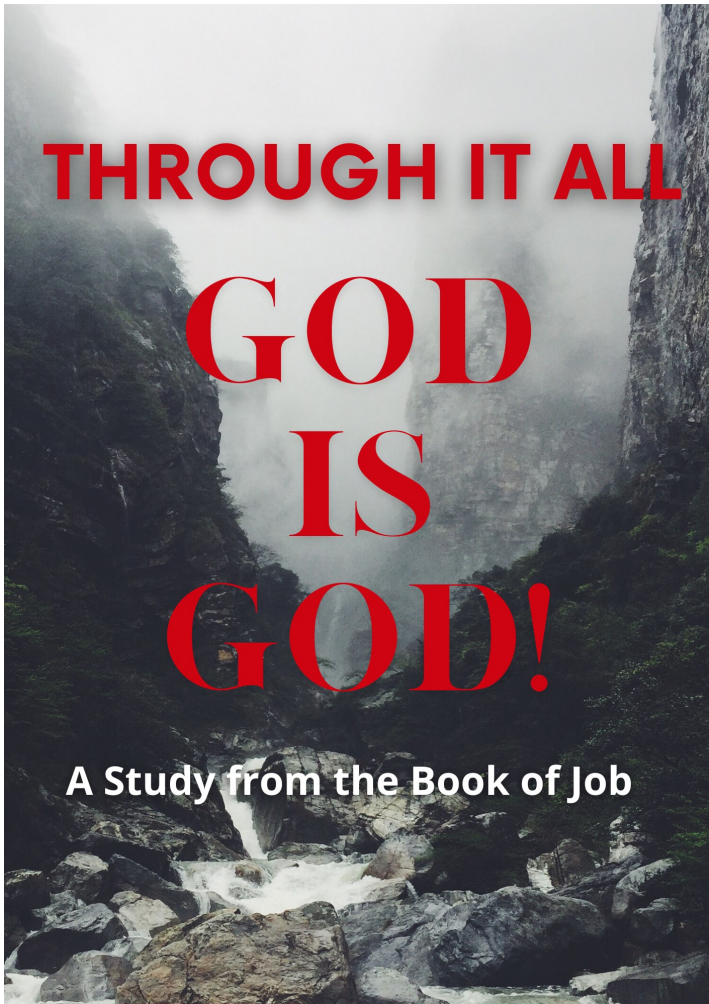


# COME HOME TO FAMILY

A Monthly Publication of the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

Volume 14, Issue 12



## God With Us!

Many people in our world find themselves distant, alienated, and estranged. They feel that they are in this world alone and must face the challenges of this world alone. This in itself is painful enough, but the pain becomes almost unbearable when the cause of this estrangement is self-inflicted. This is the dilemma of humanity without Jesus Christ. Humanity is completely separated from its creator, the source of what gives life meaning without Jesus Christ. The wonder of Christmas is that God remedies the distance, alienation, and estrangement experienced by man.

The wonder of Christmas is found in the term, Immanuel. Immanuel means "God with us." We must not lose the profundity of this term in its simplicity. The Creator God has come to dwell with us. He who has the power to make something out of nothing is with us. This fact should be an antidote for despair. The presence of God with us means that no situation is without hope. The Omniscient God is with us. The God of all wisdom has moved into the neighborhood. He who knows all about us and our circumstances has become our constant companion. This means that we are never left to the limitedness of our understanding; what we can't figure out, He already knows the answer. The God of our salvation has taken up residence among us. He has come with the power and willingness to rescue us from that which would destroy us presently and eternally. God could have allowed us to continue in our miserable state, but He chose to enter into our state of affairs to deliver us from damnation and ruin. God did not create us to abandon us. He loves us. Christmas is about God's love for us.

The love that God has for us and the gravity of our situation caused Him to show up Himself. God did not do this by sending some intermediary. God did not

## What's Inside the December Issue?

*From the Pastor*

\_\_\_\_\_ 1

*Pastor's Schedule*

\_\_\_\_\_ 2

*Sermon Topics from the  
Previous Month*

\_\_\_\_\_ 2

*Evangelism Ministry  
Article*

\_\_\_\_\_ 2

*Writer's Ministry Lesson*

\_\_\_\_\_ 3

*Weekly Sunday School  
Lessons*

\_\_\_\_\_ 12

*Sick & Shut-In and  
Condolences*

\_\_\_\_\_ 13

*Continued on page 3*

## Come Home to Family

### **Publisher**

Tabernacle Missionary  
Baptist Church

### **Editor-in-Chief**

Pastor Nathan Johnson

### **Editor**

Deacon Jerry Moses

### **Staff**

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Dr. Kimberly Elyse  
Sis. Donna Kitchen  
Sis. Tamesha Rouse

It is the mission of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church to: Exalt the Savior through worship and praise, expound the scripture through biblical preaching and teaching, embrace the saved through membership and fellowship, equip the saints through Christian education and discipleship for the work of the ministry, encourage the struggling through ministries for the whole person and evangelize the sinner through the sharing of the Good News, all empowered by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, all done to the glory of God.

Come Home to Family is a monthly publication created to inform and encourage Tabernacle friends and family. Material must be submitted before the 15th of the month preceding each issue.

**Tabernacle Missionary  
Baptist Church**  
2080 W. Grand Blvd  
Detroit, MI 48208  
313-898-3325  
[www.tmbcdetroit.org](http://www.tmbcdetroit.org)

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**You Can Support  
the Work of this Church!**

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# Pastor's Schedule

**DECEMBER 3, 2022 - 6:30PM**

Calvary District Installation & Inspirational Session at Bethel East Baptist Church

**DECEMBER 31, 2022 - 10:00PM**

Watch Night Worship

Make sure your email is on file with the church. Email us - [contact@tmbcdetroit.org](mailto:contact@tmbcdetroit.org) - to sign up for the email distribution list.

## Sermon Topics

November 6

### **HOW TO PRAY YOUR WAY OUT**

Jonah 2:1-10, KJV

Rev. Zachariah Johnson

November 20

### **LORD, SHOW ME ME!**

Psalms 139:23-24, KJV

November 13

### **WHAT MEANETH THESE STONES?**

Joshua 4:18-24, HCSB

102nd Church Anniversary

November 27

### **INSTRUCTION IN GODLY WISDOM**

Psalms 37:23-29, KJV

Rev. Dr. Bill Thompson

*(all sermons by Pastor Johnson unless otherwise noted)*

## The Good News is the Old News was Wrong

Perhaps you struggle with feeling that you are powerless, worthless, and your life is meaningless. You are not alone. Many struggle. This struggle brings anxiety, depression, exhaustion, hopelessness, and despair. But here's the Good News: This old news of worthlessness or guilt in your head is wrong! "Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and He knows everything" (1 John 3:20, NLT).

Hear this: God loved you before He created anything. God loved and valued you before you became you - before you could do anything good or bad. "Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes" (Ephesians 1:4, NLT). You are loved!

"Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us" (Romans 8:35, 37, NLT). You are important to God Himself! He wants to adopt you so He can pour out all of His love, all that He is and all that He has on you.

"God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who believe to His dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins." (Ephesians 1:4, NLT). It's greater and better than you can ever imagine or comprehend - but it's yours right now if you choose to believe it. God has made this possible by purchasing you through the death, burial, resurrection, and elevation of Jesus Christ over all things. Jesus' paid in full through His death on the cross for all your weaknesses, failings, shortcomings in other words, all of your sins.

"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do He sent His own Son as a sacrifice for our sins" (Romans 8:1-3, NLT). You don't have to feel condemned and no one as the right to condemn you anymore - not even yourself. In Christ, you have the right to freedom from the bondage of a guilty conscience. Do not accept condemnation anymore!

Jesus will always speak up for you when you are accused. "Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? No one - for God Himself has given us right standing with Himself. Who then will condemn us? No one - for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and He is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us" (Romans 8:22-24, NLT).

God has accomplished your victory by raising Jesus Christ from the dead. He rose and overcame sin, condemnation, and death for everyone who believes. His resurrection gave Him all power in heaven and on earth. You can find hope in all this. Here is what you need to do. "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, 'Anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced.' Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on Him. For 'everyone who calls on the name of the lord will be saved'" (Romans 10:8-13, NLT).

Declare Jesus as Lord of your life, believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. Let someone know by calling (313) 898-3325 or by visiting [www.tmbcdetroit.org](http://www.tmbcdetroit.org)

You are valued. You are loved. You are not alone.

# Writer's Ministry: Who Do You Say You Are?

*For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:29, NKJV).*

Sometimes, when we come across new people their question to us may be: "Who are you?" How would you respond? At that moment would you say: your full name, where you are from; or, would you state your vocation, office, title, or professional position? Some may even be inclined to say who they are the son or daughter of, or cousin of or even to whom they are married or where they are from. The question, "Who are you?" is a question of identity; who we believe we are.

On the other hand, when someone asks, "who are you in relationship to the church," would your response be different? Would you simply say your name, or would you respond with your name and your role in the church such as Sunday School teacher, choir member, usher, deacon, or minister? How we respond to this question in any scenario is often based on our sense of personal worth or a desire to raise our personal worth in the eyes of another individual. Regardless of status, importance, titles, roles in the church, everyone who joined the church upon receiving Christ as their Lord and Savior, can respond the same way: "I am a church member." This in and of itself is a powerful statement with many implications which we will explore over the next several months. Thomas Rainer in his book, "*I Am a Church Member*" (2013, pg. 6), stated that in the journey of discovering and rediscovering the joy of church membership, you will likely have a new or renewed attitude about your church. Rather than seeking to be first you can find joy in being last. Secondly, rather than being a whiner or complainer, you will be a unifier seeking what's best for the church. We pray that this will be our experience, too.

If we value and embrace the affirmation: "I am a church member," we will find that some decisions have to be made along the way. Not only this, each decision requires a commitment. High on the priority list is living true to the Word of God. The world tries to shape us and mold us in a way that is contrary to Christian values. Everyday, we are confronted with a barrage of messages from TV, the internet, social media, politics, and even certain groups of people who seek to sway us from the kind of person God intended us to be. Quoting Tara Leigh Cobble, "Secular culture tries to lure us into seeking our own pleasure, philosophy, popularity, and purpose outside of God. God glorifying people know their identity and know that their significance comes from God" (*A Growing Love Shines Brightly*, Devotional, 11-10-22 You Version).

As a church member, we do not have to remain the same as when we first joined the church. By God's Holy Word and in cooperation with the Holy Spirit we can grow and become conformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Savior (Romans 8:29). Our Christian identity is influenced by who God says we are. At the moment of salvation, we were uniquely placed into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). Ephesians 5:23 says that Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. John MacArthur stated in reference to 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 that we are the body of Christ. This is unique. It has no Old Testament equivalent. This is our single identity. We are the body of Christ. We are a *koinonia*. We are a communion. We are a fellowship of one body, the body of Christ (The Body of Christ gty.org). What a dynamically accurate and powerful answer to the question of our Christian identity.

*"And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all" (Ephesians 1:22-23, NKJV).*

# God With Us!

*Continued from page 1*

dispatch a proxy. Love caused Him to show up. It is this love that caused God to take upon Himself human flesh, without ceasing to be God, and live among us. It is this love that allows God to reach out to us despite our rebellion toward Him. God comes where He is not wanted because, in His infinite wisdom, He knows that he is needed. "God with us" is a manifestation of God's tenacious love for us. God refuses to let us go through life alone. He chose to come to us. The love of God is not only evidenced in His presence but ultimately in the payment for our sins on Calvary. The wonder of this is that this ultimate sacrifice, this testament of love, was demonstrated while we were yet His enemies.

This display of God's love toward us deserves a response. We should not merely rehearse the great truths of God loving us; we should receive the God of this great love in our hearts. God has shown up in the One who was born to die, the One who stood in our place on Calvary. The One we call Jesus. This is the One we should quickly invite into our hearts. So, this Christmas, if you have not received Jesus into your heart, do so. Receive the wonder of God's love and experience that which eliminates distance, estrangement, and alienation from the true source of life. The great Christmas hymn of Isaac Watts states it like this:

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth the Savior reigns. Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins d sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.*

Shalom!

Pastor Nathan Johnson

★ TABERNACLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS ★

# Children & Youth Christmas Presentation

Parents You are invited and encouraged to register your  
children aged 5-12 and youth 13-18  
for this year's hybrid presentation!

Sis. Teresa Youngblood, Christmas Presentation Coordinator

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022  
AT 9:00AM

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON  
REGISTER AT  
[WWW.TMBCDETROIT.ORG](http://WWW.TMBCDETROIT.ORG)



2080 W. Grand Blvd | Detroit, MI 48208  
[www.tmbcdetroit.org](http://www.tmbcdetroit.org) | 313-898-3325

Sis. Irma Wise, General Superintendent  
Dr. Kimberly Elyse, Dean  
Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor

YOUR FAMILY IS INVITED TO JOIN US FOR  
**WATCH NIGHT WORSHIP**

AS WE CELEBRATE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS  
TOWARDS THE TABERNACLE FAMILY

2023

**DECEMBER 31, 2022 - 10:00PM**



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

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313-898-3325

Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTS

# LIVING BLACK HISTORY TODAY

A YOUTH ORATORICAL PRESENTATION

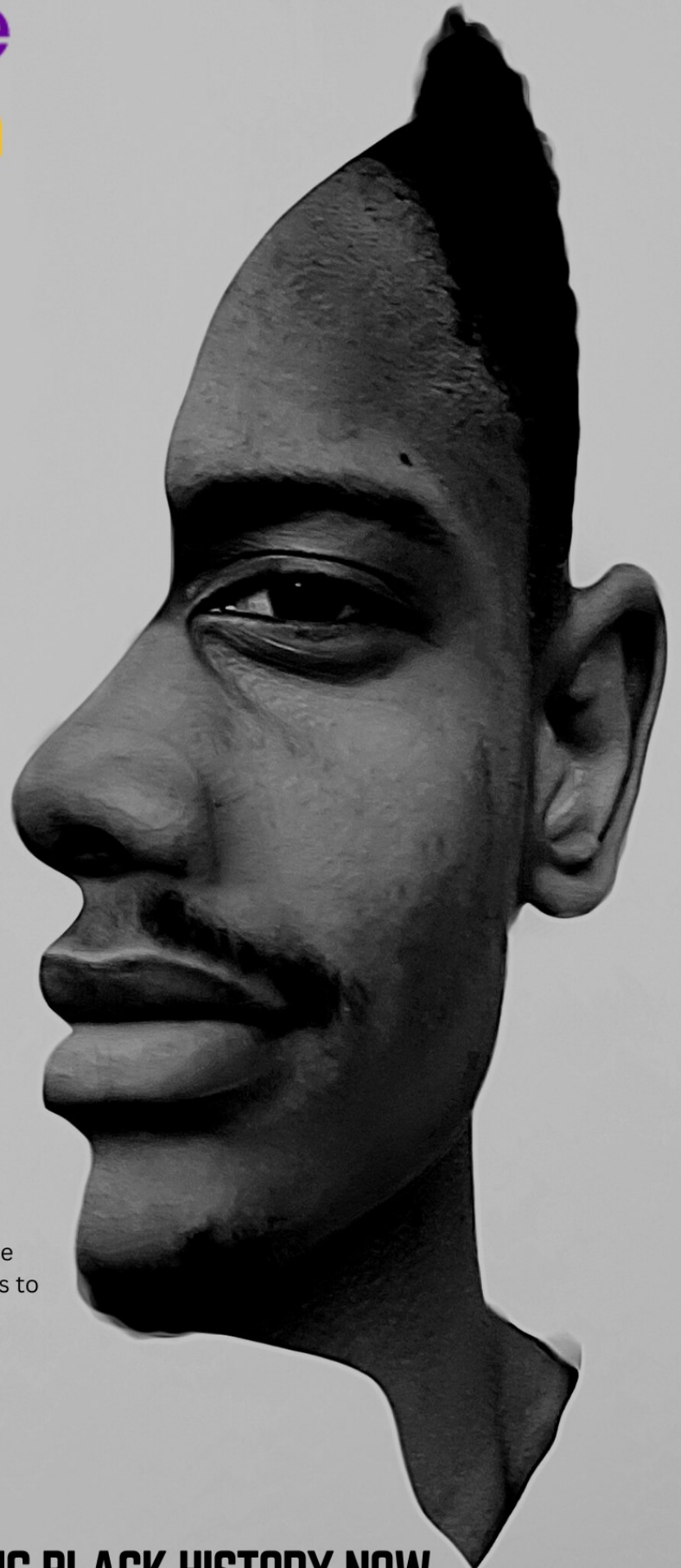
SAVE THE DATE

**February 26, 2023**

9:00am

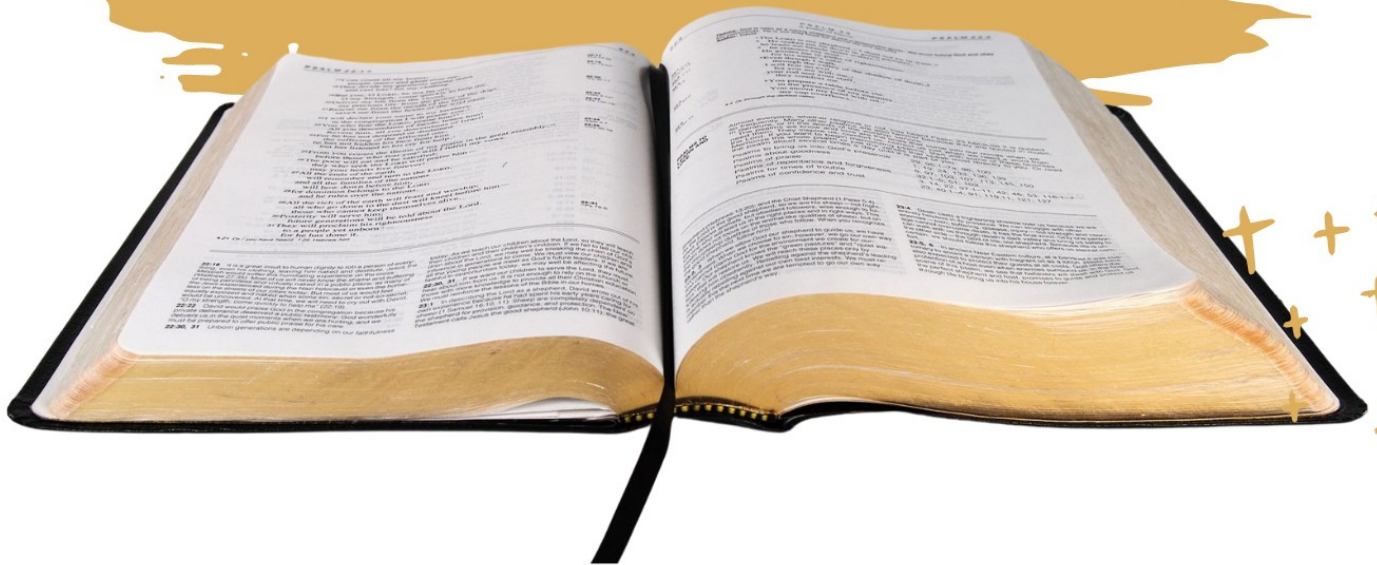
Parents, you are encouraged to help your young people think critically about the theme and begin preparations to participate in this presentation. All are welcome. More information to come.

Sis. Andrea Hughes, Youth Superintendent  
Sis. Irma Wise, General Superintendent



**I AM EXPERIENCING BLACK HISTORY NOW**

*Come Study*  
**WITH US VIRTUALLY**



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

---

**12:00pm Study with Rev. Debra Carter**

Zoom Meeting ID: 129 795 525 | Zoom Call In: (312) 626-6799

**6:00pm Church in Prayer and Study with Pastor Johnson**

Zoom Meeting ID: 584 878 336 | Zoom Call In: (312) 626-6799

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# TMBC MINISTRY LEADERS

MOVE FORWARD as Leaders in the  
Tabernacle Missionary Baptist  
Church Family

Monthly

Friday after 1st Sunday - 7:00pm

Tabernacle  
Missionary Baptist  
Church

2080 W. Grand Blvd

Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor

MOVING  
FORWARD



## Tabernacle Ministry Leaders Moving Forward

Pastor Nathan Johnson, Trustee Tommye Roberts, Bro. Michael Cobb, & Disciple Virginia Winters,  
Facilitators

## All TMBC Ministry Leaders

*(Deacons, Trustees, Ministers, Deaconesses, Auxiliary Leaders, etc.)*

are invited to Gather for training and leadership  
development as we Move Forward together!

## Save the Date

**December 9, 2022 (Friday after 1st Sunday), 7:00pm**



[WWW.TMBCDETROIT.ORG](http://WWW.TMBCDETROIT.ORG)

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NATHAN JOHNSON, D.D., SENIOR PASTOR

# TMBC GATHERING GROUPS

Discipleship and Application Groups  
Launching Christian Education Week  
SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2022 - 6:00pm

GATHER  
US IN

## Kingdom Builders (Men)

Facilitators:

Rev. Terry Robinson, Rev. Anthony Caudle  
Rev. Dr. Bill Thompson, & Bro. William Dawson

\*Classroom Code: kpy2oi2

## Influencers for Christ Teens (13-18 years old)

Facilitators:

Sis. Lauren Cobb, Bro. Michael Cobb, &  
Sis. Cheyenne Nickelberry

\*Classroom Code: hkpncyz

## One Others

Facilitators:

Sis. Audrey McGresham, Sis. Leanelle Simmons,  
Sis. Annette Peace, & Sis. Nina Caudle

\*Classroom Code: j43wzhr

## Standing Firm & Loving Well

Facilitators:

Disciple Ginni Winters, Bro. Ernest Purnell,  
Deacon James Sarter, & Sis. Judi Caliman

\*Classroom Code: ah2p6ao

## Guarding Your Heart: Dealing with Mental Stressors

Facilitators:

Deaconess Linda Tansil, Sis. Beatrice Wright,  
Rev. Dr. Bill Thompson, & Rev. Dr. Tracy Thompson

\*Classroom Code: 77dwb45

**DECEMBER 5 & 19 - 7pm**  
**Guarding Your Heart**  
**Influencers for Christ**

**DECEMBER 6 & 20 - 7pm**  
**One Others**  
**Standing Firm**

**DECEMBER 9 - 7pm**  
**Kingdom Builders**

**Zoom Id: 812 6449 8133**  
**Passcode: 151378**  
**Call In: 312 626 6799**

*\*Access the Discussion & Documents for  
your Gathering Group by visiting  
[www.Classroom.Google.com](https://www.Classroom.Google.com)  
Use the Classroom Code above.*

# TMBC SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Hybrid Sunday School Groups Begin  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 - 9:30am  
Participate in person or via Zoom

Multi-Generational  
Discussion of the Sunday  
Church School Lesson  
Continues via Zoom,  
Youtube, & Facebook  
Live Sundays at 9:30am



## Hybrid Sunday Adult Group

Rev. Arthur Rushin &  
Sis. Patricia Springs



## Hybrid Sunday Youth Group (13-18 years)

Trustee Pearlanne Pollard &  
Sis. Annette Peace



## Hybrid Sunday Children's Group (5-12 years)

Sis. Katina Rushin, Deaconess Jaqueline Birotte, &  
Sis. Kim White



## Teaching Ministry Multigenerational Discussion Panel

Dr. Kimberly Elyse, Sis. Sherrhonda Denice, Dea. Emanuel Haley, Dea. Frank Adams,  
Sis. Cynthia Greene, Sis. Jaye Powell, & Dea. Charles Green

Sis. Irma Wise, General Superintendent

# Ministry Opportunities & Virtual Schedule

## WEEKLY VIRTUAL MEETINGS AT-A-GLANCE

Zoom Direct Call: (312) 626-6799 | Conference Call: (351) 999-3940

### **Sundays - 9:30-10:15am -**

Teaching Ministry of Tabernacle Discussion of the Sunday Church School Lesson  
Zoom Meeting ID: 944 011 791 YouTube, Facebook

### **Sundays - 11:00am -**

Worship Celebration  
Access via: YouTube, Facebook  
In-person: No registration necessary.

### **Wednesdays - 12:00noon -**

Bible Study with Rev. Debra Carter  
Zoom Meeting: 129 795 525, YouTube, Facebook

### **Wednesdays - 6:00-7:30pm -**

Church in Prayer & Study with Pastor Johnson  
Zoom Meeting: 584 878 336

## Weekly Sunday School Lessons

### Winter Quarter 2022 - Unit I: God Prepares the Way

**December 4, 2022 - Zechariah Hears from God**  
Luke 1:8-20

**December 11, 2022 - Zechariah Speaks**  
Luke 1:57-66, 76-79

**December 18, 2022 - John the Baptist**  
Luke 3:2-6, 15-18

**December 25, 2022 - Mary Marvels at God's Choice**  
Luke 1:46-55

## Stay Connected | Virtual Ministry Meetings

### DEACON'S GROUPS

**Group 1** - Dea. Jerry Moses  
4th Fridays - 8:00pm

**Group 6/23** - Sis. Dorothy Pugh  
4th Sundays - 3:00pm

**Group 7** - Sis. Marguriete Winn  
1st Sundays - 1:30pm

**Group 10/21** - Deaconess Ann Pearson  
3rd Sundays - 5:00pm

**Group 18** - Dea. James S. Sarter  
1st & 3rd Sundays - 4:00pm

**Group 24** - Sis. Cynthia Harrington  
Fridays - 7:00pm

**Group 29** - Sis. Anita Friday  
3rd Sundays - 1:30pm

### GATHER GROUPS

**Zoom Meeting ID: 812 6449 8133**  
**Zoom Password: 151378**  
**Zoom Call in: (312) 626-6799**

**Influencers for Christ (Teen 13-18yr)**  
**Guarding Your Heart**  
Monday after 1st & 3rd Sundays - 7:00pm

**One Another's**  
**Standing Firm & Loving Well**  
Tuesday after 1st & 3rd Sundays - 7:00pm

**Kingdom Builders (Men)**  
Tuesday after 3rd Sundays - 7:00pm

**TMBC Ministry Leaders**  
Friday after 1st Sundays - 7:00pm

### MINISTRY AUXILIARIES

**Marr-O-Nots** - Bro. Donald Hudson  
3rd Sundays - 6:00pm

**Usher Ministry** - Sis. Charlotte Kennedy  
2nd Saturdays - 1:00pm

For access details contact the ministry leader listed or call the Church office at 313-898-3325.

**The Endowment Committee invites you to visit the Endowment Committee page on the Church's website for more information on ways you can participate.**

<https://tmbcdetroit.org/giving/endowment-fund>

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sharon Pettway - 12/1  
Virginia Donaldson - 12/2  
Lauren Holloway - 12/2  
Patricia Ligon - 12/2  
Shirley Tolliver - 12/10  
Rev. Terry Robinson - 12/14  
Mary Stewart - 12/14  
Kiara Holmes - 12/18  
Darlene Tansil - 12/18  
Mae McCollom 12/19  
Billy Smith - 12/20  
Cleatrice Tatum - 12/23  
Arthur Featherstone - 12/28  
Sarah Holloway - 12/28

Kevin & Charlotte Kennedy - 12/4  
Marvin & Sharon Pettway - 12/5  
Rev. Dwight & Gloria Flower - 12/22

# Sick and Shut-In Condolences

ARNOLD, Sis. Nancy

BELL, Sis. Bessie

HAWKES, Bro. Earnest

HERRING, Sis. Bessie

HICKS, Sis. Mary

HINES, Sis. Bernadine

HOUSE Jr., Bro. Howard

HUNTER, Bro. James

LINEBARGER,

Deaconess Nazell

LYNCH, Sis. Willie B.

MARTIN, Disciple Joan

MEBANE, Rev. Dr. William

NASH, Sis. Sara

ODOM, Bro. Dan

RANDOLPH, Bro. Thelise

SMITH, Sis. Chanel

WALLICK, Sis. Pauline

WATSON, Sis. Irma

WELLS, Sis. Betty

WILMORE, Bro. Louis

~~~

Sister Jannie Nash for the loss of her Husband,  
Bro. Van Nash

~~~

Sister Rosa Brown for the loss of her Son,  
Deaconess Dona Brown & Sister Marjorie Brown for the loss of their  
Brother, Brother Major C. Brown

~~~

Sister Katrina Peete for the loss of her Mother,  
Rev. Dr. Geraldine Callahan

~~~

Brother David Banks Jr. for the loss of his Mother,  
Sister Karen Stearling

~~~

Sister Jocelyn Hines for the loss of her Mother,  
Sister Joyce Searcy

~~~

Sister Terri Erthridge for the loss of her Mother,  
Sister Mary Erthridge

~~~

Brother Medgar Featherstone for the loss of his Father,  
Brother Arthur Featherstone

~~~

## Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

2080 W. Grand Blvd. • Detroit, MI 48208 • 313.898.3325 • Website: [www.tmbcdetroit.org](http://www.tmbcdetroit.org)

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Prayer Requests—[prayer@tmbcdetroit.org](mailto:prayer@tmbcdetroit.org) • General Church Email — [contact@tmbcdetroit.org](mailto:contact@tmbcdetroit.org)

### DIRECTORY

Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor

Rev. Terry Robinson, Minister of Discipleship and Kingdom Expansion

Deacon James S. Sarter, Chairman, Deacon's Ministry	Trustee J. L. Westbrook II, Chairman, Trustee's Ministry
Sister Debra Folson, Church Treasurer	Deacon Jerry Moses, Church Clerk
Rev. Dennis Kitchen, Youth Ministry	Dr. Kimberly Elyse, Church Office Secretary
Disciple Duane Hill, Children's Ministry	Rev. Samuel E. Spruill, Jail & Prison Ministry

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Every Sunday

Worship Service.....	11:00 am
Sunday Church School .....	9:30 am
New Member's Class .....	9:30 am
Big Sisters • Children 2½-5 years • Child Development Center .....	11:00 am
Observance of the Lord's Supper • Every 1st Sunday (11:00 am)	
Baptism • Every 2nd Sunday (11:00 am) ..... Dedication of Babies • Every 3rd Sunday (11:00 am)	
Children's Worship Celebration • Every 1st & 3rd Sunday (11:00 am)	

The Church in Fellowship, Study, and Prayer • Every Wednesday (6:00 pm-7:15 pm)

