

Sunday  
April  
19

Big Bethel A.M.E. Church  
**Annual Lay Day**

**“Reviving the Connection: Our African American Heritage Past and Present”**

Ephesians 3:20-21



**Guest Speaker**  
**Tonya M. Matthews, Ph.D.,**  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the  
International African American Museum  
Charleston, SC

**Edge-Cannon Lay Organization**  
*Guy Howard, President*

**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



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*Welcome*

to

**BIG BETHEL**

*"The City Hall of Sweet Auburn"*

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

**Pastor Jay and  
Leading Lady Michelle Burks Augustine**

**220 Auburn Avenue, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30303**

**T: 404.827.9707**

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# #SocialJustice #EnvironmentalJustice

 Sunday, April 26, 2026  
 10:00 am

Guest Speaker  
**Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis**

President, National Newspaper Publisher's Association;  
Former National President, NAACP



**Big Bethel AME Church**  
220 Auburn Avenue, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
[www.bigbethelame.org](http://www.bigbethelame.org)



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## Tonya M. Matthews, Ph.D.

Dr. Tonya M. Matthews is a thought-leader in social entrepreneurship, institutional equity and inclusion strategy, and the intersection of formal and informal education. Her background as both poet and engineer has made her a highly sought-after visioning partner on board and community and economic development projects, as well as being a frequent public speaker and presenter for gatherings across all ages and sectors.

A non-profit executive veteran, Dr. Matthews is currently President and Chief Executive Officer of the International African American Museum (IAAM) located in Charleston, SC at the historically sacred site of Gadsden’s Wharf. Under Dr. Matthews’ leadership, IAAM has become a champion of authentic, empathetic storytelling of African American history and thus is one of the nation’s newest platforms for the disruption of institutionalized racism as America continues the walk toward “a more perfect union.”

Dr. Matthews brings her “pre-K through gray” philosophy of education alongside a deep respect for life-long learning and radical empathy skill building to every appointment. Dr. Matthews’ storied career includes her role as Associate Provost for Inclusive Workforce Development & Director of the STEM Innovation Learning Center at Wayne State University and, prior to that, as the President & CEO of the Michigan Science Center – flexing her science and STEM educational equity chops in both roles. She is the founder of *The STEMinista Project*, a movement to engage girls in their future with STEM careers and tools and *STEMinista Rising*, which supports professional women in STEM – and the colleagues who champion them.



Dr. Matthews’ dedication to community and accomplishments are widely recognized. She has been noted as one of Charleston’s Most Influential by Charleston Business Magazine twice and honored as *Trailblazer* by Career Mastered Magazine (2017). She is a former member of the National Academy of Sciences Board on Science Education and was appointed by both Democratic and Republican administrations to the National Assessment Governing Board. She has authored several articles and book chapters on inclusive board governance, non-profit management, and fundraising. Dr. Matthews is a published poet and is included in *100 Best African American Poems (2010)* edited by Nikki Giovanni. She has also been honored with an honorary doctorate from Central Michigan University for her career achievements and contributions.



Dr. Matthews received her Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from Johns Hopkins University and her B.S.E. in biomedical and electrical engineering from Duke University, alongside a certificate in African/African American Studies. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and The Links, Inc. Dr. Matthews is a native of Washington, D.C. and – in each community she has settled – is known for planting roots on the side of town best for keeping an eye on progress.

**Annual Lay Day Worship Service**

**The Order of Liturgy**

**Sunday, April 19, 2026 @ 10:00 AM**

**Theme: *Reviving the Connection: Our African American Heritage – Past and Present***

**Mr. Khamisi Walters, Worship Leader**

Worship in Music.....The Big Bethel Mass Choir  
Brother Cornelius Pettway, 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 Opening Hymn.....AME Hymn #582 Laymen’s Song..... Ms. Grace Terrell McCoy

The Prayer of Invocation.....Ms. Cornelia Jordan  
(Prayer chant)

Worship in Music.....The Big Bethel Mass Choir  
Brother Pettway, Director

The Responsive Scripture Reading..... Ephesians 3:17-21 NRSVUE.....Mr. Tony Jones

Minister: <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

**People: <sup>18</sup> I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,**

Minister: <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**People: <sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,**

**ALL: <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Announcements and Welcome to Big Bethel.....Mrs. Kawanza Alston-Smith  
(Everybody, Hug Somebody)

The Big Bethel Ministry Moment.....Big Bethel Sunday School  
Mr. Khamisi Walters, Sunday School Superintendent

**Special Presentations**

Big Bethel Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.....Ms. Shirley Simmons

Big Bethel Laypersons of the Year.....Mr. Guy Howard  
President, Edge-Cannon Lay Organization

Worship Through Creative Expression.....Signs of Praise Mime Ministry  
Bro. Jory Young, Director

The Pastor’s Perspective.....The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine  
Senior Pastor, Big Bethel AME Church

**Congratulations to New Members completing New Members Class!**

*Joseph Daniels                      Patricia Scott*  
*LaQweta Harris                     Anna Thomas*  
*Valda Petit-Frere                  Nikki Thompson*

Christian Stewardship Worship in Giving.....Ms. Violet Ricks, Esq.

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The Choral Response.....**All Things Come of Thee**..... AME Hymn #644  
“All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee.” Amen

The Introduction of the Speaker..... Mr. Guy Howard

Worship in Music.....The Big Bethel Mass Choir  
Brother Pettway, Director

The Proclaimed Word .....Ms. Tonya M. Matthews, Ph.D.  
President & CEO, International African American Museum (IAAM)

The Invitation .....The Reverend Jessica N. Buford

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 Lay Benediction..... Mr. Khamisi Walters  
May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity, that we may live together,  
not as man over man, but as laypersons working with God. Amen.



Visitors, please register your attendance on the Big Bethel Guest Registration Form by scanning the QR code to the right. Thank you for worshipping with us. You are always welcome!!!!





SAVE THE DATE  
**VOICES OF THE BALLOT**

A COMMUNITY CANDIDATE FORUM

FULTON COUNTY JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

STATE COURT SUPERIOR COURT

FULTON COUNTY COMMISSION CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 1 DISTRICT 3 DISTRICT 5

CHAIRMAN

Meet the candidates, hear their priorities, and ask your questions!

28 APRIL  
 2026

Meet-and-Greet  
 5PM - 6PM

Candidate Forum  
 6PM - 8PM

Register Here:



Location  
 Big Bethel AME Church  
 220 Auburn Ave NE  
 Atlanta, GA 30303

Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor

<https://bit.ly/4c9JAil>



# MODEL CALL!

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The Greater Atlanta Section of National Council of Negro Women Presents

★ CIVIC POWER SERIES III: THE PEOPLE GUBERNATORIAL & LT. GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE ★

HOSTED BY



DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

★ DATE

THURSDAY  
 APRIL 23

★ LOCATION

BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH  
 220 AUBURN AVE. NE  
 ATLANTA, GA 30303



REGISTER NOW BY  
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 CODE

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GREEN THE CHURCH GEORGIA in partnership with JESUS SAVES

# CLIMATE REVIVAL

Atlanta

HOST  
 REV. DR. JONATHAN C. AUGUSTINE  
 SENIOR PASTOR OF BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH

REV. DR. GERALD DURELY  
 PASTOR OF PROVIDENCE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

REV. BRUCE CARROLL  
 GREEN THE CHURCH NATIONAL FIELD DIRECTOR

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026**

**BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH** 220 Auburn Ave. NE

Follow the QR Code to Learn More and RSVP:

# April EVENTS

- 21 AMERICAN SOCIETY ON AGING 11AM**
- 23 100 BLACK WOMEN 5PM**  
CIVIC POWER SERIES PART 3
- 25 CLIMATE REVIVAL 10AM-2PM**
- 26 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY (ENVIRONMENTAL)**  
SPEAKER: DR. BEN CHAVIS, CEO, NATL. NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOC.
- 28 FULTON COUNTY CANDIDATE FORUM 5PM**  
SUPERIOR & STATE JUDGES, COMMISSIONERS, CHAIR

# May EVENTS

WOMEN'S EMPHASIS MONTH

- 02 LOVE FEAST 8AM - IN PERSON**
- 03 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 8AM-4PM**
- 09 HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY**
- 10 ANGC YPD CONF. CHOIR REHEARSAL 1PM**
- 10 MOTHER'S DAY**
- 13 BIRTHING/HEALTH SEMINAR 6PM**
- 16 PRES. ELDER APPRECIATION 10AM-12NOON**
- 17 PASTOR'S APPRECIATION SUNDAY**  
PREACHER: DR. GLENELL LEE PRUITT, PRES, JARVIS CHRISTIAN UNIV.
- 24 PENTECOST SUNDAY (WEAR RED)**
- 25 MEMORIAL DAY**
- 28 PASTOR JAY & LADY MICHELLE'S WEDDING ANNIV.**
- 28-30 SED PLANNING MEETING**
- 30 KWANZA SOL DANCE MINISTRY RECITAL 4PM**
- 31 WOMEN'S EMPHASIS SUNDAY**  
PREACHER: DR. TONI ALVARADO, GRACE CHURCH INTL. ATLANTA  
EVERY TUESDAY 7PM - BIBLE STUDY/LINE DANCING/ZUMBA

## GRADUATE RECOGNITION

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Kindergarten through Post-Grad

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Fill out the Graduation Info Form so we can honor all of our graduates.



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Big Bethel—opt in  
today.



Text **"JOIN"** to  
**833-472-3188** and  
follow the prompts.

# Congratulations!!

Pastor Jay Featured in *Atlanta Magazine* as one of  
Atlanta's 500 Most Influential Leaders



Religion



## Jonathan C. Augustine

Senior Pastor  
**Big Bethel African  
Methodist Episcopal  
Church**

In May 2025, Jonathan C. Augustine was named senior pastor of Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest Black church in Atlanta, following the retirement of John Foster. Prior to Big Bethel, for six years, Augustine pastored St. Joseph AME Church in Durham, North Carolina, while serving on the faculties of North Carolina Central University School of Law and Duke Divinity School, where he was a chaplain to the Duke football team. Prior to leading St. Joseph, Augustine served as senior minister at Historic St. James AME Church in New Orleans. An accomplished author, his most recent books are *When Prophets Preach: Leadership and the Politics of the Pulpit*; and *Called to Reconciliation: How the Church Can Model Justice, Diversity and Inclusion*. Inducted into the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers in 2024, he also served eight years as the general chaplain of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

**Education:** Howard University, Tulane University Law School (JD), United Theological Seminary (MDiv), Duke Divinity School (DMin)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Daily Morning Prayer Call (1-605-472-5512 Access Code:772576#)	Monday – Saturday 6:00 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 6:00pm
Love Feast	In-person on Thursdays before Communion Sunday at 6:30pm
Holy Communion	First Sundays
Discipleship New Members Class	8:45 am 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sundays
Board of Stewards	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesdays 6:30 pm
Board of Trustees	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays 7:00 pm
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 Choir	Tuesdays @ 7:00pm and Saturday @ 10:00am before 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday
Johnson-Schofield Men’s Choir	2 Mondays 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	2 Thursdays @7:00 pm and Saturday before Fourth Sunday

# STAY CONNECTED

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Big Bethel AME Church

220 Auburn Ave NE | Atlanta, Ga 30303



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