

# MT. ZION NEWS

Mt Zion United Methodist Church

February 2019

## CELEBRATING MT ZION HISTORY

### Founding Pastor



**Rev. Arthur L. Jackson** (1875-1932) was founding pastor of Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church (now Mt. Zion United Methodist Church). Although he was the son of parents who had been enslaved in South Carolina, Rev. Jackson was born in Florida. He entered itinerant Methodist ministry in 1918. During that same year, he and Rev. J.S. Todd came to Clearwater and found two mission groups serving without a permanent church home. One was serving in a small house and the other in the Methodist mission. The parent mission had been destroyed by a tropical storm began worshipping in a house also. The members worked together and decided to purchase two lots so that they could be centrally located and worship together. The lots were purchased on September 22, 1920. Rev. Jackson and the trustees of the combined missions built the first church and named it Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church. The pastor and the men of the church did much of the building construction while the ladies of the church prepared food to serve the men during lunch time. Rev. Jackson served Mt. Zion for over eight years until 1927. He died on April 29, 1932—leaving behind his wife **Della Jackson**, who was a certified midwife. She was the first African-American midwife to assist a physician at Morton Plant Hospital. The Jacksons had two children: Clelia and Foye.

### Member Spotlight



**Ms Jessie LaPread** has been a member of Mt Zion United Methodist Church since she moved to the Clearwater area in 1958.

Ms Jessie grew up in Tuskegee Alabama where she was the middle child of seven. Although Tuskegee is the home of Tuskegee University, famous for Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver and the Tuskegee Airmen, public schools were still segregated during her school days. The University did provide work for her brother and her grandfather helped build dorms at the university.

Ms Jessie said her grandfather who was a minister, her aunt, and her mother were the biggest influences in her life growing up.

After moving here, Ms Jessie worked at Morton Plant as secretary and nurse technician in the neonatal unit. Her work was very rewarding forming friendships with colleagues and patients she continues to keep in touch with.

She has a son who lives with her, a sister here in Clearwater, a sister in Alabama, a sister in California and a brother in Los Angeles. She has 2 granddaughters and many nieces and nephews.

Ms Jessie's time revolves around church activities. She regularly attends Living-It-Up Senior Ministry and is dearly loved and respected by the other members. She has served in the church in many capacities over the years including the Board of Church Women United for 58 years.

We are blessed to have Ms Jessie in our community.

# BLACK HISTORY

## A PRAYER FOR OUR CITY



-Delivered by Pastor Lee at the Clearwater City Council Meeting in January

Dear God, we first give you thanks and praise for this great city where we live, work, and play—this city known for its beautiful beach.

Dear God, I thank you for our mayor, the city manager, this city council, and all other city officials. I pray that you give them wisdom to lead justly, give them creativity to innovate, give them courage to make tough decisions, and give them vision for the future.

We invoke your presence to be here with us. We invite you into our affairs. Let our words and deeds be pleasing to you. Remind us of our duty to do unto others as we would have others do unto us.

Remind us of the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who said, "All [people] are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Dear God remind us of those who have been affected by gun violence in our community like Markets McGlockton. Remind us of those who are left to mourn like Britany Jacobs, whose child in the womb has been robbed of the chance to know the love of a father.

Remind us of those who are without shelter today due to issues of mental health, drug addiction, and the lack of affordable housing.

Remind us of those affected by the government shutdown. Be a provider and sustainer to those government employees and contract workers who are without pay.

Bring our nation together and bring our communities together. In Jesus' name. Amen.



### *The "Right" to Education*

Education is a fundamental human right and essential for the exercise of all other human rights. It promotes individual freedom and empowerment and yields important development benefits. Yet millions of children and adults remain deprived of educational opportunities, many as a result of poverty.

Education is a powerful tool by which economically and socially marginalized adults and children can lift themselves out of poverty and participate fully as citizens. It is for governments to fulfill their obligations both legal and political in regards to providing education for all, and of good quality also to implement and monitor more effectively education strategies.

Normative instruments of the United Nations lay down international legal obligations for the right to education. These instruments promote and develop the right of every person to enjoy access to education of good quality, without discrimination or exclusion.

Church Women United is committed to strengthening the links between education and health, reflecting growing local and international recognition that a more comprehensive approach to school health and coordinated action across all sectors is very much needed.

**Kathy Rollock- Ecumenical Action Coordinator- Church Women United Florida**

# Church Women United

Presents

*“Roses and Teacups”*

*Annual Spring Tea*

*On Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019*

*Time: 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm*

*Place: Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church*

*110 South Fort Harrison Ave,*

*Clearwater, FL*



*Silent Auction and Spring Baskets/Trays to be auctioned*

*Donations: at the door \$5.00*

## FAST

**Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST)** is a justice ministry organization made up of 40 religious congregations throughout Pinellas County who band together to create positive change in our community. Mt. Zion was an active member of FAST in the past. The congregations are diverse racially, theologically, economically, but they all share a commitment to pursue justice in God's name. FAST's strength is in our unity. The congregations work together to identify root causes of community problems and take action on these problems.

FAST justice ministry uses a four-step process to do justice in the community:

1. We listen to our congregation members through one-on-one meetings and house meetings that surface what injustices our members are experiencing in the community. Our congregations then vote on what issues we want to work on for the year.
2. We research the problems to identify workable solutions.
3. We gather a large number of people once a year at our Nehemiah Assembly to show our power and negotiate solutions with our public officials.
4. We follow through on public commitments in order to ensure that there is action to address the problem.

Through this process, the congregations of FAST have been able to win improvements in the county for the past 10 years. Since 2014, FAST has been pushing for an end to out of school suspensions (OSS). The resulting policy changes have led to a 40% reduction in out of school suspensions since 2014. In 2017, FAST got the City Council of St. Petersburg to allocate \$15 million of their upcoming Penny for Pinellas funds (from 2020-2030) to go towards affordable housing.

If you are interested in joining Mt. Zion's Justice Ministry, let Pastor Lee know and plan to attend:

**Rethinking Justice Workshop – Monday, February 18 @ 6:00 pm here at Mt. Zion**

FAST Rally – Monday, March 18 @ 7:00 pm at St. Catherine's Catholic Church, Clearwater

FAST Nehemiah Assembly – Monday, April 8 @ 7:00 pm at Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg

## Meet Jessica Sanchez



Jessica Sanchez is a Community Organizer at FAST. She works with the Justice Ministry in different congregations by strengthening civil society engagement.

Jessica graduated from the University of Central Florida with a diploma in International and Global Studies and a Minor in Diplomacy; she has core values for social justice and equality and has dedicated her career to fulfill this call.

Jessica interned for over a year at Global Hope Network International, and also at The Geneva Institute for Public Policy where she witnessed global leaders coming together to transform their nations through peace and reconciliation.

These experiences reaffirmed her desire to dedicate her life to social justice.

Jessica is originally from Colombia and came to the United States 11 years ago where she has resided since then. Her immediate family lives in the U.S. but the rest of her family is in Colombia. Jessica enjoys traveling, reading and practicing yoga.

Jessica has the vision to make the world a better place and is committed to work hard to achieve this goal for as long as she is able to.



## Birthdays to Celebrate This Month

Bro. Rodney Young: 2/2; Sis. NyJa'y Rogers, 2/4; Sis Michaela Tabiri; Sis. Fredericka Wright: 2/9; Sis. Leontyne Middleton 2/11; Bro. William Campbell & Bro. Karl C.

Morrison: 2/26; Sis. Mattie Shaw: 3/28; Sis. Janice Mobley: 2/29

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

THE COLOR OF THE MONTH IS **RED**: This month we support those suffering from Heart Disease.

Heart disease remains the leading killer in America, but even if you have a family history of heart disease, heart disease and heart attacks are not inevitable. A healthy diet, regular exercise, cholesterol lowering drugs, and lifesaving surgeries can reduce your risk of having or dying from a heart attack. 1 in 3 persons have some form of heart disease claiming more lives than cancer, respiratory disease, diabetes and accidents combined.

Submitted by the Health and Wellness Team

Audrey Lyttle, Chair



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Join Us For:

Bucket Drums, Tuesdays, 6:00 pm

Prayer & Bible Study, Wednesdays, 6:00 pm

Line Dance, Thursdays, 6:30 pm

Living-It-Up Seniors, Fridays, 11:00 am



### IMPORTANT DATES

February 10 - Last Sunday for 8am Breakfast

February 13 - Last Wednesday Bible Study

February 17 - Last Sunday School and Worship @ 1625 Union St

February 18 - Rethinking Justice Workshop

February 24 - Joint Worship with McCabe UMC @ McCabe

March 3 - First Sunday @ 2751 Sunset Point Rd

### Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our service, events and ministries.

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.mzumc.net](http://www.mzumc.net)

The Reverend Lee Hall-Perkins