

Sunday
Feb
22

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrate
#AfricanHeritageSunday



Preacher

Rev. Dr. Garland D. Higgins

Executive Minister, Big Bethel AME Church &
Christian Education Director, 6th Episcopal District

Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Right Reverend Michael L. Mitchell, Presiding Prelate, 6th Episcopal District

Mrs. Cordelia Mitchell, Episcopal Supervisor, 6th Episcopal District

The Reverend Kimberly McMichael, Presiding Elder, North Atlanta District

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor



@BigBethelAMEChurch





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BIG BETHEL

Atlanta's First Black Church

220 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
T: 404.827.9707
www.bigbethelame.org

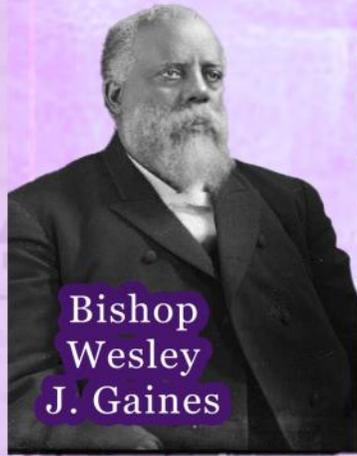
Worship Times:
10:00 am Traditional
2:00 pm Contemporary

Pastor Jay and
Leading Lady Michelle Burks Augustine

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US!



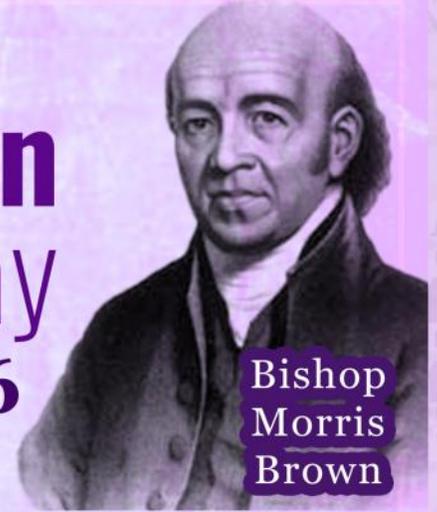
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**Bishop
Wesley
J. Gaines**

Morris Brown College Sunday

**March 15, 2026
10:00 am**



**Bishop
Morris
Brown**

Guest Speaker

Rev. Dr. Debra L. Haggins
Founding Dean of the School of Religion
Hampton University
Hampton, VA



Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor
Michelle Burks Augustine, Leading Lady



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Rev. Garland D. Higgins



Rev. Garland Davis Higgins is an author and civic leader whose passion rests on loving God and God's people particularly those counted as "the least of these" (Mt 25:31-46). As a native of Hartford, Connecticut, Rev. Higgins honed her passion for building relationships as a student in the Windsor Public Schools. She continued her higher education at Howard University (BA), Regent University (MA), and Yale University School of Divinity (M.Div.). In 2013, she relocated to Atlanta, Georgia. She earned her Doctorate in Ministry in May 2023 from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur. Her dissertation project title is "The Mystery of Black Folks Mourning: Proposed Practices for Processing Grief in the African American Church."

For the past 25 years, she has dedicated her life to ordained ministry. As an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Rev. Higgins most recently served as the Executive Pastor/Director of Christian Education at Antioch AME Church in Stone Mountain, GA. She writes Bible Study, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School curriculums which she shares with other churches.



Rev. Higgins' civic leadership shines most notably through her membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., her non-profit organization God's Glorious Girls, Inc., along with her previous work with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the American Red Cross. She served as Chaplain for the WNBA Connecticut Sun and the first black female Deputy Chaplain for the Connecticut House of Representatives. Some of her previous commitments were Pastor of Bethel Mission AME Church in Hartford, CT; Served for 7 years as the Coordinator for New England Conference Women in Ministry; Board Member of Wilson/Gray YMCA in Hartford, CT; and Board Member of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She is the author of a book for teen girls, *My Soul Speaks: Inspirations from Life's Experiences*; and co-author of *Bishop Morris Brown: The Invisible Man of the A.M.E. Church* along with retired Connectional Officer, Dr. Thomas L. Bess.

She has a passion for social justice issues, in particular mass incarceration, wrongful convictions, abolishing the death penalty, and racial injustice. She served on the Social Action Commission for Antioch AME

Church and the Atlanta East District. She volunteers for Equal Justice Initiative in efforts to challenge racial injustice by sharing, retweeting, and regramming their social media posts, and volunteers for Black Voters Matter with texting campaigns and postcard writing.

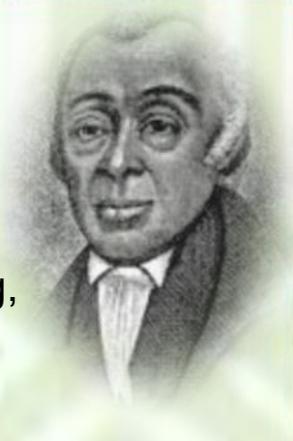
Most importantly, she is the proud mother of an adult daughter, Perri Higgins, who is a graduate of Hampton University and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; and adoptive mother to her adult niece, Khalina Davis, who has two sons - Ayden and Zander.



She currently serves as Executive Minister at Big Bethel AME Church. She loves God and God's people and has a heart for ministry. Her favorite scripture is: '... *Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for Me.*' Matthew 25:40

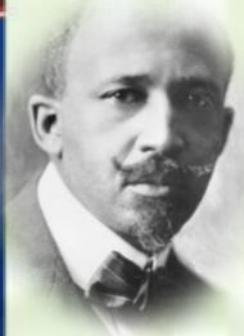


The Opening Hymn
AME Hymn #571 Lift Every Voice and Sing



Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.



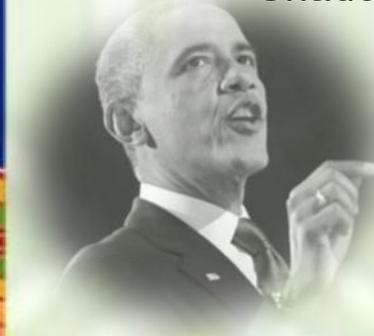
Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?



We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand,
True to our God, True to our native land.



**Big Bethel AME Church
The Order of Liturgy**

February 22, 2026 10:00 AM

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Monica C. Jones, PhD

Presiding Liturgist

Worship Through Music.....The Bearden-Scott Youth Choir
Sister Nicole Chapman, Director

The Doxology.....AME Hymn #69.....All Worshipers (standing)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Hymn of Praise.....AME Hymn # 571 Lift Every Voice and Sing.....Brother Joshua Young
*See full hymn lyrics on page 5.

The Prayer of Invocation.....Brother Christopher A. Greene
(prayer chant)

Worship In Music.....The Bearden-Scott Youth Choir
Sister Chapman, Director

*The Responsive Scripture Reading Psalm32, NRSVUE.....Brother Noah Jones

Leader: 1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

People: 3While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Leader: 5Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

People: 6Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. 7You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Leader: 8I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

All: 10Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. 11Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

The Announcements and Welcome to Big Bethel.....Sister Violet T. Ricks, Esq.
(*Everybody, Hug Somebody*)

The Big Bethel Black History Moment.....Big Bethel AME Sunday School
Brother Khamisi Walters, Superintendent

The Pastor's Perspective:The Reverend Dr. Garland D. Higgins
Executive Minister, Big Bethel AMEC

WHEN The CROSS SPEAKS
Seven Words that Can Save the World

A Lenten Guide
Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
 The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. "Jay" Augustine
Senior Pastor
 The Reverend Monica C. Jones, PhD
Editor

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**The Lenten Devotional Guide
 Is Available Now!**
 You may pick up a hardcopy in the sanctuary
 and it is also available on the church website.
<https://www.bigbethelame.org/resources>
 Or Scan below

Lenten Guide 2026

MOSAIC STORYTELLING INITIATIVE PRESENTS:

FAITH
on the Frontline

Mosaic: Faith on the Frontline Screening & Living History Conversation

By Mosaic in Partnership with the Andrew Young Center

Morehouse College
 Feb 26 from 5:30pm to 8pm EST

Get Tickets at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

What: The Eva M. Jolly Children / Adult Book Collection, The India Clayton Ebony Magazine Collection and Book Reading by Dr. Caarne L. White.

Why: Preserving Black History Month

When: Sunday, February 22

Time: Presented during Children's Church and after 10:00 o'clock service

Where: Classrooms 3 & 4 in the Fellowship Hall

Presented By: It's Not Where You Start



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Michelle Burks Augustine Leading Lady

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2024 Disciplines for sale!!

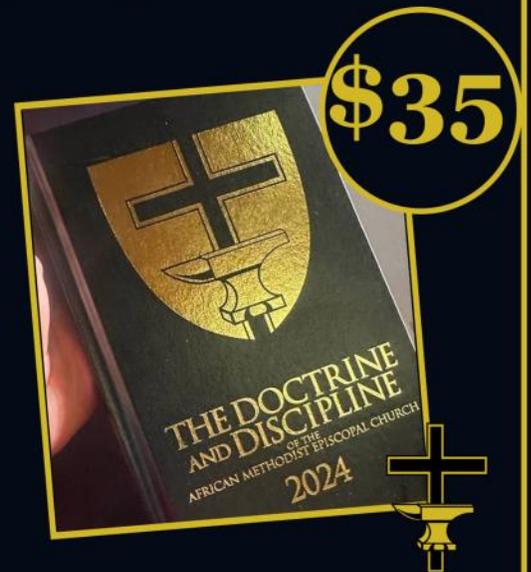
Who: Edge-Cannon Lay Organization

When: Following Worship

Where: Back of the sanctuary

What: The Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church

Checks made payable to:
Big Bethel AME Church



Big Bethel AME Church
Edge-Cannon Lay Organization

*Easter Lilies
for
Loved Ones*



Help us decorate the sanctuary in April by purchasing Easter Lilies for \$25 in honor/memory of your loved ones.

contact: [Joi Stinson, joistinson@gmail.com](mailto:joistinson@gmail.com)
Scan the QR code to place your order by March 8th.



A CANDID CONVERSATION ABOUT A TOUGH SUBJECT

HOSTED BY



BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH

REV. DR. JONATHAN C. AUGUSTINE
SENIOR PASTOR

Come out to see how all the pieces fit together
"TO GET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER"

**RE-SCHEDULED for Saturday,
February 28, 12:00 – 2:00PM**



LOCATION: BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH
220 AUBURN AVENUE, N.E.
FELLOWSHIP HALL
ATLANTA, GA 30303

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Big Bethel A.M.E. Church Scholarship Opportunity

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

🎓 If you are a graduating senior and an active member of Big Bethel A.M.E. Church, this is your chance to apply for a scholarship to support your educational journey.

💡 Don't miss this opportunity – take the first step toward your future today!

For additional information or inquiries, please contact:
Dr. Opal Walters-Knowlton, Chairperson
dr.opalk@gmail.com

📱 Scan the QR code below to fill out the interest form!



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Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
Senior Pastor
Michelle Augustine
Leading Lady



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The Buckhead/Cascade City (Ga) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated is awarding two \$2,500 scholarships to college students attending any AUC HBCU for the 2026-2027 school year and beyond.

Eligibility Criteria:

- ✓ 3.0+ cumulative GPA
- ✓ Picture of your transcript and/or proof of cumulative and current GPA
- ✓ One reference letter (From a faculty member or mentor off campus).
- ✓ Currently enrolled in and attending an AU Center College or University.

For questions, email: BCCCLinksHBCUScholarship@gmail.com

Love Feast is moving to Zoom!

When: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Time: 800AM

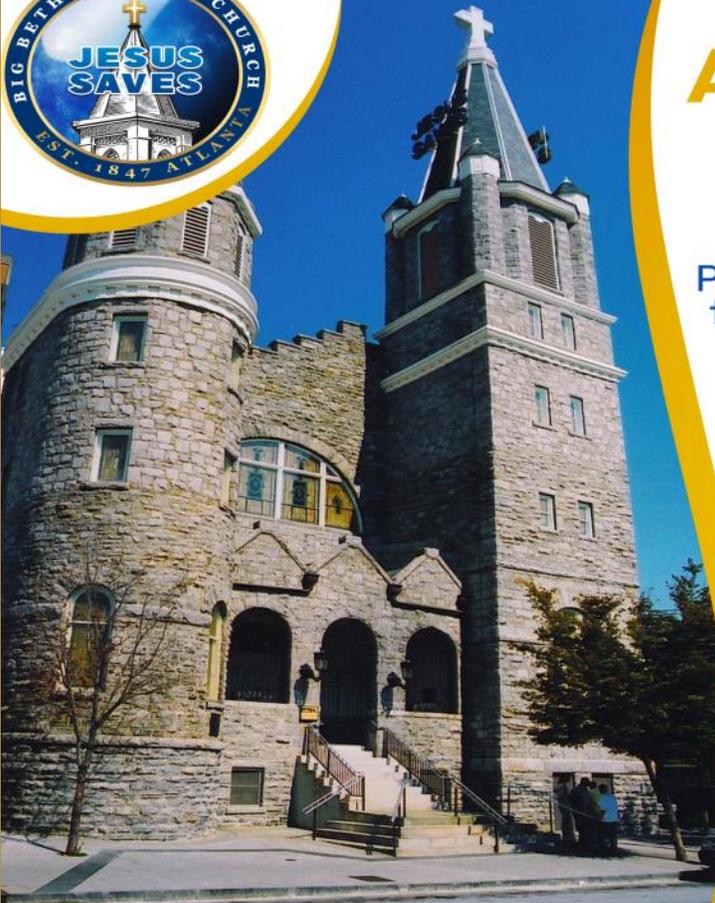
Meeting ID: 913 7919 1719

Passcode: 220

Mobile:

+16465588656,,91379191719#,,,,*220#

Please, come and join us!



ATTENTION

Big Bethel Members

Are you missing out on church news & event info?

Perhaps your contact information needs to be updated! Scan the code below or go to the website.



Member Contact Update



www.bigbethelame.org/member-services

Be in the know!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Daily Morning Prayer Call (1-605-472-5512 Access Code:772576#).....Monday - Saturday, 6:00 - 6:30 am
 Church School.....8:45 am
 Traditional Worship Service 10:00 am
 Contemporary Worship Service (THRIVE Next Shift)2:00 pm
 Big Bethel Village Worship By Phone 202-962-1123 673604#.....3:00pm Sundays
 Wednesday Virtual Bible Study (ID: 847 251 8679 Password: adultclass).....12:30 noon and 6:00 pm
 Love Feast.....Meeting ID: 925 5301 2321..Passcode: 404220) Mobile: +16465588656,,92583012321#,,,*404220#
 8:00 am Saturday before First Sunday
 Holy Communion.....First Sundays
 Discipleship New Members Class.....8:45 am 3rd, & 4th Sundays
 Baptism..... As Announced

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday.....10:00 am—2:00 pm
 Tuesday—Friday.....10:00 am—4:30 pm

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Big Bethel Mass ChoirWednesday @ 7:00pm and Saturday @ 10:00am before First Sunday
 Johnson-Schofield Men’s Choir..... 2 Saturdays before Second Sunday
 Babcock-Young Voices of Unity/Big Bethel Chorale.....Wednesday @ 7:00pm and Saturday @ 10:00am before Third Sunday
 Bearden-Scott Youth Choir.....2 Saturdays before Fourth Sunday
 Big Bethel Praise Ensemble.....2Thursdays @7:00 pm and Saturday before Fourth Sunday

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