



Preaching, Teaching and Reaching for  
Transformation and Liberation

## **“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING”**

Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to  
know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32

**THE PASTOR’S PEN June 25, 2023**

## **JUNETEENTH 2023**

Juneteenth is a day for people of African descent, as well as people of every ethnic and cultural background, to celebrate the day the enslaved people in Gavelston, Texas received the news that the system of slavery had legally ended and they were free. I stress that the system of slavery had “legally ended” because the illegal and functional system of slavery continued for decades, and some of the vestiges remain today.

Think about it. When the enslaved people in Gavelston received the news that slavery had ended, it was two and a half years after the signing of the emancipation proclamation. Two and a half years. Surely, the plantation owners knew that slavery had ended and those held in bondage were free to leave. Nevertheless, they continued to sustain this system because the innocent victims of this system were uninformed.

Many had advocated for Juneteenth to be a national holiday prior to it being signed into law in 2021. One person who advocated fiercely is Opal Lee, who is called the grandmother of Juneteenth. In 2016, at 89 years old, she walked from her home in Fort Worth, Texas, to Washington, DC in an effort to get Juneteenth named a national holiday. She walked two and a half miles each day to symbolize the two and a half years it took for the enslaved people in Gavelston to receive the news that they were free.

Milwaukee is one of the first northern cities to have a Juneteenth celebration holding its first celebration in 1971. For over 50 years, Milwaukee has stood tall and forward in sustaining this celebration. For Juneteenth 2023, we continued to raise the bar. We have much to be proud of in consideration of all that occurred at the Juneteenth celebration.

- ✓ Juneteenth Parade with well over 100 participants
- ✓ Very well attended by people of all ethnic and cultural groups
- ✓ Numerous and diverse vendors providing food, water, information, clothes, jewelry, art, resources, support services, health services, housing information, financial information and much more
- ✓ Kidz Zone – at Martin Luther King School – Free carnival rides hot dogs, ice cream, games, pony rides, petting Zoo, etc.
- ✓ Teen Zone – at Rose Park – Basketball 3-on-3, hula hoops, double dutch competition, spoken word, etc.
- ✓ Senior Zone – at Walgreens – Bingo, games, information, a place to rest and fellowship, etc.
- ✓ Veteran Zone – at Rose Park (north end) - veteran artifacts and memorabilia, local community and veteran resources, a place to rest and fellowship, etc.

Praise God for a well thought-out, well planned, well executed 2023 Juneteenth Celebration.



# **PILGRIM REST**

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Teaching, Preaching and Reaching for  
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# *The Pilgrim Rest Oasis*

*Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future*

Through faith God has given us the space to be an **oasis** in the middle of the city.

An **oasis** is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the **Oasis** today!  
Let's continue to make progress!



**Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.**

Beginning



Current

*Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.*

	<b>Educational Enrichment</b>	<b>Technology Literacy</b>	<b>Athletics &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>Performing Arts</b>	<b>Facility Innovation</b>
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 iPad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 basketballs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 art sets for aspiring artists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe</li> </ul>
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 tennis rackets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camera security system to keep everyone safe</li> </ul>
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 computer for graphic design and website creation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 sets of golf clubs for children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school</li> </ul>
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best</li> </ul>
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light</li> </ul>

# WORK FOR THE WEEK

## JUNE MEMORY VERSE

<sup>18</sup> The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>19</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Luke 4:18-19

## JUNE MEDITATION QUOTE

"The Black church has been the dominant force of liberation for historically oppressed and marginalized people... Though markedly varied in terms of polity, theology, and history, the critical factor that characterizes every Black church and cannot be denied is its birth in slavery – emergence from oppressive structures, nurture in the bosom of social protest, and continued existence in the twenty-first century.

Dr. Wayne E. Croft Sr.

## TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Am I being the man God created me to be? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are my testimonies of what God has previously done? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## FOR THE YOUTH

Ask your father, grandfather, uncle and/or significant man in your life what you can do now to begin growing into a Man of Valor \_\_\_\_\_

Young women: Ask your mother, grandmother, aunt and/or significant women in your life what you can do now to begin growing into a supporter of young men in your life \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_