

Women's History Month



MOUNT AERY CHURCH PUBLICATION March 2022 / Volume 144 / www.mtaerybaptist.org

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Mount Aery Baptist Church

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astor :

Sawubona my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We pray that this moment find you strengthened in God. We have come through so much. As the words of that great hymn of the church, *through many dangers, toils, and snares,* we *have already come, tis grace hath brought* us *safe thus far, and grace will lead* us *home.* It is God's grace that has allowed us to see the first Sunday in March 2022. The first two months of the year proved cold in terms of weather, yet the warmth of God's Holy Spirit has kept our fellowship rich and growing.

Let me thank everyone for their participation in our Black Histories activities, Go Red Sunday, Bible studies, worship and any other expression of Black pride in how our God has created us. We have nothing to be ashamed of, yet everything to give God glory and honor. I also wish to thank Min. Jalen Parks for his participation in our Wednesdays Bible Study. We can certainly expect great things from him in the future.

As we move through the month of March, we will once again engage in our annual Lenten sacrifice and season of reflection. This year, we will use the book by Rev. Dr. Renita Weems, *Listening for God, A Minister's (disciples) Journey through Silence and Doubt* in our Bible Study, Saturday Institute as well as in our sermons. We will also be honored with Sister Michelle Black Smith Tompkins and Pastor Dionne Boissierre during our Bible Studies. I look forward to great discussions and deeper dives into the words of our God. It is my prayer that you participate fully either in person or virtually as God's Spirit continues to manifest in mighty ways in our midst.

God bless,

Pastor anthony Bennet

Pastor Anthony L. Bennet Lead Pastor

Our Vision Statement

To equip the disciples of Mount Aery Baptist Church with the biblical and relational wisdom for the spiritual, educational and social work of ministry beginning in the Hollow Section of Bridgeport, then spreading throughout the Greater Bridgeport Area.

Ephesians 4:11-12 and Acts 2:44-47

Edify so Equip so Engage

Please Pray for Our Prayer List

Clifford Bazelias Volney Bryan Isaiah Brown Linda Lee Brown **Carol Carter-Mims** Joan H. Colley Minister Odell Cooper **Rayvon** Cox **Tracey Nicole Craig** Rev. Queen Curran Frances Dicks **Ruth Hasty-Dove** Sandra Dunn Bernardine Edwards **Rose Evans** Johnnie Mae Foxworth Willie Freeman Leonard Grace **Deacon Minnie Grant** Leslie Green Jodi Green Deacon Leroy Haggans **Deaconess Ollie Haggans** Deacon John Hill **Ruth Harvin** Deacon Naomi Holmes Gerard James **Barbara Jones** Maria Knight

Theresa Lazarus Cheryl Lewis Jordan Alexander Lewis Deacon Melvin Lowe, Sr. Deacon Benjamin Maxwell Reanna McCoy Autumn Mitton

Caleb Mitton

Spring Mitton



Edward A. Morris **Deacon Regina Mosely Austin Perkins Eulalia Pettway** Miriam Powell **Terrance Quiller Rose Samuel** Kathy Stephenson Herb Sutton Gloria Tucker Rev. Velva Jean Tucker **Curtis Jerome Turner** Paula Watkins **Dorothy Watts Gwen Williams** June Williams Barbara Wilson Michelle Lisa Wilson

Welcome Song

Welcome to Mount Aery We're so glad you came You're welcome to Mount Aery Where everybody comes to give God praise Welcome to Mount Aery Where the spirit Of the Lord Is moving free Right here, at seven three (73) Frank Street

BULLETIN

Hospitalization & Nursing Home List

Please be aware that there are strict legal and ethical guidelines regarding giving outpatient information. Therefore, if you are hospitalized and desire pastoral support, you or your family member must notify the church office in advance, if possible. When you are admitted, state your denomination and place of worship..

Mary Ryan

Laurel Ridge Health Care Center 642 Danbury Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Jena Simmons Westchester Medical Center

100 Woods Road, 2nd floor, Valhalla, NY 10595

Please address all correspondences for the above disciples to the church and the administrative office will forward all mail. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bereavement

- Fran Spinks and Tasha & Lonnie Spaulding on the loss of their sister and aunt, Mary McRae
- Celestina Wells and family on the loss of her son, Edward Lee Fraser, Jr
- Donna Brooks and family on the loss of her brother, Carlton Spencer



IMPORTANT DATES



During this season of prayer, call in to the prayer line at 7:00am daily at 716-427-1336 The participant access code is 111933#. The calls are recorded so please mute your phone to eliminate background noise.

There is a new callback #: 716-427-1343

Please note that long distance charges may apply.

Thank you for trusting God with your finances. Ways to give:

- Mail in checks and money orders 73 Frank Street, Bpt. CT 06604
- Utilize Pushpay
- Offering baskets at the door before or after worship

Here's an exciting way to join in worship with us. Simply visit our website at mtaerybaptist.org and click on WATCH LIVE in the upper right hand corner. Pass the link on to your friends and family as well so they can be blessed by our ministry http://www.mtaerybaptist.org/watch-us-live

COVID test kits are available

while supplies last – Sunday after worship and Tuesday through Friday between 10am and 2pm **Deacons on Call** for March: Deacons Smalls and Tabb-Smalls



Submissions of announcements and due dates:

Message From The Mount

Send information to <u>mftm@mtaerybaptist.org</u> by the 15th of each month.

Monitors in the Sanctuary

Send information to <u>media@mtaerybaptist.org</u> by Wednesday before the Sunday you want the announcement.

Please make sure that your announcement is in PowerPoint format.

If announcements are not received by the due dates they may be omitted or placed in the next edition.

RECOGNITIONS

- Joseph Maxwell is in the 8th grade and was accepted to St. Joseph High School, • Notre Dame High School, and Fairfield College Preparatory School for high school. These programs offer generous financial aid based on academics.
- Rev. Ron Blackwell, Kingdom University, 4.0 with Superior Distinction •
- Ramir Johnson graduated from North Carolina Central University, Magna Cum Laude



Submit in person or via email at admin@mtaerybaptist.org



Go Red Sunday

GENERAL NEWS



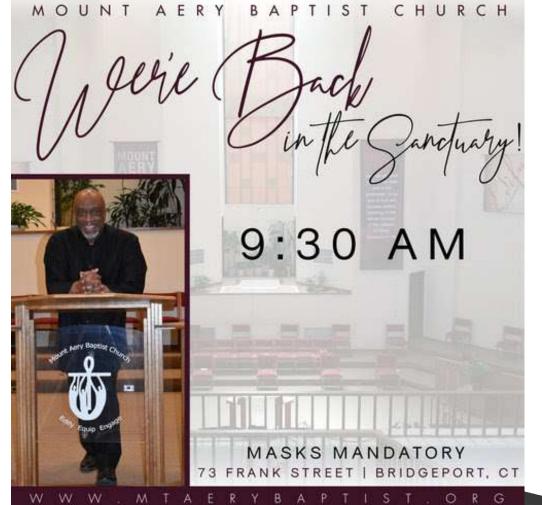








7







GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead.

We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Contact Us Today

Wednesdays 6:30 pm - 8:30pm February 23 - May 18, 2022 Mount Aery Baptist Church Bridgeport, CT 06604 Dr. Anthony L. Bennett, Pastor www.mtaerybaptist.org

GRIEF

GENERAL NEWS

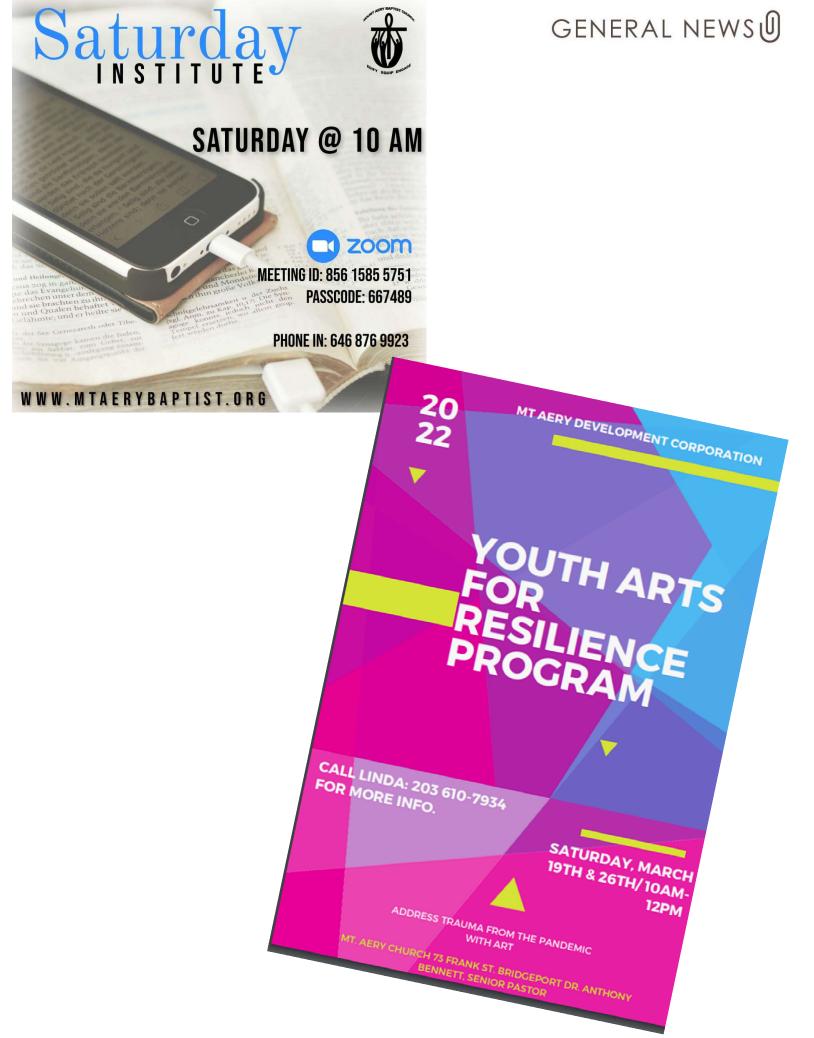




REQUEST VIA EMAIL OR PHONE finance@mtaerybaptist.org () 203.334.2757

WWW.MTAERYBAPTIST.ORG









Ingredients

1 Lb of ground Turkey
1 small onion (chopped)
2 tablespoons of olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste
1 can black beans (rinsed and drained)
1 package taco seasoning mix
3/4 cup of water
3/4 to 1 cup of reduced fat cheddar cheese
1 bag of Scoops corn chips
(regular or whole grain)
Additional toppings (optional)
Salsa, fat free Greek yogurt, chopped avocado

Directions

Over medium high heat, heat the olive oil in a large pan. Add the ground Turkey, onion and salt and pepper. Cook until the turkey is no longer pink. Drain the turkey and onion mixture. Place back in the pan. Add the beans, taco seasoning mix and water. Stir the mixture over medium heat until it is well combined and the sauce begins to thicken (approximately 2-3 minutes). Spoon the ground Turkey mixture into the scoops. Sprinkle the cheese over the scoops. Bake at 375 degrees until cheese melts. Remove from oven add toppings if desired and serve.



Were you aware that November, the 11th month of year, is National Togetherness Month. Then in August, the 8th month of year, host National Friendship Day. So I subtracted 8 from 11 and ended up with 3. The 3rd month of the year and that is March and that is

National Let's Get Healthy Month

Just so you are aware, I made the last sentence up. March is really not National Let's Get Healthy Month, but in my opinion every month and day should be. As spring approaches, you will begin to see more people heading to the gym. There will be more people running, lunch periods will again be used to take a brisk walk. Fit-bits and smart watches will be flying off the shelves, and sneakers and workout gear stocks will rise.

The motivator to all these actions is the end of winter (goodbye snow!), which means heavy layers come off and lighter clothing takes over. Whatever the catalyst to move you toward healthy lifestyle habits, it is welcomed. While it is easier to make these changes with a level of support from those around you, **don't let it stop you** if others are not on-board with your decision to take care of you!

Winter is not over yet, but while we patiently wait to see no white stuff on the ground, and hear good news from the Meteorologist on your local news station, use this time to prepare for the new you.

- Make appointments for your annual visits to your physicians and let them know your plans to begin exercising and changing your eating habits
- Educate yourself on the best meals plans that would work for you and begin to compile your shopping list
- Select activities that will keep you moving and ones you will look forward to doing at least 3-5 times a week
- Have fun picking out new workout outfits and find comfortable footwear for the workouts that you will begin

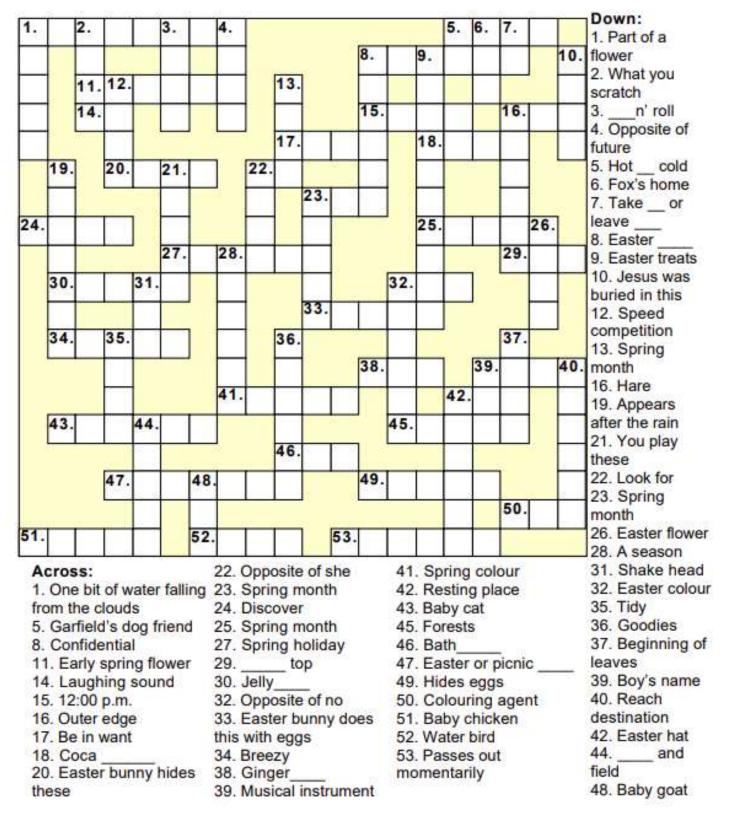


It seems ridiculous to actually have a day, or month on which we are asked to focus on being a *friend*, or working towards *togetherness*, however the result is that it brings focus to something we should be doing everyday. Much like taking care of our health, each month of the year has a different disease, or ailment that the medical world wants people to pay more attention to in the hopes those who may be afflicted by them, or has a family history of, seek the help they may need.

I may have fabricated National Let's Get Healthy Month, but I hope that the meaning behind the thought gets you to a place of attention on a movement toward a healthier you!

YOUTH SPEAK 🗩

Spring Crossword



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YOUTH SPEAK 🗩

Spring represents the smell of fresh roses

Spring represents the smell of the beautiful flowers and the green trees

Spring represents the fresh vegetables rooting from the Earth

Spring showers please rain on me and wash away these winter blues and let the new season of Spring Blossom and Bloom

Spring brings hope to a new season

It is a blessing to breathe in a new season of fresh air

It is a blessing to see a new season of God's love everywhere

Plant the seed of spring in all of your hearts

Let It shine like the Sun

And let it form like a rainbow that would never fall apart and that is the definition of A Spring Dream!



Newly published author of "The Freedom of a Butterfly" now on Amazon Kindle.

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	52.Duck
	51.Chick
	50.Dye
P! X 87	49. Bunny
44. Track	47.Baskets
42.Bonnet	duT.84
SVIIIA.04	sbooW.ch
boT.eč	43.Kitten
37.Buds	45.Bed
36.Sweets	41.Green
35.Neat	sduT.95
WollsY.25	AIA.8 5
PONIE	YpmW.45
28.Spring	33.Hides
26.L ily	32.Yes
23.March	30.Beans
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21.Games	27.Easter
NodmsA.et	fingA.25
16.Rabbit	24.Find
anul.EI	VeW.22
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Down	Across

YOUTH SPEAK 🗩

The Unwritten Rules in Sport & The Black Women Who are Rewriting Them



Six incredible Black women are shaking up sports and culture by pushing the boundaries on outdated rules and breaking down barriers.

There is no picture of sport and no picture of adidas without Black excellence. This month we're celebrating and sharing the stories of Black women who shatter expectations, break down barriers and are changing the game for the next generation.

Kahleah Copper, Imani Dorsey, Kendra Harrison, Angel McCoughtry, Sarah Nurse, and Erica Wheeler are six incredible women that are pushing both sport and culture forward by rewriting outdated rules of expression, physical appearance, mental health, and identity. Not only are they continuously overcoming and challenging societal expectations and assumptions – they are also enabling a new generation of leaders to find strength in the power of authenticity and vulnerability. We're honored to share their stories of achieving the impossible.



UNWRITTEN RULES

Despite the unwritten rules set against Black women at the top of their game, they continue to triumph and lead the fight for equality and social justice, inspiring change not only in the next generation of girls in sport, but in the communities around them. These women are the catalyst for change, championing their game and re-writing the script of what it means to show up as your authentic self.



But despite that unwritten rule, I've never let the stereotype define me or make me feel as though I was less capable than any other athlete. You have to believe in yourself no matter what any unwritten rule says, and if you do that, you will see success.

Kendra Harrison- Professional Hurdler

The Unwritten Rules in Sport & The Black Women Who are Rewriting Them

YOUTH SPEAK 🗩

(continued)

THE POWER OF AUTHENTICITY

Authenticity is how the game is changed – but what does that entail? It means showing up unapologetically yourself, setting your own standards, putting your mental health first, and loving your body, your sport, and yourself without compromise. These Black women are the ones pushing the needle forward— taking the impossible and making it possible.



If you know me, then you know I don't play about my hair and a good skin care routine. I'm out here trying to impress myself. I love to dress it up. It's important to show myself in my element off the court, my style and where I'm from.

Kahleah Copper- Professional Basketball Player



For me, I would turn down interviews, I would turn down paid gigs if I can't be myself. If I can't give out real, I won't ever do it.

Erica Wheeler - Professional Basketball Player

Throughout my journey I've learned the importance of being my own authentic self and not worrying about fitting in. I feel my best and perform my best when I'm unapologetically me and not letting society or anyone dictate to me what a hockey player should be like.

Sarah Nurse – Professional Hockey Player



The Unwritten Rules in Sport & The Black Women Who are Rewriting Them

(continued)

TO BE HEARD IS TO BE SEEN

By harnessing the power of their voice and showing up first and foremost for themselves, Black women in sport pave the way for the next generation and show us all the power of possibility. It's facing these unwritten rules head on that opens the door to change.



I know that change doesn't happen tomorrow, but I'll continue to plant the seeds for a better future. Yes, it takes time to grow but in due time amazing things will bloom. It's just really an ongoing fight to get our ideas and stories to the forefront. People are listening to us, and they're coming to fruition. I feel like this is just the beginning. I want our new generations to not grow up in this mess that we're in now. That's what it's all about to inspire the kids.

Angel McCoughtry – Professional Basketball Player

THE PATH TO POSSIBLE

Through sport, we have the power to change lives. Reflecting on who you are and pushing forward during these tough moments are made possible when you believe in yourself. This mindset is how we can all harness our talent, creativity, skill and even our vulnerability—turning the impossible into possible.

Sport has given me so many opportunities. It's given me a college education, the opportunity to see the world, meet incredible people, but most importantly learn more about myself. I've endured a lot of challenges, but I have always come out the other side. Sport has made me resilient and forced me to learn more about myself, what I need to be happy, and how I can help others. This has been incredibly empowering.

Imani Dorsey- Professional Soccer Player



YOUTH SPEAK



Why Do We Celebrate Women's History Month?

Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history. From <u>Abigail Adams</u> to <u>Susan B.</u> <u>Anthony</u>, <u>Sojourner Truth</u> to <u>Rosa Parks</u>, the <u>timeline of women's history</u> <u>milestones</u> stretches back to the founding of the United States.

The actual celebration of <u>Women's History Month</u> grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, <u>California</u>, in 1978. Presentations were given at dozens of schools, hundreds of students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa.

A few years later, the idea had caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country. In 1980, President <u>Jimmy Carter</u> issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National <u>Women's</u> <u>History</u> Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

International $W^{omen's}$ Day

International Women's Day, a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women, took place for the first time on March 8, 1911. Many countries around the world celebrate the holiday with demonstrations, educational initiatives and customs such as presenting women with gifts and flowers.

The <u>United Nations</u> has sponsored International Women's Day since 1975. When adopting its resolution on the observance of International Women's Day, the United Nations General Assembly cited the following reasons: "To recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security."

Women's History Month Theme

The <u>National Women's History Alliance</u> designates a yearly theme for Women's History Month. The 2022 theme is "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope." This theme is "both a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic and also a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history."

Women's History Month

G.R.A.C.E. by Deacon Kathy Tabb-Smalls

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ACHIEVEMENT AMENDMENT COMFORT COMMUNITY CONSTITUTION COURAGE EQUALITY HEALING HERITAGE HISTORY HOPE INDISPENSIBLE LEADERSHIP LOVE MARCH NATION NATIONAL

ORGANIZATION PRIDE PROCLAMATION RECOGNITION RIGHTS STRENGTH STRUGGLE VISION VITAL WOMEN

20

Mother to Son

by LANGSTON HUGHES

Well, son, I'll tell you: Life for me ain't been no crystal stair. It's had tacks in it, And splinters, And boards torn up, And places with no carpet on the floor— Bare. But all the time I'se been a-climbin' on, And reachin' landin's, And turnin' corners, And sometimes goin' in the dark Where there ain't been no light. So boy, don't you turn back. Don't you set down on the steps 'Cause you finds it's kinder hard. Don't you fall now-For I'se still goin', honey, I'se still climbin', And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.



G.R.A.C.E. 🖓

Namaste Brothers and Sisters!

The major goal of the MABC Security Team is to provide a safe environment for you and your family here at The Mount.

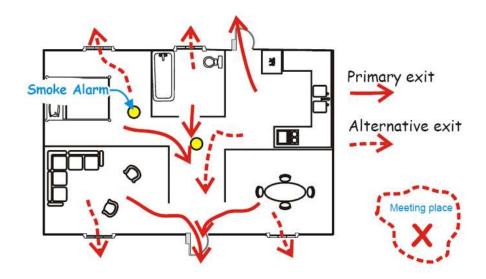
SECURITY CORNER 🖄

by Deacon Henry Smalls, Jr.

This starts with keeping you informed, but remember, security is everyone's responsibility.

The Colleyville Synagogue hostage situation in Texas this past January 2022 and threats to HBCU's (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) is troubling to say the least, therefore in this installment, we will be revisiting Emergency Egress for Fire & Weather and Active Shooter situations.

In this installment, we will be revisiting Emergency Egress for Fire & Weather and Active Shooter situations



EMERGENCY EGRESS

You always want to be aware of the location of all exits anytime you enter a room at a restaurant, your workplace, sporting events/concerts, or even at church. You want it to be second nature in the event of an emergency evacuation. When entering the Narthex or Sanctuary at The Mount, always check the placards placed on the walls to familiarize yourself with the information giving guidance on how to exit in case of an emergency egress. Also, always follow the direction of the MABC Security Team and the Ushers, so that everyone can safely exit the building. There may be situations where Security and/or Ushers, will require that you utilize an exit door that's not assigned to the area where you are sitting. In these instances, it is imperative that you follow their directions, as they may have information regarding what's beyond your assigned exit door that you may not be aware of.

ACTIVE SHOOTER

Good practices for coping with an active shooter situation:

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door
- If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door
- As a last resort, attempt to take the active shooter down. When the shooter is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate him/her.

CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

SECURITY CORNER 🖄 by Deacon Henry Smalls, Jr.

(continued)

HOW TO RESPOND WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY:

Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life.

1. **RUN**

If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises. Be sure to:

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow
- Leave your belongings behind Help others escape, if possible
- Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be
- Keep your hands visible
- Follow the instructions of any police officers
- Do not attempt to move wounded people
- Call 911 when you are safe

2. HIDE

If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. Your hiding place should:

- Be out of the active shooter's view
- Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e., an office with a closed and locked door)
- Not trap you or restrict your options for movement
- To prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:
- Lock the door
- Blockade the door with heavy furniture
- If the active shooter is nearby:
- Lock the door
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager
- Turn off any source of noise (i.e., radios, televisions)
- Hide behind large items (i.e., cabinets, desks)
- Remain quiet
- If evacuation and hiding out are not possible:
- Remain calm
- Dial 911, if possible, to alert police to the active shooter's location
- If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen



(continued)

3. FIGHT

As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:

- Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her
- Throwing items and improvising weapons
- Yelling
- Committing to your actions

HOW TO RESPOND WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES:

Law enforcement's purpose is to stop the active shooter as soon as possible. Officers will proceed directly to the area in which the last shots were heard.

- Officers usually arrive in teams of four (4)
- Officers may wear regular patrol uniforms or external bulletproof vests, Kevlar helmets, and other tactical equipment
- Officers may be armed with rifles, shotguns, and handguns
- Officers may use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation
- Officers may shout commands, and may push individuals to the ground for their safety

HOW TO REACT WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES:

- Remain calm, and follow officers' instructions
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
- Immediately raise hands and spread fingers
- Keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises

INFORMATION TO PROVIDE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR 911 OPERATORS:

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters, if more than one
- Physical description of shooter/s
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter/s
- Number of potential victims at the location

The first officers to arrive to the scene will not stop to help injured persons. Expect rescue teams comprised of additional officers and emergency medical personnel to follow the initial officers. These rescue teams will treat and remove any injured persons. They may also call upon able-bodied individuals to assist in removing the wounded from the premises.

Once you have reached a safe location or an assembly point, you will likely be held in that area by law enforcement until the situation is under control, and all witnesses have been identified and questioned. Do not leave until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so.



Stress and Finances

By Deacon Cynthia Seabrook

Don't let your finances stress you out to the point of inaction. Instead, take control of your finances. Start budgeting. Don't use your budget to set unrealistic goals.

The last few years have been very difficult. For some, going out less has helped you stay in control of your budget. The fact that everything has skyrocketed in price, has sent your budget in an out-of-control spiral.

Research suggests that financial stress is at an all time high in America. This phenomenon has been brought on by the numerous hiring freezes, layoffs, high prices and fear of getting sick with Covid-19.

Financial stress can be caused by a number things: debt, unexpected expenses, or compulsion to make purchases that you can't afford.

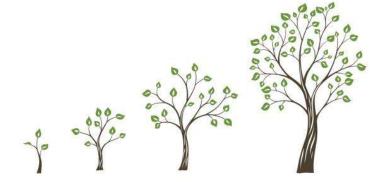
If you are suffering from financial stress, keep this in mind:

• You are not alone. There are plenty of services and people out there who can help you.

The easiest way to get and keep your finances on track is to make and follow a detailed realistic budget that you can stick to. This may sound obvious, but for many people, the experience of financial stress creates a vicious cycle. Instead, use your budget to accurately track your finances. Having a good idea of how much money you actually have of spend, is your first step toward true financial freedom.

Deacon Cynthia Seabrook

Author Kiara Taylor-Finances



Bayard Rustin

Bayard Rustin (<u>/'baɪ.ərd/</u>; March 17, 1912 – August 24, 1987) was an African American leader in social movements for <u>civil rights</u>, <u>socialism</u>, <u>nonviolence</u>, and <u>gay rights</u>.

Rustin worked with A. Philip Randolph on the March on Washington Movement, in 1941, to press for an end to racial discrimination in employment. Rustin later organized Freedom Rides, and helped to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to strengthen Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership and teaching King about nonviolence; he later served as an organizer for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.^[1] Rustin worked alongside Ella Baker, a co-director of the Crusade for Citizenship, in 1954; and before the Montgomery bus boycott, he helped organize a group, called "In Friendship," amongst Baker, George Lawrence, Stanley Levison of the American Jewish Congress, and some other labor leaders. "In Friendship" provided material and legal assistance to those being evicted from their tenant farms and households in Clarendon County, Yazoo, and other places.^[2] Rustin became the head of the AFL–CIO's A. Philip Randolph Institute, which promoted the integration of formerly all-white unions and promoted the unionization of African Americans. During the 1970s and 1980s, Rustin served on many humanitarian missions, such as aiding refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia. At the time of his death in 1987, he was on a humanitarian mission in Haiti.



Rustin was a <u>gay man</u> and, due to criticism over his sexuality, he usually acted as an influential adviser behind the scenes to civil-rights leaders. In the 1980s, he became a public advocate on behalf of gay causes, speaking at events as an activist and supporter of human rights.^[3]

Later in life, while still devoted to securing workers' rights, Rustin joined other union leaders in aligning with ideological <u>neoconservatism</u>,^{[4][5]} and (after his death) President <u>Ronald Reagan</u> praised him.^[6] On November 20, 2013, President <u>Barack Obama</u> posthumously awarded Rustin the <u>Presidential Medal of Freedom</u>.

Rustin was born in <u>West Chester, Pennsylvania</u>, to Florence Rustin and Archie Hopkins, but raised by his maternal grandparents, Julia (Davis) and Janifer Rustin, as the ninth of their twelve children; growing up he believed his biological mother was his older sister.^{[8][9][10]} His grandparents were relatively wealthy local caterers who raised Rustin in a large house.^[8] Julia Rustin was a <u>Quaker</u>, although she attended her husband's <u>African Methodist</u> <u>Episcopal Church</u>. She was also a member of the <u>National Association for the Advancement of Colored</u> <u>People</u> (NAACP). NAACP leaders such as <u>W.E.B. Du Bois</u> and <u>James Weldon Johnson</u> were frequent guests in the Rustin home. With these influences in his early life, in his youth Rustin campaigned against racially discriminatory <u>Jim</u> <u>Crow laws</u>.^[11]

One of the first documented realizations Rustin had of his sexuality was when he mentioned to his grandmother that he preferred to spend time with males rather than females. She responded, "I suppose that's what you need to do".^[12]

In 1932, Rustin entered <u>Wilberforce College</u>, a <u>historically black college</u> (HBCU) in Ohio operated by the AME Church.^[13] Rustin was active in a number of campus organizations, including the <u>Omega Psi Phi</u> fraternity.^[14] He was expelled from Wilberforce in 1936 after organizing a strike,^[15] and later attended Cheyney State Teachers College (now <u>Cheyney University of Pennsylvania</u>). Cheyney honored Rustin with a posthumous " Doctor of Humane Letters" degree at its 2013 commencement.

(continued)

After completing an activist training program conducted by the <u>American Friends Service Committee</u> (AFSC), Rustin moved to <u>Harlem</u> in 1937 and began studying at <u>City College of New York</u>. There he became involved in efforts to defend and free the <u>Scottsboro Boys</u>, nine young black men in Alabama who were accused of raping two white women. He joined the <u>Young</u> <u>Communist League</u> for a small period of time in 1936, before becoming disillusioned with the party.^[9] Soon after arriving in New York City, he became a member of Fifteenth Street Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

Rustin was an accomplished tenor vocalist, an asset that earned him admission to both Wilberforce University and Cheyney State Teachers College with music scholarships.^[16] In 1939, he was in the chorus of the short-lived musical *John Henry* that starred <u>Paul</u> <u>Robeson</u>. Blues singer Josh White was also a cast member and later invited Rustin to join his band, "Josh White and the Carolinians". This gave Rustin the opportunity to become a regular performer at the <u>Café</u> <u>Society nightclub</u> in <u>Greenwich Village</u>, widening his social and intellectual contacts.^[17] A few albums on Fellowship Records featuring his singing, such as <u>Bayard</u> <u>Rustin Sings a Program of Spirituals</u>, were produced from the 1950s through the 1970s.

At the direction of the Soviet Union, the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) and its members were active in the civil rights movement for African Americans.^[18] The CPUSA, at the time following Stalin's "theory of nationalism", favored the creation of a separate nation for African Americans to be located in the American Southeast where the greatest proportion of the black population was concentrated.^[19] In 1941, after Germany invaded Union, the Soviet Communist International ordered the CPUSA to abandon civil rights work and focus on supporting U.S. entry into World War [[.[citation needed][20]

Disillusioned, Rustin began working with members of the Socialist Party of Norman Thomas, particularly Α. Philip Randolph, the head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; another socialist mentor was the pacifist A. J. Muste, leader of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). FOR hired Rustin as a race relation secretary in the late summer of 1941.^[21]

The three of them proposed a march on Washington, D.C. in 1941 to protest racial segregation in the armed forces and widespread discrimination in employment. Meeting with President Roosevelt in the Oval Office, Randolph respectfully and politely, but firmly told President Roosevelt that African Americans would march in the capital unless desegregation occurred. To prove their good faith, the organizers canceled the planned march after Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 (the Fair Employment Act), which banned discrimination in defense industries and federal agencies. The leader of the organizers. Randolph. canceled the march against Rustin's advisement.^[21] The armed forces were not desegregated until 1948, under an Executive Order issued by President Harry S. Truman. Randolph felt that FOR had succeeded in their goal and wanted to dissolve the committee. Again, Rustin disagreed with him and voiced his differing opinion in a national press conference, which he later regretted.^[21] Rustin traveled to California to help protect the property of the more than 120,000 Japanese Americans (most of U.S.-born citizens) whom were who had been imprisoned in internment camps. Impressed with Rustin's organizational skills, A.J. Muste appointed him

Rustin was also a pioneer in the movement to desegregate interstate bus travel. In 1942, he boarded a bus in Louisville, bound for Nashville, and sat in the second row. A number of drivers asked him to move to the back, according to Southern practice of Jim Crow, but Rustin refused. The bus was stopped by police 13 miles north of Nashville and Rustin was arrested. He was beaten and taken to a police station but was released uncharged.^[22]

as FOR's secretary for student and general affairs.

He spoke about his decision to be arrested, and how that moment also clarified his witness as a gay person, in an interview with the *Washington Blade*:

(continued)

As I was going by the second seat to go to the rear, a white child reached out for the ring necktie I was wearing and pulled it, whereupon its mother said, "Don't touch a n*****."

If I go and sit quietly at the back of that bus now, that child, who was so innocent of race relations that it was going to play with me, will have seen so many blacks go in the back and sit down quietly that it's going to end up saying, "They like it back there, I've never seen anybody protest against it." I owe it to that child, not only to my own dignity, I owe it to that child, that it should be educated to know that blacks do not want to sit in the back, and therefore I should get arrested, letting all these white people in the bus know that I do not accept that.

It occurred to me shortly after that that it was an absolute necessity for me to declare homosexuality because if I didn't I was a part of the prejudice. I was aiding and abetting the prejudice that was a part of the effort to destroy me.^[23]

In 1942, Rustin assisted two other FOR staffers, <u>George</u> <u>Houser</u> and <u>James Farmer</u>, and activist <u>Bernice Fisher</u> as they formed the <u>Congress of Racial Equality</u> (CORE). Rustin was not a direct founder, but was later described as "an uncle of CORE". CORE had been conceived as a pacifist organization based on the writings of <u>Mohandas</u> <u>Gandhi</u>, who used <u>non-violent resistance</u> against British rule in <u>India</u>. CORE was also influenced by his protégé <u>Krishnalal Shridharani</u>'s book *War without Violence*.^{[24][25]}

As declared <u>pacifists</u> who refused induction into the military, Rustin, Houser, and other members of FOR and CORE were convicted of violating the <u>Selective Service</u> <u>Act</u>. From 1944 to 1946, Rustin was imprisoned in <u>Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary</u>, where he organized protests against segregated dining facilities. During his incarceration, he also organized FOR's <u>Free India</u> <u>Committee</u>. After his release from prison, he was frequently arrested for protesting against British colonial rule, in both India and Africa.

Just before a trip to Africa while college secretary of the FOR, Rustin recorded a 10-inch LP for the Fellowship Records label. He sang <u>spirituals</u> and <u>Elizabethan</u> songs, accompanied on the <u>harpsichord</u> by Margaret Davison.^[26]

Rustin and Houser organized the Journey of Reconciliation in 1947. This was the first of the Freedom Rides to test the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States in Morgan v. Commonwealth of Virginia that banned racial discrimination in interstate travel as unconstitutional. Rustin and CORE executive secretary George Houser recruited a team of fourteen men, divided equally by race, to ride in pairs through Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky.^[27] The NAACP opposed CORE's Gandhian tactics as too meek. Participants in the Journey of Reconciliation were arrested several times. Arrested with Igal Roodenko and Joe Felmet, Rustin served twenty-two days on a chain gang in North Carolina for violating state Jim Crow laws regarding segregated seating on public transportation.^{[28][29]}

In 1948, Rustin traveled to India to learn techniques of <u>nonviolent civil resistance</u> directly from the leaders of the Gandhian movement. The conference had been organized before <u>Gandhi</u>'s assassination earlier that year. Between 1947 and 1952, Rustin also met with leaders of independence movements in <u>Ghana</u> and <u>Nigeria</u>. In 1951, he formed the committee to Support South African Resistance, which later became the <u>American Committee on</u> <u>Africa</u>.

Rustin was arrested in Pasadena, California, in January 1953 for sexual activity with two men in their 20s, in a parked car.[23] Originally charged with vagrancy and lewd conduct, he pleaded guilty to a of "sex single, lesser charge perversion" (as sodomy was officially referred to in California then, even if consensual) and served 60 days in jail. This was the first time that his homosexuality had come to public attention (and for which he was posthumously pardoned). He had been and remained candid in private about his sexuality, although homosexual activity was still criminalized throughout United States.[30] Rustin resigned from the the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) because of his convictions. They also greatly affected Rustin's relationship with <u>A. J. Muste</u>, the director of the FOR.

Bayard Rustin

(continued)

Muste had already tried to change Rustin's sexuality earlier in their relationship with no success. Later in Rustin's life, they continued their relationship with more tension than they had previously.^[31] Rustin became the executive secretary of the <u>War Resisters League</u>. Later, in Montana, an American Legion chapter made his conviction in Pasadena public to try to cancel his lectures in the state.^[30]

Rustin served as an unidentified member of the <u>American Friends Service Committee</u>'s task force to write "<u>Speak Truth to Power: A Quaker Search for an</u> <u>Alternative to Violence</u>,"^[32] published in 1955. This was one of the most influential and widely commented upon <u>pacifist</u> essays in the United States. Rustin had wanted to keep his participation quiet, as he believed that his known sexual orientation would be used by critics as an excuse to compromise the 71-page pamphlet when it was published. It analyzed the <u>Cold</u> <u>War</u> and the American response to it, and recommended <u>non-violent</u> solutions.

Rustin took leave from the War Resisters League in 1956 to advise minister Martin Luther King Jr. of the Baptist Church on Gandhian tactics. King was organizing the public transportation boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, which became known as the Montgomery bus boycott. According to Rustin, "I think it's fair to say that Dr. King's view of non-violent tactics was almost non-existent when the boycott began. In other words, Dr. King was permitting himself and his children and his home to be protected by guns." Rustin convinced King to abandon personal the armed protection, including а handgun.[33] In a 1964 interview with Robert Penn Warren for the book Who Speaks for the Negro?, Rustin also reflected that his integrative ideology began to differ from King's. He believed a social movement "has to be based on the collective needs of people at this time, regardless of color, creed, race."[34]

The following year, Rustin and King began organizing the <u>Southern Christian Leadership Conference</u> (SCLC). Many African American leaders were concerned that Rustin's sexual orientation and past Communist membership would undermine support for the civil rights movement. After the organization of the SCLC, King received criticism for this action from *Harper's* magazine, which wrote about him, "Lost much moral credit ... in the eyes of the young". Although Rustin was open about his sexual orientation and his convictions were a matter of public record, the events had not been discussed widely beyond the civil rights leadership. Rustin did not let this setback change his direction in the movement.^[12]

Rustin "faded from the shortlist of well-known civil rights lions", in part because he was active behind the scenes, and also because of public discomfort with his sexual orientation and former communist membership.[35] In addition, Rustin's tilt toward neoconservatism in the late 1960s led him into a disagreement with most civil rights leaders. But, the 2003 documentary film Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin, a Sundance Festival Grand Jury Prize nominee,^[71] and the March 2012 centennial of Rustin's birth have contributed to renewed recognition of his extensive contributions.

Rustin served as chairman of <u>Social Democrats, USA</u>, which, *The Washington Post* wrote in 2013, "was a breeding ground for many <u>neoconservatives</u>".^[72] French historian <u>Justin Vaïsse</u> classifies him as a "right-wing socialist" and "second age neoconservative", citing his role as vice-chair of the <u>Coalition for a Democratic</u> <u>Majority</u>, which was involved in the second incarnation of the <u>Committee on the Present Danger</u>.^{[73][74]}

According to Daniel Richman, former clerk for <u>United</u> <u>States Supreme Court</u> justice <u>Thurgood Marshall</u>, Marshall's friendship with Rustin, who was open about his homosexuality, played a significant role in Marshall's dissent from the court's 5–4 decision upholding the constitutionality of state sodomy laws in the <u>later</u> <u>overturned</u> 1986 case <u>Bowers v. Hardwick</u>.^[75]

Several buildings have been named in honor of Rustin, including the <u>Bayard Rustin Educational Complex</u> located in <u>Chelsea, Manhattan;^[76]</u> Bayard <u>Rustin High School</u> in his hometown of West Chester, Pennsylvania; Bayard Rustin Library at the Affirmations Gay/Lesbian Community Center in <u>Ferndale, Michigan</u>; the Bayard Rustin Social Justice Center in <u>Conway, Arkansas</u>, and the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice in <u>Princeton</u>, <u>New Jersey</u>. Rustin is one of two men who have both participated in the <u>Penn Relays</u> and had a school, <u>West Chester Rustin High School</u>, named in his honor that participates in the relays.



March 1st

Azpiri, Naiara Bryant, Jeffrey Fedick, Lisa Guerrier, Fabienne Lee. Alice Miller, Judith Murray, Christopher Parks, William Perry-Estime, Gail Prawl, Chante Thigpen, Barbara March 2nd

Edmonds-Myles, Sadiga English, Malcolm Gibson, Trevin Pullev, Karen March 3rd

Deslandes, Dorothy Frances, Gregory Jackson, Laverne Jordan, Manion Kendricks, Kimberly Kendricks, Rhonda Myles, David Smalls, Barbara Szucs, Barbara Wilson, Clarice March 4th

Brown-Rogers, Renata Daniels, Terrell Fisher, Doris Hampton, Abraham Morrow, Mary Nimmons, Jean Phillips, Nadine Studivant, Robert White, Christina Williams, Monique

March 5th

Anderson, Catherine Anderson, Juanita Clapp, Michael Henry, Kiearta Jones, Ashley Langston, Ali Lee, Kim Thompson, Sylvia Threat-Griffin, Vonetta



March 6th

Clayton, Magie Day, Jovan Goodwin, Rochelle Greatheart, David Lewis, Sandra Stone, Noelle Williams, Tiffany Wright, Lakeem March 7th

Annunziato, Kristen Austin-Christy, Sharon Baldwin, Dalaine J. Carter, Sovah Cobb, Sherrine Colson, Sheila Johnson, Latasia Mendez, Dezmondae Mones, Barbara Reid. Joel

March 8th

Davis, Cynthia Durant, Tracy Riley, Tiffany Turnball, Deborah Wright, Kevin March 9th Black, Geneysha Cooper, Odell Davy, Orlando Maye, Shawneisha L.

March 10th Butts, Jr., Curtis Dixon, Theresa Laws, Stanley Porter, Rashaun Wright, Zequanda

March 11th

Gallimore III, Frederick Ingram, Bobbie Padilla, Freddie Richardson, Leon Spearman, Barbara March 12th

Brown, Nysheen Crumpton, Lavesha Lopes, Ana Miller, Remy Miller, Sheila Phillips, Laurie Spencer, James

March 13th

Gatling, Bryan Hill, Harold Jones, Nedra Martin, Betty Womack, Sidney March 14th

Boykin, John Hall, Quantishay Hargell, Brinita Johnson, Shenneetha Pulley, Christina

March 15th

Bigelow, Roxie Brown, Stafford Burton, Samantha Jones, Jennifer March 16th

Gatison, Thedis Gerald, Johnny May, Janet McKenzie, Julian McKenzie. Mabel Miller-Hayes, Jocelyn Paul, Candida Wilson, Anita

March 17th

Belin, Freddie Lee Boston - Bass, Fallon Brown, Caleb Foster, Jimmy Jones, Christine Jones, Garrett Washington, Kimberly Wilson, Michelle

March 18th

Barnes, Ashley Hill, Antoinette Jones, Rhonda Joseph, Tiffany Moore, Markus Rozier, Ricardo Sheffield, Kendale March 19th

Bember, Mary Ann Bostick, Warren Fleming, Bernice Fowlin, Dalon Johnson, Lorenda Moore, Claudia Perkins, Glory Pinto, Delia Richardson, Kenneth



March 20th

Cameron, Charles Price, Alanda Marie Shabazz, Adul Jalil Young, J

March 21st

Crumpton, Tanya Cuttino, Barbara Daniels, Keyshaun Galberth, Ella Geter, Chakachan Lahey, Mikela Underwood, Chaz Williams, Andrew

March 22nd

Budd, Deborah Daley, Tanisha Garcia, Jose-Luis Goode, Margaret Hall, Doreen Kearney, Dorothy Macey, Barbara Mims, Kimberly Palmer, Tiffany Williams, Mary March 23rd

Byrd, Nannette Cohen-Gatison, Mary Dickey, Lindsay Santiago, Barbara Shepard, Willie

March 24th Christy, Alyssa

Hibbert, Sheryll Moore, Debbie Richardson, Willie Mae Timmons, Rushawn Williams, Porsha March 25th

Jones, Samantha Jones - Blank, Shani Jordan, Charlene Matthews, Bonita Smith, Pamela Walker, Brian

Walker, Lamesha Wilson, Denise

March 26th

Davis, Piaget Patton, Garland March 27th

Bonney, Richard Gamble, Cassandra Jackson, Larry Washington, Wayne Witherspoon, Jonathan March 28th

OAllen, Laretha Coslow, Myrtle

Davis, Winston Dempsey, Tayanna Dukes, Danielle Lindsay, Theresa Simmons, Jena

March 28th

OAllen, Laretha Coslow, Myrtle Davis, Winston Dempsey, Tayanna Dukes, Danielle Lindsay, Theresa Simmons, Jena Williams, Bobbie March 29th

Adams, Alisa Jordan, Molly

Lee, Shelia Maxwell, Troy March 30th

Green, Sampson McIntosh, Joel White, Princella Williams, Terrance

March 31st

Byfield, Bryan Cebert, Morine Danso, Kellie Davis, Ariana Etheredge, Deloris Lary, Helena Miller, Tony Ramsey, Donna



Organized Prayer is 7:00am to 7:10am beginning 3/1/2022 through 3/31/2022. Conference Dial-in Number: 716.427.1336, Participant Access Code: 111933#. See Rev. Alicia Tyson-Sherwood for more information. To playback prayer: 716.427.1343, access code is 111933#. This is not a toll free call, Long Distances Charges May Apply. Note: Do not announce yourself if you call after 6:58am. Please mute your phone so that prayer will not be disturbed. Habakkuk 2:2-3 NIV.

MONTH

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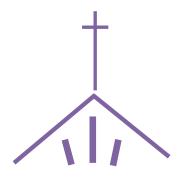
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2022-

MARCH

S U N	x . W	Tue	W E D	THU	Ē	S A T
		1 Isaiah 58:5 Pastor Bennett P R	2 3 Isaiah 58:6 Isai Sis. Barnes Sis. PREPARING FOR LENT	3 Isaiah 59:9 Sis. Whitaker Sis. T	4 Matthew 6:16-18 Sis. M. Lee	5 Mark 1:13 Sis. Thompson- Bennett
6 Jeremiah 33:3 Rev. Dr. Sherwood	7 Luke 11:28 Deacon Gardner	8 1 John 5:14 Sis. Smith L J	9 Pailm 116:1-2 Sis. Simmons LISTENING FOR GOD	10 Philippians 4:9 Pastor Williamson D	11 Ephesians 4:11-16 James 1:19 Deacon Paul Deacon Gist	12 James 1:19 Deacon Gist
13 Psalm 139:1 Bro. Cummings	14 Matthew 10:29-31 Deacon Smith	15 Genesis 1:27 Rev. Dr. Sherwood L 1	16 17 Acts 17:28 Ep Min. Langley Sis LETTERS FROM GOD	17 Ephesians 1:11-12 Sis. Alston D	18 1 John 3:1 Pastor Kingwood- Smalls	19 James 1:17 Pastor Boissiere
20 Proverbs 17:27-28 Sis. S. Jackson	21 Ecclesiastes 3:7 Bro. Easley	22 2 Corin. 10:1-2 Deacon Vermont JOURNE	D:1-2 23 D:1-2 1 Chron. 29:10-20 1 Peter 3: Erront Bro. White Sis. Ellis JOURNEYING THROUGH SILENCE	24 1 Peter 3:15-16 Sis. Ellis SILENCE	25 2 Timothy 3:16 Sis. Newton-Foster	26 1 Timothy 1:7 Deacon Hurst
27 James 1:6 Bro. Newton	28 Proverbs 3:5-8 Min. Langley	29 Matthew 21:21 Sis. Davis PRAY	1 Matthew 14:21 Mark 1 Deacon Adetona Deaco PRAYING THROUGH DOUBT	31 Mark 11:23 Deacon A. Febres OUBT		



For those who are unable to watch LIVE, You can call into the prayer line at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays to hear Pastor Bennett preach

And at 12:00 noon on Wednesdays tune into Bible Study at

716-427-1336 Access Code:111933#

Please remember to mute your phone once you join the line by pressing the mute button, or if you don't have a mute button, please press the symbol * and the number 6. Muting your phone cancels out any background noises. **Thank you and God Bless!**