

March Gazette

Volume V

Issue III

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 Like

O'Zion

A.M.E. Zion Church

"Working Together for Jesus"



Lent has traditionally been a time to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus, to fast and change one's life direction as needed. It was also a time to do good works to bring healing and hope to the world.

The 40 days before Easter are a symbol of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness before his crucifixion. In addition to going deeper within, it can also be a time to live and preach hope, especially in times of darkness and despair which many people experience today. The basis of our hope is the great love God shows for us at all times, especially through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for our salvation.

We can rely on God's promise to redeem us from all our iniquities and to never let us walk alone. We know that where God is, there can always be hope. Lent can be a time when we listen more deeply to hear and respond to the voice of God within and around us. Jesus prayed in his deepest agony and it gave him strength to continue the journey.

How can we promote and preach hope?

We can do this by believing that even in the darkest times, God's hand will always hold and support us. It is believing that there is something new, something more behind the dark cloud that will bring sunshine to our lives. Hope is in the waiting and expecting. We never give up even when there seems to be no visible sign that things could or will be better. Isaiah 43:2 tells us, "When you pass through the waters, they will not swallow you up. When you go through life's rivers, they will not sweep over you." As we journey with Jesus, we experience life's challenges. We have the power of the Spirit and are sent to reflect God's healing, forgiveness and hope to all we meet. We reflect on God's dream for our own lives and for our world, and we can contribute to making that dream a reality. No matter what challenges, nothing is impossible with the power and grace of God.

During Lent, let us open our minds and hearts to the transforming power of God's presence and grace. We try to empty ourselves of our self-righteousness and pride and see how we can respond to God's call in new ways by placing ourselves in God's hands. *Through God's transforming power, we will bring deep hope into our own lives and world. Loving God, may O'Zion be your partner in hope, this Lent and always?*

Can I get an amen?

*Rev. Grady Moss Sharps
Pastor*

March 2018 Calendar, Birthdays, Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Note Birthdays*</i></p>				<p>1 YAMS - Thursdays in Black 7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal <i>Diane Daniels*</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 10:00 AM Mass Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5 7:30 PM Kitchen/Culinary Conference Call</p>	<p>6 6:00 PM Class Leader's Mtg. 7:00 PM Children/Youth Bible Study: The Music Experience 7:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>7 6:30 PM Sunday School Officer's /Teacher's Meeting</p>	<p>8 YAMS - Thursdays in Black 7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Youth Missionary Meeting <i>Lula Collins*</i> <i>Rufus Mason*</i></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9:00 AM Hymn Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>11 Daylight Savings Begins</p>	<p>12 7:00 PM Trustee Board Mtg.</p>	<p>13 7:00 PM O'Zion 2nd Quarterly Conference <i>Candy Epps*</i></p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 7:00 PM YAMS - Thursdays in Black (Religious Freedom) 7:00 PM O'Zion Men's Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: fit-content;"> SAED Deaconess Training - Part II - </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kathy Luke*</i></p>	<p>17 5:00 PM Women's Ministry Hat Show St. Patrick's Day <i>Mabel Redic*</i></p>
<p>18 WHOMS Mass Meeting - Religious Funds Collection 12:00 PM Home Missions Fundraiser</p>	<p>19</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: fit-content;"> NRH District Pre-Holv Week Services KMTC </div> <p>7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 Vernal Equinox 7:00 PM Children/Youth Rehearsal 7:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 YAMS - Thursdays in Black 7:00 PM G/L - Caregivers Ministry Conf. Call/Mtg. 7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal <i>James Ellington*</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9:00 AM Hymn Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 1:00 PM Women's Ministry Hat Show <i>Robert & Alberta Ross</i> <i>6th Anniversary</i></p>
<p>25 12:00 PM Children/Youth /Parent's/Guardian Call Meeting 2:30 PM Gospel Choir Anniversary Palm Sunday <i>Carolyn Harris*</i></p>	<p>26 7:00 PM Mass Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 6:30 PM Prayer Walking - "Stepping in Faith"</p>	<p>28 7:00 PM Evangelism Dept. 7 Last Words <i>Charlie Smith*</i></p>	<p>29 YAMS Thursdays in Black 6:00 PM SAED Maundy Thursday Service <i>Hassan & Mary Smith</i> <i>26th Anniversary</i></p>	<p>30</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: fit-content;"> 7:00 PM O'Zion, Steele Creek, Mt. Zion Holv Week Services </div> <p>Passover <i>Barbara Epps*</i></p>	<p>31</p>