

# ZION



THE A.M.E. 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

REVEREND DR. DERRILL BLUE, PASTOR

# *Sunday, April 19, 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**

**“Yes, God Is Real” #53**

**THE RESPONSIVE READING**

**THE GLORIA PATRI**

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

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**THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS**

**THE CHORAL SELECTIONS**

**Little Rock Youth and Young Adult Choir**

**THE SERMON**

**Rev. Dr. Derrill A. 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  
*Easter*tide



Eastertide covers a fifty day period (6 Sundays) that challenges persons to reflect on the resurrection of Jesus. Ascension Day is celebrated the sixth Thursday after Easter and commemorates the last manifestation of Jesus to his followers after the resurrection. Ascension Sunday is the Sunday following Ascension Day. The season ends with the day of Pentecost. White is the appropriate color for the season, with gold as an accent color.

There are many symbols for this significant celebration. They hold meanings that enhance the celebration and express the root of Christian belief that believers will eventually be raised from the dead and enjoy eternal life. The symbol for Lent and Easter are different. Whereas the major symbols for Lent represent the agony, suffering, and pain that Jesus endured; the symbols of Easter represent new birth and renewal. Most of the symbols represent something that was dead or dormant but births forth into new life and growth.



# THE HYMN OF PRAISE

## “Yes, God Is Real” #53

There are some things I may not know, There are some plac-es I can't go,  
But I am sure of this one thing That God is real for I can feel Him deep  
with-in.

(Refrain)

Some folk may doubt, some folk may scorn, All can de-sert and leave me  
alone, But as for me I'll take God's part For God is real and I can feel  
Him in my heart.

(Refrain)

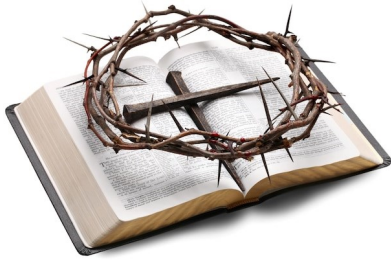
I can-not tell just how you felt When Je-sus took your sins a-way, But since  
that day, yes, since that hour God has been real for I can feel His ho-ly  
pow'r.

(Refrain)

### REFRAIN

Yes, God is real, real in my soul, Yes, God is real for He has washed and  
made me whole; His love for me is like pure gold, Yes, God is real for I  
can feel Him in my soul.

A-MEN



## THE RESPONSIVE READING

*Third Sunday Morning in Eastertide*

*(Romans 6:3-11)*

Or do you not know that as many of us as were bap-tized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, cer-tainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

*For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more.*

Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

***Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead in-deed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***



# 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

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

**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

**Damie Warren**  
4219 Maureen Street  
Charlotte, NC 28205

**Carline Dinkins**  
9620 Haying Place  
Mint Hill, NC 28227

**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

**David Coleman**  
5029 Ardenoods Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28215

**Mabel McCullough**  
940 Brevard Street #213  
Charlotte, NC 28206

**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**  
4460 Prince Williams  
Parkway  
Woodbridge, Va 22192

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

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

**Eddie Simpson**  
Atrium Health-Main  
1000 Blythe Blvd  
Charlotte, NC 28203

**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 Morrissette**  
Terra Bella Little  
7745 Little Ave  
Charlotte, NC 28226

**Natalie Bailey**  
**Donna Bailey**  
Rockwell Park Rehab Center  
1930 West Sugar Creek Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28262

**Little**  
**Rock A.M.E. Zion**

**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)

## Sunday, April 19, 2026

- ◆ 9:00am - Sunday School for all ages
- ◆ 10:00am - Sunday Morning Worship in Sanctuary and via Website
- ◆ 12:00 noon– Fireside Chat with Mrs. Narcissus Lowery in the Fellowship Hall  
Fish Dinners and Bake Sale in the Fellowship Hall

## Monday, April 20, 2026

- ◆ 9:30am - Office Open
- ◆ 6:00pm - WNCC Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- ◆ 7:00pm - AMEN Choir Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall

## Tuesday, April 21, 2026

- ◆ 9:30am - Office Open

## Wednesday, April 22, 2026

- ◆ 9:30am - Office Open
- ◆ 10:00pm - Intercessory Prayer call 1 (720) 843-2528 code 2217017#
- ◆ 12:00 Noon - Mid Week Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ 7:00pm - Evening Bible Study, virtually

## Thursday, April 23, 2026 North Charlotte District Conference

- ◆ 9:30am - Office Open

## Friday, April 24, 2026

- ◆ 9:00 am - North Charlotte District Conference in sessions
- ◆ 9:30am - Office Open

## Saturday, April 25, 2026

- ◆ 9:00am - North Charlotte District Conference in sessions

## Sunday, April 26, 2026

- ◆
- ◆ 9:00am - Sunday School for all ages
- ◆ 10:00am - Sunday Morning Worship in the Sanctuary and via Website
- ◆

**Little Rock website address: [www.littlerockamezion.org](http://www.littlerockamezion.org)**

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Save  
the Date

# North Charlotte District

111th District Conference



... We are more than Conquerors  
through Christ who loved us  
Romans 8:37

## STANDING IN THE GAP

Ezekiel 22:30

Thursday-Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

Speakers:

**Bishop Eric Leake**

Presiding Prelate, SAED

**Rev. Thelma Gordon**

Pastor, St. John AMEZ

NCD Presiding Elder,  
**Dr. Wardell Henderson,**  
HOST

To be held at **Little Rock AMEZ Church**  
401 North McDowell Street, Charlotte NC 28208  
**Rev. Dr. Derril A. Blue, Host Pastor**



### The North Charlotte District 111th Session

The 111th Session of the North Charlotte District Conference will open with Evening Worship on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and our Special Guest speaker, Bishop Eric Leake, Presiding Prelate of the South Atlantic Episcopal District, will bring the Word.

On Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, the conference will experience sharing from both our invited guests, Bishop Leake and Rev. Thelma Gordon, Pastor of St. John AME Zion Church (Winston-Salem District)

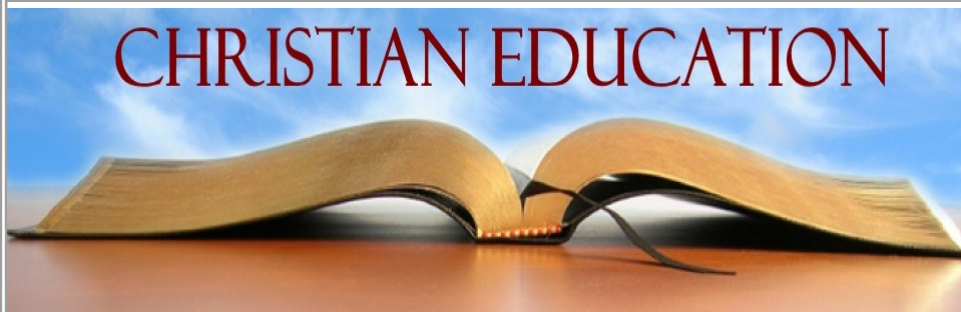
On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Church School Convention Moment will be held.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

#### Little Rock Food Pantry

The pantry is in need of basic items such as: peanut butter, can meats, and crackers. These items may be left on the Lay Council Table in the hall.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday, April 26, 2026

Lesson: 9

The Christian Home in a Modern World

Devotional Reading

2 Samuel 7:25-29

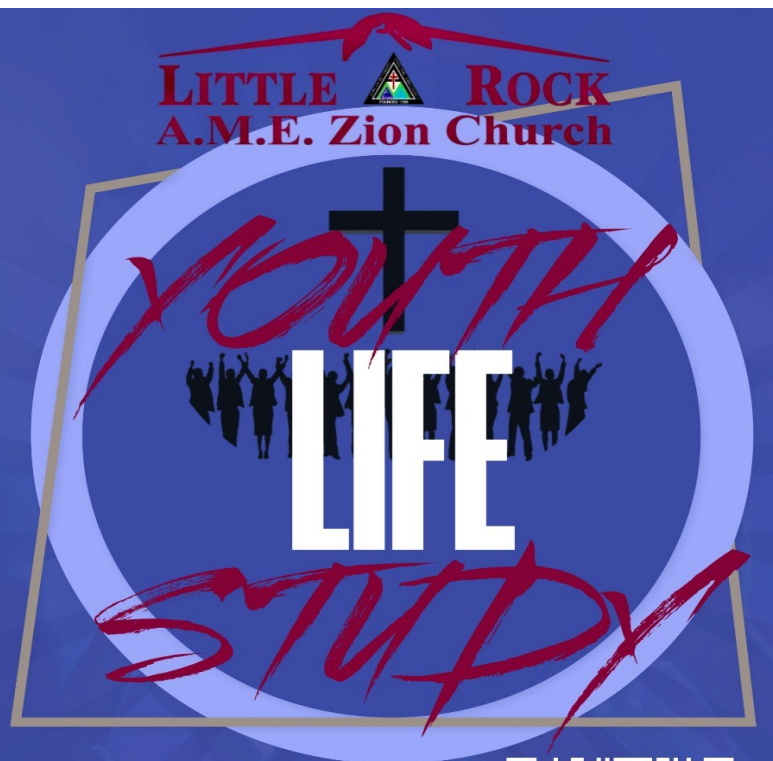
Background Scripture

Deuteronomy 6:3-9; Matthew 19:3-9;  
Luke 2:40-52; 24:28-32; Ephesians 6:1-9;  
2 Timothy 1:3-5; 3:14-15

Affirmation

We submit to passing on faith to younger generations.

LITTLE  ROCK  
A.M.E. Zion Church



EVERY  
2ND & 4TH • 7PM  
MONDAY via ZOOM



Zoom Link available on BAND

# Bible Study



Wednesday Noon and 7PM virtually this week .

# Join Us for a *Fireside Chat* with *Mrs. Narcissus Lowery*

An inspiring voice who will be sharing lived experiences, cultural insights, and reflections on leadership, resilience, and community. This intimate conversation through storytelling, dialogue, and meaningful connection across generations.

**APRIL 19TH**

**AFTER MORNING SERVICE**

*in the Fellowship Hall*



## FISH DINNERS AVAILABLE: \$15

Dinner includes:

Whiting Fish • Macaroni & Cheese • Coleslaw



## DESSERTS AVAILABLE: \$3

- Chocolate Cake
- Pound Cake
- Lemon Pound Cake
- Carrot Cake
- Sweet Potato Pie
- Banana Pudding



*Come for the Conversation. Stay for the Community.*

Sponsored by The Bread of Life Ministry and Bright Horizon Home Companion Services, LLC

HOSTED BY THE LITTLE ROCK DAY COMMITTEE

JOIN US FOR

# GAME NIGHT

## & Uno Tournament

Join us for fun, fellowship, and friendly competition!

**ALL AGES WELCOME!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 9TH**  
**4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

To battle it out in the Uno tournament:

Adult players: \$10

Kid players: \$5

All proceeds go toward the Little Rock Day campaign.

Submit your payment via Zelle, Givelify (add "Uno Tournament" to note) or a Little Rock Day Committee Member.

**#LittleRockDay2026**



# *Little Rock Day*

*Sunday*

*May 17, 2026*

*Mr. Brandon & Mrs. Sharelle McNair,  
Chairpersons*

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

*Raised \$23,045.00*

*Thank you Little Rock for  
being the Church!*

*Every member, who has not made a pledge, is asked to GIVE to the Little Rock Day Celebration— \$200.00 (adults); \$25.00 (children under 18) years of age or college students). You may GIVE your \$200.00 in installments and/or all at one time.*

*Our goal is \$50,000.00 We realize that these are tough times, so we ask that you do the very best you can.*

*The flowers on the Altar were given in celebration of the Birthday of*

*Mrs. Delphia Daniel*

*"Happy Birthday, to the most beautiful and most wonderful woman in the world."*

*From your husband, Mr. Carl Daniel.*



# SENIOR DAY FAMILY REUNION



**Thursday, April 30**

**10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Valerie C. Woodard Conference Center  
3205 Freedom Drive (Enter Door E)



**Honoring the Legacy, Inspiring the Future**

Hosted by  
Commissioner Vilma D. Leake

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**Little Rock AME Zion Church**  
**401 N McDowell Street, Charlotte NC**  
**Dr. Derrill A. Blue, Senior Pastor**

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## **U BELONG HERE**



Homeless  
Justice impacted.  
Lonely.

Need a Church Family



We got You.  
**LITTLE ROCK AME ZION**  
**Military Veterans Ministry**



**CALL 704-334-3782 OR 910-977-2303**



## *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)**

Please call the Church Office for details.





TRINITY A.M.E. ZION WOMEN'S MINISTRY  
SISTERS IN SPIRIT  
P R E S E N T S

# 2026 WOMEN'S *Retreat*

**FAITHFUL WOMEN WALKING IN PURPOSE**



REV. DR. TRESSALA  
HICKLIN  
FRIDAY NIGHT



REV. DR. PAULA BLUE  
SATURDAY WORKSHOP



REV. DR. TRACEY  
MATTHEWS  
SUNDAY



KAREN L. SMITH  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY  
DIRECTOR

**MAY  
1ST-3RD  
2026**

**FOUNDERS INN SPA, VIRGINIA BEACH**

\$180 WITH BUS TRANSPORTATION

\$150 RETREAT ONLY

PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE 2026WOMENSRETREATTAMEZ@GMAIL.COM

REGISTER NOW!

SCAN ME  
TO REGISTER



**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



# A Woman's Home & Overseas Missionary Society (WH&OMS) Day of Training and Service

The purpose of the Woman's Home and Overseas Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is to:



Promote growth in the knowledge and understanding of God and His plan of redemption for the world,



Teach the concepts of Christian mission & provide experiences to exemplify Christian living,



Promote the cause of World Evangelism and serve as a financial support to undergird the world mission work



The WH&OMS has six departments: The Parent Body, (ages 40 and older); The Young Adult Missionaries (ages 22-40); the Youth Missionaries (13-21); the Buds of Promise (ages 1-12), the Bureau of Supply and the Life Members Council.

## On Saturday, May 9th from 9AM-12PM,

All Missionaries and those interested in learning more about the WH&OMS are invited to attend the training and service portions. The Buds and Youth are invited to attend the service portion of the event.

Please plan to attend this special day. Additional details will be coming soon.

If you have any questions please contact our local Parent Body President, Rev. Dr. Paula B. Blue at:

[leadingladyblue@gmail.com](mailto:leadingladyblue@gmail.com)

## Little Rock Class Meetings

**Class #11**—will meet virtually on Monday, April 20th at 7pm. The link will be emailed to members.  
Ms. Glain Haynes Lewis, Class Leader



*Little Rock*  
A.M.E. Zion Church  
*Black Tie Gala*  
*Rooted, R'sing, & Reaching*

May 16, 2026  
5pm

Le Meridian Hotel  
555 S. McDowell Street Charlotte, NC

Tickets: \$75.00  
Exclusively on Eventbrite



Dr. Derrill A. Blue, Pastor



**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>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

