



Happy Black History Month!

In honor of Black History Month, Rev. Dr. Byron Benton, CAJM Co-President and Senior Pastor of Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, closed out last night's Team Assembly with a reading of Langston Hughes' *Let America Be America Again*. You can listen to his reading by clicking on the video to the right.



[Here's the poem if you'd prefer to read it.](#)

We need YOU to turn out THIS FRIDAY & SATURDAY in support of preserving Gadsden Creek!

Brittlebank Park, where the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (SEWE) is celebrating our outdoor way of life, lies across the street from Gadsden Creek. As you know by now, the City of Charleston wants to fill the remaining marsh to build expand the WestEdge development, a complex of luxury condos and office buildings.

CAJM and [Friends of Gadsden Creek](#) are standing up for the creek

and our Westside neighbors. Saving and restoring the creek is about preserving a wildlife habitat, mitigating flooding, helping to prevent a worsening heat island and halting a history of environmental injustice in this area.

Here's how you can help:

Join us at the CAJM Press Conference on February 17 at 10:00am at the corner of Line and Hagood Streets. We are gathering at 10:00am and the press conference will commence at 10:30am. Please plan to attend rain or shine as we will have pop up canopies to protect us from the elements.

Hold awareness raising signs at Brittlebank Park or Marion Square on February 17 and February 18 between 10:00am and 2:00pm. Steering Committee member (and unofficial CAJM artist-in-residence!) Lin Jay has painted beautiful, attention-grabbing signs which we will hold at both Brittlebank Park and Marion Square during SEWE. We need volunteers to hold signs and pass out informative postcards. Please sign up below for a two-hour shift and bring family and friends.



Clergy Conference 2023



Some of our CAJM clergy attended this year's DART Clergy Conference in Orlando, FL last week. Our very own Rev. Nelson B. Rivers III of Charity Missionary Baptist Church closed out the conference preaching the closing sermon and did a phenomenal job!

The theme of this year's conference was "Reading the New Testament for Justice." The clergy from DART's 30 affiliate organizations were challenged to read scripture from the perspective of groups on the margins of society. For many, this meant that they were challenged to look at familiar texts in a new way, giving them more context for sustaining justice work. New Testament scholar Dr. Margaret Aymer, the Academic Dean at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, led several deep-dives into passages from the book of Matthew. One impactful take away came from the Beatitudes in Matthew 5: 4-6. Dr. Aymer gave context for when the passage was written (Roman rule was persecuting the people), making the meaning of the words all the more significant:

- *Blessed are those who mourn* is really a cry against the status quo.
- *Blessed are the meek*, meaning those whom society has oppressed.
- *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (justice)* meaning those who can not afford the daily necessities of life because of extreme taxation from Roman rule

These examples show that even when justice is not explicitly mentioned in the text, it is shown who we should be standing with in our fight for justice. Our cause is not easy, our cause is not swift, but our cause is right and just!

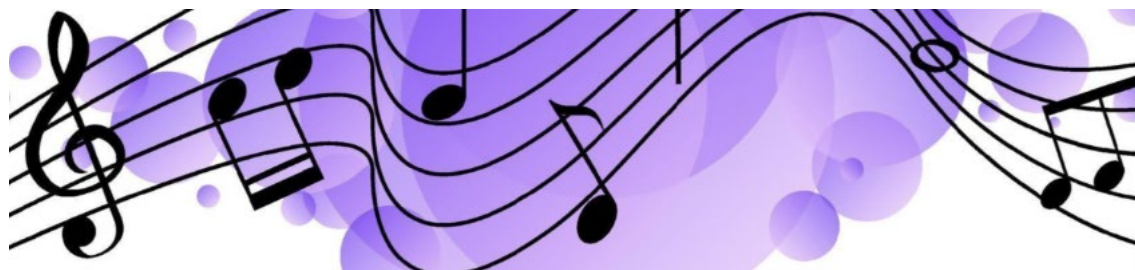
If you are a clergy person and want to attend next year's conference please contact your organizer.

It's not too early to get started on your 2023 CAJM investment!



Do you want to join the CAJM Choir?

Do you love to sing? Sign up to participate with the CAJM Choir! Rehearsals are **February 21st** and **March 14th** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM at Charity MBC.



Upcoming CAJM Events



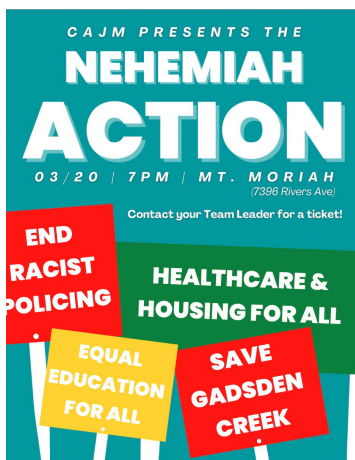
Rally

When: February 27, 2023 @ 7pm

Where: Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church

RSVP: Ask your Team Leader for a ticket!

[Click here for an electronic version of the Rally flier!](#)



Nehemiah Action

When: March 20 @ 7pm

Where: Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church

RSVP: Pick up your ticket at the Rally!

[Click here for an electronic version of the Action flier!](#)

Upcoming Research Visits

We encourage **ALL CAJM MEMBERS** to join us for research visits and full committee meetings! Email **dorightcajm@gmail.com** to be connected with a research committee, and/or use the links below to sign up to attend.

Tamika Gadsden, Charleston Mayoral Candidate (Flooding & Policing)

What: The flooding and policing committees will be scheduling meetings with Charleston Mayoral



candidates in the next month to see where they stand on supporting our Gadsden Creek campaign and on pushing forward with implementing best practices from the racial bias audit. That Mayoral race is in November of 2023!

When: February 16, 2023

Pre-Meeting: 2:00pm (*You must attend the pre-meeting to attend the meeting*)

Meeting: 3:00

Where: Circular Congregational Church (150 Meeting Street), Wingard Room [\(Click here for parking info\)](#)

RSVP: [Click here to register](#)



Housing Full Committee Meeting

What: Join us for important updates and to strategize for this year's Nehemiah Action! We need a representative from every congregation to attend.

When: February 16, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Where: Zoom

RSVP: Email amber@thedartcenter.org to RSVP



Flooding Action PART 1

What: We are holding a press conference to protest the filling of Gadsden Creek. Please show up and bring your friends, family, neighbors, and anyone else who doesn't want to see Gadsden Creek ruined!

When: February 17, 2023 @ 10:30am (sign-holding until 2pm)

Where: Near Gadsden Creek, exact meeting space TBA

RSVP: [Click here to sign up](#)



Flooding Action PART 2

What: We are holding a rally at the Sewe Festival to protest the filling of Gadsden Creek. Show up with as many people as possible!

When: February 18, 2023 @ 10am-2pm

Where: Near Brittlebank Park, exact meeting space TBA

RSVP: [Click here to sign up](#)



Policing Full Committee Meeting

What: Join us for important updates and to strategize for this year's Nehemiah Action! We need a representative from every congregation to attend.

When: February 19, 2023 @ 3:00pm

Where: Zoom

RSVP: [Click here to register and get a link](#)



Healthcare Full Committee Meeting

What: Join us for important updates and to strategize for this year's Nehemiah Action! We need a representative from every congregation to attend.

When: February 21, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Where: Zoom

RSVP: [Click here to register and get a link](#)



Education CCSD Superintendent Interfaith Roundtable

What: CAJM clergy you are needed to lend your voice to encourage the use of RP in schools, give feedback, suggestions and ideas for improved outcomes in CCSD.

When: February 24, 2023 @ 8:30-10:00AM

Where: 75 Calhoun St. CCSD office

RSVP: [Click here to register](#)

Nehemiah Moment for Housing



What: We will be turning out in full force at the Housing Our Future Community Meeting to show our support for the inclusion of an affordable housing trust fund with a recurring funding source in the plan. [Click here for more background info.](#)

When: February 28, 2023 @ 5:15pm

Where: Johns Island Library (3531 Maybank Hwy)

RSVP: Email amber@thedartcenter.org to RSVP

Community Events

Veterans for Peace - Peace Sailing Tour

What: The renowned anti-nuclear sailboat Golden Rule will be arriving in Charleston on Saturday February 25 as one of over 100 ports of call on its 13,000 mile Great Loop voyage which began in Minnesota in September. She will be at the Ashley Marina for three nights, departing Tuesday February 28.

[Click here for more info.](#)



Shared Legacies Film Screening

What: CAJM congregations Charity Missionary Baptist Church and Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim are co-hosting a screening of the film [Shared Legacies](#). The film tells stories of coalition and friendship between the Jewish and African-



American communities during the Civil Rights Movement.

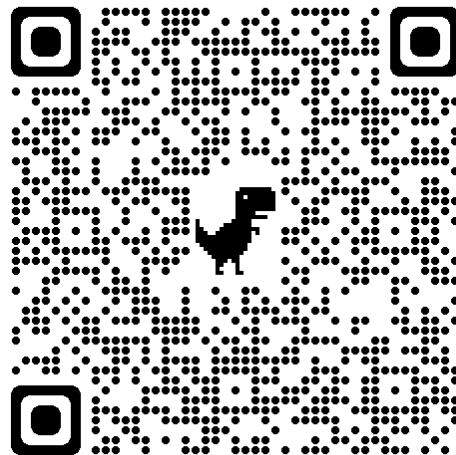
When: March 16 @ 7:00pm

Where: Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (90 Hasell Street)

New to CAJM and want more information?

We are so glad you are here, and we'd love to connect you with a CAJM Team Leader!

Use the QR code to the right, or follow [this link](#), to fill out a short survey so that we can match you with the Team Leader who best fits your needs.



Follow us on social media!

