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LOCAL CHURCH TO HOST BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

Uniontown, PA – Youth from several local ministries will come together Sunday afternoon to celebrate Black History Month with joyful displays of dance, music and other cultural expressions.

St. Paul's AME Church will host the free event, which will be held at 4 p.m. Organizer Damita Jones, youth program director at One Voice One Community (OVOC), said last year's celebration was held at OVOC, but the location needed to be changed this year, so she reached out to her church.

"My pastor (Rev. Alfred L. Thompson Jr.) just opened up the door for me to do what I do," she said.

Jones reached out to several different churches and organizations in the area in hopes of bringing in a variety of youth groups.

"The goal was to have us all come together," she said. "I invited six, and I think we got five."

The celebration is set to include St. Paul's own youth ministry, as well as Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church; Emma Martin Christian Studio of Dance; One Voice One Community; Fresh Anointing; Netta Green Mime and Mt. Rose youth. Jones said there will be "dance, mime, flags, people doing poetry – just bringing us all together to learn more about Black history."

Pastor Juanita Harris will serve as master of ceremonies.

Jones said celebrating Black History Month is about "watching us come together through our struggles. We're still standing – that's the goal."

The purpose of Sunday's celebration is both education and fun, and Jones said the event has grown to be bigger than expected.

"It's going to be exciting on Sunday," she said. "It's one of those 'don't miss' things."

St. Paul's AME Church is located at 187 Morgantown St., Uniontown. For more information on the celebration, call 724-437-1418.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.org.

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For more information, contact Kristi Kassimer Harper, Public Relations Specialist, at 724-437-4571, kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info or Jamie Rankin, Journalist, at 724-437-4571, jamierankin13@gmail.com.