



THE CBMM E-ZINE

EDITED BY THE REV. CHERYL HARRIS

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We are pleased to publish the CBMM quarterly E-Zine for American Baptist Ministers in MA. Our aim is to support you in fulfilling God's call to ministry. Produced in collaboration with you, for you, and all about you, we include inspiring prayers, professional development resources, and your joys and prayer requests.

We will publish the E-Zine four (4) times per year, on the third Friday of the month in November, February, May, and September.

Thank you to Rev. Maggie Lewis for the naming of our publication. The CBMM E-Zine, pronounced "ee-zeen" is a magazine distributed to users via email or the Web with a magazine-like quality.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

I hope you are well.

Another year has passed, and we are already in the second month of the New Year. It is fitting to give thanks for God's faithfulness. As we look back, we remember our stories of suffering, uncertainty, economic insecurity, sickness and death, as well as our stories of success, generosity, friendship, resilience and recovery. Our experiences tell us that we are not alone. It only reinforces the reality that we all have a story. In our personal lives as well as in our journey together as God's people, God was present in the past, and is with us as we continue to move forward in faith.

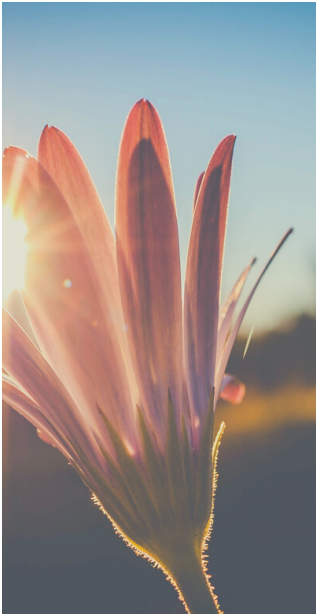
All these are tenderly placed in our hearts to remember. For in remembering, we tell our stories. Stories bear the past, and communicate the present and future. There is power in storytelling! Late congressman John Lewis a beloved leader of the civil rights movement once said, "the movement without storytelling, is like birds without wings." Stories give meaning to our work and life. My maternal grandmother was a storyteller. Whenever we had a question, she would always respond with a story—stories that make you think deeply about who you are and your roots; ethical principles, the power of interdependence, interconnectedness, and humanity. They nurture in us a new sense of purpose and the desire for a life-affirming world.

We may simply ask: Where did my story originate? Where would I begin my story? How would I begin to tell my story? Which part of my story should I tell and why? Which part of my story continues to empower me? How is my story impacting others? But these questions are not as simple as we ask. Questions remind us of our being in the world, and prompt our acts of justice and love. May our stories become a witness to our shared story in Christ, the story of love that stirred God's heart to lift up prophetic voices who declared God's compassion for the poor and powerless, whose well-being have been threatened by injustice; love that sent Jesus into the world for all creation.

Keep remembering. Keep telling your story. Keep celebrating.

With sincere prayer and best wishes,

Atula



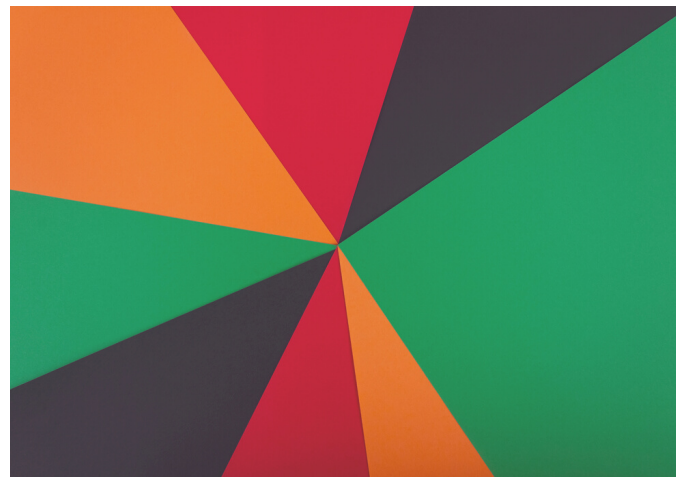
FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A COLLECT FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Source: The Church of England

Compassionate God,
who sent Jesus Christ
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,
to see the image of God in every person
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.
May we be generous in our love of others
as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice; creating communities of human
flourishing,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



“

*For surely I know the plans I have for
you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare
and not for harm, to give you a future
with hope.*

”

JEREMIAH 29:11 NRSV

In September, 1915, Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the Reverend Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) to research and promote achievements of Black Americans and other Black persons. Together they developed what was then called Negro History Week. Today, extended to Black History Month, February is devoted to celebrating God's handiwork in and through the contributions of Black Americans and other Black people of African descent. Here are just a few historical trail-blazers:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONT.



Vice President Kamala Harris; former President Barack Obama; First Lady Michele Obama; Father/Daughter Doctors. Louis Wright Graduated fourth in his class at Harvard Medical School. While serving in World War I, developed the intradermal injection vaccination technique. In 1948, became the first clinician to study the use of the drug Aureomycin in humans. Dr. Jane Cook Wright developed new techniques for administering chemotherapy to cancer patients. In 1967, she was the highest-ranking Black woman in a US medical institution; Lloyd Auston, Secretary of Defense; Shalanda Young, Acting Director/Deputy Director, The Office of Management and Budget; Michael Stanley Regan, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (first Black male in this role); Marcia Fudge, Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development; Cecilia Elena Rouse, White House Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors; Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Representative of the USA to the United Nations as well as representative of the USA in the security council.

Federal judges:

Candace Jackson-Akiwumi; Katanji Brown Jackson; Tiffany Cunningham; Eunice Lee; Holly Thomas; Julien Neals; Angel Kelly; Karen Williams; Patricia Giles; Clarence Thomas; Omar Williams; Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong. Dr. Cornel West; Rev. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson; Misty Copeland, Principal Dancer American Ballet Company; Amanda Gorman, Poet.

In remembrance; Hank Aaron; Colin Powell; Cicely Tyson; Mary Wilson (Supremes); Sidney Poitier; bell hooks, writer; Toni Morrison, writer; Maya Angelou

A majority of the celebrated are the first Black person in their field or role. We rejoice in the milestone achievements of them and many more. At the same time we strive for the day when it is no longer noteworthy that a Black person is in a particular role or making a significant contribution.

May we all live into the plans God has for us; plans for our welfare and not to harm but to give a future with hope. To God be the glory.

REFLECTIONS

What should I be doing in this moment in history? We offer this question to you for reflection and response. You can share your response or hold it within your own heart. If there is something you feel the Spirit prompting you to do, we hope you will hold yourself accountable and go do it. Know that God is with you.



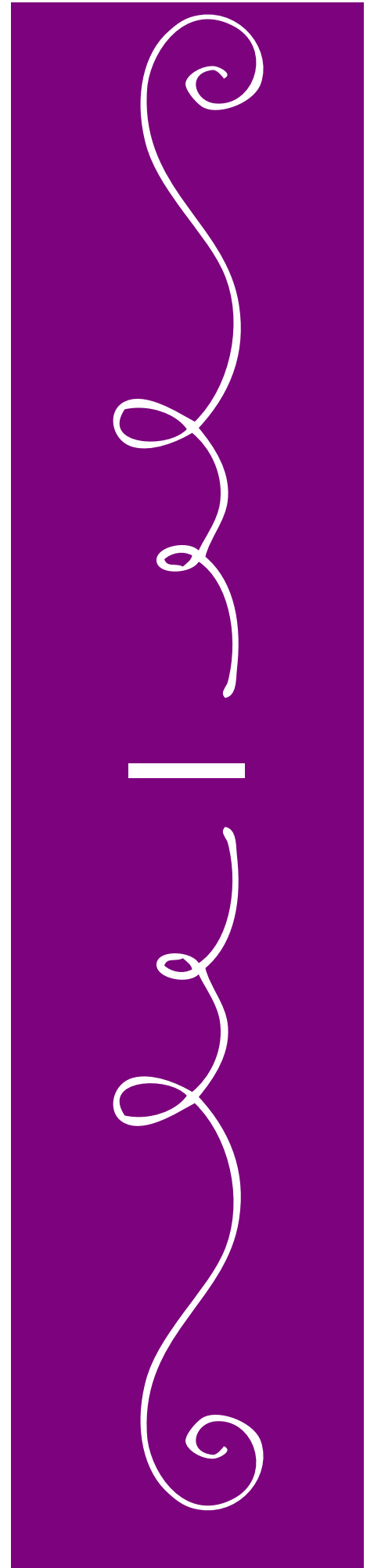
MC LIVE - 2022

Third Thursdays- 8pm EST ZOOM:

Join members of the National Ministers council each month as we gather to share and equip one another for the sake of collegiality, centeredness, and competence.

[Join here!](#)

Previous MC Live gatherings can be viewed online here:
<https://ministerscouncil.com/archives/videos.php>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Here is a selection of upcoming and ongoing lifelong learning opportunities as well as schools to keep an eye on for future offerings.

Candler School of Theology

<https://candler.emory.edu/alumni/continuing-education/index.html>

TheoEd Talks

This ecumenical speaker series brings together leading thinkers in the church and the academy to give the talk of their lives in 20 minutes or less. By packaging powerful ideas in bite-size talks, TheoEd aims to spark conversations that change the way people think about God, religion, and the power of faith to shape lives and communities. Access talks and associated small group discussion guides at <https://theoed.com/>

Columbia Seminary – The Center for Lifelong Learning

<https://www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong-learning/>

Leadership In Ministry Workshop: Andover, MA

Dates: May 16-18 and October 3-5, 2022

Course Description: The Leadership in Ministry Workshop at Boston is a twice-a-year, peer-based clergy leadership development program. It is part of the Pastoral Excellence Programs of the Center for Lifelong Learning of Columbia Theological Seminary.

This program's goals are to:

- Provide a peer-learning forum for clergy to explore the issues particular to their congregational contexts;
- Help participants develop a theoretical framework for interpreting practice and context using Bowen Systems Theory;
- Help clergy accurately identify and name the particular challenges of ministry in their context;
- Provide clergy with a safe and stimulating peer group experience for renewal and challenge.

[More info here](#)

Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

<https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education.html>

Online Mini Courses are self-directed and free. Current offerings include:

- Touchstones for Preaching
- Flesh Made Word: The Art of Crafting a Homily
- The Birth of Jesus: Two Gospel Accounts
- The Death of Jesus: Four Gospel Accounts
- El Nacimiento de Jesús: Dos Relatos Evangélicos
- La Muerte de Jesús: Cuatro Narrativas Evangélicas

More info at: [https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-](https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads/resources/mini-course.html)

[web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads/resources/mini-course.html](https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/crossroads/resources/mini-course.html)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

Yale Divinity School

<https://divinity.yale.edu/continuing-education>

Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium

<https://www.bostontheological.org/lifelonglearning>

Brite Divinity School

<https://brite.edu/programs/lifelong-learning/>

United Lutheran Seminary

<https://www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/academics/lifelong-learning>

Evangelical Seminary

<https://evangelical.edu/pense-learning-center/school-of-lifelong-learning/>

Calvin Theological Seminary

<https://www.calvinseminary.edu/academics/life-long-learning>

Virginia Theological Seminary

<https://vts.edu/lifelong-learning/>

Duke Divinity School

<https://divinity.duke.edu/lifelong-learning/divinity-plus>

General Theological Seminary

<https://www.gts.edu/lifelong-learning>



BOOKS BY OUR COLLEAGUES

Two of our colleagues are publishing books this month.

BEACONS OF HOPE BY REV. SANDRA DORSAINVIL



This 12-Day devotional is an attempt to give voice to 15 women lighthouse keepers of the 19th and 20th century. Poignant facts are told about their heroic efforts to keep the lights shining for the multitude of strangers at sea. Yet many women who sustain life go unnoticed for decades. The juxtaposition of scripture references of unnamed women of the Bible invites readers to discern their own faith journeys. This devotional is meant to be part of a beginning conversation about transformation, gender equity, dignity, and servant-leadership roles women have held for many centuries, whether publicly recognized or in the shadows. One has to wonder whose stories have yet to be unearthed. May this book be an inspiration to seek "the more" about God's beloved.

"Brave Beacons!"

"Rev. Dorsainvil draws together an intersection of women's history, scripture and insightful questions with a call to justice. Beacons of Hope offers a practice of prayer and promises to point us towards taking action to light the way for others."

REV. ADRIENNE BERRY-BURTON,
ZION BAPTIST, LYNN, MA

"Sandra Dorsainvil is first and foremost, God's servant. She is a multi-lingual praying sister, mother, and grandmother, and an ordained minister. She finds joy sitting at round tables where life's journeys are shared and hearts listen. Her advanced degrees and cross-cultural up-bringing on three continents have taught her the value of giving and receiving generous hospitality."

REV. NANCY WILLBANKS,
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LITTLETON, MA.

"Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil shines a light on two groups who are often hidden from view: people who are behind the lights, in this case women lighthouse keepers, and unnamed women in the Bible. My only problem with the collection is not wanting to wait 12 days to read all of these beautiful stories and reflections!"

REV. CINDY MAYBECK,
SPIRIT STORY MINISTRY

BOOKS BY OUR COLLEAGUES, CONT.

TWO UPCOMING WORKS BY REV. CHERYL HARRIS:

Divinity, Diversity and Dialogue: Listening and Learning Our Way To the Beloved Community, informs, challenges and equips readers to lead effective conversations and cultivate engaging actions toward eliminating racism and becoming a society characterized by equity, justice and joy.

The workbook, **Divinity, Diversity and Dialogue: Practical Resources to Help Facilitate Transformative Racial Dialogues**, provides clearly stated instructions and doable exercises for facilitators to lead group conversations about race and racism.



ABOUT CBMM

DONATIONS & DUES

We welcome your material and spiritual support to the CBMM. You can send your donations electronically via our website, www.conferenceofbaptistministers.com, or mail them to Conference of Baptist Ministers at 167 Prescott Street, Groton, MA 01450.



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ACRONYM SOUP

Do you ever wonder what the acronyms mean?

