

BIG WESLEY LIBRARY ♦ QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



+

WELCOME! *Your First Visit*

*Questions and answers for anyone visiting Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church
for the first time, or coming back after a long time away*

WESLEY A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

1500 LOMBARD STREET · PHILADELPHIA · SINCE 1820

WELCOME! *Your First Visit*

Questions and answers for anyone visiting Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church for the first time, or coming back after a long time away



WALKING INTO A CHURCH FOR THE FIRST TIME CAN BE NERVE-racking. Where do I park? What do I wear? Will I stand out? Will someone ask me to stand up? Am I expected to give money?

Those are the most common questions first-time visitors ask, and they are good questions. This booklet answers them honestly, so you can walk through our doors relaxed and ready. You are welcome here exactly as you are.

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

PSALM 122:1 · KJV

THE *basics*



Q

WHEN ARE SERVICES?

A

Sunday School is at **9:30 AM** and **Sunday Morning Worship** is at **11:00 AM**. Worship is unhurried, so plan on about an hour and a half. During the week we gather for Bible study and prayer; call the office or check the website for this season's schedule.

Q WHERE ARE YOU?

A **1500 Lombard Street** (part of the block is also called Wesley Way), at the corner of 15th and Lombard in Philadelphia, PA 19146. The sanctuary is up a flight of stairs from the front doors. If you need help with stairs, let an usher know and we will help you.

Q WHERE DO I PARK?

A Street parking is available in the neighborhood, and the church is a short walk from Broad Street and from bus routes on South Street. Allow a few extra minutes on Sunday morning.

Q WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

A Many of our members dress up for Sunday — suits, dresses and hats are part of our tradition. But you are welcome in whatever you have. God looks on the heart, and so do we.

DURING *the service*

Q WHAT HAPPENS IN A SERVICE?

A Worship includes hymns and gospel music from our choirs, prayer, readings from the Bible, an offering, announcements, and a sermon from the pastor. Many services end with an invitation to discipleship, when anyone may come forward to give their life to Christ, join the church, or ask for prayer. On Communion Sundays we also share the Lord's Supper.

Q WILL I BE SINGLED OUT?

A Visitors are often warmly welcomed during the service, and you may be invited to stand or to fill out a visitor card. You are always free to stay seated if you prefer. No one will pressure you.

Q AM I EXPECTED TO GIVE MONEY?

A No. The offering is a way for members to support the work of the church, but guests should never feel obligated. Simply pass the plate along if you wish.

Q CAN I TAKE COMMUNION?

A In the Methodist tradition the Lord's table is open to all who love Christ and sincerely seek to follow Him. See *The Lord's Supper & Baptism* in this library for more.



Our ushers are the first faces you'll see.

FAMILIES AND *children*

Q IS THERE SOMETHING FOR MY CHILDREN?

A Children are welcome in worship — a little noise is the sound of the church's future. Sunday School at 9:30 AM has classes for children and youth. We are also planning a licensed early learning center in our lower level; see *Get Involved* in this library.

Q IS IT SAFE?

A We take the safety of every person, especially children, seriously. Ushers are present throughout the building during services.

AFTER *your visit*

Q HOW CAN I MEET THE PASTOR?

A Rev. Dr. Michael A. King greets people after worship, and you can also request a meeting through the church office at (215) 735-8961.

Q HOW DO I JOIN?

A Many people join during the invitation at the end of the service. You can also simply tell the pastor or an usher you'd like to become a member. New members are welcomed, prayed for, and invited to a class that introduces our faith and our church family.

Q HOW CAN I MAKE FRIENDS HERE?

A Come back! Join a Bible study, sing in a choir, serve as an usher, or volunteer with a ministry. Relationships grow fastest when we serve side by side.

Q WHAT DOES THIS CHURCH BELIEVE?

A We are part of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Freedom Church, and we share the historic Christian faith of the Apostles' Creed. See *The Freedom Church* in this library.

WE'D LOVE TO KNOW YOU CAME

Fill out a visitor card on Sunday, send a message through our website, or call (215) 735-8961. We will be glad to hear from you, and we'll be looking for you next Sunday.



A PRAYER FOR YOUR FIRST SUNDAY

Lord, thank You for bringing me here. Calm my nerves and open my heart. Let me meet You in the songs, the prayers and the Word, and let me meet people who will become family.

AMEN.



*“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house
of the LORD.”*

PSALM 122:1

WESLEY A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

“Big Wesley” · The Freedom Church · Founded June 6, 1820

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:30 AM
---------------	---------

SUNDAY WORSHIP	11:00 AM
----------------	----------

1500 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146
(215) 735-8961 · wesleyamezion1500@gmail.com

*This booklet is free. Print it, copy it, and pass it on.
Scripture is from the King James Version, which is in the public domain.
More booklets in the library at our website.*