

Sunday
Dec
28

Celebration of Kwanzaa

"*Habari Gani?*"

"What's the news?" in Swahili



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

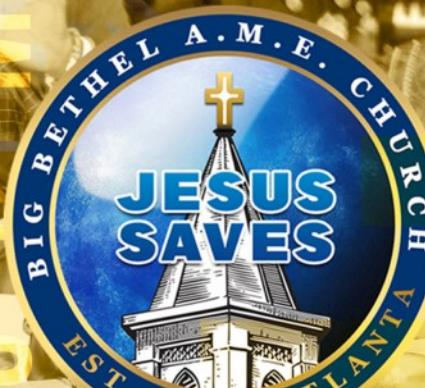
The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor

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WELCOME to BIG BETHEL

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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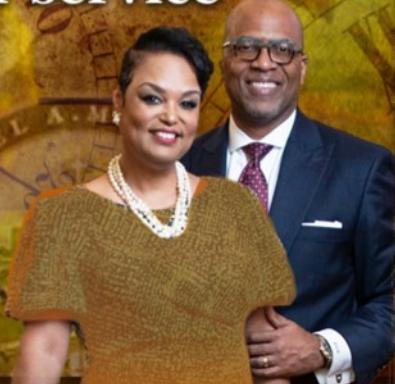
Big Bethel AME Church



Watch Night Worship

December 31st 3:00 pm

Fellowship meal directly after service



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Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine

Senior Pastor

Michelle Augustine

Leading Lady

Big Bethel AME Church
The Order of Liturgy - December 28, 2025

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
Senior Pastor and Presiding Liturgist

Worship in Music The Bearden-Scott Youth Choir
Sister Racquel Battle, Director

The Doxology All Worshipers (standing)

The Opening Hymn AME Hymn #122 "Go Tell It On The Mountain" Sister Nala Bivens

The Prayer of Invocation Brother Miles Jones
(Prayer Chant)

The Scripture Reading (Isaiah 63:7-9, NRSVUE) Brother Arrington Walters

7 I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. 8 For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior 9 in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Worship in Music The Bearden-Scott Youth Choir
Sister Battle, Director

Celebrating Kwanzaa at Big Bethel The Reverend Monica C. Jones, Ph.D. & Sister Martinique Mix

Welcome to Big Bethel Brothers Joshua Young & Keith Burnett
(Everybody, Hug Somebody)

The Announcements Sister Racquel Battle

The Sacrament of Baptism—Sister Jasmyne L. Johnson

Worship in Giving The Reverend Shrala Askin



ORDER OF LIGHTING THE KINARA



Kwanzaa and the Seven Principles

Primarily celebrated in the United States, Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration (December 26 through January 1) that honors African American heritage and culture. It's celebrated by African Americans of all faiths, many of whom also celebrate other seasonal and faith-based holidays alongside Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa was started in the mid-1960s by Maulana Karenga, a professor of African American Studies. Initially, Kwanzaa was a way to unite African American communities after a series of riots (the Watts Rebellion or Watts Riots) that had a huge impact in the predominantly Black neighborhood of Watts, Los Angeles. **The word "Kwanzaa" itself was adapted from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which translates to "first fruits."**

There are seven principles to Kwanzaa:

- Umoja, or unity**
- Kujichagulia, or self-determination**
- Ujima, or collective work and responsibility**
- Ujamaa, or cooperative economics**
- Nia, or purpose**
- Kuumba, or creativity**
- Imani, or faith**

Each day of Kwanzaa, families light one of the black, red, or green candles in the Kinara to represent one of the principles. "The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red and green; black for the people, red for their struggle, and green for the future and hope that comes from the struggle. **The black candle is lit first on the first day of the celebration, and the remaining candles are lit afterwards from left to right on the following days.**

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 Song of Preparation.....The Bearden-Scott Youth Choir
Sister Battle, Director

The Proclaimed Word **"A Drean at a Dark Time"** The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
(Matthew 2: 13-23,NRSV) Senior Pastor, Big Bethel AME Church

The Invitation The Reverend Jessica Buford

The Doxology and Benediction Pastor Jay Augustine



~Sermon Notes~

“...you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church...” Matthew 16:18

Points/Topics:

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!!!!



Big Bethel AME Church



Epiphany Sunday

January 04, 2026
10:00 am

Guest Praecher

**The Reverend Kimberly
McMichael**

Presiding Elder of the
North Atlanta District



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

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Fasting and Prayer 2026

The Big Bethel Family is beginning the new year with 21 days of fasting and prayer. We are asking the following from each member during the 21 days.

- 1) Give up/refrain from a food or habit important to you.
- 2) Pray on the topic daily during the 12:00pm-1:00pm hour wherever you are.
- 3) Come together at our “All Day Prayer” call on Wednesday, January 21st via Phone call

Day	Date	Daily Noonday Prayer Concern
Thursday	1/1/2026	-----
Friday	1/2/2026	God's Authority Amidst Uncertainty
Saturday	1/3/2026	Church Leadership
Sunday	1/4/2026	Salvation for unsaved
Monday	1/5/2026	Development deeper relationship with the Holy spirit
Tuesday	1/6/2026	Loss of life: Gun Violence in Schools
Wednesday	1/7/2026	Work to bring forth God's Kingdom on Earth as It is Heaven
Thursday	1/8/2026	Fulfilling One's Call/Purpose
Friday	1/9/2026	Social/Economic Justice
Saturday	1/10/2026	Bridge divide of relatability between the church and young people
Sunday	1/11/2026	Abused and exploited children.
Monday	1/12/2026	Youth of the nation.
Tuesday	1/13/2026	Sick and Shut In/Care givers
Wednesday	1/14/2026	Bible Illiteracy/ Christian Education -ALL DAY PRAYER
Thursday	1/15/2026	Gladness of God (Joy of Jesus) in our heart
Friday	1/16/2026	Comfort for bereaved family and friends
Saturday	1/17/2026	State, City and Local Governments
Sunday	1/18/2026	Commit to Individual ministry based on God's call and what He has ordained & spoken
Monday	1/19/2026	Community/Community Partnerships/Outreach
Tuesday	1/20/2026	Peace in Our World
Wednesday	1/21/2026	Morris Brown and other church universities.
Thursday	1/22/2026	Our Education System



Big Bethel AME Church

Strategic Planning

Part 1

**Saturday, January 24, 2026
at 8:30 am**

Save the Date



Presenter
**Dr. LaTonya N.
McIver Penny**

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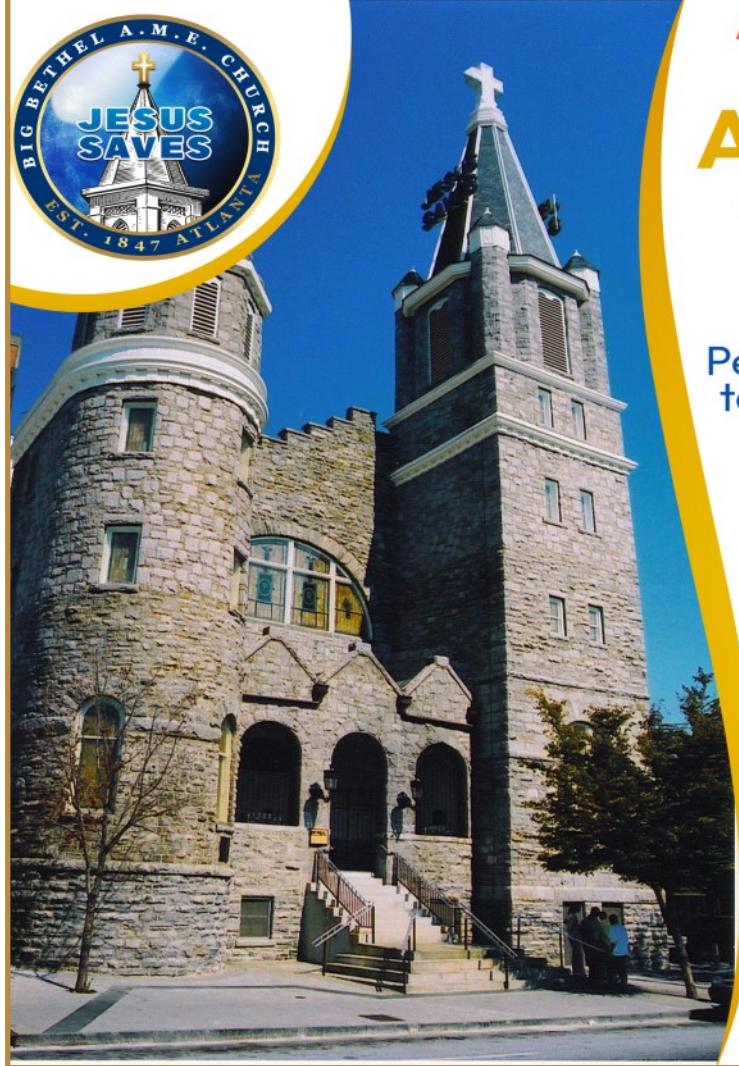


**Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor
Michelle Augustine, Leading Lady**

CALLING ALL DRIVERS



The Van Ministry is in need of volunteer drivers to bring our guests and our members to church! For more information, please contact the church office or Racquel Battle benita7816@att.net



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).....	12:00 noon and 6:00pm
Love Feast.....	8:00 am Saturday before First Sunday
Holy Communion.....	First Sundays
Discipleship New Members Class.....	8:45 am 1st, 2nd, & 3rd 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 Choir	Wednesday @ 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.....	2 Thursdays @7:00 pm and Saturday before Fourth Sunday



STAY CONNECTED

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