



MARCH 2026

ZION INFORMER

From Your Newsletter Ministry

Voting rights are the cornerstone of democracy, ensuring that every voice is heard and represented in the decisions that shape our lives. Without this fundamental right, democracy crumbles, leaving a society vulnerable to inequality and injustice. As we navigate the complexities of modern governance, protecting and promoting voting rights is paramount to upholding a fair and inclusive democracy.

The Importance of Voting Rights in a Healthy Democracy

Casting a ballot is more than just a civic duty; it's a powerful tool that empowers citizens to shape their communities and nation. By voting, individuals express their preferences on policies, leadership, and the direction of their country. These rights give us the power to influence the equality and fairness principles underpinning democracy.

Breaking Down Barriers: The Fight for Equal Voting Access

Historically, voting rights have been a battleground for civil rights, particularly for marginalized communities. Discriminatory practices, such as literacy tests and poll taxes, were once used to disenfranchise certain groups, particularly Black Americans, from participating in the democratic process.

Voter suppression tactics are a persistent threat to democratic participation. These tactics, often targeted at minority communities and young voters, can include:

- **Restrictive voter ID laws:** Requiring specific forms of identification that disproportionately affect low-income citizens and people of color.
- **Limited access to polling stations:** Reducing the number of polling places, particularly in minority neighborhoods, creates long wait times and discourages voting.
- **Purging voter rolls** removes eligible voters from registration lists due to inactivity or minor errors, often without proper notification.

These practices create unnecessary hurdles that hinder a citizen's ability to exercise their right to vote. By dismantling these barriers, we can ensure a more inclusive and equitable democracy.

The importance of voting rights in a democracy is particularly evident in the ongoing struggle to protect these rights for all citizens. Efforts to restrict access to voting disproportionately impact minorities, low-income individuals, and young people, thereby undermining the democratic principle of equal representation. Safeguarding democracy is essential to fighting against these barriers and ensuring that every eligible voter can exercise their right to vote.

March Birthdays

McKayla Moore	02
Clannie Washington	02
Keya Jackson	07
Naomi Dantzler	11
Donna Brice	16
Delphine Dais	16
Judith King	17
Barbara Baker	23
James E. Jones	23
Orlando Dantzler	26
Luna Mack	26
Jarryd Walters	27
Alexia Coleman	29



March Anniversaries

Thurman & Hattie Zimmerman	19
Otis & Rev. Cynthia Walters	25

April Birthdays

Dea. Robert McDuffie	02
Tonja P. Knightner	03
Camille Brewer	03

Brigadier General Velma L. Richardson



Black History Spotlight

Only five African American women have earned the rank of Brigadier General in the United States Army. One of them is Bennettsville, South Carolina native, Velma L. Richardson. She was awarded that rank in January, 2000.

Long before she wore the single silver star of a Brigadier General, Velma L. Richardson was a young woman with determination, discipline, and a desire to serve something greater than herself. She chose a path that has not always been welcoming to women—especially Black women—the United States Army.

Through commitment and resilience, she built her career in logistics and transportation, the backbone of military operations. While others may see tanks, troops, and aircraft as the face of the Army, Richardson understood that true strength lies in planning, coordination, and leadership behind the scenes. She mastered the systems that keep missions moving, proving that excellence has no gender and no color.

As she rose through the ranks of the U.S. Army Reserve, each promotion represented more than personal achievement—it symbolized doors opening wider for those coming behind her. In rooms where few women and even fewer African Americans had stood before, Brigadier General Richardson led with confidence, competence, and integrity.

But her impact goes beyond titles and commands. She became a mentor, a guiding force for young officers navigating their own journeys. She demonstrated that leadership is not only about authority—it is about service, example, and lifting others as you climb.

Brigadier General Velma L. Richardson's journey is one of strength, perseverance, and purpose—a living chapter in the continuing story of excellence in service.

Upcoming Events

March 8—Daylight Savings Time
March 8—Annual Women’s Day Celebration, 11:00 AM, Zion Baptist Church, Theme: “Zion Women Preparing with Purpose” Romans 12:11, Speaker: Rev. LaShon Anita McCarthy from Rehoboth Baptist Church
April 5—Easter
April 15—Tax Day
May 10—Mother’s Day
May 12-14—Woman’s Gethsemane
May 25—Memorial Day
June 19—Juneteenth
June 21—Father’s Day
June 28—Annual Church Anniversary, Zion Baptist

Scripture

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17 ESV

REMINDER

Our ZBC Worship Service broadcast is every Sunday morning from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. on the Big DM (WWDM 101.3 FM)

*Continue to Pray
for
Zion Baptist Church
and for
our
Nation !!!*

Sunday School Lessons

MARCH 1

“Recognizing Our Debt to Others”
Mark 12:28-34; James 2:14-17

MARCH 8

“Keeping Fit for the Sake of Others”
Daniel 1:8-17; 1 Timothy 4:7-8

MARCH 15

“Helping Neighbors in Need”
Deuteronomy 15:4-11;
Matthew 25:42-45

MARCH 22

“All Are One in Christ”
Acts 10:9-15, 30-35;
Galatians 3:28-29

MARCH 29

“World Peace through Mutual Understanding”
Isaiah 2:2-4; Acts 17:26-28



Good News

Janiya Waring, a sixth grader at Carolina Springs Middle School in Lexington District 2, is an Honor student and a very vital member of the dance team. She also plays Volleyball and is in the Delta Academy. Janiya is the daughter of Brother Kingsley and Sister Shenika Waring.

Congratulations Janiya !!!

A flag representing South Carolina State University flew above the State House in Columbia for the first time on Monday, January 19, 2026. Gov. Henry McMaster approved a request to fly the flag **in honor of the Bulldogs’ Celebration Bowl victory in December**. The game is considered the national championship for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This marks the first time the university’s flag has flown atop the State House. Multiple speakers were on hand to celebrate the momentous occasion, including University President Alexander Conyers, Miss South Carolina State University Olivia Ruff, Pastor Desmond Antley, Alumni Association President Yolanda Williams and State Sen. Deon Tedder, who was one of the legislators who pushed to have SC State’s flag flown atop the State House.

Congratulations South Carolina State University !!!

2026 Gethsemane Woman's Auxiliary Red Dress and Bow Tie



ZBC Sick and Shut-in

Sister Ruby Burton
Sister Annette Hill
Sister Tonja Knightner
Reverend Fletcher Tucker
Brother Jeremiah Washington
Brother Archie P. Williams III

Brother Donald Counts
Brother William Hope
Sister Evelyn Stearns
Sister Clannie Washington
Sister Thelma Whitney

Vision Statement

"Victorious People"

The vision is to minister to people by Remembering our History, Rendering Help while Reaching forward with Hope to be victorious in our future demonstrating an unwavering love, steadfast faith and effective witness.

*Remembering our History
Rendering Help
Reaching forward with Hope*

ZION CAN BE REACHED @

X @ZionBCCOLASC
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Facebook @ZionBaptist

Thursday Morning Prayer / 7:00-7:15 a.m. / 1-605-313-4912 / AC 511288#