn0bzNDEefeGQ>

Study handouts are available online:

<https://firstmountzionbc.org/bible-study-handouts/>

**Just a reminder that  
during the months of  
July and August  
Ministries will be  
taking a break!!**



To the Graduates of the class of 2023, we encourage you to always remember three important things: (1) Keep GOD first in all that you do. He has promised to never leave you nor forsake you, as long as you stay faithful to Him. (2) Remember, you did not do this alone, but with the help of your loved ones, be grateful for their love and support. (3) Whatever area of life you choose to enter, be proud of your accomplishments and always strive for a spirit of excel-

lence; that gives you a step ahead of the competition. Remember that time wasted is time lost; it can never be regained; so, make the most of the next few years of your life as they determine how high you fly or how low you fall.

Congratulations and best wishes to you all! We are so very proud of you!!

*Your First Mount Zion Family*



# PASTOR AND FAMILY'S 28TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION









# Associate Ministers

## ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSURANCE FOR THE SOUL

### A MAN'S QUIVER



*Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord. <sup>4</sup>As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of your youth. <sup>5</sup>Happy is the man whose quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed; they shall speak with the enemies in the gate. (Psalm 127:3-5)*

A man's quiver is filled with arrows; arrows he made, arrows he found, and arrows given to him. Metaphorically, our arrows are children by birth, children by adoption, children by marriage and children by mentoring. Let me be perfectly clear, the term 'children' is relevant. Fatherhood is about responsibility; it does not always start at infancy. It may begin as an assignment, we may become a father in spirit to someone, regardless of their age.

Fatherhood means God has entrusted a man with a special gift. Previously, I said, our quivers can be filled in a multitude of ways, some of us are bonus fathers, foster fathers, and spiritual fathers. Hopefully, we will treasure our arrows for the rest of our lives. Speaking from a fatherly point of view, some days, fatherhood doesn't feel like a gift. At times, it is more challenging than a job. As time goes by, we may look back and realize how much joy that little bundle arrived with. Many times, our arrows will have us bursting with pride or on our knees praying for their situation. Then, there are those times, when we look at them and wonder like Solomon, (See Ecclesiastes 2:19). Instead of attempting to make them the best child ever, let's make ourselves the best father we can be. To put it plainly, children can take us from 0-60 in a flash. They can provoke tears of joy. They can make us walk with our head held high and chest out! Sometimes, things don't work out as planned, like the father and his prodigal son. (Luke 15:11-32) Remember, God has it all under control. On Father's Day, look at your arrows and thank God for trusting you.

*Submitted by  
Reverend Gillis M. Taylor*



Deaconess Ministry



### SALUTATIONS TO MEN ON FATHER'S DAY

Many of the best attributes of First Mount Zion are the Men of the Church. These are the men that live, lead, and guide in service of kingdom building for Almighty God. These men are the Dads, Step-dads, Granddads, Uncles, Brothers, Cousins, and Friends...Men with Christian values and devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

May you continue to present these Father-like attributes to all children and other people you encounter, so that they may continue learning the love of God through you:

The strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of the quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The wisdom to know the depth  
of any one's need.

<sup>6</sup>"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

The Deaconess Ministry salutes you for your daily efforts. We lift you up to receive the countless blessings God has for you.

*Humbly submitted,  
Deaconess Lynell Manning  
Deaconess Ministry*



All 2023 graduates are encouraged to submit a photo so that we might recognize your accomplishments before the congregation. Please include your name, the school you graduated from and degree received, any honors received and plans for the Fall (name of school planning to attend). **The deadline to submit photos is Wednesday, June 7th.** No photos will be accepted after that date. The

slideshow of all graduates will run on Sunday, June 25th. Please send information to:

Sylvia Moore - [smoore@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:smoore@firstmountzionbc.org).



# FIRST MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

## 25TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

### WHEN

**Monday, June 26th, 2023**  
**Tee off/Shotgun start 9:00 am**

### WHERE

**Old Hickory Golf Course**  
**11921 Chanceford Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22191**



**REGISTER ONLINE:**  
**WWW.FMZBC.COM**

**ALL AGES  
EVENT**

**REGISTRATION  
FEE**

**\$125**

**Signup your foursome!**

**SPONSORS  
NEEDED**

**Tee Sign Sponsors**

**Tournament Sponsor**

**Beverage Sponsor**

**Golf Shirt Sponsor**

**Hat Sponsor**

**“Generations  
of Players on  
the Green!”**



*Prayer  
Changes  
Things*

The Intercessory Prayer Team (IPT) of the Women's Ministry would like to encourage everyone to submit their prayer requests to:

[WomensMinistryPrayers@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:WomensMinistryPrayers@firstmountzionbc.org)

We desire to continually lift your prayer needs as they arise, because the Bible declares that the “prayers of the righteous availeth much”, so let us pray for you, as you pray for us. We will intercede and faithfully pray over your requests when you send them in!

*Sister Terry Carey, Lead*  
*Sister Annette Rivers, Co-Lead*



# FITNESS-IN-PLACE

## "PREDIABETES"— WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

"Prediabetes" means that the amount of sugar in your blood is higher than normal, but thankfully, not high enough to be considered type 2 diabetes. It is common for a person with prediabetes to feel completely normal. However, it is a serious medical condition that, if left untreated, often progresses to type 2 diabetes.

The good news is that a few lifestyle changes can add up in a big way to prevent the negative health impact of pre-diabetes and type 2 diabetes. The Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) proved that **losing a small amount of weight through lifestyle change was more effective than medicine in reversing prediabetes.**

[Commit to Healthier Eating](#) (Click for healthy food recipes).

[Participate in Physical Activity](#) (Click to enter an exercise library).

[Consider the CDC- Recognized Lifestyle Change Program](#) (Click to learn more about joining). With the CDC-recognized lifestyle change program you'll get a year of support and learn how to eat healthy, add physical activity to your routine, manage stress, stay motivated, and solve problems that can get in the way of your goals.

**Challenge:** First seek God's help and strength in this area. God knows our struggles. God understands our weaknesses. God will help you if you ask him. "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" Matthew 6:33. Then, click on the links above and/or visit the Fit by God Fitness Complex.

**Announcement:** The Fit by God Fitness Complex is now open for vaccinated members Monday through Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm, and Fridays, 8:30am to 1:30pm. For questions please call the Fitness Center at 703-670-0225.

*Sister Lori Valkenburg*  
Fitness Director



The Seniors' Ministry met by Zoom on May 17, 2023. They were given an amazing presentation by Mr. Martin Bailey, AARP Community Ambassador. The presentation informed them of the various types of Fraud with which Seniors are currently being targeted. The presentation was very informative and eye-opening.

The Seniors' Ministry also paid special tribute to, and honored, their Man of the Year, Dr. Keith Boykin. Dr. Boykin has worked in whatever capacity, when asked and wherever needed, in the Seniors' Ministry. He is truly a blessing to the Seniors. Dr. Boykin was obviously surprised, but humbly accepted the "Man of the Year" award.

The Seniors' Ministry will recess in July-August, and will come together again in September 2023. Please plan to join us for the next year of activities.

*Humbly submitted,*  
*Sister Shirley Hardy*  
Seniors' Ministry Director

## SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY



Check us out! You can visit our Small Groups Pages and Directory, to view the variety of Interest-Based Small Groups that are available to our First Mount Zion Baptist Church members and Community.

[Small Groups Directory - First Mount Zion Baptist Church \(firstmountzionbc.org\)](#)

P.O.C: Sister Stephanie M. Craddock  
Small Groups Director  
[scradock@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:scradock@firstmountzionbc.org)  
703-670-0184



**FMZ COVID GUIDELINES-WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW** (Check the FMZ website for recent updates — December 2022)

**Am I required to show proof of vaccination?** For anyone 12 years and older proof of being fully vaccinated is required. Proof of vaccination is only required once. Once proof is shown your name will be entered into a database. At subsequent check-ins you need only to provide your name. Wearing a mask, having temperature taken, and social distancing are required.

**What if I have a medical condition that prevents me from being vaccinated?** In lieu of a vaccination card, you must provide documentation from a physician indicating that you have a medical exemption.



# All About The Ladies



The members and friends of All About the Ladies celebrated their 3rd Annual Elegant Ladies Tea. Sixty members came dressed to impress and fellowship together in Fredericksburg, VA. The group consists of members from First Mount Zion Baptist Church as well as 10 surrounding communities, including Richmond, VA., Waldorf, MD, North Augusta, SC, and Hagerstown, MD.

There were many exciting moments, beginning with scripture and prayer by Maria Fitzgerald and Caroline Thaxton. Our founder, Mary Melton, welcomed the ladies and recognized birthdays for May and June. All were thrilled when the Fashion Show unfolded, narrated by Sister Pauline Hunter. Nine ladies strutted their stuff down the runway under the spotlights wearing casual and dressy/formal wear. It was fun to see ladies who three years ago were very shy, now modeling their outfits with faith and confidence. This was enthusiastically received by the audience.

The sisterhood also took time to read Resolutions of Respect to members who have departed this earthly life: Sister Gwendolyn Boyd, Sister Jacqueline Johnson, Sister Betty Jones and Sister Flossie Knight, who were all active members and loved participating with All About the Ladies.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch, followed by a performance by the Silver Steppers, and even those who were "wanna-be Steppers". The Ladies were then placed in groups and played the game "Lyrically Correct", where winners received prizes. Speaking of prizes, giveaways took place during the entire afternoon and every woman received a gift, including the teapot centerpiece decorations. Sister Mary Melton was honored as the founding member of AATL and Sister Janette Reece, offered our closing prayer.

We are not a Church ministry, but a sisterhood of ladies, some of whom are members of First Mount Zion, as well as from elsewhere, who believe we have the tie that binds us in love. We are ladies aiming to please God, Leading with God's Love, and "Changing Women's Lives...One woman at a time."

*Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Hardy*





# WOMEN'S MINISTRY PRESENTS VIA ZOOM

JUNE 10, 2023  
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

*"God's Unlimited  
Power Makes All  
Things Possible"*



*Reverend Dr.  
Beverly Jiggetts*



*Reverend  
Helen Parker*



## **BLACK PEOPLE MAY HAVE STARTED MEMORIAL DAY. WHITES ERASED IT FROM HISTORY.....**

On May 1, 1865, thousands of newly freed Black people gathered in Charleston, S.C., for what may have been the nation's first Memorial Day celebration. Attendees held a parade and put flowers on the graves of Union soldiers who had helped liberate them from slavery. The event took place three weeks after the Civil War surrender of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and two weeks after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. It was a remarkable moment in U.S. history — at the nexus of war and peace, destruction and reconstruction, servitude and emancipation. But the day would not be remembered as the first Memorial Day. In fact, White Southerners made sure that for more than a century, the day wasn't remembered at all.

It was "a kind of erasure from public memory," said David Blight, a history professor at Yale University.

Read more about this event here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2023/05/29/first-memorial-day-black-charleston/>



**REQUIRED:  
Eventbrite  
Registration  
May 28 – June 17  
and  
Proof of COVID  
Registration**

## **2nd Joint Chillin' & Grillin' BBQ Fellowship**

**June 24, 2023  
12:00 p.m. –  
3:00 p.m.**

**FMZ's back  
parking lot**







## RAZING ROSEWOOD

In the early 1900s, Rosewood was a small town in a rural part of Florida that's full of pines and oaks. The name came from its abundant red cedars, which were cut down to make pencils. In 1920, the Levy County community held an estimated 26 households. According to census records, 4 belonged to white residents, while 22 belonged to Black

families. The town's total population was around 100.

The people of Rosewood farmed or worked at the sawmill in the town of Sumner, some three miles away, or at a turpentine camp in Wylly. At both the mill and the camp, a makeshift dance hall called a "jook" offered booze and rough-hewn entertainment. While Rosewood had once boasted a jook and several smaller moonshine shops, by 1923, the town's main attractions were a one-room schoolhouse and a white-owned general store. A pencil mill in nearby Cedar Key Public domain via Wikimedia Commons.

At the time of the massacre, racial violence was on the rise in both Florida and the broader nation. A few years earlier, Black veterans returning from World War I and expecting better treatment had instead encountered a resurgent Ku Klux Klan. So much bloodshed occurred across the country in the summer of 1919 that it became known as the Red Summer. In 1920, Election Day in Ocoee, a rural town about 100 miles southeast of Rosewood, turned into a massacre after a Black man tried to vote. A year later saw the eruption of the Tulsa Race Massacre, which killed as many as 300 people in the prosperous Black community of Greenwood, Oklahoma.

According to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, Black veterans "assumed that participating in a war to help make the world safe for democracy would in turn help them achieve their own level of democracy. [But as they] realized that President [Woodrow] Wilson's notion of 'democracy' did not extend to them, they evolved a collective will to fight back against mob violence rather than turn the other cheek." During the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, mobs destroyed almost 40 blocks of a neighborhood known as "Black Wall Street." Library of Congress

The violence that destroyed Rosewood began on Monday, January 1, 1923, when Fannie Taylor, a married white woman from Sumner, claimed a Black man had attacked her before fleeing into the swamps. Later investigations suggested Taylor was delusional, or that she'd been assaulted by a white lover and made up the story to hide the affair from her husband. But the town's initial reaction was to believe the false accusation and take swift action. When Taylor's neighbors heard her screams, they ran to see what had happened. Soon, men came pouring in from the sawmill, where work had proceeded as usual despite it being New Year's Day. A deputy telephoned Sheriff Bob Walker, summoning him from the county seat of Bronson, 20 miles away.

The sheriff led a group of white men following a dog, which tracked a scent that went from the woman's backyard to the railroad tracks and into Rosewood. The trail led to an empty house with an unlocked front door, then out the back door. After that, the scent seemingly disappeared. A pair of bloodhounds brought in from the state prison failed to find anything else. Where did the scent that the dogs followed come from? No one seems to remember. As for where it went, the makeshift posse theorized the fugitive had jumped aboard a passing horse-drawn wagon and rolled away.

The men found the owner of the empty house, Aaron Carrier, a Black World War I veteran and lumberjack, at his mother's home in Rosewood, where he was recuperating from an unspecified illness. They hauled him out and threatened him with a rope.

According to testimony from survivor Minnie Lee Langley, the veteran's mother was weeping, yelling, "Don't lynch my child!" The sheriff, fearing the volatility of the crowd, had the veteran hustled away to a jail in the next county; he arranged to put the man's wife aboard a train, too. Later that day, the white mob encountered a Black man with a wagon used for hauling turpentine barrels. Assuming he had helped the supposed attacker escape, the rioters knotted a rope around his neck and strung him up, not to kill him but to torture him into telling them where his passenger had gone. The frightened wagon owner, Sam Carter, repeatedly promised to show the men where he had let the fugitive out. Multiple times they loosened the knot and let him down to show them. But wherever he took the mob, the dog failed to pick up any scent, so they strung him up again. Finally, an impatient, drunk man named Bryant Hudson killed Carter with a shotgun—the first fatality of the week but far from the last. Their bloodlust temporarily sated, the vigilantes went home despite failing to locate the woman's alleged attacker.

Things calmed down a bit after that. Tuesday, January 2, and Wednesday, January 3, were comparatively quiet. But rumors swirled, and on the evening of Thursday, January 4, a group of white men numbering between 5 and 15 gathered to continue the hunt for the fugitive. For reasons not found in the historical record, the mob marched to a home in Rosewood that was being used as a refuge by women and children. The sheriff was nowhere around. Leading the group this time were a former deputy who had recently been fired for spending too much time at the jook and a lumber man who, according to some accounts, had been nicknamed "Boots" because he liked to kick people.

The house they targeted belonged to Sarah Carrier, a Black woman who did washing for white families in Sumner. As Langley, who was Sarah's grand-niece, later recalled, her aunt had advised the neighbors to hide with her because "these crackers look like they gonna raise sand up here. They gonna come back here and try to kill us tonight." The white crowd demanded that the people huddled in the house come out, but they refused. Sarah's adult son Sylvester, armed for protection, was among those inside. The ex-deputy climbed up on the porch, where he was set upon by a small dog. Someone—Moore points to evidence saying that the shots were probably fired by the ex-deputy—shot the dog, then fired a fatal pistol shot through the window at Sarah.

**Part 2 will be continued in the July edition!**



2023 Theme:

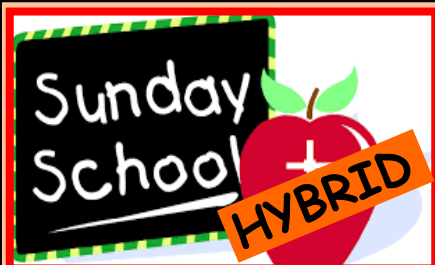
From Generation to Generation, Growing Deeper, Growing Stronger, Reaching Higher

*"Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you, . . ."*

Deuteronomy 32:7



June 4, 2023  
Volume 19, Issue 6



## SS-HYBRID IS HERE!!

Back Together Again!  
(Ecclesiastes 4:9, GMT version)

"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them." (Isaiah 42:9)

Join Sunday School Hybrid each Sunday in Room 229/230. For those attending the class via ZOOM, please use the link below to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89762921587?pwd=>

We look forward to seeing you there!!

Sunday School Extended Lesson Guides Handouts are available for download from the FMZ website using the following link:

<https://firstmountzionbc.org/weekly-sunday-school-lessons/>

POC: Rev. Gillis Taylor  
Sunday School Superintendent  
[SundaySchool@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:SundaySchool@firstmountzionbc.org)

## ATTENTION!!!

**PLEASE CHECK FMZ'S WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF MINISTRY ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS UPDATES REGARDING WEATHER CLOSINGS DURING OFFICE HOURS.**



The last day to register for the June SHARE package is June 9th. Share packages are \$23 for food valued between \$35 and \$45. POC: Thomas Bates, 703-772-8837. Distribution will be on June 24, 2023.

## SUBMISSIONS FOR NEWSLETTER:

All members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, and events for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please be sure to clear all submissions with your Ministry Leader before sending to the Communications and Publicity Ministry. Submissions **should not exceed 300-350 words** and must be received no later than **12 noon on the 15th of each month** to be considered for the upcoming newsletter. Please note that we reserve the right to edit as necessary.

Submissions should be sent to:

[cpm@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:cpm@firstmountzionbc.org)

or through our web form at:

[http://bit.ly/FMZBC\\_Articles](http://bit.ly/FMZBC_Articles)

We look forward to your participation!!  
Thank you!

## CPM Team

Deacon Joseph Boutte, Chair  
Sister Oonagh Bell  
Brother Benson Blake  
Deaconess Janice Cooper  
Trustee Alfranda Durr  
Brother James Gaskins  
Deacon James Hawkins  
Sister Sylvia Moore  
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## UPDATED ADJUSTED SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday School  
9:45 AM

In-Person and via ZOOM

Worship Service – 11:00 AM (ONLY)  
in Sanctuary or view us on line at

FMZ Life Stream:

<https://live.lifestream.tv/first-mount-zion-baptist-church>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/fmzbcdumfries>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzFC03nn-QRnObzNDEefeGQ>

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