

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LEADERS AND LIBERATORS EVENT IN COLUMBIA
March 11, 2023, 3 pm - 6 pm

Three influential leaders of the Underground Railroad will be portrayed at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 11, in a staged encounter at the Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, 222 South 5th St., Columbia.

“Leaders & Liberators” tells the story of an imagined meeting on July 4, 1872 of Harriet Tubman, Stephen Smith and William Whipper, courageous conductors and agents who led hundreds to freedom through the network of the Underground Railroad, from the 1830s through the 1850s.

Portraying Harriet Tubman will be Raquel Richardson, William Whipper will be portrayed by Lenwood Sloane. Stephen Smith will be portrayed by Nelson Polite, Jr, all experienced actors. The historically informed script is authored by Lancaster Historian Randolph Harris.

Whipper and Smith were contemporaries of Tubman who built a successful lumber company in Columbia.

The ‘Leaders and Liberators’ event continues with a journey to Saint Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust Street in Columbia. Guests will enjoy a reception of West African cuisine at 4:30 pm followed by a sacred service of Evening Prayer in the Saint Paul sanctuary at 5:30 pm

All are invited to attend this free community event, which honors the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman on the 110th Anniversary of her death.

The event is sponsored by the Bishop Nathan Baxter Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians in partnership with The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, Saint James Episcopal, Lancaster, Saint Paul Episcopal and Mt. Zion AME, Columbia.