

*CLINTON MEMORIAL
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH*

Established 1822

*Sankofa Collaborative
June 14, 2022
Brenda Way*



OUR DENOMINATION NAME

AFRICAN

INDICATES THAT THE CHURCH WAS CREATED BY AFRICAN DESCENDANTS, BUT PEOPLE OF ALL RACES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.

METHODIST

THE CHURCH HAS ADOPTED THE DOCTRINE OF METHODISM AS PRACTICED IN EARLY YEARS. THAT DOCTRINE REQUIRED ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROVIDED STRUCTURE TO WORSHIP.

EPISCOPAL

THIS IS THE FORM OF GOVERNANCE ADOPTED BY THE CHURCH. BISHOPS AND ELDERS OVERSEE THE GOVERNING OF THE AME ZION CHURCH

ZION

REPRESENTS THE CHURCH OF GOD AS WRITTEN IN SCRIPTURE AND SERVED TO DISTINGUISH THEM FROM OTHER CHURCHES WITH THE SAME DENOMINATIONAL NAME



THE FREEDOM CONNECTION



- DENOMINATION KNOWN AS THE FREEDOM CHURCH FOR ITS SOCIAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM, AND EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY FOR SLAVES AND THOSE IN NEED.

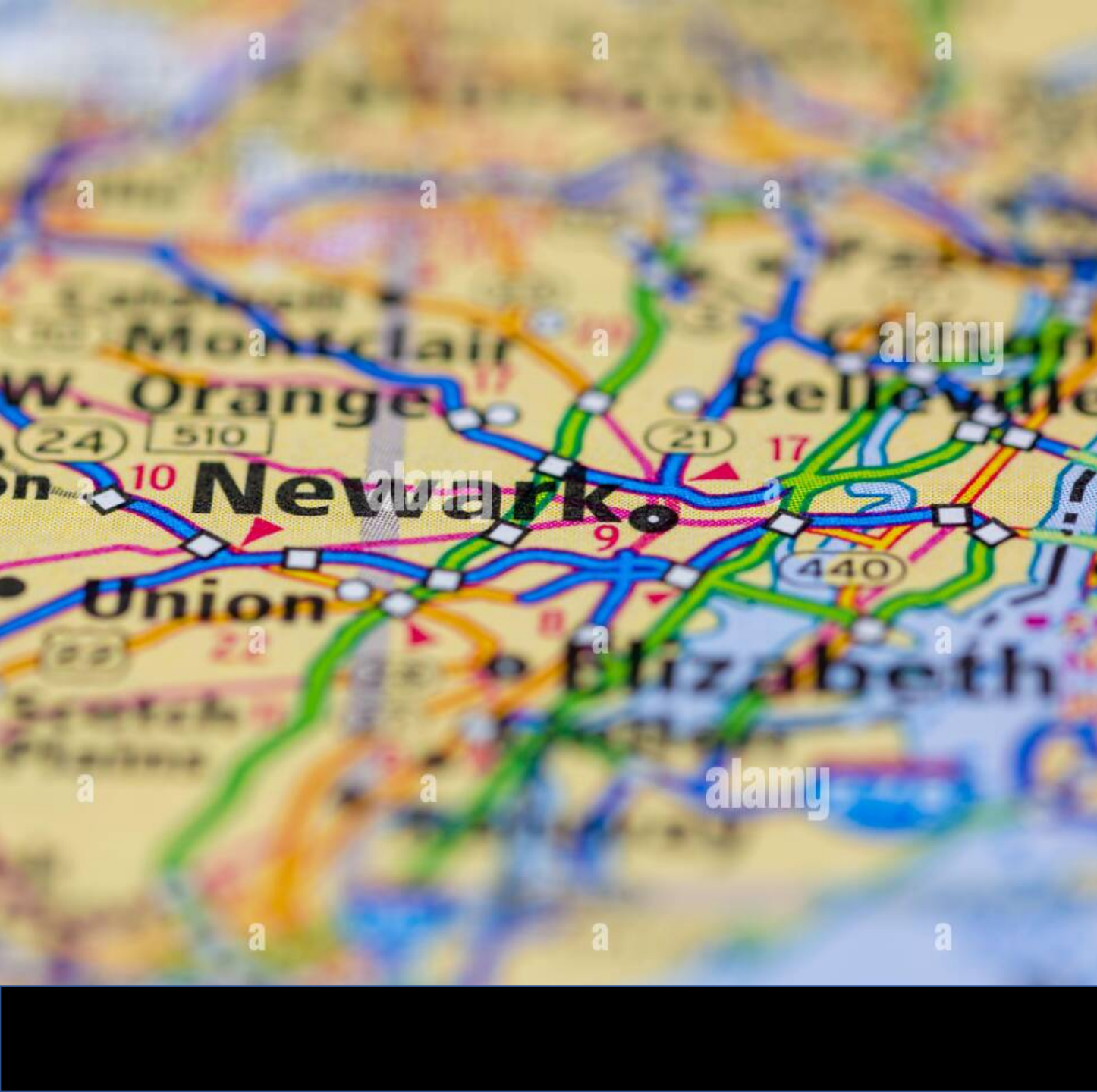
- FREEDOM FIGHTERS LIKE HARRIET TUBMAN, SOJOURNER TRUTH & FREDERICK DOUGLASS WERE EARLY MEMBERS



METHODISM COMES TO NEW YORK

- Methodism spread to Europe and the Caribbean and eventually came to New York City in 1766 and openly welcomed slaves and former slaves.
 - All races could worship at the white John Street Church formed in NYC.
- The toxic relationship between blacks and whites in the city soon came to the church, resulting in unequal treatment of blacks in the John Street Church.
- Blacks could no longer worship on the main floor, baptisms and communion for blacks came after whites were done and licensed black preachers could no longer preach to slaves.
- James Varick, a licensed preacher, got permission to start a separate society (but still affiliated with the white Methodist Episcopal Church) in 1796 and Zion Movement began.





CLINTON MEMORIAL WAS BORN

- The Zionites under the leadership of James Varick ultimately broke away from the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1821 and established themselves as the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.
- In 1822, Rev. Christopher Rush was sent to Newark, NJ by then Bishop Varick to take charge of existing societies and to establish a church. That church was Clinton Memorial. This was the first black congregation in the City of Newark.
- The church was incorporated in April 1823 and the cornerstone laid on Academy Street in Newark, NJ. The church worshipped at Academy Street for 9 years.

CLINTON FINDS A PERMANENT HOME!



- Disaffection by a disgruntled Zion minister caused a large number of members of Clinton Memorial to go to the Methodist Episcopal Church now known as Franklin St. John United Methodist Church located in Newark, NJ.
- Those who remained continued worshipping in a variety of locations in Newark. (8 locations in 60 years)
- A permanent home was purchased in 1930 under the pastorate of Rev. James C. Nelson. The congregation moved in on the first Sunday in October 1930. This is the present location of the church today.
- It was a struggle for the members to pay the enormous mortgage, particularly in the middle of the Depression. But they persevered and the mortgage was liquidated in 1947.
 - Clinton Memorial continued to grow and flourish becoming one of the major churches in the New Jersey Conference.





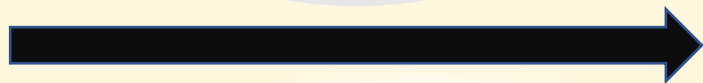
Worship Here

Clinton Memorial
AME Zion Church
151 Broadway,
Newark, NJ 07104

*"The Oldest Black Church in
Newark, NJ"*



VINTAGE PHOTO
CLINTON MEMBERS
CIRCA 1930's or 1940's



HISTORIC SITE
BELLEVILLE AVENUE CHURCH

This building was constructed in 1874 and enlarged in 1884 by the Belleville Avenue Congregational Church. It was designed in high Victorian Gothic style by William Appleton Potter. Clinton Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church purchased the building in 1930 and has carefully maintained its architectural integrity. Clinton Memorial, organized in 1822 and incorporated April 7, 1823, is the oldest black congregation in Newark. Listed on National Register of Historic Places 1986.



**THE NEWARK PRESERVATION
AND LANDMARKS COMMITTEE**

Historic Landmark

*Designated as a
State and National
Historic Site in
1986*

history
in the making



- Clinton Memorial AME Zion Church
- 151 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104
- “The Oldest Black Church in Newark”
 - Victorian Gothic Architectural Influence
 - Architect: William Appleton Potter

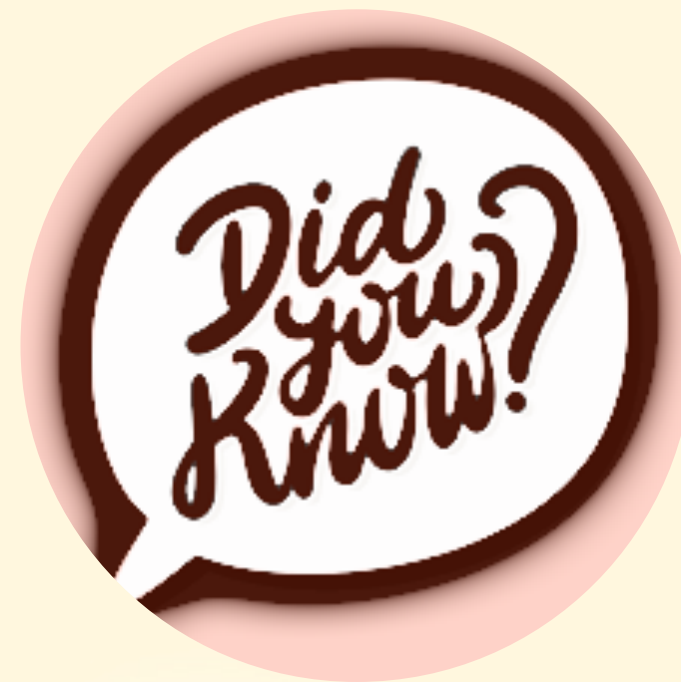


CLINTON MEMORIAL SANCTUARY



SIGNIFICANCE

- OLDEST BLACK CHURCH IN CITY OF NEWARK, NJ
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH HAS INCLUDED FREE MEALS AND CLOTHING TO THE COMMUNITY, A COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET FOR 10 PLUS YEARS, NUMEROUS HEALTH FAIRS, CARNIVALS AND CHURCH EVENTS.
- ARCHITECTUALLY SIGNIFICANT FOR ITS HIGH VICTORIAN GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE CREATED BY NATIONALLY KNOWN ARCHITECT WILLIAM APPLETON POTTER.
- STATE AND NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
- WILL CELEBRATE ITS 200TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY IN 2022





QUESTIONS?