

Black History 365

First Mount Zion celebrates and highlights Black History throughout the year. The 2024 national theme is “African Americans and the Arts.” As the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) describes, “our art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences.” This year’s theme spotlights the richness of the past and present with an eye toward what the rest of the twenty-first century will bring. In 2023, we began sharing Black History each month in the Messenger. This year, we will expand our focus on history in our Black History 365 Project. The project aims to remember, celebrate, highlight, and share history through announcements, The Messenger, Connection Points, videos, slides, and various activities. As part of our Black History 365, we invite members to share their art throughout the year (see submission guidelines below). **Black History is American History!**

Black History Month Events and Activities

February is Black History Month and part of our Black History 365 Project. We encourage members from visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary arts, quilting, and other forms of cultural expression to share their creative talents. Our activities for February are:

- January 15th – articles, photos, and inputs to the Messenger due to cpm1@firstmountzionbc.org
- January 31st – Last day to register to display art on February 11th; Sign up at <https://forms.gle/GYYA2dwoTykGdPUB6>
- February 11th - Art displays in the narthex
 - Note: Requests to set up displays are due by January 31. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/GYYA2dwoTykGdPUB6>
- February 15th - articles, photos, and inputs to the Messenger due to cpm1@firstmountzionbc.org
- February 18th – American University Gospel Chorus joins us for worship; Small Group displays in the narthex; Youth Ministry activities
- February 25 – Celebration of Divine 9 and HBCUs
- Youth Ministry Moments in Black History

We want to highlight the creativity of our artists to preserve history and community memory as a form of empowerment. Please get in touch with CPM1@firstmountzionbc.org to learn more and reserve a table or area to display your creativity.

In addition to the art displays on February 11th, the American University Gospel Choir will be part of the worship service on February 18th. On February 25th, we will highlight and celebrate Divine 9 members and current students and graduates of HBCUs.

Submission Guidelines for Communications and Publicity Ministry African American Arts Exhibits

In keeping with the 2024 Black History Month theme of “African Americans and the Arts,” sponsored by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, First Mount Zion Baptist Church honors creative members with exhibits throughout the year. Following are the categories into which we group works for this purpose:

Camera and digital art: photography, graphic design, video	Handicrafts: decorative arts, textiles, weaving, quilting	Fashion: clothing and jewelry
Literary arts: fiction, poetry, prose, drama	Three-dimensional art: pottery, sculpture, carving, ceramics	Visual arts: paintings, drawings, sketching, watercolor, posters

HOW TO SUBMIT WORK FOR CONSIDERATION (March – December)

- **Fiction, prose (essays and non-fiction), and drama:** Submissions must be no more than 3,000 words. Other formatting rules: a) Type the submission in double space. b) Use a plain sans serif font such as Corbel, Arial, Helvetica. c) Type in regular upper- and lower-case lettering. d) Use a 12-point font. e) Leave 1-inch margins on all sides of the page. f) Save the submission as a PDF using the form at Sign up at <https://forms.gle/GYYA2dwoTykGdPUB6>
- **Poetry:** Follow the rules on the Poetry Contest Rules section of the PoetryNation website at <https://www.poetrynation.com/enter-contest/>. Once you are satisfied with your work, sign up at <https://forms.gle/GYYA2dwoTykGdPUB6>
- **Camera and digital art:** Send a link to a web address where your work can be viewed.
- For **all other categories:** The Communication and Publicity Ministry assesses the art’s theme and display logistics. Artists are required to sign up at <https://forms.gle/GYYA2dwoTykGdPUB6> describing the work’s category, name, concept, dimensions, and display requirements.

FURTHER SUBMISSION RESTRICTIONS

- Artists may submit multiple objects or images of their art throughout the year, but only one work per person will be considered each month.
- Submissions will be reviewed during the first (1st) to the fifteenth (15th) of each month.
- Submissions received outside of the review dates will be reviewed in the following month.