MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNT

MFTM

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PASTOR'S PEN

Namaste My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is indeed a blessed privilege to have this opportunity to once again pen these words to you. Because there is so much to share in this limited space, allow me to express my gratitude to the church staff and general leadership of this congregation for their continued dedication and service to this ministry. So much takes place within this ministry on a daily basis of which they facilitate and sustain. We don't always need a special day or special reason to simply say "thank you for your service."

In particular, we lift up the many ways the staff and leaders of this congregation mirror the labor of tens of thousands of people around this nation who give of themselves as our ancestors did decades ago. We honor and celebrate both the known figures and even more so, the lesser known and unknown men and women, boys and girls of our past and present who give of themselves so that others might benefit. Thank you.

As we move into the month of March, we continue our Lenten season with the theme, ***Finding Joy through Our Prayer, Praise and Practice***. It is my prayer that each disciple of this congregation will, in the words of our Ash Wednesday preacher Bishop Benjamin K. Watts, "use the burden of hope to recommit themselves to the disciplines of prayer, fasting, praise and engagement of ministry."

Additionally, this month we will lift up the accomplishments and efforts as well as the continued struggle of women within our church culture and broader societal culture. We look forward to exploring the great inspiration, insight and instruction that the women of our culture provide for us.

We will close out this month once again hearing a powerful word from our friend and our sister, The Reverend Dr. Professor Valerie Bridgeman.

I ask that you continue to lift this ministry in your prayers.

God bless you,

Pastor Anthony Bennett

Pastor Anthony L. Bennett. D. Min.
Lead Pastor

IMPORTANT DATES

During this season of prayer, call in to the prayer line at 7:00am daily at 319-527-3510 and the callback number to 319-527-3518. The participant access code is 111933#. The calls are recorded so please mute your phone to eliminate background noise. Please note that long distance charges may apply.

2017 Contribution Statements Reminder:

o If you completed a form requesting your contribution statement last year, this year's statement has been automatically generated and you may pick it up in the front office starting today.

o If your statement was emailed to you last year, it has already been emailed to you.

o If you did neither last year and want to request one for this year, no problem, please go to the church office to be helped.

We thank you for trusting God with your tithes and offerings.

Announcements

- **Message from the Mount** is seeking help with the printing of the MFTM and assisting in the print center. We will train. Please contact Deacon Henry Smalls if you have any questions and are willing to assist.
- **Our Strategic Planning Team** is ministering through social service by serving breakfast at the Merton House once per month. They are expanding this effort by serving every 2nd Saturday. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** If you are interested in participating, please see Karen Whittington or leave your information in the church office.
- Here's a new and exciting way to join in worship with us. Follow us on Ustream.tv. Simply visit this link *http://www.ustream.tv/channel/mount-aery-baptist-church* or go the *www.mtaerybaptist.org* and scroll to the bottom to select the Ustream link there. Please be sure to pass the link to your friends and family as well so they can be blessed by our ministry.
- **Generation Next Youth Ministry** is calling all youth ages 3-18. Youth Church for the 2017 year will be held at the 11:00 am services on 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month! Please see Minister Michael Walton or Claudine Mosely-Walton for more information!
- **Chosen Generation** is inviting everyone from the ages of 13-27 to join this youth and young adult choir. Please see Sister Magnolia Barnes with your interest.
- **Lost and Found** – Several pairs of glasses, sunglasses, bibles and other lost items are in the church office. If you have lost anything, please check the church office. Items may be given away if left any longer. Thank you.
- **Deacons on Call** are Deacons Dewitt-Smith & Walton.
- **Submissions of announcements and due dates:**
  - o Message From The Mount
    - Send information to *mftm@mtaerybaptist.org* by the second Wednesday after the first Sunday
  - o Monitors in the Sanctuary
    - Send information to media@mtaerybaptist.org 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.
- **No Pork on Church Property**
  - o For health, healing and sensitivity for those with health conditions, no pork is to be brought on church premises (i.e. ministry affairs and/or catering).
- **NO Food or Beverage in the Sanctuary**
  - o Please, please, please, do not bring food or beverages into the sanctuary. Parents, please feed infants and toddlers in the Wilson Hall or the Bass Hall. It is everyone's responsibility to be good stewards of the building that God has blessed us with. If you see anyone not being responsible, please get an Usher or a Deacon to handle the situation. Thank you.
- **Parents,** while you are in worship, your children should be in worship next to you, unless Youth Church is in session. Teenagers have been wandering around the church and the younger children have been playing in the Quiet Room. The Quiet Room is for parents with infants only. **Please keep your children with you at all times.**

Dr. Anthony L. Bennett and the Mount Aery Baptist Church Family

On behalf of the Council Family, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your prayers and condolences during our period of bereavement. Please know those prayers and words of concern were our leaning post and will forever remain in our hearts as we continue to move forward.

Again, thank you and God bless,
Ralph and Martha W. Council

"Gratefully Acknowledging and Thanking you for your kind expressions of Sympathy"

To Rev. Dr. Anthony L. Bennett, Sister Donna, the Ministerial Staff, Office Staff and the following Ministries; Deacons, Deaconesses, Ushers, Nurses, Men's, Trustees, Women @ the Well, Children's, Music, MAAFA, M.A.D.C., Security, Bereavement & The Mt. Aery Church Family!! A GREAT BIG THANK YOU! For your support, Visits, Words of Comfort, Thoughts, Texts, Phone Calls and most of all for your PRAYERS and HELPING my Family and Me prepare to Travel this long & lonely road of Bereavement. I am forever Grateful. Your kind Expressions of Sympathy are Deeply Appreciated & will Always be Remembered. May GOD BLESS each & everyone of you.

Sending much LOVE,
Sister Lilly Felder-Ragsdale, the Shell Family, the Felder Family & the Family of Brother Waverly Thomas Ragsdale

MRS. SAMMIE LEE TABB
SUNRISE 10-25-21
SUNSET 1-26-18

EVERY ACT OF KINDNESS WAS RECEIVED AND APPRECIATED.

DEACON KAT TABB-SMALLS & FAMILY

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 ~ Equip ~ Engage

Hospitalization & Nursing Home

Please be aware that there are strict legal and ethical guidelines regarding giving out patient 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.

Clyde McLaughlin
Maefair Rehab Center
21 Maefair Court, Trumbull, CT 06611

Mary Ryan
Northbridge Health Care Center, 2875 Main Street,
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Sandra Stephenson
Bridgeport Hospital, 267 Grant Street 9th fl East #9016,
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Roger Mullins, Sr.
Willows Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 225 Amity Road,
Woodbridge, CT 06525

Frances Riley
Bridgeport Healthcare, 600 Bond Street, Room 525,
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Lemme McIntosh
West River Rehab, 245 Orange Avenue,
Milford, CT 06461

Eunice Roundtree
Northbridge Rehab, 2875 Main Street, #322,
Bridgeport, CT 06606

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

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

Bereavement

- **Veronica Davis and family** on the loss of her Aunt in Jamaica.
- **Lee & Leslie Green and family** on the loss of her Aunt.
- **Dennis-Hodges-Barnes family** on the loss of Rosalind "Nene" Dennis-Hodges.
- **Deacon Henry C. Smalls, Jr & family** on the lost of his God Father Deacon Alander C. Lee.
- **Deacon Julian Jean Baptiste and family** on the loss of his nephew, Shannon Chitolie, in St Lucia.

Please Pray for Our Healing List

Shirley Borum
Elease Breedlove
Isaiah Brown
Carol Carter-Mims
George Cauthen
Lucille Cauthen
Joan H. Colley
Minister Odell Cooper
Tracey Nicole Craig
Deaconess Louise Cunningham
Richard Dailey
Frances Dicks
Ruth Hasty-Dove
Sandra Dunn
Rose Evans
James Freeman
Deacon Minnie Grant
Ruth Harvin
Deacon Jeffrey Hill
Deacon Naomi Holmes
Deacon Primus Jackson
Beverly James
Maria Knight
Theresa Lazarus
Cheryl Lewis
Jordan Alexander Lewis
Reanna McCoy
Lemme McIntosh
Mary McRae
Autumn Mitton
Caleb Mitton
Spring Mitton
Edward A. Morris
Deacon Regina Mosely
Hadassah Nightingale
Austin Perkins
Eulalia Pettway
Terrance Quiller
Arthur Ragsdale
Frances Riley
Esther Ryan
Rose Samuel
Sandra Simpson
Linda Suggs
Herb Sutton
Rev. Velva Jean Tucker
Paula Watkins
Dorothy Watts
Gwen Williams
Barbara Wilson
Michelle Lisa Wilson
Jacqueline Tyson-Wright
Willie Mae Wright
Khadyah
Ayisha
Marcella

LET'S GET HEALTHY MONTH

by Cathy Patton

Were you aware that November, the 11th month of year, is National Togetherness Month. Then in August, the 8th month of year, hosts National Friendship Day. So I subtracted 8 from 11 and ended up with 3, which would equal the 3rd month of the year, and that is March, the presenter of 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, more runners on the street, and lunch periods will again be used to fit in a brisk walk. Fit-bits and smart watches will be flying off the shelves, and sneaker & workout gear stocks will rise.

The motivator to all these actions is the end of winter, which means heavy layers come off and lighter clothing takes over. Whatever the catalyst to move someone toward healthy lifestyle customs is welcomed. If, however, these behaviors are not done with a level of support from those around you, making timely and annual visits to your physicians, or educating yourself on better diet and activity habits, then chances are, your success rate will be slower.

It seems ridiculous to actually have a day, or month, in 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 every day. 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, 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 place attention on a movement toward a healthier you!

healthy habits

CHILI AND CORNBREAD CASSEROLE

by Jennifer Bruton

Chili

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 lbs ground beef or ground turkey
1 medium onion diced
3 tablespoons of olive oil or canola oil
1 - 28 can of diced tomatoes
2 -15 oz cans of beans rinsed and drained
(I use one can black beans and 1 can of pink beans)
1 jar salsa
1 package chili seasoning mix

Cornbread

INGREDIENTS

1 package Jiffy Corn Muffin mix
1 egg
1/3 cup of milk
8 ounces shredded cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS

Directions:

Place the oil in a large nonstick pan and sauté the diced onion over medium heat. Add the ground meat and cook thoroughly. Drain and return to pan. Add the rest of the chili ingredients stir to combine thoroughly. Cook on medium heat for 20-30 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray an 8x8 casserole dish with cooking spray. Place the chili in the bottom of the casserole dish. Prepare the cornbread according to the directions listed on the back of the box. Fold in 1 1/4 cup of cheddar cheese into the cornbread mix. Spread the cornbread mixture in top of the chili. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until the cornbread mixture is golden brown. Remove from the oven and top with the remaining 3/4 cup of cheddar cheese. Place back in the oven for two to three minutes to melt the cheese. Serve

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

I will spread out my hands in prayer to the Lord. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, so you may know that the earth is the Lord's.
Exodus 9:29

Hands Unto the Lord ministry started out as an exercise to teach a group of children in Jesus Corner how sign the song, "Melodies From Heaven."

Originally, I did not see myself interpreting the service. I just wanted to sign pretty songs until I heard two stories that broke by heart.
One was from a deaf man who did not know that God loved him until he was in his 30s. No one had communicated that to him. Another was from a deaf woman, who when she was a child attended church with her mother. She would see people around her getting the Spirit, but did not know what it was. No one communicated it to her. But one night in bed as a child she willed whatever that was; that she saw happening to the people in church, would happen to her. The Holy Spirit came upon her that night and it changed her life.

Those two stories convicted me to take on interpreting the service in its entirety. The mission of the ministry was to bring the signed communication of grace to the deaf and to facilitate their participation in worship.

Since that time I have signing the service at Mt. Aery for about 19 years.

During this time, there were other interpreters and a system of education put in place regarding deaf culture. Several deaf individuals expressed that they were uncomfortable in hearing churches, and much was done to try to educate the church on how to make them feel welcomed and comfortable. It gave us great pleasure to see Mount Aery members come over and say hello and reaching out to help them feel welcome in many ways.

While initially, this ministry was developed as a tool of communication for the deaf (And by the way, it's okay to say deaf.), sign language has also evolved into a useful tool for communication with autistic individuals as well, many of whom use sign language.

The ministry has worked to fulfil its mission in many ways. It has assisted in facilitating and provided transportation to and from service. There has been community outreach, providing free interpretation services in social service, school and other settings. Non-interpretation assistance has been provided to deaf individuals needing support in other areas of their lives such as access to resources, etc. Yearly classes in basic sign language have been offered free to the community. Sunday services have been interpreted on the 1st and 3rd Sunday, as well as other services and programs along the way.

The journey of becoming a religious interpreter is a long one. It takes on average about two years to become proficient in just basic sign language and religious signing is a whole other leg of the journey. Religious signs are not used in everyday language, so it takes an extra commitment to get accustomed to those signs. Another component of religious signing is the spiritual aspect.

There's a quote from my religious training that sums it up pretty well, and I have used it in my own training:

For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? 1 Cor. 14:8 KJV

In other words, spirit must call spirit and signing must be with clarity and conviction.

It takes time for this skill to be mastered and I want to thank those interpreters who came forward and who committed to working in this ministry. They spent a minimum of a year and a half studying quietly in the background before they were seen signing in service. Learning to speak without words, and in the spirit, simultaneously, was hard, emotional work. While building their interpretation skills, I saw confidence build in their personal lives as well and I came to see that the ministry was about more than just teaching someone how to sign. I witnessed interpreters grow from being hesitant to lead a group prayer to wanting to do the finale in the Maafa.

I'm a one woman show now, so the size and scope of the ministry has been limited to interpretation of the service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday at 11 o'clock.

In closing I must say that Hands Unto the Lord ministry has enriched my life in more ways than I can express in words and I hope that it has been as much of a blessing to others as it has been to me. Namaste.

Mount Aery Baptist Church

Aery Baptist Chu

YOUTH SPEAK CELEBRATES FAMILY DAY

FAMILY WORD SCRAMBLE

Squigly has been thinking a lot about families and what makes them successful. Here are some of the ingredients needed to make a happy family. Can you unscramble them all?

Directions:

Unscramble each word and write it in the box provided.

1. VOLE

_____

2. SHOYTEN

_____

3. RUTHT

_____

4. CERPTES

_____

5. REAC

_____

6. GRIEVESNOFS

_____

7. SPINACOSOM

_____

FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES

1. Play a game
2. Go to a park
3. Look through family photo albums
4. Make a snowman family
5. Attend family day activities in your area
6. Bake something yummy
7. Make crafts together
8. Take a nature walk
9. Fly a kite
10. Go for a bike ride
11. Go tobogganing
12. Discover the fun of geocaching
13. Make a special meal together
14. Visit a museum
15. Read a book
16. Go swimming
17. Have an indoor or outdoor picnic
18. Go to the library
19. Play a sport
20. Play a 2 Player online game together!

www.squigly.com/barbwillner

FAMILY DAY POEM

Focus Focus on time spent together.

Attraction Visit an attraction such as a museum, fair, or library.

Memories Create memories that will last a lifetime.

Invest Invest in getting to know one another.

Love Make showing love the key goal.

Yes Say yes to trying something new with your family.

Dinner Spend time and eat dinner together.

Attention Pay special attention to the family, and avoid outside distractions.

Young Stay young at heart.

www.squigly.com/barbwillner

Photo by Gift Habeshaw on Unsplash

WORD SEARCH

by Deacon Kathy Tabb-Smalls

Finding Joy

T D I G Y P E Z G C U E P L N E Y C P B
G R S S I L B E J L R K H O C D T E G W
N J O W M P G B L U N W I N E R I G V D
I P M F O W M O T G F T A J R O V W Z F
C N R P M P V P B M C I X Z U M I I N L
I M O I T O A X T A L M H W S U T D W V
O T K I D R C R F B R D M B A H S R G A
J G H E T E Y S U A Q E L S E I E S W O
E N J G O I I J N W M T E L R G F J Q I
R R Y F I T U R H O M U Y H T X M J N Y
C P C W A L Z R C L I R S Q C G Y D N G
J R B S D S E J F F M T R E V B U L L G
N O I T A L E D P I D G A Z M L N A W Y
N O I T A C I F I T A R G T G E D E R V
M R A H C T A E R T F D Q E L N N L Z R
I D U O X Y C Q U X J K N A E U E T E E
B C Z M R Q G I S H H C E S L V X D R V
Y R U X U L C K T Z E R S T E O N E C Z
E S O W T M Z R I X N Z Z R H O N T V X
M L Z Z F X V T C A Q C U U W F G D Q Y

AMUSEMENT
BLISS
CHARM
CHEER
COMFORT
DELIGHT
ELATION
EXULTATION
FESTIVITY
FRUITION
GLADNESS
GLEE
GRATIFICATION
HUMOR
INDULGENCE
JUBLIANCE
LUXURY
PRIDE
RAPTURE
REJOICING
REVELRY
SATISFACTION
TREASURE
TREAT
WONDER

ON LIFE'S JOURNEY

by Mrs. Ella "June" Williams

I was born on a feverish hot day, the 10th of August to Ola Cozart Fritts and Letha Leon Fritts. They named me Ella June the second of two daughters. My childhood was fairly normal for the time. My education began in my mother's hometown of Emory Gap, Tennessee. I still remember Mrs. Riddy, one of my first teachers, but when she was ill her husband, Reverend Maseo Riddy, the Pastor of my local church, took over. When I was 12 years old, my parents were divorced and as a result, I ended up going to 3 different high schools, two of which were all black. I went to my third high school in Akron, Ohio, which was the first time I had ever gone to an integrated school, something still new at the time. At the age of 19, I got married and at age 20, had my first child, my daughter Melba Williams-Turner. Three years later, I had my son Jeffrey Williams. I love children and became a stay-at-home mom. I lived near a home for children, and wanted to adopt one of them. I met a little boy from the home, Anthony Wayne Teague, and I knew I couldn't give him back. My husband and I were going to adopt him, but at the same time, my marriage was a mess. My husband filed for divorce and backed out of the adoption, so I adopted him on my own and took my children to Detroit. I did not have any experience or work history, but I did have the Lord on my side. My mother, stepfather, sister, and I, purchased an apartment large enough for my children and my sister's children as well. Suddenly, I was informed that I had to bring Anthony, my foster child, back to Ohio due to the laws at the time. After meeting with a social worker, thanks to God's grace, I was able to keep my child, and I took him back to Detroit. My family and I put our money together and bought a two family flat in Detroit. Luckily, I was able to find a job at the local Kroger's Grocery Store, where I would end up working for next 35 years! Every first Sunday, my sister, mother (while she could), and I, would drive, with all our kids, back to Tennessee or St. Louis to visit family. Till this day, I still try to get together with my sister, who lives in Illinois, to go back to Tennessee and St. Louis, to see our friends and loved ones. I moved to Connecticut in 2005 to help my daughter and her husband with my grandsons. My grandsons kept me young, scurrying around, trying to make sure they made it to basketball practice as well as cooking their meals every day. I love all four of my grandchildren so much, and I am so proud of them with 3 in college and 1 who has already graduated from college. These days, I look forward to talking with my grandchildren and helping them, and of course, singing in the Mt. Aery Choir. I love this church!

‘VIRTUAL KIDNAPPING’ SCAMS

by Deacon Henry Smalls, Jr.

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. This starts with keeping you informed, but remember, security is everyone’s responsibility. In this installment, we will cover ‘Virtual Kidnapping’ scams.

This is an attempt to make everyone aware and not to frighten anyone because, truly, the more you know, the more you will be prepared for these types of scams.

This week, I viewed the story below on the news about Virtual Kidnapping scams, and knew I needed to share this with everyone. Not only do we need to be aware of our surroundings, we also need to possess what we call, situational awareness. We need to hold as much information as we can, private, because the more we share on social media and online, the more susceptible we are to allowing people to use that information to either steal our identity or call us and claim to have a friend or relative held hostage, demanding money for their release. Experts say we should always call police even if the caller tells us not to, and never send or transfer money to anyone or a source you are not completely sure about. Also, always check on the friend or relative just to make sure they are safe:

Police warn residents about ‘virtual kidnapping’ scams

MONROE, CT -- Police in some CT towns are alerting residents about a telephone kidnapping scam that has reportedly been making the rounds.

Monroe police posted to Facebook on Friday, saying they had received several calls about telephone scams happening in the area.

“Virtual kidnapping takes on many forms, it is always an extortion scheme - one that tricks victims into paying a ransom to free a loved one they believe is being threatened with violence or death,” the department posted on its Facebook page.

Police said the calls are random and could come at any point, day or night. The caller will usually say they’ve kidnapped a relative and wants money wired over in exchange for their release. Through social media, they can even identify the relative by name, making the call even more credible.

A week before Monroe police alerted residents, police in Seymour said they had been investigating reports of the same types of phone calls making the rounds to some residents. They wrote, “Please do not provide the callers with any information and DO NOT wire any ransom demands.”

Police in Ansonia also reported this happening in town.

“A lot of time, they give you very little information and let your imagination go to the worst place possible,” said Ansonia Police Lt. Patrick Lynch.

That’s what happened one recent night in Ansonia, where a family got a random call that a relative was kidnapped.

Police say it just happened to be a perfect storm of coincidences. “The person had left the house, the family tried to call him, he wasn’t answering the phone, so they believed the incident to be real,” Lynch said.

Police say the family started scrambling, trying to get cash together. Before any payments were made, police were able to reassure them by locating their loved one safe and sound.

"To them, it seemed real. What they do is prey on people and they say something about a relative. They prey on people and their insecurities," Lynch said.

Anyone who receives a phone call like this should hang up and contact your loved one to make sure they are safe.

Police also said, "do not allow the caller to create panic and do not send money to someone you do not know."

If you do receive a phone call like this, contact your local police department.

Resource: WFSB News3

security corner

INVEST IN THE KINGDOM

by Michele Bryant

Namaste,

Next time you pick up food at the grocery store, pick up your clothes from the dry cleaner, or pick up your car from the mechanic…try leaving without paying the bill. You wouldn't do that, of course. But because no one gives you a bill when you attend church, it's easy to forget that we must maintain a building and support the many ministries of this church that we are privileged to enjoy.

Sometimes people say, "I don't believe in tithing because we don't live under the Law." As Christians, we live under grace, and hallelujah for that! Does that mean we shouldn't honor God with the first portion of our income?

In the Old Testament, specific giving was taught; in the New Testament, giving was sacrificial. In the Old Testament, giving was done by Law; in the New Testament, out of love. In the Old Testament, giving was an obligation; in the New Testament, it was an opportunity. In the Old Testament, giving was done by percentage; in the New Testament, by proportion, "as God has prospered" us. In the Old Testament, giving was a responsibility; in the New Testament, it's a response.

My is a possessive pronoun, a word we use when we want to express ownership ("that's mine") or status ("it's my turn"). It's not a bad word, but the frequency of its use suggests we use it carelessly.

The truth is, nothing is "mine." "Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it" (Deuteronomy 10:14). Everything we have has come from God, given to us to use for Him. We are stewards of His creation. And one thing is required of stewards: faithfulness. What does that mean? It means that, as stewards of God, we receive from Him different degrees of provision at different times. If we receive less, it is not because God is running short of funds. It is because His plans and purposes for our work for Him have changed. In times of plenty or times of want, faithfulness is our calling (Philippians 4:10-13).

We always reap more than we sow. That is the harvest principle, which works with the concept of giving. When Paul mentioned sowing and reaping in 2 Corinthians 9, he had in mind the sowing of our financial gifts.

This doesn't mean we'll come into lots of money if we give to the Lord's work. As many people have experienced, wealth can be fleeting and God will not give us more than we can manage. But if we faithfully sow into His kingdom, we will reap blessings in both time and eternity far beyond our original gifts. Choose an investment that is reliable, is guaranteed to never fail, and yields great rewards: invest in the kingdom of God by committing to return a portion of God's bounty to Him. If you haven't done so already, complete your Covenant Form today.

financial freedom

DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT

Born on March 24, 1912, Dorothy Irene Height would become an activist, administrator, and educator dedicated to seeing racial and women's equality in the United States. Born in Richmond, Virginia, to parents James Height, a building contractor, and Fannie (Burroughs) Height, a nurse, she moved with her family to Rankin, a town near Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, at the age of four. A severe asthmatic as a child, she was not expected to live to the age of 16. Always a diligent and dedicated student, Height won an Elks sponsored $1,000 scholarship in a national oratorical contest, which she used to attend New YorkUniversity. Height earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, and a Masters in Educational Psychology from New York University in four years.

Height's first job was as a caseworker in the New York City Welfare Department. In 1937, Height met Mary McLeod Bethune, founder and president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). Bethune became Height's mentor and the two worked closely together until Bethune's death in 1955. Two years later Height became the fourth President of the National Council of Negro Women, a post she would hold until 1998. Height also served as National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority from 1946 to 1957. In 1952 Height served as visiting professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Delhi, India.

Height led the NCNW during the civil rights era of the 1950s and 1960s. As president, Height helped organize The March on Washington in 1963. She worked with every major civil rights leader of the period including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, and A. Philip Randolph. During the 1960s Height coordinated "Wednesdays in Mississippi," where both black and white women throughout the nation met to discuss racial justice issues. She also personally encouraged President Dwight Eisenhower to desegregate public schools, and urged President Lyndon B. Johnson to appoint black women into governmental positions.

Dorothy Height was equally well known for her leadership with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). She first became a staff member in Harlem in 1944. By 1946 she was elected the National Interracial Education Secretary for the YWCA where she led the effort to integrate all of the facilities of the agency. In 1965 Height became the first director of the YWCA's Center for Racial Justice, a position she held until her retirement from the organization in 1977. In 1971 she joined Gloria Steinem, Shirley Chisholm, Betty Fredian and others to found the National Women's Political Caucus.
In 1986, Height organized the first Black Family Reunion Celebration designed to reinforce the strengths and traditions of the African American family. Over the next two decades the events related to this celebration would attract over 12 million people.

Over the course of her lifetime, Dr. Height became well respected across the nation for her leadership in the campaign for women's employment, education, and equal pay. She is best known, however, for her efforts on behalf of racial equality. Her awards stretch over half a century. In 1944, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt honored Height with the Freedom from Want Award. In 1989 President Ronald Reagan awarded Height with the Citizens' Medal Award for distinguished service. President George W. Bush presented Height the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2000.
Dorothy Irene Height never married. She died on April 20, 2010 at Howard University Hospital, Washington, D.C.

Sources:
Darlene Clark Hine, Elsa Barkley Brown, Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, eds., Black Women in America: an Historical Encyclopedia (Carlson Publishing Company, 1993); http://www.naswfoundation.org/pioneers/h/height.htm; www.ncnw.org/about/height.htm; Dorothy Height Obituary, Seattle Times, April 21, 2010.

MARCH 2018

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
Pulley, Karen

March 3rd
Deslandes, Dorothy
Frances, Gregory
Houston, Lloyd
Jackson, Laverne
Jordan, Manion
Kendricks, Kimberly
Kendricks, Rhonda
Mullins, Roger
Myles, David
Smalls, Barbara
Szucs, Barbara
Wilson, Clarice

March 4th
Brown-Rogers, Renata
Daniels, Terrell
Fisher, Doris
Hampton, Abraham
Jones, Joshua
Morrow, Mary
Nimmons, Jean
Phillips, Nadine
Studivant, Robert
White, Christina
Williams, Monique
Wright, Joseph

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
Dumas, Renee
Johnson, Latasia
Mendez, Dezmondae
Mones, Barbara
Reid, Joel

March 8th
Davis, Cynthia
Durant, Tracy
Lazaro, Monica
Riley, Tiffany
Robinson, Velma
Turnball, Deborah
Wright, Kevin

March 9th
Black, Geneysha
Cooper, Odell
Davy, Orlando
Maye, Shawneisha L.

March 10th
Butts, Jr., Curtis
Dixon, Theresa
Laws, Stanley
Louis, Caleb
Pettway, Mackerea
Porter, Rashaun
Wright, Trioni
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
Manns, Betty

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
Simmons, Anthony

March 20th
Cameron, Charles
Price, Alanda Maria
Shabazz, Adul Jalil
Young, J

March 21st
Abrams, Elizabeth
Crumpton, Tanya
Cuttino, Barbara
Daniels, Keyshaun
Galberth, Ella
Geter, Chakachan
Lahey, Mikela
Lee, Joan
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
Shepherd, Willie

March 24th
Christy, Alyssa
Gray, Chenia
Hibbert, Sheryll
Moore, Debbie
Richardson, Willie Mae
Timmons, Rushawn
Williams, Porsha

March 25th
Blank, Shani
Breedlove, Elease
Jones, Samantha
Jordan, Charlene
Matthews, Bonita
Smith-Hunter, 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
Adetona, Oluwadamisi
Allen, Laretha
Coslow, Myrtle
Davis, Winston
Dempsey, Tayanna
Dukes, Danielle
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

MARCH 2018

Organized Prayer Time

Prayer time is 7:00am to 7:10am beginning 3/1/2018 through 3/31/2018. Conference Dial-in Number: 319-527-3510, Participant Access Code: 111933#. See Rev. Alicia Tyson-Sherwood for more information. **To playback prayer: 319-527-3518, 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. **Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV Reference number for February 1, 2018 is 2219#**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Matthew 4:1-2 Pastor Bennett	2 Luke 4:1-2 Sis. Barnes	3 Mark 1:12-15 Bro. Hill
4 Romans 5:3-4 Bro. Newton	5 James 1:12 Sis. Langley	6 2 Thess. 3:13 Rev. Sherwood	7 Ephesians 6:18 Deacon Gardner	8 Galatians 6:9 Sis. Smith	9 2 Peter 1:5-6 Sis. Simmons	10 1 Corinthians 13:7 Rev. Williamson
11 Exodus 1:19 Deacon Paul	12 Judges 4:4 Sis. Hasan	13 Psalm 68:11 Bro. Cummings	14 1 Chron. 16:11 Bro. Smith	15 Ezra 2:65 Deacon Adetona	16 Matthew 19:26 Deac. D. Seawright	17 Song of Solomon 1:14 Deac. JeanBaptiste
18 Joshua 14:9 Min. Blackwell	19 Psalm 103:17 Rev. Boissiere	20 Luke 18:16 Deacon P. Jackson	21 Isaiah 59:21 Rev. Kingwood	22 Matthew 19:14 Deacon Vermont	23 Mark 7:27 Bro. White	24 Mark 10:14 Sis. Ellis
25 Zechariah 9:9-13 Bro. Smith	26 Isaiah 49:1-4 Deacon Hurst	27 Matthew 26:14-16 Bro. Newton	28 Luke 22:7 Sis. Langley	29 Isaiah 53:1-5 Min. Walton	30 Romans 6:3 Deacon Adetona	31 I Peter 3:18-22 Deacon A. Febres

LENTEN SEASON

PERSEVERE, REMEMBER AND PROCLAIM

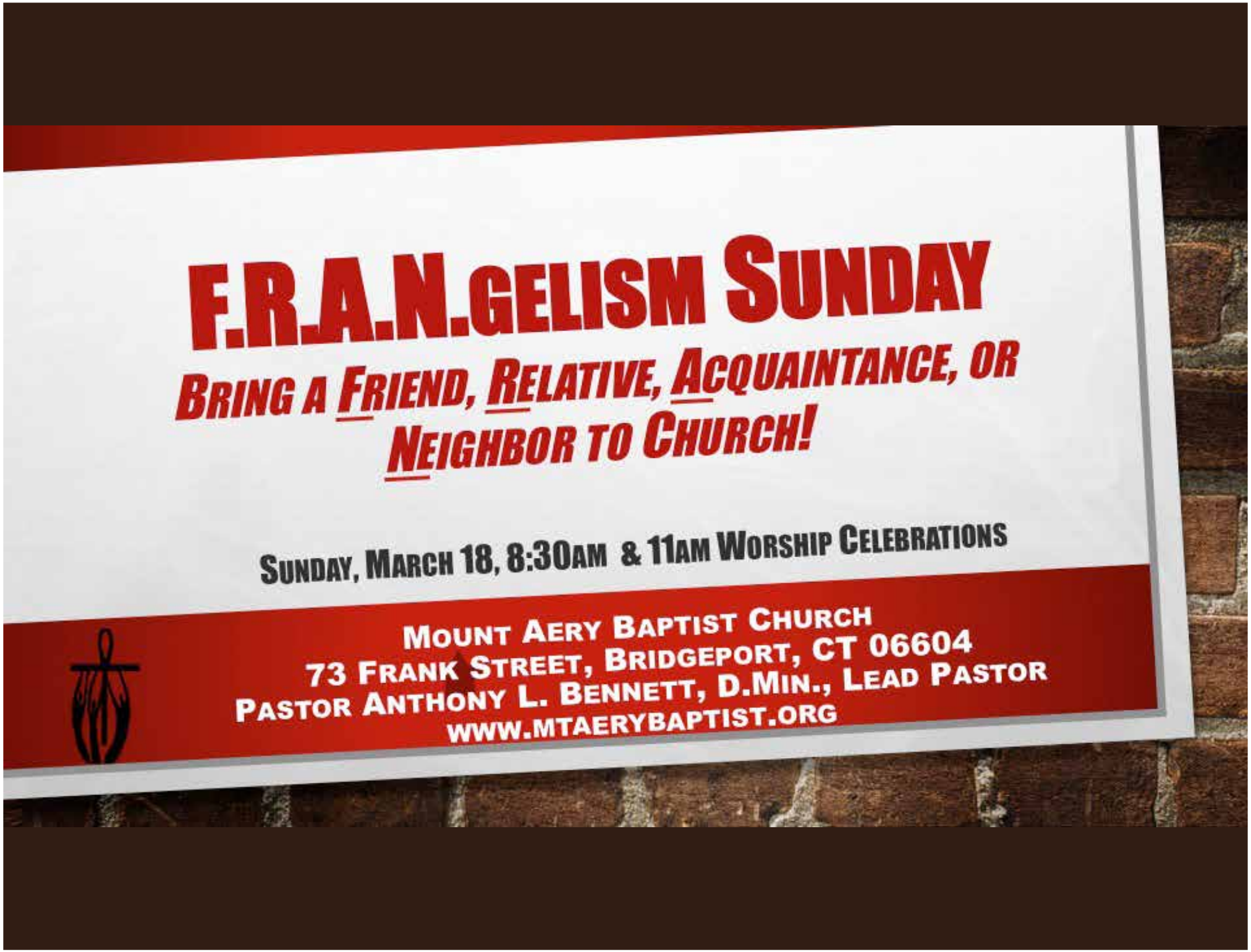
CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY

SUFFER NOT THE LITTLE ONES

HOLY WEEK

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				6:30 PM Deacon's Meeting 6:30 PM REFUGE	6:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal	8:30 AM Men's Fellowship Ministry Mtg. 10:00 AM Finding Joy in Adolescence 12:00 PM Worship & Arts Sessions 3:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7:45 AM Prayer 8:30 AM Worship Celebration 9:45 AM Mount Aery Cafe` 10:00 AM Ministers' Meeting 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Celebration 1:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal		7:00 PM Music Ministry Rehearsal	12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	6:30 PM REFUGE 6:30 PM Ushers Meeting 7:00 PM Worship & Arts Sessions	6:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal	10:00 AM Finding Joy in Adolescence 3:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7:45 AM Prayer 8:30 AM Worship Celebration 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Celebration 11:00 AM Youth Church 1:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal	6:00 PM Fellowship Ministry Meeting	6:30 PM Joint Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Music Ministry Rehearsal	12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilters 7:00 PM Bible Study	6:30 PM Deacon's Meeting 6:30 PM Junior Ushers Meeting 6:30 PM REFUGE 7:00 PM Worship & Arts Sessions	6:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal	8:30 AM Men's Fellowship Ministry Mtg. 10:00 AM Finding Joy in Adolescence 10:00 AM Missionary Meeting 3:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
7:45 AM Prayer 8:30 AM Worship Celebration 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Celebration 11:00 AM Youth Church 1:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal		6:30 PM Teacher's Meeting 7:00 PM Music Ministry Rehearsal	12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	6:30 PM REFUGE 7:00 PM Worship & Arts Sessions	6:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal	10:00 AM Finding Joy in Adolescence 10:00 AM Proclamation Drama in Response to Trauma 3:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
7:45 AM Prayer 8:30 AM Palm Sunday Worship Celebration 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship Celebration 1:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal		9:00 AM System of Care Training 7:00 PM Music Ministry Rehearsal	12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilters 7:00 PM Bible Study	6:30 PM Deacon's Meeting 6:30 PM REFUGE 7:00 PM Worship & Arts Sessions	6:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal	10:00 AM Ministers' Meeting 12:00 PM Worship & Arts Sessions 3:00 PM Men of David Dance Rehearsal


F.R.A.N.GELISM SUNDAY
BRING A FRIEND, RELATIVE, ACQUAINTANCE, OR NEIGHBOR TO CHURCH!
SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 8:30AM & 11AM WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS
MOUNT AERY BAPTIST CHURCH
73 FRANK STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604
PASTOR ANTHONY L. BENNETT, D.MIN., LEAD PASTOR
WWW.MTAERYBAPTIST.ORG