

ZION



THE AME ZION CHURCH
The Freedom Church

Rooted. Rising. Reaching.

ROOTED IN CHRIST, RISING IN FAITH, AND REACHING IN LOVE

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

LITTLE  **ROCK**
A.M.E. Zion Church

401 N. MCDOWELL STREET

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
REV. DR. DERRILL A. BLUE, PASTOR

CONTACT@LITTLEROCKAMEZION.ORG | WWW.LITTLEROCKAMEZION.ORG | 704.334.3782

Sunday, February 22, 2026

9:45 a.m. Moments of Centering: That we all may be aware of His Presence

Enter to Worship

“Let’s Have Church”

THE PRELUDE..

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Derrill A. Blue, *Pastor*

THE INVOCATION

THE RESPONSE

“Holy Ground”

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” #653

THE RESPONSIVE READING

THE GLORIA PATRI

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (PRINTED ON SCREEN & BACK OF BULLETIN)

*

THE ADULT LITURICAN DANCERS

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

THE CHORAL SELECTIONS

AMEN Choir

THE SERMON

Rev. Dr. Paula B. Blue

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

“All Things Come of Thee”

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

-Depart To Serve—Let’s Be The Church!-

The Season Of



LENT is the period of time to reflect on the events that led Jesus to Calvary. For some, Lent is the time of fasting, sacrifice and preparation. The purple background symbolizes royalty, praying, fasting and penitence. The gold found in the fringe, denotes worth, virtue, glory to God and Christian might. Each symbol used points to Jesus' suffering.

THE PASSION CROSS—This is a Latin cross that has pointed ends on each arm and expresses pain. It represents the painful suffering that Jesus endured on the cross. It is sometimes called the cross of agony or suffering.

CROWN OF THORNS—Symbolized the mockery of Jesus by the soldiers after Jesus was arrested. It indicates the Kingship of Jesus Christ and Jesus' suffering at the hands of the Jews. It also notes the cruelty of humans toward each other.

HAMMER AND NAILS—These are symbols of the brutal crucifixion of Jesus on Mount Calvary as Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross. They also serve as a reminder that Jesus possessed a human nature that experienced pain, as well as a divine nature.



THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” #653

Lift ev’ry voice and sing, till earth and heav-en ring, Ring with the har-mo-nies of lib-er-ty; Let our re-joic-ing rise, high as the lis-t’ning skies, Let it re-sound loud as the roll-ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the pres-ent has brought us; Fac-ing the ris-ing sun of our new day be-gun, Let us march on till vic-to-ry is won.

Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chast’ning rod, Felt in the days when hope un-born had died; Yet with a stead-y beat, have not our wea-ry feet, Come to the place for which our fa-thers sighed? We have come o-ver a way that with tears has been wa-tered, We have come, tread-ing our path thro’ the blood of the slaugh-tered; Out from the gloom-y past, till now we stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our wea-ry years, God of our si-lent tears, Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way; Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us in-to the light, Keep us for-ev-er in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee. Shadowed be-neath Thy hand, may we for-ev-er stand, True to our God, true to our na-tive land.

A-men.



THE RESPONSIVE READING

First Sunday Morning in Lent

(1 John 2:1-3, 15-17)

My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

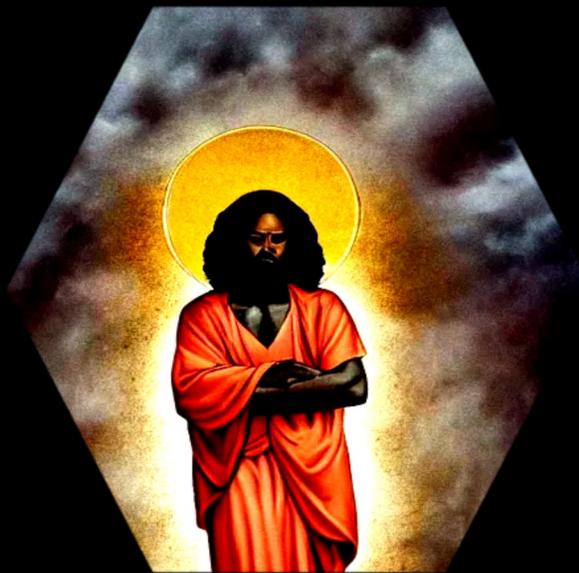
And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.



Sick and Shut-in

*Please Pray for the sick and
those who care for them.*

*Heal me Lord, and I will be
healed. Save me and I will be
saved....*

Helen Ashmore
1026 Polk Street
Charlotte, NC 28206

Jennifer Mitchell
8207 Abbottsgate Lane
Charlotte, NC 28269

Tiffany Howard
1111 Autumn Field Dr. #205
Huntersville, NC 28078

Ronald Metz
100 North Gregg St
Charlotte, NC 28216

Shirley Mack
6516 Rockwell Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28269

Stephanie Ford
3008 Tuckaseegee Rd
Charlotte, NC 28208

JoAnn Thompson
7400 Limerick Drive
Charlotte, NC 28270

Ella Turner
8011 Hub Way #102
Charlotte, NC 28227

Stafford Mackey
6406 Jerimoth Drive
Charlotte, NC 28215

Donnie Henderson
3500 Taurus Dr #H3
Charlotte, NC 28205

Damie Warren
4219 Maureen Drive
Charlotte, NC 28205

Carline Dinkins
9620 Haying Place
Mint Hill, NC 28227

Minnie Cole
17211 Lovers Lawn
Cornelius, NC 28031

Dorothy Cousar
1509 Chelveston Dr
Charlotte, NC 28208

Lila Blake
509 Hidden Minor Drive
Matthews, NC 28104

Deloris Armstrong
940 North Brevard Street
Charlotte, NC 28206

Natalie Bailey
Donna Bailey
5601 Trotters Ridge Road
Charlotte, NC 28227

Mabel McCullough
940 Brevard Street #213
Charlotte, NC 28206

Monica Morrison
PO Box 26102
Charlotte NC 28221

Jeffery Walls
1106 Shiloh Church Rd
Lilesville, NC 28091

Richard & Phyllis Williams
2420 Godsey Wood Drive
Charlotte, NC 28213

Dr. Imogene Zachery
8436 Highland Glen Drive
Charlotte, NC 28267

Members in the hospital or assisted living facilities

Mary Ann Moore
9120 Willow Ridge Road
Pineville, NC 28210

Beverly Koontz
Kings Mountain Memory
Care
115 Ferguson St
Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Doris Reese
Edwin Towers
201 W 10 th St. Apt. 1113
Charlotte, NC 28202

Eddie Simpson
Royal Park
2700 Royal Commons Lane
Matthew NC 28105

Imogene Martin
Five Oaks Rehab
413 Wincoff School Rd
Concord, NC 28027

James Brewer
White Oaks Nursing Home
700 Howie Mine Road
Waxhaw, NC 28173

Ledger & Shirley Morrisette
Providence Meadow
412 Kuykendall Lane
Charlotte, NC 28270

**Little Rock A.M.E. Zion
Church Radio Ministry**

Praise 100.9
Charlotte's Inspiration Station
PraiseCharlotte.com

Sunday Mornings at 7:30AM

<http://praisecharlotte.com>

The Little Rock Church Weekly Calendar



“Rooted, Rising, and Reaching”

Rooted in Christ, Rising in Faith, and Reaching in Love

Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)

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Sunday, February 22, 2026

- ◆ 9:00am - Sunday School for all ages
- ◆ 10:00am - Sunday Morning Worship in Sanctuary and via Website
- ◆ 12:00 noon - Meal in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ 12:00 noon - African Market Place Open

Monday, February 23, 2026

- ◆ 9:30am - Office Open

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

- ◆ 9:30am - Office Open
- ◆ 7:00pm - Charlotte District Revival, China Grove AME Zion Church, Pineville, NC

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

- ◆ 9:30am - Office Open
- ◆ 12:00pm - Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ 1:00pm - Intercessory Prayer call 1 (720) 843-2528 code 2217017#
- ◆ 7:00pm - Evening Bible Study virtually

Thursday, February 26, 2026

- ◆ 9:30am - Office Open
- ◆ 7:00pm - Little Rock Liturgical Dancers Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Friday, February 27, 2026

- ◆ 9:30am - Office Open

Saturday, February 28, 2026 Heritage Weekend

- ◆ 9:00am - Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ 10:00am - African Marketplace opens in the Little Rock Cultural Center

Sunday, March 1, 2026

- ◆ 9:00am - CED—Sunday School for all ages
- ◆ 10:00am - Sunday Morning Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

Little Rock website address: www.littlerockamezion.org



CHARLOTTE DISTRICT *Revival*

CHINA GROVE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

9401 China Grove Church Road, Pineville, NC, 28134 | Host Church

**REV. DR. ANDREW B. SMOKE
PRESIDING ELDER, CHARLOTTE DISTRICT**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 -7PM

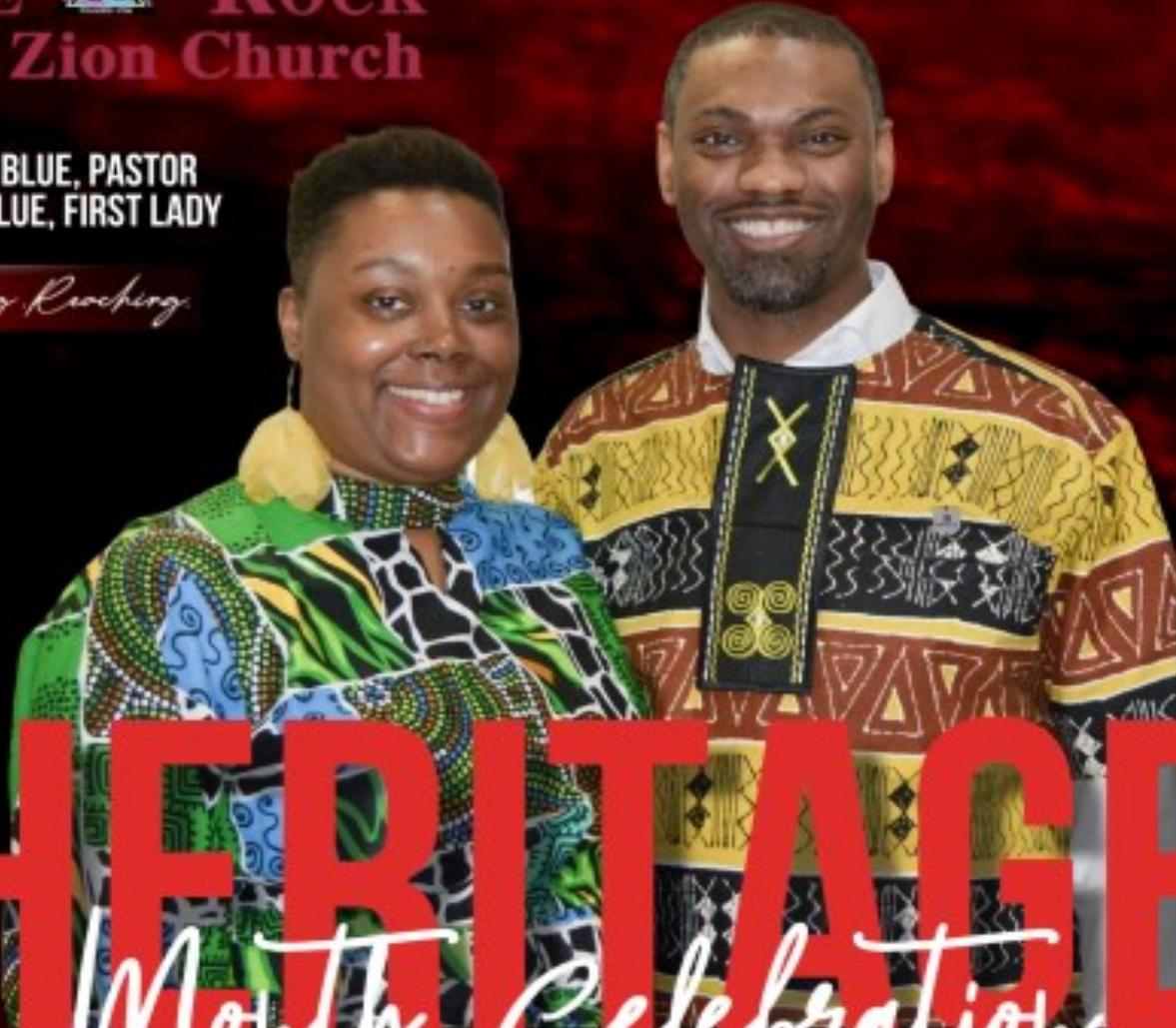
Reverend Dr. Derrill A. Blue, Pastor of Little Rock AME Zion Church

Any Member desiring to ride the bus to this event, please call the Church Office to be included on the list. ONLY A FEW SEATS REMAIN. The Bus will depart from Little Rock at 5:45pm

**LITTLE  ROCK
A.M.E. Zion Church**

**DR. DERRILL A. BLUE, PASTOR
DR. PAULA B. BLUE, FIRST LADY**

Rooted. Rising. Reaching.



HERITAGE
Month Celebration

HERITAGE SUNDAY SERVICE

FEB 22ND 2026 - 10AM

UJAAMA

AFRICAN MARKETPLACE

SAT FEB 21ST 10-4PM ----- SUN FEB 22ND 12-3PM ----- SAT FEB 28TH 10-4PM

FILM AND PANEL DISCUSSION SAT FEB 28TH 4:30PM

401 NORTH NORTH MCDOWELL STREET CHARLOTTE NORTH CAROLINA LITTLEROCKAMEZION.ORG

Class Meeting

Class #5 –Will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 8th, immediately following Morning Worship. Class Leader, Mr. Lynn Crump



Altar Flowers

The Flower Ministry invites the members of Little Rock to honor a loved one or special date in yours or a loved one's life by sponsoring Altar Flowers on any Sunday(s) throughout the year—a birthday, wedding, anniversary, etc.

Altar Flowers per Sunday \$100.00 for (2)



If you are interested in volunteering in the Audio-Visual Ministry

PLEASE call **the** Church Office at (704)334-3782.

Training will be provided.

**AUDIO VISUAL
MINISTRY**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

LITTLE ROCK
A.M.E. Zion Church

WAYS TO GIVE



GIVELIFY APP
Download from the
App Store



PAYPAL



ZELLE

contact@littlerockamezion.org



ONLINE

Visit our website
www.littlerockamezion.org



IN PERSON or MAIL
401 N. McDowell Street
Charlotte, NC 28204

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Presented by Zetas of Pineville-Matthews, NC
In partnership with Pearlz for Empowerment Foundation



Sunday, March 1, 2026

Lesson: 1

Recognizing Our Debt to Others

Devotional Reading

Proverbs 28:18-22

Background Scripture

Nehemiah 4:15-23; Mark 12:28-34;
Romans 15:1-7; Philippians 2:1-8;
Colossians 3:12; 4:1; James 2:14-17

Affirmation

We will commit to understanding the definition of “knowing the first commandment (Mark 12) and implementing daily practices to embody that commandment (James 2).

TRAILBLAZE YOUR WAY TO COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



Scholarship
Award
\$5,000

- Oratorical Competition
- No written essay required
- Deadline: March 1, 2026

SCAN ME



TTZ Scholarship 2026

Requirements:

- *Must be a Mecklenburg County resident and high school senior*
- *Must be a Black/African American Female*
- *Must be accepted to a 4 year college or university*
- *Must possess a 3.0 or higher GPA*



TrailblazingTTZ



Zetas of Pineville-Matthews



www.tauthetazetapm.com

Rides To The Polls

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!



Sponsored by
NAACP Charlotte-
Mecklenburg
Branch and U2U

Contact Us Now
704-452-5269

Your Voice, Your Vote

Let Your voice be heard.

EARLY VOTING



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



The birthstone for
March is Aquamarine
associated with
faithfulness, courage
and friendship.

1	Rev. Belinda Austin	19	Doris Roberts
3	Jarrisha Rorie	20	Jacqueline McJunkins
4	Jean Bradford	21	Millie Ruscito
5	Roy Breckenridge		Edith Bolden
6	Brenda Williamson	22	Jimmie Hackett, Sr.
7	Jaquila Abraham		Georgia Woodruff
8	Donna Bailey		Marvin Fuller
9	Roye Buck	24	Keith Bradford
10	Floyd Hardin	27	Jasmine Floyd
11	Joan Taylor		Ray Smith
13	Andrea Jones	29	Tiffany Randolph
	Dr. Mary Francis Winters		Stacy Love
15	Ronald "Tony" Johnson		Jasheeba S. Pratt
16	Rev. Dr. Derrill A. Blue		
	Michelle Howard Belk		
17	Shanitra Hick		

Happy Anniversary

Frances & Brenda Holt	March 13th		55 Years
John Moore, Jr & Patricia Moore	March 19th		43 Years
Scott & Sylvia Howard	March 20th		44 Years



TODAY,

Heritage Sunday

You are encourage to wear African attire in celebration of our Heritage.

After Morning Worship we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to continue our celebration with a meal. Prepared by the Culinary Ministry.



Celebrating Zion's Black History Figures — Day 14

As we reflect this month, we lift up the leaders whose courage, conviction, and faith transformed The A.M.E. Zion Church, the Freedom Church, and African American history. Their stories still speak to us today.

[#BlackHistoryMonth](#) [#ZionLegacy](#) [#AMEZion](#)

**ZION'S
BLACK
HISTORY FIGURES**

Phyllis Thompson Hyatt

Most have heard of the "Friendship 9" who were arrested in Rock Hill, SC in 1961 and spent 30 days in jail because they refused bail. While the men received the credit, there were women who marched with them. One of those women was Phyllis Thompson Hyatt.

"I marched not for myself, but for everyone to be able to eat together, live together and be friends." David Williams, Jr., one of the Friendship 9 said, "Phyllis was a soldier, a soldier for justice, truth, and equality." She was a member of Foundation A.M.E. Zion Church in Rock Hill, SC.

PRODUCED BY
MR. DARIN KENT
EDITOR IN CHIEF, THE STAR OF ZION
WWW.STAROFZION.ORG

WRITTEN BY
REV. DR. REGINALD BROADNAX
EDITOR, THE QUARTERLY REVIEW
WWW.THEQUARTERLYREVIEW.ORG

Mr. DENNISON D.D. GARRETT a North Carolina native and very active in the AME Zion Church was elected as the First President of the Assembly of Christian Educators in 1982.

This election took place at the Quadrennial Convention of Christian Education.

Ms. AZIE MORTON was the first and only African-American to serve as United States Treasurer. She served as Treasurer from 1977 - 1981. All bills printed during that time has her signature.



LITTLE  ROCK
A.M.E. Zion Church
 Rev. Dr. Derrill A. Blue, Pastor

Mrs. Narcissus Lowery

2026 Home Missions Department Representative

Mrs. Narcissus Lowery has been a faithful member of Little Rock AME Zion Church since 1954. She is the tenth and only surviving child of eleven children born to the late Mr. Alexander “Ben” Byers and Mrs. Ella Craig Byers of Clover, South Carolina.

At Little Rock AME Zion Church, Mrs. Lowery has served in numerous capacities over the years. She is currently the president of the Senior Usher Board, in which she joined in 1956. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees, Board of Deaconess, Lay Council, Women’s Home and Overseas Missionary Society and Adult Ministry. In addition, she has served as a Class Leader, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, Prayer Counselor and Co-Chair and member of Little Rock Day Committee.

On the North Charlotte District, Mrs. Lowery was appointed District President of the Usher Board in 1995 and faithfully served until her retirement in 2022. She served as the Chaplain of the Usher Board for the Western North Carolina Conference and a delegate to the Annual and General Conferences.

Mrs. Lowery was married for over 60 years to the late Mr. Fred Marshall Lowery. She is the devoted mother of four sons and two daughters and a proud grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother.

Mrs. Lowery’s favorite Scripture is “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall, I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” -Psalm 27:1.

She lives by the message of her favorite song:
 “99 and 1/2 Won’t Do.”



As the Home Missions Representative Mrs. Lowery needs your prayers and financial support.

Levels of support

- Platinum \$125.00 and above
- Gold \$100.00
- Silver \$50.00
- Bronze \$25.00
- Patron \$10.00

Please make checks payable to: Little Rock AME Zion or donations can be made through Givelify Indicate Mrs. Narcissus Lowery Home Missions in the memo.

Thank you for your support.

Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church

Dr. Derrill A. Blue, Pastor



The Twelve Classes of Little Rock

Gilbert McRae, Leader of Leaders 704-567-7588

Class #13—New Members

<u><i>Class Number</i></u>	<u><i>Class Leader</i></u>	<u><i>Contact Number</i></u>
<i>Class #1</i>	<i>Dr. Sonya Campbell</i>	<i>704 858-4601</i>
<i>Class #2</i>	<i>Angela Aiken</i>	<i>864 608-7158</i>
<i>Class #3</i>	<i>Keith Powe</i>	<i>704 968-7353</i>
<i>C-class #4</i>	<i>Tasha Powell</i>	<i>704 605-9659</i>
<i>Class #5</i>	<i>Lynn Crump</i>	<i>704 756-8762</i>
<i>Class #6</i>	<i>Mary Davis</i>	<i>704 691-5448</i>
<i>Class #7</i>	<i>Loretta Jefferson</i>	<i>704 651-1146</i>
<i>Class #8</i>	<i>Stafford Mackey</i>	<i>704 898-3890</i>
<i>Class #9</i>	<i>Rev. Michelle Courtney</i>	<i>704 281-1661</i>
<i>Class #10</i>	<i>Chella Mills</i>	<i>980 353-6317</i>
<i>Class #11</i>	<i>Glain Haynes Lewis</i>	<i>704 399-0581</i>
<i>Class #12</i>	<i>Dr. Angelia Fryer</i>	<i>704 572-8517</i>

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:00 A.M.
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP	10:00 A.M.
MEN'S BOOSTERS MINISTRY	1ST SATURDAY, 9:30 A.M.
BREAD OF LIFE/HEAVEN STORE HOUSE MINISTRIES	1ST & 3RD SATURDAYS, 11 A.M.
BIBLE STUDIES	
ADULTS	WEDNESDAYS 12 NOON & 7:00 P.M. *
YOUNG LIFE STUDY	2ND & 4TH MONDAYS, 7:00 P.M. *
CHILDREN	WEDNESDAYS, 6:00 P.M. *
CHOIR REHEARSALS	
MASS CHOIR	TUESDAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST SUNDAY 7: 00 P.M.
SANCTUARY	TUESDAYS 7:00 P.M.
A.M.E.N. CHOIR	1ST & 3RD MONDAYS, 7:00 P.M.
YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT	1ST AND 2ND SUNDAY
LITURGICAL DANCE MINISTRY (ADULTS)	THURSDAYS, 7:00 P.M.

*VIA ZOOM

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; The third day he rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic* Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the Body, and the Life Everlasting. Amen.

**Universal Body of Christ*

MINISTERIAL STAFF

REV. SIMON AJOSE	MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP AND EVANGELISM
REV. BELINDA AUSTIN	MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE
REV. JAMES LENOIR	RETIRED MINISTER
REV. MICHELLE COURTNEY	MINISTER OF COUNSELING
REV. DR. SONYA CAMPBELL	MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE
REV. ANTHONY REDFERN	MINISTER OF OUTREACH AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
REV. DIANE COMMANDER	RETIRED MINISTER
REV. DR. PAULA BLUE	MINISTER OF SPIRITUALITY AND WORSHIP
REV. DR. BARBARA MARSHALL	MINISTER OF MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

DIRECTORY OF LEADERS

MR. LARRY AUSTIN	CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF STEWARDS
MR. CARL DANIEL	CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MS. CHRISTY BRYANT	COMPTROLLER
MR. GILBERT MCRAE	LEADER OF LEADERS
MS. GLORIA JOYNER-JOHNSON	PRESIDENT, LAY COUNCIL
REV. DR. PAULA BLUE	PRESIDENT, WOMAN'S HOME & OVERSEAS MISSIONARY SOCIETY
MS. ANTOINETTE CODY	DIRECTOR, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
MR. SIDNEY OLIVER	MINISTER OF MUSIC
MS. GLAIN HAYNES-LEWIS	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

