



## Mr. Albert M. Pierson

March 20, 1935 - October 6, 2022

\*\*\*\*\*ATTENTION FAMILY & FRIENDS BELOW IS CORRECTED LOCATION FOR CHURCH\*\*\*\*\*

THE GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH IS HOSTING A SERVICE IN LOVING MEMORY FOR THE FAMILY OF MR. ALBERT M. PIERSON ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022. \*\*\*\*PLEASE SEE VISITATION AND SERVICE TIMES BELOW\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: WHEN ENTERING THE CHURCH: MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE STILL REQUIRED\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, CONSIDER DONATING TO: the Northside Association for Educational Advancement, P.O. Box 19875, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49019 or to Orchestra' Jammbo'laya, [info@ojamm.org](mailto:info@ojamm.org)

If you have any questions, please contact us at: (269) 342-1000

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### The Obituary

Albert Miller Pierson affectionately known as “Jim” was born to the late Elnora Burns and Clarence Pierson in Hope, Arkansas on March 20, 1935. Being born during the “Great Depression” shaped Jim’s formative years resulting in a lifetime of frugality, grit and a strong work ethic. As with many African Americans, Jim was helped raised by his grandparents George Nelson Burns

Sr. "Pa" and Sallie Mae (Carter) Burns until the age of eleven. He then migrated to the North with his cousins to join their parents. He attended Roosevelt Elementary Middle School where he discovered his talent as a saxophonist.

Jim graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School where he attained his varsity letters in track and field. In addition to being an athlete, he continued his passion as a saxophonist. This talent would eventually grow into a recording artist with Chess Records. One of the Dapps' songs that remains relevant in Europe is the 1956 recording "When You Are Alone." <https://youtu.be/RZTn-qrbVho>

He met his wife Willie Mae (Davis) and they married in 1959. For 63 years he supported her career aspirations as she became the first African American and one of the first women to be a realtor in Southwestern Michigan.

He was a tuner for the Gibson Guitar company. For over three decades he served as a security guard for the Upjohn Company.

Jim was a master gardener and was known for his fruit orchards. In 1991, the Kalamazoo Gazette once featured Jim as a foremost authority in growing fruit trees. This esteemed cameo is titled "A Gardner's Plum Assignment, Fruits of His Labor Please Kalamazoo Man with Backyard Orchard." The writer states "The Shiro plum tree, with its yellow fruit, is not grown in abundance in Michigan. But step into Albert Pierson's backyard in Kalamazoo Township and no one would ever know."

Preceded in death by his sons are Stanley Williams and Jim Jerry Hampton, sisters Darlene Henry, Mable Henry, Evelyn (Ivo) Tynes, Mary Ann Pierson, Lula Mae Taylor who was his biological aunt but sister in heart, his brothers Johnie (Loretta) Miller Pierson, and Clarence Pierson, Jr.

He leaves a legacy of children and grandchildren who are business entrepreneurs, an artist, a scientist, a film editor, a social media influencer, a computer engineer and more.

He continues this legacy through his children Cheryl (Ricky) Johnson, Tonya (James "Petey") Pierson Collins, LeShon (Stephanie) Pierson, grandchildren Kaii Williams, Patrick Pierson, Shashena Pierson, Roketa ("Rochelle") Johnson, James Collins, Ciara Collins, Devante Pierson, Siani Johnson, William Collins, Camille Collins and great grandchildren Khalil and Kaylana Jones; two sisters Naydine Pierson, Joyce (Zebedee) Hampton, one brother, Anthony Pierson, two special cousins Buzette Jackson and James Palmore, one special niece Theresa Johnson, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

1015 Gull Rd  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048-1733  
(269) 337-8227

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **15**. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church  
1216 North Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

## A Homegoing Celebration

OCT **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church  
1216 North Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Albert M. Pierson*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mr. Albert M. Pierson*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Denise Sheppard lit a candle for Albert Pierson*



**Julia Denise Sheppard** - October 21, 2022 at 11:16 PM



“ *Neal, Barb Higgins sent a virtual gift in memory of Albert Pierson*



**Neal, Barb Higgins** - October 20, 2022 at 01:52 PM

NH

“ Neal, Barb Higgins sent a virtual gift in memory of Albert Pierson



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**Neal, Barb Higgins** - October 20, 2022 at 01:45 PM

CS

“ I am saddened to learn of Mr. Pierson’s passing. Although I did not get the opportunity to meet him, I see his strength, passion for life and love, commitment, and grit in his beautiful daughter, Cheryl. I extend my deepest sympathy to Mr. Pierson’s family and prayers of comfort during this difficult time. Celeste Shelton-Harris



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**Celeste Shelton** - October 18, 2022 at 11:29 AM

RW

“ Remenyi Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Albert Pierson



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**Remenyi Williams** - October 16, 2022 at 07:23 PM

EG

“ Edith Gardner lit a candle in memory of Albert Pierson



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**Edith Gardner** - October 16, 2022 at 12:11 PM

CO

“ Cheryl Owens-Nebedum lit a candle in memory of Albert Pierson



Cheryl Owens-Nebedum - October 15, 2022 at 08:18 AM

ML

“ Malinda Ligon-Whitley lit a candle in memory of Albert Pierson



Malinda Ligon-Whitley - October 15, 2022 at 01:34 AM

HB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Helen (Mills) Brooks - October 13, 2022 at 06:29 PM

LD

“ I loved Mr Pierson and fondly remembered him as the security guard at Upjohn. He was so kind and his smile offered comfort after a long, tiring day at work. It wasn't until I worked with Tonya that I put together that he was her Dad. Wonderful family, great guy! He will be missed! Prayers to all family and friends and deepest condolences for the loss of this great, kind man

LORETTA CIPKUS Dubray - October 13, 2022 at 03:21 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Albert M. Pierson.*



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October 13, 2022 at 01:56 PM



“ *Hilda Snell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Hilda snell** - October 13, 2022 at 01:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Albert M. Pierson.*



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October 13, 2022 at 12:24 PM



“ *Lisa Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Lisa Williams** - October 12, 2022 at 04:56 PM

ML

“ *Malinda Ligon-Whitley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Malinda Ligon-Whitley** - October 11, 2022 at 11:58 PM

JH

“ *Condolences Willie Mae and family!*



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**Julia Hoskim** - October 11, 2022 at 02:32 PM

CP

“ *My deepest condlonces to the Pierson Family for your loss. May God's love comfort you during this time. Clarissa Peterson*



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**Clarissa A Peterson** - October 11, 2022 at 01:12 PM

PG

“ *Pauline (Mills) Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Pauline (Mills) Gardner** - October 11, 2022 at 09:03 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Albert M. Pierson.*



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October 11, 2022 at 01:04 AM



“ *Sending my condolence to you and your family praying for strength and comfort.*



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**Charles Duckett** - October 10, 2022 at 10:08 PM



“ *Gwendolyn SingerChilds lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Gwendolyn SingerChilds** - October 10, 2022 at 07:27 PM



“ *Sending sincere sympathy in memory of Albert M. Pierson.*



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**Catherine- Walter Summers** - October 10, 2022 at 03:03 PM

DF

“ *Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Dallas Boards and family** - October 10, 2022 at 01:06 PM

KJ

“ *My condolences to Mr. Pearson's family and friends.*



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**Kim Jackson** - October 10, 2022 at 11:54 AM

RW

“ *Robert & Anita Wilkerson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Robert & Anita Wilkerson** - October 10, 2022 at 07:49 AM

AD

“ *Heartfelt condolences to Willie Mae, family, and host of friends...I saw first hand Jim's behind the scenes support, in helping Willie with her real estate vision; it was a sight to behold, as they worked as a team to have a successful family business...*

*Rest well Jim!*

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**Ann Dunigan** - October 10, 2022 at 07:34 AM

PB

“ *Paul And Margaret Best lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Paul and Margaret Best** - October 09, 2022 at 09:58 PM

MO

“ *Our sincere condolence to your family. Asking God to keep you in his care. Jerry Tubbs , Modean Reeves and families.*

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**ModeanReeves** - October 09, 2022 at 09:47 PM

DE

“ *I often worked late at Upjohn, or came back In for a couple of hours to finish something up, and Mr. Pierson would be at the Lovell Street security desk. He was unfailingly genial, upbeat and modest. He seldom let on about his many accomplishments, but with a little prompting I could get him to talking about his pecan orchards in Arkansas. I genuinely enjoyed those brief greetings and conversations; he represented himself and his employer with class. May he rest easy, and richly rewarded for his many earthly kindnesses.*

—dean

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**Dean** - October 09, 2022 at 07:58 PM

CS

“ *Walt and Catherine Summers send sincere sympathy to the Pierson family.*

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**Catherine and Walt Summers** - October 09, 2022 at 03:57 PM

SR

“ *Susan Birch Reinoehl lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Susan Birch Reinoehl** - October 09, 2022 at 09:36 AM

AT

“ *My condolences to the family.*

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**Alice Taylor** - October 09, 2022 at 06:08 AM

AT

“ *Alice Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Alice Taylor** - October 09, 2022 at 06:07 AM

KD

“ *Kevin Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson*



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**Kevin Dunigan** - October 09, 2022 at 12:23 AM

EW

“ Eldora Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Albert M. Pierson



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**Eldora Williams** - October 08, 2022 at 08:31 PM

KG

“ Karen Gray sent a virtual gift in memory of Albert Pierson



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**Karen Gray** - October 08, 2022 at 07:19 PM

KG

“ Gray lit a candle in memory of Albert Pierson



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**Karen Gray** - October 08, 2022 at 07:18 PM

KF

“ Gray & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Albert Pierson



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**Karen Gray & Family** - October 08, 2022 at 07:17 PM

LK

“ *Larry Karen sent a virtual gift in memory of Albert Pierson*



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**Larry and Karen** - October 08, 2022 at 07:16 PM

CE

“ *Our condolences to the Pierson family! Mr. Pierson will truly be missed. We are praying for you!!! RL and Charmane Echols.*

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**Charmane Echols** - October 08, 2022 at 07:13 PM

DA

“ *Rest In Peace my sincere condolences to the family*

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**Doris Abbott** - October 08, 2022 at 05:27 PM

BE

“ *Bobby Edwards lit a candle in memory of Albert Pierson*



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**Bobby Edwards** - October 08, 2022 at 04:54 PM

JH

“ *Jerry Harris lit a candle in memory of Albert Pierson*



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**Jerry Harris** - October 08, 2022 at 02:51 PM

JE

“ *Jo Embrey lit a candle in memory of Albert Pierson*



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**Jo Ann Embrey** - October 08, 2022 at 01:58 PM

HF

“ *I met Jim, when he moved to Kalamazoo with his parents from Arkansas. He and my sister Pauline Mills, attended Roosevelt JR. High School together. Minister Willie Pierson and family you have my deepest condolences. And Prayers.*



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**Helen Brooks and Barbee Family** - October 08, 2022 at 12:52 PM

RW

“ *Ruby Walker-Barbee lit a candle in memory of Albert Pierson*



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**Ruby Walker-Barbee** - October 08, 2022 at 09:36 AM

EH

“ *Ed Joan Harris lit a candle in memory of Albert Pierson*



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**Ed and Joan Harris** - October 08, 2022 at 09:09 AM