

# Juneteenth GAMMON HOUSE

FatherFest  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration

PROGRESSION OF THE CHURCH

From  
Safehouse to  
Freedom

2025

Saturday, June 14, 2025, 11am-7pm  
620 Piqua Place, Springfield, Ohio

***Presented by Gammon House, Inc. & Urban Light Ministries – FatherFest***



HAPPY  
*Father's*  
DAY



[www.gammonhouse.org](http://www.gammonhouse.org)



## FROM THE STAGE...

- 11am**      **Opening Ceremony**  
**Sons of Thunder Drumming**  
**Gammon House Interpretive Center Unveiling**
- 12:30**      **Civil War Music @ "Ohio Underground Railroad  
Discovery Trail" at The Gammon House.**  
by Reverend Tyler Detrick & Geoff Walker
- 1pm**      **FatherFest Celebration**
- 2pm**      **Voices of Thunder**
- 2:45pm**   **Tru Luv Group**
- 3pm**      **Gospel Choir**
- 4:30pm**   **Champion City Trio**
- 5:30**      **Deron Bell Band**



**Lyrics**

**Tru Luv Group**



**Deron Bell Band**



**Champion City Trio**



# *Complete our survey!*

**Gammon House uses this survey to gather your  
valuable feedback about the festival. We'd love  
to hear your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions!**



# Juneteenth / FatherFest 2025

## FatherFest Agenda

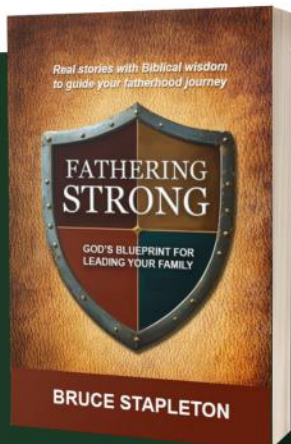
**Location: Gammon House Green**

### 11:00 AM – FatherFest Tent Opens

- Visit the Urban Light/Fathering Strong Table
- Enter drawings for Father's Day gifts: t-shirts, hoodies, Fatherhood books, and grand prizes
- Get information and enroll in the free online Fathering Strong community
- Good Dad Award recipient's check-in

### 1:00 PM – FatherFest Program

- Welcome and introduction of Robert McKinney, PRC Fatherhood Coordinator
- Keynote Address: Eli Williams, President of Urban Light Ministries
- Bruce Stapleton: Author of the *Fathering Strong* Book
- Presentations: 2025 Good Dad Awards
- Prize Drawings for Fathers



## FATHERING STRONG BOOK

### Just Released – "Fathering Strong – God's Blueprint For Leading Your Family" by Bruce Stapleton

This new book offers biblical wisdom, real-world stories, and practical goal-setting frameworks for Christian fathers seeking to leave a Godly legacy. Now available on Amazon.



# History of Juneteenth

- *The Juneteenth national community festival began over 150 years ago in Galveston, Texas to celebrate the first Juneteenth on June 19th, 1865.*
- *As a state holiday in Texas, Juneteenth highlights the oldest national commemoration celebrating the ending of slavery in the United States.*
- *Since the Gammon House is one of only three original Underground Railroad safehouses in Ohio owned and operated by a family of color, we proudly serve as one of the national venues to preserve this important event in history at **no cost** to the community.*



## Festival Events

1

### Gammon House, Take a photo, & Discovery Walk

EXPERIENCE the Gammon Family's home, get your photo taken for free, & walk the Ohio River to Lake Erie Underground Railroad journey.



2

### Reenactor John Hafford

EXPERIENCE the Narrative of Arnold Gragston "Underground Railroad Conductor" about Safe Houses & Secret Codes from the Ohio River to Lake Erie.



3

### Children's Rides & Freedom Train

EXPERIENCE free rides and the Freedom Train with your family!





4

## 1850s Guitar Music

ENHANCE your journey listening to Reverend Tyler Detrick and Geoff Walker who will serenade visitors with Civil War era music at 12:30.



5

## History of the Church

GO to the backyard of The Gammon House for a historical journey through churches who helped free enslaved people.



6

## Artist Aminah Robinson

EXPERIENCE artist Aminah Robinson's work "Journeys Home, A Visual Memoir" at the Springfield Museum of Art tent.



7

## Bookmobile

BORROW a book or GET a library card in the Clark County Library's Bookmobile!



8

## Explore a Firetruck & Springfield Fire Div.

EXPERIENCE a fire truck & talk to our local fire fighters with your family!



9

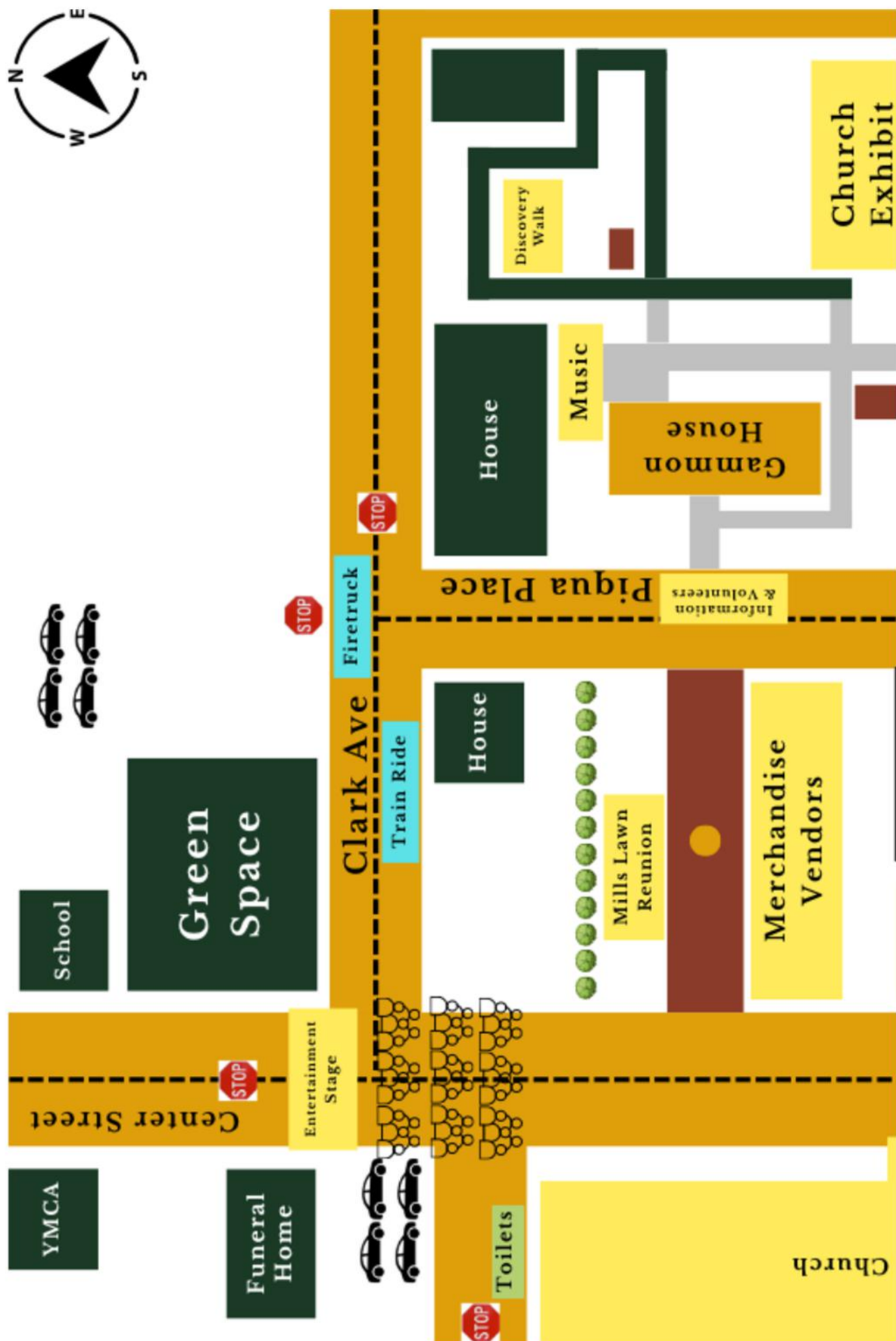
## Central State Health Bus

COME visit and talk to health professionals, get health checks, and more!



**CENTRAL**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## FESTIVAL MAP



# FESTIVAL MAP





# Western Hills Families Return to Their Roots



**This bird's eye view shows the 1950s-era Western Hills Neighborhood.**

The Western Hills was a wonderful neighborhood in which to grow. It was filled with hard working, attentive, loving families that included tons of kids. Everyone knew everyone else, and indeed, the adults knew who your parents were. Kids from adjacent communities frequented the Hills and were our friends. They were our “honorary hillers”.

When we grew older, some of us inherited, purchased or rented homes in the Western Hills community, while others moved away. Yet those who moved away remained bonded to the community and to the long enduring friendships forged there.

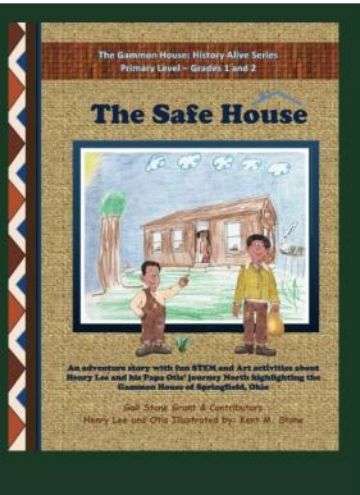
So after promising ourselves for years that we would, we held, finally, our first neighborhood reunion. A committee of current and former residents worked diligently and with vision to arrange that first reunion.

**Rose Park, August 7, 2004.** It was a clear, sunny absolutely gorgeous day. Our families, with our newest and youngest members in tow, came together in fun and fellowship and reaffirmed the loving bonds that had been built over so many years.

Now on this June 14th, 2025, after a hiatus of 10 years, our Western Hills family is elated to come together once again in love and friendship for our fifth neighborhood reunion.

We express our sincere thanks to the Gammon House Committee for sponsoring this Juneteenth Celebration, for welcoming us to share this space, and for helping us to continue a wonderful neighborhood tradition.

## “THE SAFE HOUSE” CHILDREN’S BOOK



**ORDER** your adventure story with fun STEM and Art activities about Henry Lee and his Papa Otis’ journey North highlighting the Gammon House of Springfield, Ohio.





# Thank you, Sponsors!

## Platinum Level "Emancipation Oak"



**JOHN LEGEND**  
**LOVED!**

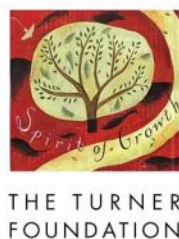
## Gold Level "Safe House"



## Emerald Level "Railroad Conductor"



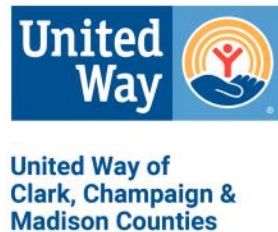
## Silver Level "Station Master"





# Thank you, Sponsors!

## Bronze Level “Railroad Passenger”



## Ruby Level “Precious Cargo”

- Little Joe's Market
- Cecil Rice
- Richwood Bank
- Sandy Turner
- Dorothy Booker
- Brownstone Investments
- Michelle Culpepper
- Strivers Club

## In-Kind Supporter “Candle in the Window”

- City of Springfield Maintenance Dept.
- Aaron McCurdy, Acme Electric
- C.J.'s Refuse
- Clark County Combined Health District
- Church of Jesus Family Worship Center
- Clark State College
- Clark County Heritage Center
- Habitat for Humanity
- Springfield City School District
- Springfield Museum of Art
- Springfield Promise Neighborhood
- St. John Missionary Baptist Church
- Pic with Chill
- Robert C. Henry Funeral Home





## **Gammon Village Support Team**

### **“Follow the Drinking Gourd”**



Clark County Public Library  
Dr. Henry “Hank” Jud & Melinda Barnhardt Family  
Pastor Ernest C. Brown, Sr.  
Ferncliff Cemetery  
Natalie Fritz, Heritage Center Outreach Director  
Amy Korpieski, Springfield Museum of Art  
Preston Mack  
National Afro-American Museum  
& Cultural Center  
Springfield Chapter of Links, Inc.  
Springfield News & Sun  
Amy Willmann



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR  
WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS! WE  
COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT  
WITHOUT YOU!**

## **Juneteenth FatherFest Collaboration Team**

### **“The Safe House”**

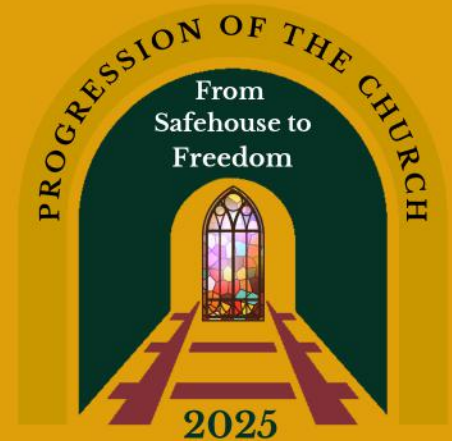
John Bailey, Gammon Board Historian  
Dorothy Booker, Gammon Board Display Designer/  
Aaron Clark, Juneteenth Advisor  
Dorris Daniel, Gammon Board Treasurer/Management  
Patricia Daniels, Board Resource Specialist/Juneteenth Co-Chair  
Heidi Earlywine, Gammon Board Tech Team/Education  
Roland Gilbreath, Entertainment Director  
Gail Grant, Juneteenth FatherFest Co-Chair/Curator  
Camille Hall, Gammon Board Tech Team/Advertisement  
Dale Henry, Historian/Community Service Liaison  
Marcey Langford, Church of Jesus Liaison/Activities  
Bishop Kevin McCraney, Church of Jesus Advisor  
Imani McPheters, Chair Prayer Breakfast/Marketing  
Herchel Miller, Logistics Liaison Advisor  
Sharif Rodgers, Gammon Board Secretary/Security  
Bruce Stapleton, Gammon Board Web Administrator  
Kenneth Stone, Gammon Board Advisor  
Jon Upshaw, Spfld. Promise Neighborhood/FatherFest  
Eli Williams, President Urban Light Ministries/FatherFest  
Letitia Wilson, Chair Community Service/Volunteers  
Jaylon Yates, Yates Multimedia





# PROGRESSION OF THE CHURCH

## From Safehouse to Freedom



### Part 1 - 1880 to 1899: Progression of the Church

Ohio Churches played a major role in the operation of the Underground Railroad. Starting at the Ohio River and ending at Lake Erie, they helped runaway slaves travel north providing safe places to rest, sleep, eat and worship.

- 1819 - New North Street AME Church, Springfield
- 1859 - Second Baptist Church, Springfield
- 1863 - Holy Trinity AME Church, Wilberforce
- 1867 - Wiley Methodist Church, Springfield
- 1871 - Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce
- 1878 - Mount Zion Baptist Church, Springfield
- 1881 - Trinity AME Church, Springfield
- 1886 - St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Springfield



### Part 2 - 1900 to 2025: Journey of the Church

At the turn of the century, there was a visible professional class made up of several doctors, clergymen, and merchants. Wilberforce College community provided leadership, thus Black Springfielders had reasonable access to cultural, educational, and well-known Black industrialists.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • 1900 Little Zion Holiness Church           | • 1947 Church of God MPG of T                                  |
| • 1915 Fair Street Christian Church          | • 1948 Phillips Chapel CME                                     |
| • 1917 Mount Carmel Baptist Church           | • 1951 Mount Calvary FBH                                       |
| • 1919 Broadus Chapel United Methodist       | • 1951 Unity Church of God                                     |
| • 1919 El Bethel Temple                      | • 1952 New Covenant Temple Church of God in Christ             |
| • 1920 Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church            | • 1956 Highlight Baptist Church                                |
| • 1920 South Fountain Seventh Day Adventist  | • 1975 Trydestone Missionary Baptist Church                    |
| • 1923 Church of Jesus Family Worship Center | • 1980s St. Luke renamed Restored Life Ministries              |
| • 1926 St. Luke Baptist Church               | • 2000 Covenant United Methodist Church                        |
| • 1928 Church of God Sanctified              | • 2002 Greater Grace Temple                                    |
| • 1930s New St. Martins Chapel               | • 2005 Multipurpose Complex St. John Missionary Baptist Church |
| • 1933 New Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church   | • 2025 First Haitian Evangelical Church                        |
| • 1934 Church of God in Christ               |  |
| • 1937 People's Baptist Church               |  |
| • 1941 Zion Hill Baptist Church              |  |



The  
**GAMMON  
HOUSE, INC.**



**DONATE**



[www.gammonhouse.org](http://www.gammonhouse.org)

*Juneteenth Festival is provided at no cost to the community.  
Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by  
law, as we are a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*