

MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNT

# MFTM



## Happy 98th Year Church Anniversary & Pentecost Sunday

*The birth of the Christian Church--Acts 2:1-31*



## credits

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<https://www.dhs.gov>

Wikipedia.com

## contents



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<b>MFTM Team</b>	2
<b>Pastor's Pen</b>	3
<b>Bulletin</b>	4
• Vision Statement	
• Welcome Song	
• Healing and Prayer Lists	
• Hospitalized/Nursing Home	
• Bereavement	
<b>Announcements/Important Dates</b>	5
<b>General News</b>	6
COVID Vax at The Mount	6
Missionaries Hygiene Drive	7
Youth Fellowship	7
Senior Saints	8
Announcements	9
Special Birthdays & Anniversaries	9-12
"I Remember Mama Tea"	13
Tax Time /Tithing Statements	14
Mt. Aery Masks Advertisement	15
Mt. Aery Missionaries Women's Toiletry Drive	16
"Light in the Darkness – a note to my friends"	17
<b>Recipes</b>	
• Unstuffed Pepper and Cucumber Feta Salad	18
<b>Healthy Habits</b>	
• Developmental Disabilities/ Celebrating Abilities	19
• COVID-19 Assistance	21
• COVID VAX Facts	22
• Imani Breakthrough	23
<b>Youth Speak</b>	
• "Happy Mother's Day, Mama"	24
• Youth Saturdays	25
• Squigly's Crossword "Happy Mother's Day"	26
• Black Violin Dares Students to Dream Big	27
<b>G.R.A.C.E.</b>	
• Word Search: "Happy 98 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mt Aery!"	30
• "Marching for Social Justice"	31
• Lifestyle Change Program	36
<b>Security Corner</b>	37
<b>Financial Freedom</b>	39
<b>Black History</b>	40
• Reverend Bill Lawson	40
<b>Birthdays</b>	41
<b>Prayer Calendar</b>	42
<b>Prayer Line &amp; Service Information</b>	43
<b>Intentional Prayer Time for Pastor Bennett</b>	44

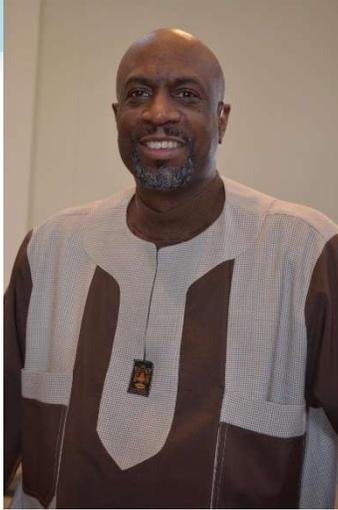
## Mount Aery Baptist Church

73 Frank Street

Bridgeport, CT 06604

Church Office: 203.334.2757

[www.mtaerybaptist.org](http://www.mtaerybaptist.org)



## *Pastor's Pen*

Namaste my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a joy it is to greet you in what is now the fifth month in the year 2021. We are making it! I am thankful that in April in addition to celebrating *The Resurrection* of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, The Christ, we also celebrated our 27<sup>th</sup> year of partnership as *Pastor and People*. We have indeed been blessed by and through each other. Yet we know that our blessings ultimately come from and through God.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Church (Pentecost Sunday), we will also celebrate Mount Aery's 98<sup>th</sup> church anniversary. We have prayerfully concluded that inviting the congregation to re-gather in our sanctuary would be a great opportunity both the birth of the universal Church as well as the birth of the Mount Aery ministry. We will of course continue our online services for those desiring to continue to view online. As well, we will welcome those who feel comfortable enough to worship in person in our sanctuary.

Mount Aery, even though this pandemic, our ministry is on the move. Please check our website and Facebook page for updates and information regarding ministry events.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Anthony Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Anthony L. Bennett, D. Min.  
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 ✨ Equip ✨ Engage

### Please Pray for Our Prayer List

Clifford Bazalias	Deacon Melvin Lowe, Sr.
Volney Bryan	Reanna McCoy
Isaiah Brown	Mary McRae
Linda Lee Brown	Autumn Mitton
Carol Carter-Mims	Caleb Mitton
Joan H. Colley	Spring Mitton
Minister Odell Cooper	Edward A. Morris
Rayvon Cox	Deacon Regina Mosely
Tracey Nicole Craig	Austin Perkins
Frances Dicks	Eulalia Pettway
Ruth Hasty-Dove	Miriam Powell
Sandra Dunn	Terrance Quiller
Bernardine Edwards	Rose Samuel
Rose Evans	William Henry Sims Sr.
James Freeman	Kathy Stephenson
Willie Freeman	Linda Suggs
Leonard Grace	Herb Sutton
Deacon Minnie Grant	Gloria Tucker
Leslie Green	Rev. Velva Jean Tucker
Jodi Green	Curtis Jerome Turner
Ruth Harvin	Paula Watkins
Deacon Naomi Holmes	Dorothy Watts
Gerard James	Gwen Williams
Barbara Jones	June Williams
Maria Knight	Barbara Wilson
Theresa Lazarus	Michelle Lisa Wilson
Cheryl Lewis	
Jordan Alexander Lewis	

### Welcome Song

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

### 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

Northbridge Health Care Center, 2875 Main Street,  
Room 323  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

#### Jena Simmons

Westchester Medical Center, 100 Woods Road,  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

- Donna Thompson-Bennett and family on the loss of her cousin.
- Margo & Ernie Lazaro on the loss of his sister, Marie Black.
- Deacon April & Rodney Gist and family on the loss of two cousins.
- Deacon Leroy and Deaconess Ollie Haggans and family on the loss of his cousin in South Carolina.
- The Sargent, Powell, and Dunbar family on the loss of their sister and aunt, Bonnie Caribe.
- The Pettway family on the loss of their cousin, Michelle Pettway.
- Maxine Plummer and family on the loss of her sister, Rosalie Davis.
- Wanda and Ed McClain and family on the loss of her Godmother, Sussie McKine.



## IMPORTANT DATES ✓

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*During this season of prayer,  
call in to the prayer line  
at 7:00am daily at 319-527-3510.  
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.*



Here's an exciting way to join in worship with us.  
Simply visiting our website at [mtaerybaptist.org](http://mtaerybaptist.org)  
and click one 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>



**Deacon on Call for the month are  
Deacons Adetona & Johnson**

**Submissions of announcements  
and due dates:**

### **Message From The Mount**

Send information to  
[mftm@mtaerybaptist.org](mailto:mftm@mtaerybaptist.org)  
by the second Wednesday  
after the first Sunday

### **Monitors in the Sanctuary**

Send information to  
[media@mtaerybaptist.org](mailto: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.

## A Regathering at the Mount

**Be Watchful & Be Wise**

### Phase 2



**Prayer & Praise in the Parking Lot  
Saturday, May 22nd, 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.**

**Worship in the Sanctuary  
Sunday, May 23rd, 9:30 a.m.  
Happy 98th Church Anniversary!**



## COVID VAX at the Mount



## Sister Council after her VAX





### Missionaries Necessities Basic Hygiene Drive



### Youth Fellowship





## Senior Saints



**Seniors on the Move:**  
**Phone buddies reconnect face to face!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANNOUNCEMENTS



## ANNOUNCEMENTS





CELEBRATING **27**  
*Years*  
OF PASTOR & PEOPLE

If you would like to offer a gift please send to the church or feel free to drop off  
Call (203) 334-2757 for available hours

MOUNT AERY BAPTIST CHURCH  
73 FRANK STREET | BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604



**Happy 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



**Senior Usher  
Myrtle Coslow!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

M O U N T   A E R Y   B A P T I S T   C H U R C H

*I Remember Mama Tea*  
BALLOON RELEASE



PLEASE  
RSVP

MAY 8TH 11:30 AM

MASKS REQUIRED • OUTDOORS ONLY • ALL WELCOME

73 FRANK STREET | BRIDGEPORT, CT

WWW.MTAERYBAPTIST.ORG

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**IT'S TAX TIME**



Tithing Statements  
*Available*

**REQUEST  
VIA EMAIL OR PHONE**

 [finance@mtaerybaptist.org](mailto:finance@mtaerybaptist.org)

 203.334.2757

WWW.MTAERYBAPTIST.ORG



WWW.MTAERYBAPTIST.ORG

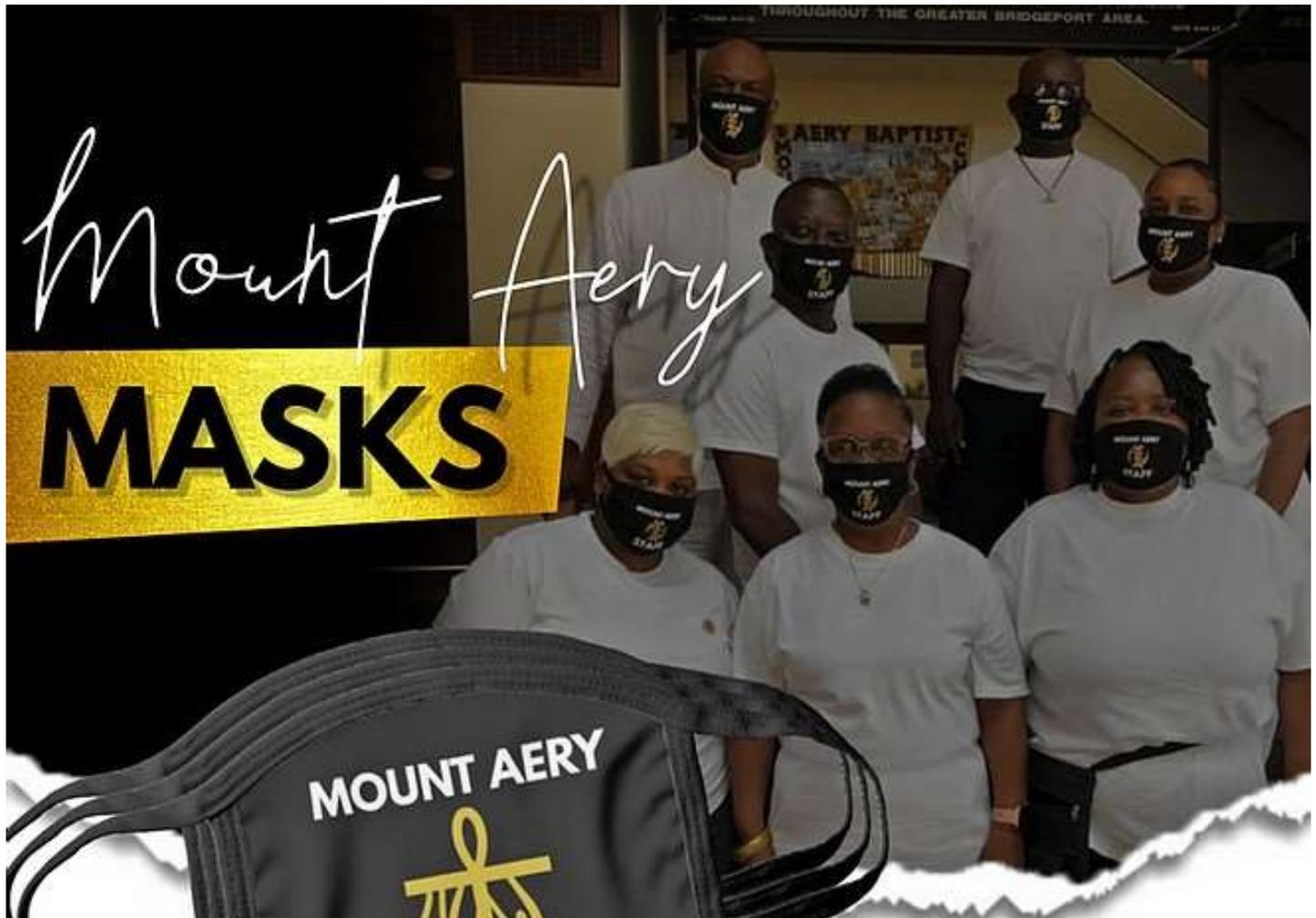
 203.334.2757

 [finance@mtaerybaptist.org](mailto:finance@mtaerybaptist.org)

THROUGHOUT THE GREATER BRIDGEPORT AREA.

Mount Aery

**MASKS**



**\$15 EACH**

**WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY PICK UP  
SHIPPING ALSO AVAILABLE**

**LIMITED QUANTITY**

**203.334.2757**

**WWW.MTAERYBAPTIST.ORG**

# Mt. Aery Missionaries Women's Toiletry Drive

by Lajuene Pollard

## Mount Aery Baptist Church Missionaries Issachar Association

has not been able to do much community service due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 2021 is a new year and we are off to a great start. Having done some community service in the past, we noticed during clothing drives and food pantries that no one was giving away much needed feminine products. The missionaries decided to take on the charge and have a feminine product drive every Saturday for the month of March and pay it forward as a tribute to Women's History Month. National Women's History Month traces its roots to March 8, 1857, when women from various New York City factories staged a protest over poor working conditions. The first Women's Day celebration in the United States was in 1909, also in New York City. More than seven decades later, Congress in 1981 established National Women's History Week to be commemorated annually the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month, and every year since, has passed a resolution (and the president has issued a proclamation) designating March as Women's History Month.

Members of Mount Aery and the community contributed a plethora of items, which were packed up on the last Saturday in March and distributed to Community Organizations throughout the city.



- Homeless individuals in the community
- Families In Transition emergency shelter for families
- Golden Hill Community Church who has a Shower Ministry for people who do not have easy access to bathing facilities
- Salvation Army Community outreach program
- Bridgeport Tabernacle SDA Church Community Service and Food Pantry Ministry
- SWAG ( Sports With Academic Growth) A nonprofit that provides sports and academic growth to youth

**Present: Sister LaJeune Pollard, Chairwoman, Sister Joyce Meyers Vice Chairwoman, Sister Alice Hanna, Sister Sadie Bristow, Sister Audrey Barr, Sister Barbara Smalls and Sister Robin Rawles**

Words alone cannot express the gratitude of thanks we feel for your generous contributions. We the Missionaries are looking forward to see what plans God has for us in the coming year. 1 Peter 4:10. Every believer has received grace gifts, so use them to serve one another as faithful stewards of the many-colored tapestry of God's grace.

# Light in the Darkness – a note to my friends

by Thomas Butcher

*Good Morning my dearest friends! After we spoke, I had two moments of love and positivity; one in a parking lot and the other in Shoprite.*

*I was wearing my “Stop Killing Black People” hoodie, and a young woman stopped me to have a conversation. She and her friend connected and laughed and hugged and talked for about a half hour in the parking lot. She is 23, Black and an out lesbian. Her friend is 23, male, Black and straight.*

*Lord, it was loud and happy, deep and positive.*

*They asked if I had noticed an old White couple that left the store and were giving me the stare down. I didn't notice the couple, but what I did notice was that these two young people were lingering to say something to me. Like for 10 minutes... when they saw the three of us laughing and loving, the White racists finally drove off. And the three of us finally said goodbye with hugs. The young man said it was a moment he'll remember for a lifetime.*

*Then I drove to Shoprite to visit a young friend I had connected with over a year ago. He's a grocery clerk. I stop by to check on him about twice a month. Given all that's going on, I HAD to see how he was. We were joined by two other young Black men, also grocery clerks, who I hadn't met before. In front of the honey dews, we talked, shared our thoughts, observations and feelings. It was deep and loving and positive, even in the midst of all this.*

*My dear friends, you know how down-hearted I was with emotions welling up; feeling helpless; not knowing what I could do to make things better in some way. God provided an answer and a way. I was doing something! I was showing up and audaciously loving on these Black youth. Showing up in love that perhaps they've never experienced from a White person. To witness and acknowledge.*

*To see them as whole and valued people. To embrace. To laugh together in the midst of it all, despite of it all.*



## “Unstuffed” Pepper



### Ingredients

- 1 lb. of ground beef or ground turkey
- ½ cup parmesan cheese (more if desired)
- 3 cups homemade pasta sauce or your favorite pasta sauce in a jar
- 2 large bell peppers (red or green) coarsely chopped
- 1 ¼ cup water
- 1 cup instant rice

### Directions

*In a twelve-inch skillet, brown the ground meat and drain. Stir in the remaining ingredients, including the pasta sauce. Bring to a boil. Then reduce to medium-low and cook covered, until the rice is done, approximately 20 to 25 minutes*

## Cucumber and Feta Salad

### Ingredients

#### For the salad

1 medium cucumber, peeled, halved and seeds removed. Sliced into ¼ inch pieces.  
½ small Vidalia onion, sliced thin  
8-10 pitted Kalamata olives, sliced  
½ cup crumbled Feta cheese

#### For the dressing

Whisk together  
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 teaspoon lemon zest  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Pinch of oregano

### Directions

*Place the salad ingredients in a bowl, pour over dressing and stir to coat salad mixture evenly. Let sit ten minutes before serving.*



## What Are Developmental Disabilities?

A group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language or behavior areas. These conditions begin during the developmental period and may impact day-to-day functioning and usually last throughout a person's lifetime. They also are identified before the age of 22, and usually last throughout a person's lifetime.

## Common forms of Developmental Disabilities

### Intellectual Disability (ID)

The most common form, (formerly called mental retardation) is the most common developmental disability—nearly 6.5 million people in the United States have some level of ID. Intellectual function can be measured with a test and the main symptom is difficulty thinking and understanding. Life skills that can be impacted include certain conceptual, social, and practical skills.

*Special education and behavioral therapy can help a person live life to his or her fullest.*

### Cerebral Palsy

The second most common developmental disability, is a congenital disorder of movement, muscle tone, or posture and is due to abnormal brain development, often before birth. Symptoms include exaggerated reflexes, floppy or rigid limbs, and involuntary motions.

*These appear by early childhood and long-term treatment includes physical and other therapies, drugs, and sometimes surgery.*

### Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

A complex developmental condition that involves persistent challenges in social interaction, speech and nonverbal communication, and restricted/repetitive behaviors. The effects of ASD and the severity of symptoms are different in each person.

ASD is usually first diagnosed in childhood with many of the most-obvious signs presenting around 2-3 years old, but some children with autism develop normally until toddlerhood when they stop acquiring or lose previously gained skills. According to the CDC, one in 59 children is estimated to have autism and it is 3-4 times more common in boys than in girls. *Autism is a lifelong condition.*

### Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD)

A very common disorder that is a chronic condition including attention difficulty, hyperactivity, and impulsiveness. It begins in childhood and can persist into adulthood. It may also contribute to low self-esteem, troubled relationships, and difficulty at school or work.

*Symptoms include limited attention and hyperactivity.*

### Prevalence of Developmental Disabilities?

Developmental disabilities occur in people of all racial, ethnic, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1 in 6 children (or 15 percent of children under the age of 18) are affected. It is estimated that more than five million Americans have developmental disabilities.

# Developmental Disabilities

(continued)

## For parents:

- Increase stress
- Take a toll on mental and physical health
- Make it difficult to find appropriate and affordable child care
- Affect decisions about work, education/training having additional children
- May have to rely on public support

## For siblings:

- May feel embarrassed
- Left out/ignored
- May impact their ability to make and keep friends

## What Can You Do?

### Family/Parents

- Speak to your own physician, or family members doctor
- Think about family counseling
- Ask for help from those you trust
- Look for local and government supports

### Friends

- Assist families in locating local supports/Research
- Cook them a meal
- Offer some in home supports
- Set-up Play dates





ASSISTANCE

# FREE ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC

**FEELING ANXIOUS OR DEPRESSED? YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

Although in-person support groups are not meeting during the Covid-19 pandemic, you still have options to connect ONLINE through audio or videoconferencing. Check out the FREE options below. Be #coronastrong

- NEED TO CONNECT?**
- Talk to a peer at Soundview Warmline, 800-921-0359, daily from 5pm-10pm
  - Free forums & chats at [www.7cups.com](http://www.7cups.com)
  - Older adult check-in (Greenwich), 203-862-6700
  - Community Mindfulness Project (New Canaan), free meditation daily at 7am, 12n, 7pm: 857-799-9498

- SPECIALIZED SUPPORT GROUPS:**
- SMART Recovery videoconferences: Ages 18+, Tuesdays at 6; Teens, Wednesdays at 4; ; Family & Friends Thursdays at 6:30; Join at: [meetings.ringcentral.com/j/6651939516](https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/6651939516)
  - Hearing Voices Network: Info: Skye at [scollins@advocacyunlimited.org](mailto:scollins@advocacyunlimited.org)

- SUPPORTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS?**
- CT's Young Adult Warmline:**
- Call 1-855-6-HOPENOW daily from 12pm-9pm. (Other times: call Patricia at 860-549-2435)
- NAMI Young Adult Connection**
- Community check-In, daily from 3:30-4:30pm. Info: Val at [vlpoutre@namict.org](mailto:vlpoutre@namict.org)

- IN A CRISIS?**
- Kids in Crisis: 203-327-KIDS
  - Text the Crisis Text Line at 741741
  - Call the National Suicide LifeLine at 800-273-TALK
  - Call The Trevor Project (LGBTQ support): 866-488-7386
  - Dial 2-1-1, select option 1 for CT's mobile crisis
  - Call 911 and ask for a Crisis Intervention Trained (CIT) officer

Find more resources and behavioral health treatment options at [www.thehubct.org/treatment](http://www.thehubct.org/treatment)



# COVIDVAXFACTS

Dear Bridgeport Resident,

The City of Bridgeport Department of Health and Social Services is encouraging you and our Bridgeport residents that qualify under the Governor's vaccine rollout to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We want you and our community to remain healthy and hope you will consider doing your part to get vaccinated. Here are a few facts about the vaccine.

- The Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson vaccines do not contain live or dead cells of the virus, or material that can damage your DNA.
- You still need the COVID-19 vaccine even if you had the virus previously.
- You do not have to stop taking your prescribed medication to receive the vaccine.
- Any mild side effects typically go away within a couple of days.
- You do not have to have insurance to receive the vaccine, no one will be turned away.
- The vaccine is FREE and provided by State of CT approved healthcare organizations, but an administration fee may be billed to insurance.



**BPT DPH Mobile Clinic will be at  
Mount Aery Baptist Church**

**If you wish to receive the vaccine, RSVP is required  
Deidra Williams 203-334-2757**



**GetVaxBPT.com  
for more info**

**Sunday,  
May 16<sup>th</sup>  
12:00- 3:00pm**

## Imani Breakthrough Recovery Program\*

*We are now meeting Virtually (phone/video)*

**Next session starts in JANUARY 2021**



### **Imani Breakthrough:**

**WE aim to Promote Health and Healing for Ourselves and Our Communities!**

*A program designed for*

### **People with Opioid Problems and Other Drug and Alcohol Use**

The program normally takes place in churches and is designed to be culturally, spiritually and trauma-informed to assist individuals recovering from opioid use/abuse and other drug or alcohol problems. *We will meet virtually by phone/video.* Call or email us at the locations below to sign up. **Participants will receive a small monetary stipend that can be used to assist with costs associated with participating in Imani.**

What is it? Involves 2 parts:

1. **A Group component** – 12 weeks of virtual classes and mutual support focused on wellness enhancement and the 5 Rs: Roles, resources, responsibilities, relationships, and rights, and their importance to recovery and community connection followed by 10 weeks next steps group sessions

**WITH**

2. **A Wellness Coaching component** – During your time in Imani, wellness coaches provide weekly check-ins to support you in your recovery goals.

#### **4 Locations – YOU MUST CONTACT US TO SIGN UP!**

- **Mount Aery Baptist, 73 Frank St., Bridgeport: Wednesday 6pm-8pm**  
Michael Walton – [michaelwalton17@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelwalton17@yahoo.com) – 203-767-2217  
Rev. Velva Tucker – [vjtucker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vjtucker@sbcglobal.net) – 203-434-9761
- **Blackwell Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, 682 Blue Hills Ave, Hartford: Saturdays 12:30pm-2:30pm**  
Akilah Barr – [akilahbarr@gmail.com](mailto:akilahbarr@gmail.com) – 860-281-1775  
Alton Williams –  
Robin Ross –
- **Varick Memorial AME Zion, 242 Dixwell Ave., New Haven: Wednesday 6pm-8pm**  
Sylvia Cooper – [scooper@varickmemorial.org](mailto:scooper@varickmemorial.org) – 203-887-7989  
Shellina Toure – [stoure@varickmemorial.org](mailto:stoure@varickmemorial.org) – 203-645-7361
- **Burning Bush Family Life Center, 117 Sharon Road Mallview, Waterbury: Wednesday 1pm-3pm**  
Bobby Wells – [rwells6292@yahoo.com](mailto:rwells6292@yahoo.com) – 203-525-1433  
Marjorie Teasley – [marjorieteas2@gmail.com](mailto:marjorieteas2@gmail.com) – 203-440-7478

\*This project is funded by the CT DMHAS through SAMHSA. Yale HIC 2000022517.

# "Happy Mother's Day, Mama!"

by Samantha Burton

YOUTH SPEAK 

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, Mama!**

*Mama, this may be your special day,  
But Mama, I choose to honor you every day!*

*Mama, the strength in the palm of your hands  
Can tell a story about all the sacrifices you have made  
All the hills and mountains you had to climb  
And when there were times you carried the whole world on your shoulders  
But Mama, you managed to persevere and Rise Above It All!*

*Mama, you disciplined me because you knew that I could do better  
Mama, you are irreplaceable and your love for me is unconditional*

*Mama, you are Fearless and Strong  
Mama, you are My Backbone, My Matriarch,  
My Queen, and My Protector*

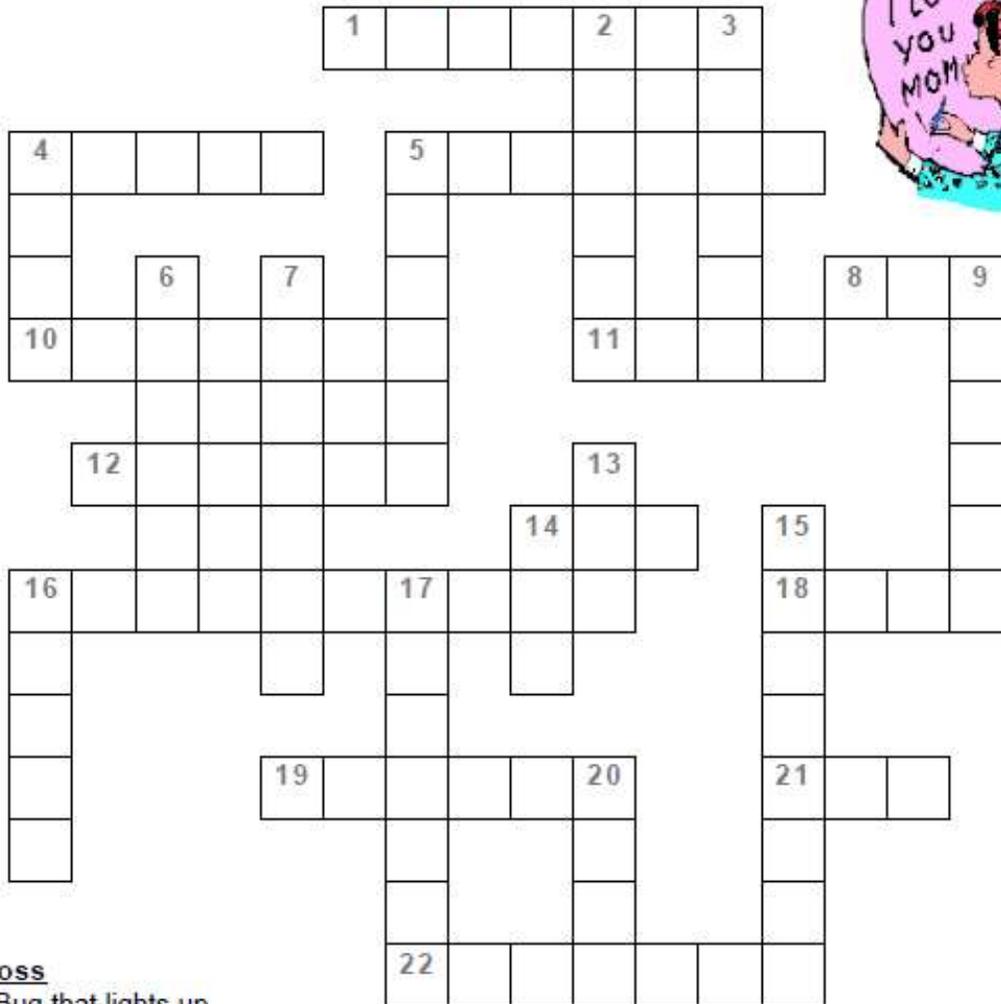
*Mama, you may not be perfect,  
But I thank God every day for choosing you to be my Mama  
And I love you just the way you are  
And Mama you will always be my Shining Star!*

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, Mama!**





## Squigly's Crossword



### Across

- 1. Bug that lights up
- 4. What you sow in your garden
- 5. He owns this playhouse
- 8. Baby bear
- 10. Warm, cold, sunny, etc.
- 11. Opposite of up
- 12. A suit in cards
- 14. Used a chair
- 16. May 9
- 18. Night birds
- 19. Outdoor meal
- 21. Opposite of no
- 22. Red bug with black spots

### Down

- 2. Someone you like
- 3. Colour of the sun
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ and tell
- 5. Lends, takes turns
- 6. Mom or dad
- 7. Opposite of lengthen
- 9. Children under 1 year old
- 13. Spring month
- 14. Liquid from trees
- 15. Baby frog
- 16. Another name for mother
- 17. Out of the ordinary
- 20. Warm and comfortable

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www.SquiglysPlayhouse.com

- 1. Firefly
- 2. Friend
- 3. Yellow
- 4. Snow
- 5. Squigly
- 6. Parent
- 7. Shorten
- 8. Cub
- 9. Bubbles
- 10. Weather
- 11. Down
- 12. Hearts
- 13. May
- 14. Sat
- 15. Polytrog
- 16. Mother's Day
- 17. Special
- 18. Owl
- 19. Picnic
- 20. Cozy
- 21. Yes
- 22. Ladybug



While in high school in the 1990s, Kevin Marcus Sylvester programmed his cell phone to play a Busta Rhymes rap song. The customized ringtone amazed his orchestra-mates, who eventually transcribed the whole piece and played it regularly together in class. Their director, James Miles at [Dillard High School](#) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, encouraged this free-thinking fun. "He was always open to us trying new things," Marcus recalls. "Some orchestra directors shun the hip hop, shun the alternative stuff ... [but he] allowed us to be ourselves."

Miles trained his students on classical music but taught far beyond the basics. "He made everyone believe in themselves and had confidence in their abilities," says Marcus. "And sometimes that's more important than scales and arpeggios. Most times, actually."

This encouragement to trust oneself would turn out to be a vital source of inspiration for Sylvester and classmate Wilner Baptiste. Now known as Kev Marcus and Wil B., the duo has gone on to form the group Black Violin, enthraling audiences with a unique musical genre that blends classical sounds and hip hop beats. At the same time, their music challenges stereotypes and brings people of different generations and cultures together in mutual appreciation.

## Soul Searching

Marcus began his journey with the violin in fifth grade orchestra. His mother enrolled him in music class in hopes that the commitment would keep him away from a troubling group of friends.

At first, Marcus played violin only because his mother wanted him to play. He might not have stayed with music at all if his natural talent hadn't been fostered and acknowledged by his teachers. "I started getting really good at it, and I liked the attention that I was getting," he says. "It builds a lot of confidence in you to become good at things, and people recognize you for doing something at a high level."

Marcus was accepted at [Parkway Middle School](#), an arts magnet in Lauderhill, Florida, and eventually landed at Dillard High School, where he transitioned to viola and met Baptiste. He then received several full-ride scholarship offers for music degrees, accepting one at [Florida International University](#). He was concerned, however, that his options as a professional musician would be limited. "I had just assumed it would have to be under a classical umbrella of some sort," Marcus says. "I really never heard any other kind of violin music before."

## Black Violin is Born

Marcus' professor, Chauncey Patterson, quickly dispelled this notion. On Marcus' first day of lessons, Patterson gave him a tape featuring jazz violinist Stuff Smith. The album title: *Black Violin*.

"It really changed my life," says Marcus. "He was playing, but he was doing it in a way I had never heard before. I felt like when he played violin, it spoke to me. It had soul ... I could hear him. I could feel him." He shared the tape with Baptiste, and the sound stuck with them throughout their college careers.

The eventual blend of hip hop and strings came naturally. "The idea was just something that always was in us," Baptiste explains. "We were hip hop before we were classical. And hip hop's whole thing is being creative and expressing yourself. For us, it was natural to do that on the violin."

A failed demo contract with a performer made Marcus and Baptiste decide to form their own group. As for a name, Baptiste had an answer ready: [Black Violin](#), as homage to Stuff Smith, the man who had sparked the soul behind violin. Within the group, Marcus plays violin, and Baptiste plays viola.

*Black Violin*, the album, had shifted Marcus and Baptiste's perspectives on what string music could be. Black Violin, the band, would shift the world's perspective as well.

Looking back, Marcus attributes a lot of his success in music to the immense opportunities he was given in school and the encouragement he received from his professors to continue. "Music education is the reason why I am who I am," Marcus says. "I can't understate it at all. Music education has provided a better life for me and my family. I have my career, I have my calling, I do what I love for a living because of it." Marcus and Baptiste strive to give similar opportunities and encouragement to students. "We know that we have a responsibility ... not just to music education but also trying to instill confidence in kids and trying to get them to think in different ways," Marcus says. While on tour, the duo often invites local youth orchestras to perform a song with them. "We try to do that a lot because those kids will never forget that," says Baptiste. "And dreaming will be a little easier now because of that [experience]."



Making the instrument your own is an important theme that Marcus tries to pass along to young musicians. "Try to find ways to educate kids and make this instrument theirs, so it's not just Bach's or Beethoven's; it's theirs," Marcus advises. "When my instrument finally became mine, I would never let it go. And I would always be working to try different things and trying new ways to make it different and to really take it to another level."

Additionally, Marcus always sends the following message to young musicians: "Use the time you have wisely because when you get older, the time you [used to] have to sit around in a shed and practice, you don't have [any more]. Your time to practice is limited, so use the time you have now."

This perseverance and success is embodied in the way Marcus practices and performs — habits stemmed directly from his professors. "My teacher would always say five minutes of focused practice is better than an hour of just playing around," Marcus says. "We use every instance that we play to practice. It's all about if you're going to play something or if you're going to concentrate on what you're playing. Right now I feel like my bow isn't going as straight as I would like and my pinky finger is flaring on my right hand. These are the things that I'm thinking about constantly when I'm playing."

Even when a performance doesn't go as well as he hopes, Marcus keeps his head up. "I just practice, just keep trying to be better," he says. "Those [tough] moments may seem long [at the time], but they're really quick moments in life, and you move on."

### Building an Academy

Marcus and Baptiste are currently in the development phase for opening a Black Violin Music Academy to provide music lessons in their hometown of Fort Lauderdale. The curriculum will feature classical training as well as help students determine their musical passions. The hope is to gather the students into a full orchestra. "We want it to be 40 to 45 minutes of complete fundamental classical ... but the last 15 has to be whatever each individual student wants to do," says Marcus.

The plans include a studio where Black Violin can record and produce their own tracks and videos, allowing students to watch. Students will also be able to reserve rooms for practicing, jamming together or developing their own songs and ideas with teachers and other classmates. "We would use it to do our professional stuff, but students would be able to come in and see behind the scenes," Marcus explains.

For students, Marcus already has exceptional advice. "Always try to think about things differently. A lot of what our focus is and what our mission is, it's more thought process than it is musical mastery ... to be everything you could ever be, to reach and dream and think big about everything you could possibly do."

The keys to success for Marcus and Baptiste were persistence and staying true to themselves. When Black Violin started, the idea of hip hop violin was completely foreign. Club promoters and prospective clients would look at the two of them, instruments in hand, and often turn them away without listening.

However, Black Violin strove to break the mold. When shunted from a club, Marcus and Baptiste would camp outside the building instead, playing on the streets. The response was so overwhelmingly positive that club owners would often have no choice but to reconsider. "We were very ambitious," Marcus says. "We worked very hard. We wouldn't take no for an answer."

They soon found themselves onstage performing Amateur Night at New York's Apollo Theater for the 2004 season, taking home first place. Using this as their launching pad, Marcus and Baptiste soon began recording and touring. Black Violin has since toured with Linkin Park in addition to embarking on its own tour around Europe, Thailand and the United States. The group has also been featured on numerous television shows and is currently working to develop a program for Fox.

Black Violin also received the honor of playing at the inauguration of President Barack Obama. "That was one of the experiences that you can never really top

### **A Powerful Message**

Black Violin's most powerful message is to think differently, whether it's in music or in life. One of the group's biggest hits, "Stereotypes," challenges listeners to overcome preconceived ideas.

Whether it's a kid from Florida becoming a world-renowned violist or the concept of violin making a significant break in the hip hop world, the message of Black Violin has always been the same: Be different, value your education, and use it to express who you are.

"It's really interesting to step away and change people's perception of what's possible," Marcus says. "The reason why people pay to see us isn't because we're the best violinists in the world. The reason people pay to see us is because we're thinking about it in a way that most people haven't and won't. And to me, the people in this world that do amazing things ... are not necessarily the smartest; they're just the ones that approach it from a different angle."

# Happy 98<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary, Mt. Aery!

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

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MT. AERY  
NINETY-EIGHT

PRAISE  
PRAYER  
RECURRENCE  
SOCIAL-JUSTICE  
SOCIAL-SERVICE  
SPIRIT  
STUDY  
WELCOME



Over the past two weeks millions of Americans have protested in cities across the country to demand social justice and racial equality. And older Americans have been adding their voices and perspectives to those demonstrations.

For some, marching in the street is nothing new — they have attended rallies and protests for decades to bring awareness or demand change on important social issues. For others, the death of George Floyd in police custody has spurred them to action for the first time.

Either way, to hear them tell it, these new protests feel different. Here are some of their stories.

## **Rhonda Mathies, 69, Louisville, Kentucky, retired social worker**

Louisville Metro Police, Kentucky State Police and the National Guard were downtown at Sixth and Jefferson streets on May 30. They were dressed in riot gear and on horses, on foot and on the rooftops. The kids were in the middle of the street chanting “Hands up,” “I can’t breathe,” and “No justice, no peace.” Some were lying down in the street. I went over to the side to pray. I went down on my knees. A black girl, maybe in her 30s, younger than my two daughters, said, “Ma’am, get up. The police are ready to move.” I said I wasn’t getting up because I was praying, and she said, “You’ll get locked up,” and I said, “I don’t care.” But she eased me up. When I opened my eyes the police were coming straight at us. A state trooper on foot took his baton and pushed her, and when he did that, I had a flashback to Alabama in the 1960s, and I broke down and started crying.

I’ve been protesting a long time. I started in the school system seeing how black kids were being treated academically and emotionally. It was always a constant struggle. I’m tired. I’m tired for my people. I keep saying it’s up to the next generation, but knowing what my ancestors have been through, my inner being propels me back out to the streets.

In some ways, these are the best of times because we have a diversity of consciousness, but it can’t be just a moment; it’s a movement. The police are not going to magically do the right thing. Racism is still alive. It’s institutionalized.

## **Cherry Steinwender, 78, Houston, executive director, Center for the Healing of Racism**

The other exhilarating thing for me was to see all of the signs of protest that people carried. I had one with our organization’s logo and the words “Internalize Oneness.” That’s a powerful statement because people have [the] oneness [of humanity] in their heads, but they haven’t moved it to a place where it really makes a difference. They haven’t internalized it.

For instance, I will never say “people of different races” because I truly believe that’s part of the problem. You can’t have it both ways. You can’t say that we all are the same human family with at least 99.9 [percent] DNA in common, and then at the same time turn around and look at me as if I’m a different race than you. To me that doesn’t equate. My husband is white, blond with blue eyes. He’s Austrian. And he and I will never, ever refer to each other as an interracial couple.

We were a very diverse group of friends that started this organization, Center for the Healing of Racism, back in 1989. We were third-generation Japanese American, European American, African American, Latino. [The group’s founding] was in response to the silence about racism. You know, whenever you do mention it, it’s “Pass the sugar please.” You don’t talk about it.

So that joy I was feeling at the protest seeing all those different people — it made me feel that now something’s going to change. There’s something different about this.



## Nick Sheridan, 71, Baltimore, humanist celebrant

I went to a protest that was huge, several thousand people. There were a lot of homemade signs, which is really good to me because it means people aren't just following a trope. They're thinking and feeling and putting up signs that say what they feel.

And people here keep on creating different forms of protest. I belong to an organization that has a lot of older members who are nervous about going on a march because of coronavirus, so they're organizing a car caravan with signs that they'll hold out of the window. People are being really creative. They're starting to realize that we can't progress as a country unless we start to deal with this.

I went on a ride-along with the Baltimore police six or seven years ago. They invited community leaders and I was leading a community group, and there was no violence on that ride-along, no obvious violence, but the way they dealt with black people and white people — there was just such a horrible contrast. It was disrespectful.

I wrote about it and when it was published in the *Baltimore Sun*, the police press officer called me and asked me the name of the officer. I said, "I'm not gonna give you the name of the officer because you punishing that one officer gives the illusion that one officer is rogue, and all that officer was doing was following the culture of the department."

When someone is murdered we [often] hear about it, but these minor forms of disrespect and harassment and bullying, we don't hear about. But it's part of black people's lives every day.

## Don Samuels, 71, Minneapolis, former Minneapolis City Councilman

When we were marching on the Interstate 35W Bridge June 2, we couldn't even see where the march began. Everyone was very cordial. But it got dramatic fast. People started running across the freeway to escape a giant tanker truck driving 30 miles an hour into this crowd of thousands. We thought maybe this truck had a bomb in it that would destroy the whole bridge and kill everyone. Then incredibly — like something out of a Mad Max movie — about eight courageous guys clambered onto this moving truck and slowed it to a stop and took the driver out. Those guys might have saved all of our lives.

I was raised in Jamaica and arrived in America as a 20-year-old. I went to college out East and I've lived in Minneapolis since 1990. I spent 30 years as a design executive in the toy industry and ran for Minneapolis city council. At the end of my designing career, I graduated from a seminary and still preach. My wife and I marched in two protests and observed others. I wanted to get my skin in the game and take part in transformational changes. When I went to the [recent] Minneapolis protests, I expected to see more people my age, but they were so young.

In every company I worked for I was the first African American in that position. I came in the door minutes after it opened. I had opportunities. It still wasn't easy. But I got [to the U.S.] after the hard work of the [1960s] marches was over. Then I became a part of the establishment. When [George Floyd's death] happened, I thought, My God, now I'm on the other side.

## Mallorie Baron, 60, Berkeley, California, middle school teacher

I teach Spanish to middle schoolers and went out Saturday [June 6] to the protests in Berkeley, where I live. The mood was quite jovial. A lot of music; a lot of young people. Very upbeat. I'm a single parent. My daughter is 20 and in college, and as she began to educate me, it became clear to me that we have a COVID pandemic and we have a racism pandemic. We have two viruses. I thought, *I need to get up and move. All of us need to move.*

## **Mallorie Baron, 60, Berkeley, California, middle school teacher (continued)**

Everybody wore a mask. It had to be several thousand people on Martin Luther King Jr. Way chanting, “Say his name: George Floyd” and “Say her name: Breonna Taylor.”

I carried a sign saying “Black lives always matter.”

I saw my neighbor at the march wearing a double mask. She is a widow in her early 80s. Her husband was a professor at University of California, Berkeley.

I was with friends age 50-plus. It was a lot of young families. Maybe 15 percent there were age 60 and above. The event was put on by the Black Student Union at Berkeley High and by Malcolm X Elementary School. There were a lot of speakers.

I went to make noise, to demand change; I couldn’t sit back and be quiet. In the past I marched in support of the #MeToo movement, against climate change, against [President] Trump. I also did a lot of protesting in my younger years.

I’m so incredibly proud of our young people who are not stopping until there is real change — institutional change — in our world towards creating a more just society, where people of any color can feel that they’re going to get justice. I feel like we’re at a turning point and it’s taken a long time to get here.

We all need to make change however that is: You’re protesting, you’re donating money, you’re donating time, you’re volunteering. You’re being compassionate with everybody.

## **Elizabeth “Liz” Palacio, 62, East Chicago, Indiana, retired steelworker**

As a brown-skinned woman, I have felt the sting of racism and discrimination. I know a lot of people were afraid to go out [to protests], and I like to stand up for them to make sure their voices are heard. I’m a divorced mother of three who is now engaged. I worked 33 years for ArcelorMittal, which used to be called the Inland Steel.

Now that I’m retired, I want to do things I couldn’t do when I was raising my children. Nobody can sit on the sidelines anymore.

Most of the demonstrators at the Hammond, Indiana protests wore masks and tried to socially distance. They wiped down and sanitized the microphones. A lot of protestors carried signs that said “Black Lives Matter” and “Say their names.” They shouted out the names of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. A few protesters got teargassed at one of the protests.

I’m glad I went because it gets the word out. We are making people aware and waking them up. We try to give voice to the voiceless.

I’m a God-fearing person. I wasn’t scared though. I said a prayer beforehand. That’s why I’m never afraid.

## **Freddye Hill, 74, New Orleans, retired social sciences professor**

Last Saturday I participated in the march against police brutality in New Orleans organized by the Rays of Love group, which is led by young people. It began in City Park, with more than 1,500 black, white, Asian, Latinx, Native Americans — young and old. I was deeply moved by the organizers’ attention to detail: They were giving out extra masks, water and snacks along the march route. And I was struck by the irony of speakers standing atop the pedestal that once held the statue of Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard [that was taken down after protests in 2017]. I marched for an hour and left because of a thunderstorm.

My activism to advance the cause of civil rights, human rights and social justice, began when I was 16 and I joined the NAACP youth council. It included protest marches to desegregate the movie theatre in Tampa, even though my father objected.

I’ve seen a lot of changes in my life. In June of 1964 I left Tampa on a segregated Greyhound bus to go stay with my aunt in Atlanta. Two months later I went back to Tampa to get my clothes for college and it was on an integrated bus.

## **Crocker Stephenson, 64, Milwaukee, retired journalist**

I was walking our dog, Camus, a fluffy white Coton de Tulear, with my daughter, Irene, around 9 p.m. in my East Side Milwaukee neighborhood [on May 31] when I heard the sounds of the protests growing louder. I didn't have my glasses or wallet. I wasn't even wearing socks.

I was a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reporter for 34 years. I retired in 2019. I hadn't been to a demonstration that I didn't cover as a reporter since the 1970s. But this is my neighborhood and I wanted to show my support. I told my daughter, Irene, to take Camus' leash and tell my wife I'd probably get arrested.

If things got crazy I wanted to be there to temper both sides. I didn't want bad things to happen in my neighborhood.

People were yelling and screaming and some were quite angry. It was chaotic, all noises and dark and light. It was a confusing blur to me. That might have been one reason I went to the front of the police line.

I am visually impaired with a degenerative retinal disease. I can't see well, so I thought that the police officers ahead of me were actually demonstrators. When I got there, I saw my mistake. The police were all dressed in black riot gear from head to toe: helmets and shields and batons. They stood shoulder to shoulder ready for combat. So I said, "Let's keep this peaceful." Then I turned around, stepped back up, knelt down and faced the police, with my arms in the air.

I was arrested and charged with violating a 9 p.m. curfew and given a \$691 ticket. Police cuffed me with nylon straps and led me to a transport vehicle. I didn't want to trip over someone, so I told [the officers] I was visually impaired. I was held in custody until 3:30 the next morning.

A lot of folks my age who may have been part of the peace or civil rights or gay rights or Equal Rights [Amendment] movement may be a little cynical. But change is possible. People my age, we bring something to this table. We can share our wisdom.

Black lives matter. We need to work harder to move our culture towards justice.

## **Bishop Roy Edward Campbell, Jr., 72, Washington, D.C., Auxiliary bishop for the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington**

About 40 or 50 bishops, priests and deacons, and between 100 to 200 lay people, gathered on the sidewalk outside of Lafayette Square on Monday [June 9], which was cordoned off, across from the White House. We prayed there. We recognized George Floyd and the others who have died at the hands of law enforcement in the past. Then we proceeded to walk to the front of the [National] Museum of African American History and Culture, and had our closing prayer there. We were not taking a political side one way or another, we just said we need to pray for justice — for everyone.

God created us with the skin color we have and he loves each one of us. We need to love each other the way God loves us. If we do that we'll have justice. And it has to start with each of us. That's what I said at the prayer. Treat others how you want to be treated.

### **Lois Knowlton, 84, La Mesa, California, ESL teacher, retired college dean, active in community outreach at her Methodist church**

I don't know if you've read about La Mesa. It's a quiet middle-class community of about 60,000, and it was really the first area around San Diego to have any kind of looting after the George Floyd killing in Minneapolis. It's really sad, but on [Wednesday May 27] there was a problem between a police officer and a young man here, where [the officer] roughed him up. The young man was just waiting for a friend at the trolley stop, so I guess the police officer wanted to move him along because he was black. The protests started out very quietly that Saturday night [May 30], but then we had quite a few small restaurants and stores that had broken windows and looting, and two banks were burned down. I was awake a good part of the night with the helicopters going over.

I took part in the vigil Sunday night, where there were probably 200 or 300 people. We had candles and there were signs [reading] "Black lives matter" and "We love La Mesa." The mayor was there, with tears streaming down his face.

I have a long history of activism, and it goes back to my mother: When I was 5 or 6 years old, when we were living in the state of Washington. I remember her taking me and my sister to go see a Japanese internment camp, and, when we were standing outside, she said, "This is one of the worst things that our nation has ever done to a people."

So at the vigil, I went down on my knee, giving a knee, you know, like [the football player] Colin Kaepernick. But it was a little hard to get up after that.

### **The Rev. Carlton Barnes, 51, Crown Point, Indiana, steelworker and Baptist pastor**

I never marched in a protest until last week. At a protest organized by a local ministers' group we knelt in silence for 8 minutes and 46 seconds to commemorate George Floyd.

There were more than 100 ministers and parishioners from all over Indiana. I wanted to be a part of the conversation and hopefully bring about change.

This demonstration meant a lot to me. It was wonderful to see people of all colors, generations and religions come together in unity. Everyone wanted to be there. It was really peaceful. People driving by in their cars honked in support. Even the police officers seemed glad to be there. There was a joyful spirit. I really believe this is a true movement all around the country and all around the world. This protest seems like a united voice for change, unity and equality. I'm trying my best to understand what we can do to bring about change. And this protest helped deepen that understanding.

— *As told to Christina Ianzito, Katherine Skiba, Betty Winston Bayé and Mark Taylor*

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## Check Your License or ID Card

A gold star on your license or ID card indicates you already have a verified ID. The graphic above shows how to find the star. A verification process is a one-time check, therefore if you have the gold star you are all set and meet federal standards. In October 2011, the Connecticut DMV started offering this identity verification check for customers renewing their license or ID card and for new, first-time applicants. Therefore, many Connecticut residents already have a REAL ID-compliant license or ID card.

## You Can Also Use Your Passport!

If you already have a Connecticut license or ID card, getting your identity verified through DMV is optional. The TSA will also accept other identity documents at the airport, such as a Passport. For more information visit the TSA Website at <https://www.tsa.gov/travel>. Customers applying for a license or ID for the first time in Connecticut (for example new drivers or people moving here) are required to apply for a Real ID (if they qualify) at a full-service DMV office.

Generally, a star indicates it's a REAL ID

-  Gold star
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-  Star cutout in gold circle
-  Star cutout in black circle
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Examples



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### Step 1: Check Eligibility

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### Step 2: Check the List

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- U.S. Passport or U.S. birth certificate, and
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- Two (2) pieces of mail (from 2 different sources dated within 90 days) to prove you live in Connecticut.

### Step 3: Get your REAL ID

Visit any DMV office or **partner office like DMV Express.**

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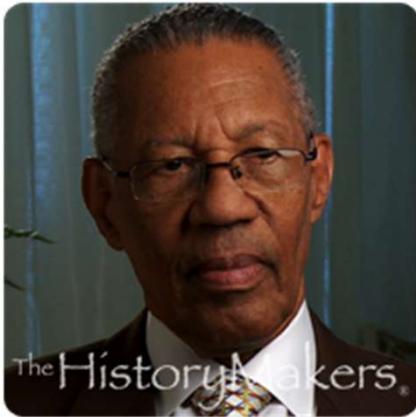
Homeowners insurance is likely one of those bills you cannot escape if you are a homeowner. And chances are, you're probably overpaying for it, too.

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Money saving tips are just that...tips on how to save. Just like anything else if you do not listen to money saving advice or practice saving money, it does not work.

**Practice makes...the millionaire!!**





**Reverend William Lawson is a retired pastor and the namesake of an Institute focused on helping the community. He was born on June 28, 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri to Walter and Clarisse Lawson. Raised in Kansas City, Kansas, Lawson attended Summer High School and graduated with his B.A. degree from Tennessee A and I state University in 1950. While at Central Baptist Theological Seminary he married Audrey Lawson. He then graduated in 1955 and received his Master of Theology and his Bachelor of Divinity degrees majoring in New Testament Interpretation while holding an appointment as a Teaching Fellow in Homiletics.**

From 1960 to 1970, Lawson served as the director of the Baptist Student Union and a professor of Bible at Texas Southern University. While at Texas Southern University, Lawson helped build the first Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Houston and taught classes in sociology and the Black Church. His involvement with the Civil Rights Movement began when fourteen TSU students held a sit-in protesting segregation at a lunch counter. After founding the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Lawson invited the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. to speak at his church in 1963. Lawson served as a pastor for over thirty years. In honor of his dedication to the community, the community created a non-profit organization called the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity. Through the organization, Lawson brought attention to the oldest African American cemetery in Houston, helped create The Main Street Coalition, and founded the WALIPP Preparatory Academy for boys. The Academy was the first charter school created for boys grades six through eight in the U.S. The Institute also houses a Seniors Residence for independent-living adults.

Lawson headed the Houston chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for over three decades. In 1968, he received his honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Howard Payne University and in 1993 he received his honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Houston. For his outstanding work with the Boy Scouts and his organization of the area's largest scouting program, in 1991 Lawson was given the Silver Beaver Award. Lawson is also the author of *Lawson's Leaves of Love: Daily Meditations*, published in 2004.



# BIRTHDAYS

## May

### May 1st

Berry, Polly  
Dewitt- Smith Rawles,  
Savanua  
Grier, J.R.  
Vega, Rosalie  
Williams, Nicola  
Williams, Tiffany

### May 2nd

Collins, Jewon  
Gallimore, Terrence  
Taylor, Susie  
Tucker, Darrell

### May 3rd

Aekins, Regina  
Craig, James  
Godfrey, Princess  
Hairston, Sandra  
Harrison, Linda  
Lanham, Kevin  
Roseboro, Jeanette  
Wilson, Ruby

### May 4th

Bynes, Weonard  
Clark, Liza  
Garcia, Daeja  
Grant, Ryan  
McNeil, Vontese  
Murray, Sha'Quaysha  
O'Brien, Tremayne  
Rhoden, Desiree'  
Ryan, Melvin

### May 5th

Brewer, Warren  
Carter, James  
Lewis, Celestine  
McClain-Darby, Tammy  
Murphy, Daniel  
Pettway, Willeon  
Prince, Lakisha

### May 6th

Ben, UJ  
Cheatham, Motisha  
Green, Aliyah  
Grey, Derrick  
Hill, Jeffery  
McIntyre, Sharon  
Paulin, Jennifer  
Savariau, Nathalie  
Staton, Lydia  
Wallace, Paris  
Wilkins, Patrick  
Yarboro, Bonita

### May 7th

Barnes, Elizabeth  
Burroughs, Steven  
Edwards-DaRosa, Ryan  
Green, Milton  
Jones, Sean  
Manning, Shaunette  
Pulliam, Joe  
Williams-Bryant, Debra

### May 8th

Alston, Steven  
Brown, Krishna  
Daniels, Selina  
Morton, Chelsea  
Newton, Kayla  
Turnage, Tiara  
Ward, Shanae

### May 9th

Bennett, Ahmad  
Langston, William

### May 10th

McFadden, Clarence  
Mesidor, Ronald  
White, Christine

### May 11th

Deavens, Gregory  
Gordon, Maxine  
Oliver, Anthony  
Sharpe, Mark  
Telford, John  
Young, Vernon

### May 12th

Daniels, Terrance  
Dickey, Heather  
Fernandez, Theresa  
Malone, Jaeque  
Miller, Davida  
Norris, Tiffany

### May 13th

Newsome, Edward  
Nurumah, Bomani  
Void, Shamika

### May 14th

Cato, Natasha  
Gerald, Florence  
Lynch, Eddy

### May 15th

Brown, Sophie  
Davis, Tania  
Fain, Chanece  
Hatton, Esther  
Leak, Lonna  
Loman, Diana  
Pittman, Linwood  
Robinson - Fuller, Bonita

### May 16th

Benbow, Jamal  
Burgin, LaMaurice  
Ess, Juliet  
Irby, Jyles  
Long, Tracy  
McCullough, Willie  
Sims, Brittany  
Walker, Marcia

### May 17th

Baskin, RaSheme  
Crowder, Latavia  
Gallimore, Kiana  
Green, Tiffani

### May 18th

Grisby, Lee  
Jones, Craig  
McIntyre, Simeon  
Slade, Brandon  
Counts, Christy  
Donnell-Jackson, Angela  
Langston, Craig

### May 19th

Lewis, Cheryl  
McKinney, William  
Patton, Garland  
Smith, Richard  
Wright, Rakeema

### May 20th

Collins, Lisa  
Johnson, Diane  
Little, Natasha  
Williams, Irene  
Wright, Jaime  
Fernandez, Jose`  
Freeman, Zelda  
Goldiamond, Stacie  
LaRose, Juliet  
Turner, Simone  
Tweedy, Omesha  
Vermont, Jasmine

### May 21st

Belcher, Toni  
Cook, Melanie  
Irby, Avery  
McCray, Anita  
Perry, Eric  
Taylor, Debbie  
Williams, Jeffrey  
Williams, Latrice

### May 22nd

Bowens, Tyiesha  
Davis, Joyce  
Eady, Margaret  
Francis, Marion  
Hill, John

### May 23rd

Hoarde, Vinnell  
Malcolm, Jason  
Page, Jonathan  
Scales, Kelvin  
Walton, Myron  
Brown, Linda C.  
Leger, Rose Marie  
Lincoln, Tawanda  
McCoy, Reanna  
Mohamed, Lily  
Small, Jimmy  
Still, Capresha  
White, Harold

### May 24th

Adams, Michele  
Bawala, Siphoseth  
Custis, Akeem  
Jenkins, Rina  
May, Sarah  
Murphy, Jetaya  
Webb, Ciayra

### May 25th

Cox, Rayvon  
Garner, Michael  
McIntosh, Mary Ann  
Peeler, Donald  
Robinson, Linda

### May 26th

Kennedy, Taquisha  
King, Charles  
Manning, Jeanette  
Smith, Pamela  
Timmons-Shelton, Taja  
Watts, Dorothy

### May 27th

Barthelemy, Ingrid  
Blake, Margaritta  
Carter, Tiffany  
Christie, Markis  
Dupree, Marion  
Horton, Rarnetta  
Joseph, Jaden  
Richards-Franklin, Sharon  
Sims, Aimee  
Stoogenke, Katrina  
Talyor, William  
Watley, Renee

### May 28th

Baldwin, Samuel  
Bryant, Michele  
Davis, Leah  
Jackson, Sylvia  
Jones, Cecil  
Long, Cynthia

### May 29th

Ferguson, Mark  
Gee, Geraldine  
Jackson, Aiesha

### May 30th

Allen, Patricia  
Anderson, Tiffany  
Dixon, Reginald  
Gallimore, Frederick  
Hunter, III, William

### May 31st

Bradley, A'Licia  
Butts, Curtis  
Douglas, Charles  
Edmondson, Zandra  
Peeler, Donte  
Richards, Natalee  
Torres, Kieth

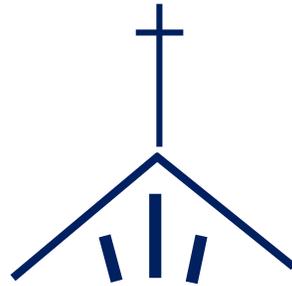


# MAY 2021 - NINETY EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE

## Organized Prayer Times

Prayer time is 7:00am to 7:10am beginning 5/1/2021 through 5/31/2021. 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. Habakkuk 2:2-3 NIV. Reference number for May 1, 2021 is #3431.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
						1 Galatians 6:9 Pastor Bennett	
2 Matthew 20:26 Sis. Barnes	3 Philippians 2:3 Sis. D. Whittaker	4 Matthew 24:45-47 Sis. Alston	5 Luke 22:26 Sis. Thompson - Bennett	6 Luke 12:48 Rev. Sherwood	7 Matthew 5:37 Deacon Gardner	8 Luke 6:31 Sis. Smith	
9 Isaiah 4:11 Sis. Simmons	10 Isaiah 66:13 Rev. Williamson	11 Psalm 127:3-5 Deacon Paul	12 Proverbs 22:6 Deacon Gist	13 1 Peter 3:4 Bro. Cummings	14 2 Timothy 1:5 Deacon Smith	15 Proverbs 31:25 Rev. Tucker	
16 John 14:26 Min. Langley	17 Acts 2:6 Sis. Alston	18 John 15:26 Pastor Kingwood- Smalls	19 Exodus 23:16 Pastor Boissiere	20 1 Cor. 16:18 Sis. S. Jackson	21 1 Cor. 2:10-13 Bro. Easley	22 1 John 2:27 Deacon Vermont	
23 Matthew 16:18 Bro. White	24 1 Cor. 12:12 Sis. Ellis	25 John 10:14 Rev. Walton	26 Psalm 79:13 Deacon Hurst	27 John 10:3 Bro. Newton	28 Jeremiah 3:15 Min. Langley	29 1 Peter 5:2 Deacon J. Seawright	
30 Psalm 46:10 Deacon Adetona	31 Psalm 42:1-2 Deacon A. Febres	<b>HAPPY 98TH ANNIVERSARY!</b>					
<b>THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IS HERE</b>							



**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**

**319-527-3510  
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!**

# An Evening of Intentional Prayer Time for Pastor Bennett

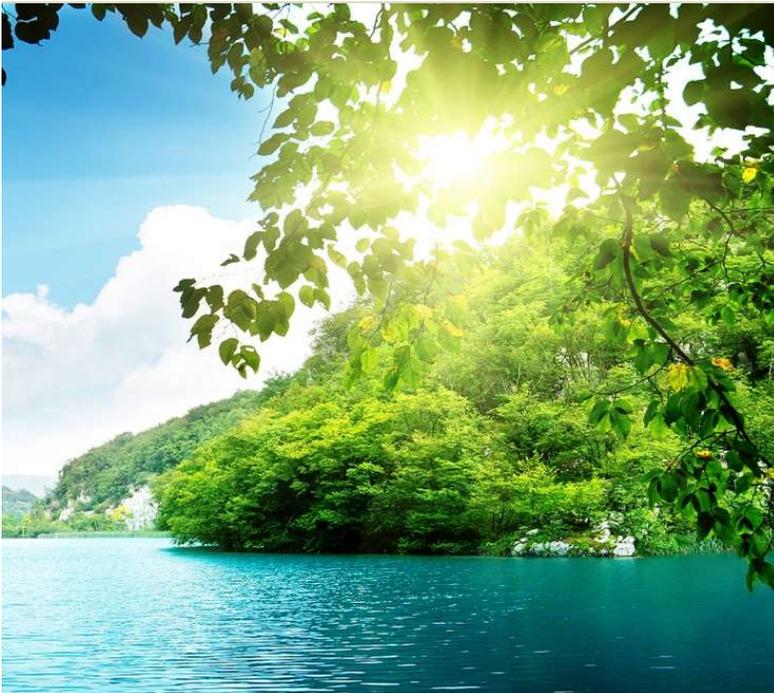
Exodus 17:2

Moses' arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset.

*Please join the Deacon Ministry*

once per month on Thursdays at 6:30pm on our church's Prayer Conference Call Line, as we intentionally pray for Pastor Bennett on the following dates:

All are welcome to call in and listen at 319-527-3510, Access Code 111933#



May 13

June 17

July 15

August 12

September 16

October 14

November 18

December 16