

Justice is Love in Action  
Capital Area



Justice Ministry

# CREATING A MORE Just AND Loving COMMUNITY

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Newsletter March 2025

## Pep Rally Highlights

Reverend Rogers opened our March 4 Pep Rally attended by almost 200 CAJM Network members with a stirring call to action. "If we don't sound the alarm, no one else will!" He reminded us that our faith calls us to work outside the walls of our congregations and there is much work to be done.

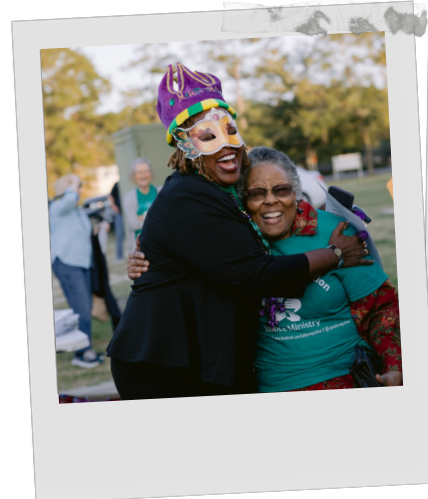


## Welcome

Please welcome St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, the newest CAJM Congregation!!

## Appreciations

Carolyn Dubard is stepping down from her role as CAJM's Treasurer. Carla McBride has accepted this important position. We thank and appreciate you both!



# Make Plans Now to attend The Nehemiah Action!

**Monday, March 31, 6:30 PM**  
**Old West Florida Enrichment Center**  
**2344 Lake Bradford Road, Tallahassee 32310**



## What happens at the Nehemiah Action?

Inspired by the biblical example of Nehemiah, we will assemble in great numbers. We publicly state the actions we want our local leaders to take on the pressing community issues we are working on.

At this Action, we will learn about the progress made in implementing the CAJM-supported program to interrupt gun violence in our community and will continue to push for the resources needed to change the trajectory of tragedy in our community.

Then our CAJM speakers will describe our proposal for Affordable Rental Housing for Very-Low and Extremely Low-income Families. They will ask the invited officials for their support. Cheers shake the rafters when officials agree to champion CAJM proposals, lack of support is met by a deafening silence.

CAJM's influence comes from its ministry of presence and persistence. When 1000 of us gather it demonstrates the degree of concern we have and our expectation for action to solve them.

We promise, you will be inspired. We promise you will be energized.

We promise you will make a difference!

## Why is it important to attend?

Currently 16,000 households in Leon County – people who work in restaurants, care for our children and grandparents, drive school buses - spend more than 50% of their income on rent. The financing and incentives proposed by CAJM will help solve this crisis. When families have stable housing, their health and school performance can improve. Stress and domestic violence decrease. Homelessness is averted.

## What are we asking?

At the County Commission's January 28th meeting, with 156 CAJM members in attendance, commissioners urged CAJM to work with the County Housing Finance Authority to develop a program that would offer affordable rental housing developers "gap financing" to help cover project funding shortfalls as well as incentives to increase the numbers of units set aside for families with very-low and extremely-low incomes. Members of CAJM's Affordable Housing Strategy Team will meet with county staff on March 24th to begin that collaboration. CAJM will propose that gap financing be contingent on developers

agreeing to set aside more affordable units than the minimums required under federal and state financing programs and that they agree to keep those units affordable for 99 years. At the Nehemiah Action, and at the June 10 County Commission meeting, CAJM will ask commissioners to commit to financing that program with \$1 million in the 2026 budget. At the Nehemiah Action they also will ask commissioners to commit to supporting such financing each year they remain in office.

## What do you need to do?

Reach out and invite other members of your congregation but don't stop there! Share the importance of attending the Nehemiah Action in all your circles - neighborhood newsletters, book clubs, even at the gym! Any organizations where you gather with friends and acquaintances is a place to share this message. If we each bring at least 3 people, we will magnify our impact exponentially.

## [SIGN UP TODAY!](#)



<https://www.capitalareajustice.org/events-1/2025-nehemiah-action>