UNION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

LANSING, MICHIGAN

136TH

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Look What the Lord Has Done

LAMENTATIONS 3:22

Sunday, October 25, 2026

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Dr. Melvin T. Jones

GUEST PREACHER

UNION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Kenny D. Craig, *Senior Pastor*
500 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
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History

UMBC Legacy: Then & Now!

136 Years of Faith, Perseverance, and Service

Union Missionary Baptist Church (UMBC) celebrates 136 years of faith, resilience, and service to Lansing and surrounding communities. Its history, preserved through documented records and the memories of those who helped shape its journey, reflects a legacy of perseverance, spiritual growth, and community impact.

1891–1909 | Humble Beginnings and a New Foundation

The congregation began in 1891 as Zion Baptist Church (also known as Mt. Zion Baptist Church), meeting at Washington Avenue and Ottawa Street under the leadership of Rev. Wm. H. Gurley. Over the years, services moved to several locations as pastors led the growing congregation. In 1908, Rev. H. C. Randolph was sent to Lansing by the Baptist State Convention to revitalize the church. The congregation was reorganized and renamed Hillsdale Baptist Church. Through determination and community support, construction began at Hillsdale and Logan Streets in 1909.

1937–1980s | Rebuilding and Growth

After the original building was lost during the Great Depression, the congregation reclaimed the property in 1937 and adopted the name Union Missionary Baptist Church. As membership grew, a new building program began in the early 1950s, with construction commencing in 1963.

In 1985, Rev. Dr. Melvin T. Jones began his pastoral leadership, serving UMBC for 37 years and guiding the church through a significant period of growth and development.

1995–1996 | Expanding the Vision

In 1995, the congregation broke ground on a new campus west of its Hillsdale Street location, crossing northbound Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard for the groundbreaking ceremony. The vision included an expansive sanctuary, chapel, and Family Life Center featuring a gymnasium, classrooms, computer lab, prayer garden, and commercial kitchen. In 1996, UMBC also purchased the former Elks building on Moores River Drive and established River View Place, a restaurant and banquet facility.

2022–Present | Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

Following Rev. Dr. Jones's retirement, Rev. Charles Magee accepted the call to serve as Interim Pastor in April 2022. In 2023, Rev. Kenny D. Craig accepted the call to pastor UMBC, beginning his leadership in May.

As UMBC celebrates its 136th anniversary, we honor the faith, sacrifice, and dedication of those who came before us. Our theme, "Look What the Lord Has Done" (Lamentations 3:22), reminds us of God's enduring faithfulness through every season of change and renewal.

Our legacy continues as we build upon the foundation of yesterday, serve our community today, and prepare for the generations of tomorrow – We Are Union.

Order of Service

Call to Worship & Invocation

Church Anniversary Responsive Reading

Praise & Worship

Altar Call & Intercessory Prayer

UMBC Legacy: Then & Now Video

Musical Selection(s)

Pastoral Reflections and
Introduction of Rev. Dr. Melvin T. Jones

The Preached Word

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Special Presentations & Remarks

Church Announcements via Video

Offertory Appeal & Benediction

~ Reception Following Worship Service ~

On behalf of Pastor Kenny D. Craig, the Union Missionary Baptist Church Mission Ministry extends a heartfelt thanks for worshipping with us and to everyone who contributed to making this 136th anniversary celebration a time to reflect on UMBC Legacy: Then & Now!

Responsive Reading

(Led by the Worship Leader and Congregation)

Leader: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

Congregation: For His steadfast love and mercy endure forever.

Leader: Today, we stop to look back and marvel, saying, “Look what the Lord has Done!”

Congregation: For 136 years, His hand guided, protected, and sustained this church family.

Leader: We remember with deep gratitude our founding mothers and fathers who had the vision to build.

Congregation: With prayers, sacrifice, and unbreakable faith, they laid a foundation that has stood the test of time.

Leader: We honor the pastors, ministers, and leaders of our history who guided us through every valley and mountaintop.

Congregation: Because of the Lord’s great mercies, they were sustained, and through them, we were not consumed.

Leader: We thank God for our present leaders who carry the torch today with wisdom, grace, and dedication.

Congregation: May God grant them renewed strength, vision, and protection as they shepherd us into the future.

Leader: Look at the lives transformed, the families healed, and the community uplifted across three different centuries.

Congregation: God’s mercies are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness, O Lord!

Leader: As we stand on the shoulders of 136 years of spiritual giants, we fix our eyes on the horizon.

Congregation: We dedicate ourselves anew to preaching His word, serving His people, and shining His light.

Leader: May our children and our children’s children look at this ministry and declare His wonders.

Congregation: Let the generations to come see our unity and repeat the cry: “Look what the Lord has Done!”

All: To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.