

JUNETEENTH & THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

Wednesday, June 19

At 12:30 PM



Speaker: Pastor Wayne Coleman

Musical Accompaniment:

Ron Foster & Leon B. Moses

Registration is required and can be done through the library calendar. Any questions call the Reference Desk at 973-694-4272 ext. 5401.

This program is sponsored by the Rabbi Israel S. Dresner Memorial Library at Temple Beth Tikvah. It both celebrates the observance of Juneteenth and continues the philosophy of Rabbi Dresner to make the world a better place.



Pastor Wayne Coleman - He is the senior pastor at Madison Avenue CRC in Paterson. Before he was the senior pastor at Millbrook CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The majority of Pastor Wayne's time in the ministry was spent in Holland, Michigan where he served for over twenty years as church planter and community leader for social justice and racial reconciliation. In 2004 Pastor Wayne and his wife Ruth received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award from the city of Holland.

As a pastor he has over twenty-five years of experience serving in the areas of missional outreach, and missional leadership development, social justice, youth ministry/education, racial reconciliation, church revitalization and urban ministry. Pastor Wayne was also the first African American ordained in the CRC Holland Classis as a Minister in Word and Sacrament.

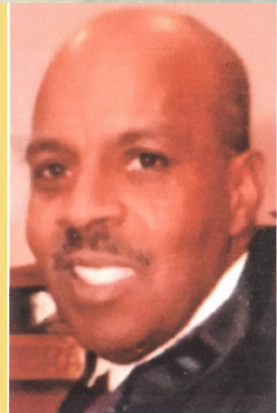
Pastor Wayne & his wife Ruth started the very first Juneteenth festival in Holland, Michigan. Outside of ministry Pastor Wayne enjoys spending time with family, sports, reading, travel and meeting new people.

Leon B. Moses - Leon was born in Paterson to the late gospel promoter John H. Moses. Leon is one of 17 children. It was in the church where his love of music began. He loved singing in the church choir as a child and sang when and wherever he could -- even singing in his sleep.

Leon sang with the great James Edward Cleveland, an American gospel singer, musician and composer. He has traveled with many musicians including: The Staple Singers, The Sensational Nightingales and The Mighty Clouds of Joy.

Leon is a gifted percussionist and vocalist. He recorded his first R&B songs in 1974 called *The World Today* and *The Funky Bump*. These two songs were revived in March 2023 in England. In 1985, Leon recorded *She's Too Serious*, which was distributed by Cotabato Records CBS Associates.

Currently Leon is recording Gospel music with producer Kenny Davis, Ron Foster and others.



Ron Foster - In 1999, Ron organized the group RonFo & Kindred Spirits Gospel/Jazz Ensemble & Orchestra. This group is comprised of local and world-class jazz performers, including a trombone, tenor & alto saxes, trumpets and rhythm section. Most of the music is written and/or arranged by Ron Foster who also conducts the strings & horn sections when budget allows for a large group.

Kindred Spirits has performed on the stages of Beacon Theater in New York, the Wang Center for the Performing Arts in Boston, and Symphony Hall in Newark. Was an accompaniment for the Bug Show along with Jerry Butler, Manhattans, Stylistics and other Classic Soul Groups.

Kindred Spirits presented several concerts in Paterson & Passaic, New Jersey. The orchestra was greatly received and widely accepted for Ron's unique approach to presenting Gospel music using Jazz improvisations over a large orchestral sound. Some selections are well-known gospel/inspirational songs played with special arrangement by Ron Foster.

Ron Foster is currently the Minister of Music at the St. Paul Baptist Church located in Passaic, New Jersey.

Rabbi Israel S. Dresner - Rabbi Israel S. Dresner was the spiritual leader of Temple Beth Tikvah in Wayne from 1970-1995, and continued as Rabbi Emeritus until his death in 2022. Rabbi Dresner was recognized as a leading clergyman in the Civil Rights movement, working alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His prodigious memory and his love of learning inspired him to share his learning and to promote intellectual curiosity to as many people as he could reach. Rabbi Dresner bequeathed to Temple Beth Tikvah more than one thousand books of Jewish interest, and upon his death, the books were catalogued and shelved in what has become the Rabbi Israel S. Dresner Memorial Library at Temple Beth Tikvah.

This program, following the observance of Juneteenth, is sponsored by the Library to further extend the philosophy of making the world a better place, the philosophy that was the foundation of Rabbi Dresner's goal in life. We hope to continue to pursue that goal through education and the inspiration of Rabbi Dresner's legacy.

