

Sunday
October
25

Social Justice Sunday

SOULS TO THE POLLS

Guest Preacher

The Reverend Al Sharpton

President, National Action Network

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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Big

Welcome To
Bethel AME Church

"The City Hall of Sweet Auburn"

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

220 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
T: 404.827.9707



www.bigbethelame.org

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

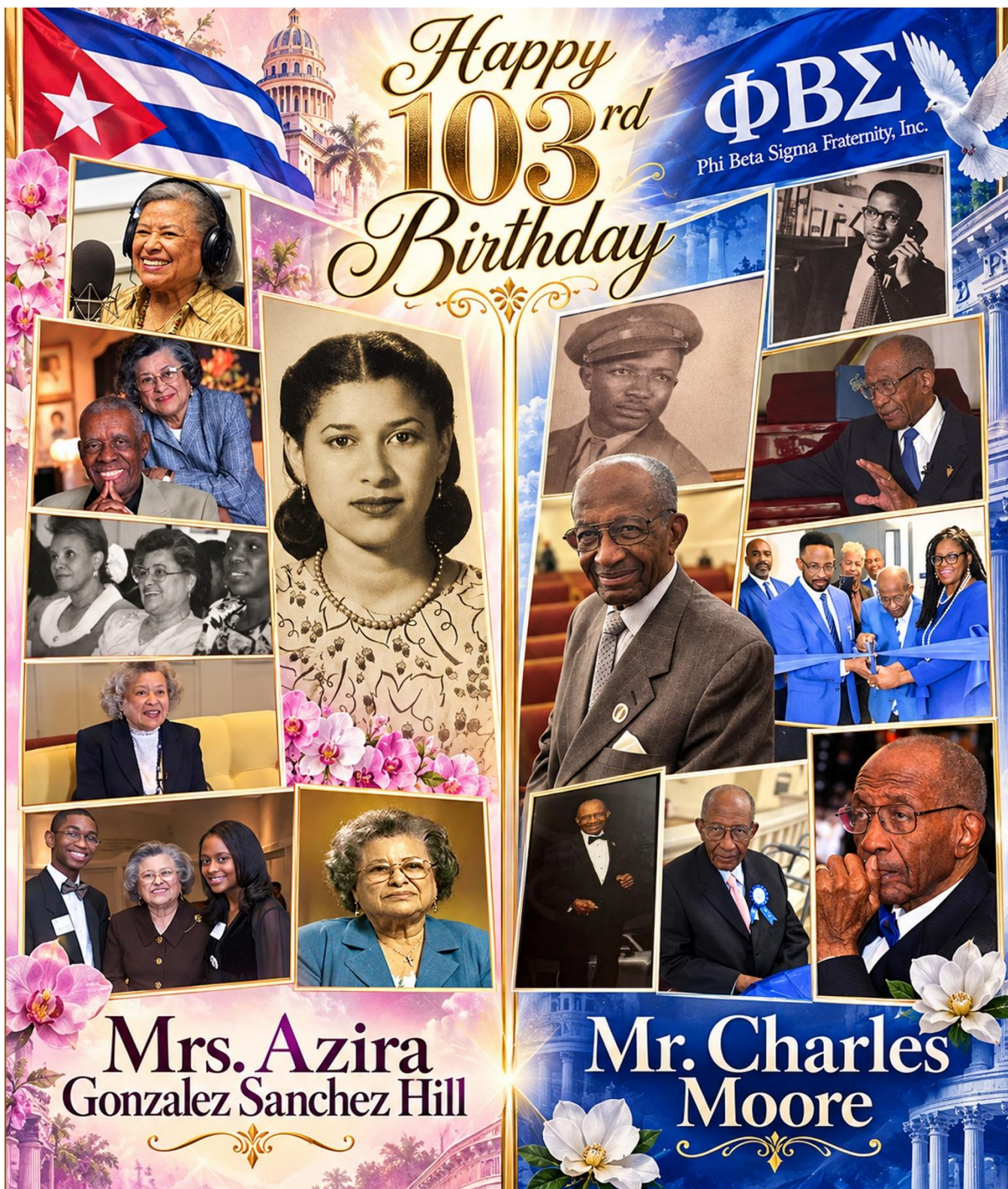
The Reverend Kimberly McMichael
Presiding Elder, North Atlanta District

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
Senior Pastor



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



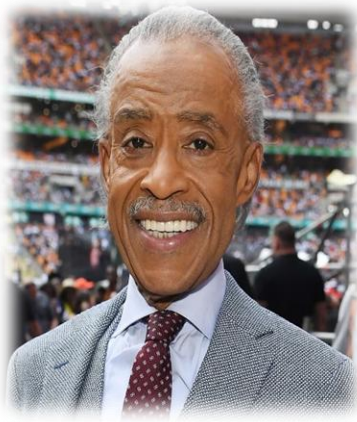
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 Leading Lady



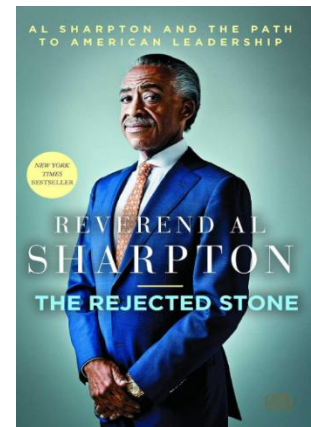
The Reverend Al Sharpton

The longtime freedom fighter takes no days off as he continues to rally for the civil rights of marginalized communities. For decades, the Rev. Al Sharpton's advocacy has placed him at the forefront of seeking equality and peace for Black families who have fallen victim to racial violence and an unfair justice system.

Sharpton is well known for garnering national attention and bringing public awareness to racial adversities such as police brutality, America's housing crisis, hateful acts against Black individuals, and other actions that target the civil rights of Black Americans. The most recent case the activist is placing a spotlight on is the death in Mississippi of Dexter Wade, a Black man who was run over by a police officer in March. Wade was buried though no one informed his mother of the fatal encounter or the burial. After reporting her son missing in March and searching for him, she found out nearly six months later that he was dead and buried. Sharpton issued a call to action for the Department of Justice to investigate Wade's case and the Jackson, Mississippi, police department's procedures, tactics and culture. "What happened to Dexter Wade is one of the most disturbing things I have ever heard," Sharpton wrote in a statement. "This is truly as bad as it gets. You have an off-duty officer who fatally strikes a Black man with an official vehicle, then a department that says they cannot locate a next of kin while his mother begs and pleads with anyone who will listen to find her son. The details clearly show this is a cover-up — plain and simple."

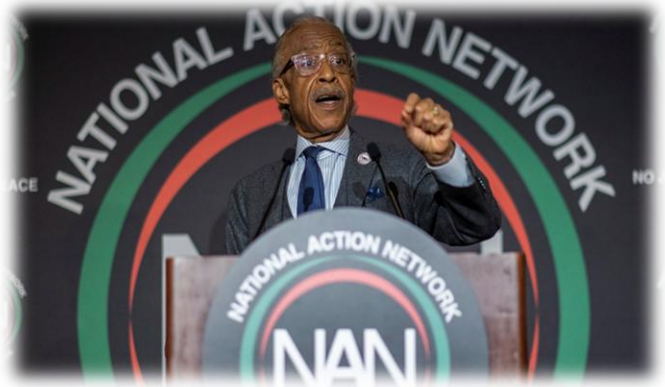
In proper Sharpton form, he sheds light on incidents and places them high on the public's radar to evoke pressure on political leaders and government officials to respond. Sharpton's influence has made him instrumental in the development of several high-profile cases: George Floyd, Tyre Nichols, Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Rayshard Brooks and others. Sharpton stands on the shoulders of past changemakers in the civil rights arena. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rep. John Lewis, his mentor, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and others played a role in Sharpton's unwavering commitment to civil rights and advancing Black communities through nonviolent resistance.

At 69 years old, Sharpton still stands strong as the go-to advocate who continues to publicly protest, and there are no signs he is slowing down. In February, the documentary "Loudmouth" premiered on BET, exploring his life's work of fighting for social justice. He hosts a weekend news talk show, "PoliticsNation," on MS NOW. He also has his daily national radio show, "Keepin' It Real," where he keeps listeners abreast of major political events and updates. He is the author of several books including, "Rise Up: Confronting a Country at the Crossroads," "The Rejected Stone: Al Sharpton and the Path to American Leadership," "Righteous Troublemakers: Untold Stories of the Social Justice Movement in America" and many others. He was a guest lecturer at Tennessee State University. He also has been honored with multiple honorary



doctorate degrees from Bethune-Cookman University, Fisk University and Medgar Evers College, to name a few.

He is the founder of the National Action Network (NAN), a not-for-profit civil rights organization. NAN, which Sharpton created in 1991, promotes an agenda focusing on criminal justice reform, police accountability, crisis intake and victim assistance, voting rights, corporate responsibility and pension diversity, youth leadership and technology accessibility. NAN has nearly 100 chapters nationwide where members meet and organize about issues impacting their local communities. The work of NAN has been recognized and praised by other changemakers, including former President Barack Obama, who in 2007 deemed Sharpton “the voice of the voiceless and a champion for the downtrodden” at one of the organization’s conventions.



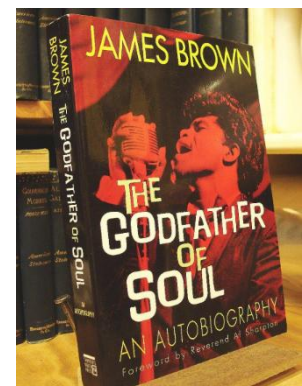
Sharpton is relentless in his efforts to empower and be a voice for marginalized communities – an initiative instilled in him when he was a child. The New York native was born in 1954 in Queens. The future crusader’s introduction to preaching started early. Sharpton began preaching at 4 years



old, and his first sermon was at the Washington Temple Church of God in Christ. Before reaching his teens, Sharpton found himself preaching throughout the country with the guidance of Bishop F.D. Washington and the Rev. Dr. Bill Jones, two pastors Sharpton’s mother connected him with. From there, he was introduced to Rev. Jesse Jackson in 1967. When Sharpton reached 13, he was appointed by Jackson and the Rev. William Augustus Jones as the youth director for the New York chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s Operation Breadbasket. His

experience in that role laid the foundation for his training in civil disobedience and direct action, which he would later adopt into his current practices

Sharpton’s desire to fight for civil rights grew as he was surrounded by powerful leaders. He learned from the Rev. William A. Jones, Hosea Williams, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker and other influential activists. Sharpton founded his first civil rights organization, the National Youth Movement, at 16. He eventually met James Brown and grew closer to the musician. In 1973, Brown adopted Sharpton as his godson. Sharpton’s frequent association with the “Godfather of Soul” taught him how to captivate the public. “I would watch what moves and what songs excited people, and I would take notes,” Sharpton told The New York Times. “Because you’ve got to keep people’s attention.”



Sharpton put the knowledge he absorbed from his influential mentors to the test with his first major case in 1986. Three Black men who were looking for help after their car broke down stopped at a New York pizza shop in Howard Beach, an all-white neighborhood in Queens, New York. The men were approached by white teenagers, and an argument started. The teenagers left and returned with a mob to attack the Black men. Michael Griffith, 23, one of the men chased by the white mob, was killed after getting struck by a car. Sharpton made it his duty to organize several protests rallying for justice for the men. He and over a thousand protesters marched through Howard Beach. In the end, three of the attackers were convicted of second-degree manslaughter.

Sharpton's success at mobilizing demonstrators and contributing to the mobbers' conviction set him on track to fight for other cases. In 1989, Sharpton conducted several protests after a 16-year-old teenager, Yusuf Hawkins, was attacked by a white mob, shot and then killed in Brooklyn. His public display of marching for justice garnered him more public attention. Even after being stabbed in the chest during one of the demonstrations, he did not let that incident deter him from pushing forward. He campaigned for the Senate in 1992 and 1994 and lost both times. He ran for New York City mayor in 1997 and ran for president in 2004, which he did not win either.



Although he was never elected to office, those setbacks never dissuaded him from continuing his social justice advocacy. He continued to march. He continued to protest. He continued to be the spokesperson behind a podium or in the streets for Black families longing for justice and accountability.



His push to evoke change raised awareness about injustices for families, including those of Abner Louima, Amadou Diallo, Sean Bell, Michael Brown and many more. As part of his annual commemoration of Dr. King's March on Washington, over 200,000 people attended in 2020 to demand police reform, and the event was led by families of Black individuals who lost their lives to police brutality.

Sharpton's influence runs deep and is highly praised. In 2014, Vanity Fair called him "arguably the country's most influential civil-rights leader." Sharpton lives up to that proclamation as he continues his long strides forward despite the violence, multiple imprisonments for civil disobedience and other obstacles he has endured. Sharpton's legacy lives in his persistent mission of achieving justice where it is due and, in return, brings society closer to systemic equality.

Social Justice Sunday
The Order of Liturgy
Sunday, October 25, 2026 @ 10:00 AM
The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine,
Presiding Liturgist/Worship Leader

Praise and Worship..... 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 “Lift Every Voice and Sing” The Reverend Gwen Senatle

The Prayer of InvocationThe Reverend Jeffrey L. Streator, Ph.D.
(prayer chant)

Worship in Music The Big Bethel Mass Choir

The Responsive Scripture Reading Psalm 90:1-6, NRSVUE The Reverend Jessica N. Buford

Minister: ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**People: ² Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth
and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Minister: ³ You turn us back to dust and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”

**People: ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like
a watch in the night.**

Minister: ⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the
morning;

All: ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Project 2026.....Sister Andrea Young Jones

Voting: For Such A Time As This.....Bishop Michael L. Mitchell
Presiding Prelate, 6th Episcopal District, AME Church

Worship in Music The Big Bethel Mass Choir

Welcome to Atlanta: We Vote.....The Honorable Shirley Franklin, 58th Mayor
The Honorable Bill Campbell, 55th Mayor

Worship in Music The Big Bethel Mass Choir

Young People Are Our Future: VOTE!.....Brother Milton Jones
Chairman of the Board, The United Negro College Fund and
100 Black Men of America, Inc.

The Announcements and Welcome to Big Bethel.....Sister Stephanie S. Shepherd
(Everybody, Hug Somebody)

The Big Bethel Ministry Moments: Children's Sabbath Day.....Worship & Arts Department

The Pastor's Perspective.....The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine

Christian Stewardship Worship in Giving..... The Reverend Maurice P. Eckstein



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 Presentation of the Guest PreacherPastor Jay Augustine

Worship in Music The Big Bethel Mass Choir

The Proclaimed Word..... The Reverend Al Sharpton
President, National Action Network

The Invitation and Prayer..... The Reverend Charmain Purvis

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 Benediction The Reverend Sharpton



***The Reverend Sharpton will lead an AI fluency workshop in Bishops Hall immediately following worship. Food will be provided. At 1:30 pm, in collaboration with Ebenezer Baptist Church, buses and private vehicles will leave Big Bethel and caravan to the Joan P. Garner Library.**

~Sermon Notes~

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

Points/Topics:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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!!!!







PROJECT 2026

PEOPLE ★ PURPOSE ★ PROGRESS

VOTE EARLY



Saturday Early Voting Days
Ended on October 24, 2026

Early Voting ends October 30, 2026



Tuesday, November 3, 2026,
is Election Day

9

DAYS TO
ELECTION DAY

THIS IS THE MOST CONSEQUENTIAL ELECTION OF OUR TIME

Early voting has surpassed previous early voting statistics in Georgia. As of a few days ago, more than **ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND (1,200,000)** people have voted during early voting.

- ### THE FACTS REGARDING YOUR RIGHTS TO VOTE ARE:
- ✓ State law requires local elections officials to allow early in-person voting beginning on the fourth Monday prior to a primary or election, and as soon as possible prior to the runoff.
 - ✓ Early voting ends on the Friday immediately prior to Election Day.
 - ✓ The Secretary of State's website has key dates for the current election cycle.
 - ✓ Local elections officials may allow early voting beyond regular weekday business hours, but it's up to the county.

- ### WHEN YOU VOTE EARLY:
-  When you arrive at your early voting location, you'll need to bring a **valid photo ID** such as a driver's license, passport, or voter identification card.
 -  The polls offer audio ballots for voters who are blind or have low vision, and booths for voters in wheelchairs. If you need help with your ballot, you can ask a family member or friend to come with you to the polls and fill the ballot in with your choices.

Since May 2026, the Project 2026 Team has provided information on all the national and local races that may be on the ballot.

OUR MIDTERM 2026 KEY RACES IN GEORGIA ARE:

	U.S. Senate	Mike Collins vs. Jon Ossoff
	Governor	Rick Jackson vs. Keisha Lance Bottoms
	Lieutenant Governor	Greg Dolezal vs. Josh McLaurin
	Secretary of State	Tim Fleming vs. Penny Brown Reynolds
	Attorney General	Brian Strickland vs. Tanya Miller
	Commissioner of Agriculture	Incumbent Tyler Harper vs. Katherine E. Juhan-Arnold
	Commissioner of Insurance	Incumbent John King vs. Keisha Sean Waites
	State School Superintendent	Incumbent Richard Woods vs. Lydia Powell
	Commissioner of Labor	Incumbent Barbara Rivera Holmes vs. Nikki Porcher

DISTRICT RACES

	Public Service Commissioner District 3	Fitz Johnson vs. Incumbent Peter Hubbard
	Public Service Commissioner District 5	Josh Tolbert vs. Sheila Edwards



USE YOUR VOTING SUPERPOWER:

As previously discussed, CONTINUE to go to www.mvp.sos.ga.gov to:

- 1 Check your voting status.
- 2 Find your voting precinct and voter ID card.
- 3 Print out a Sample Ballot to see all elections in your area.
- 4 Then — **VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**








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Senior Pastor

Michelle Burks Augustine
Leading Lady

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Big Bethel AME Church
PRESENTS

Do Everyday
ACTIONS
Determine Your
Hereafter?

You don't
want to miss

The 96th Production

Heaven Bound

TRADITIONAL VERSION

Friday
NOVEMBER 6TH
7:00 PM

CONTEMPORARY VERSION

Saturday
NOVEMBER 7TH
7:00 PM

Experiencing it might help you decide

Ticket pricing:

\$20 per person
Groups of 10 or more: \$15
12 and Under: \$15

GET YOUR TICKETS

In person: Big Bethel AME Church Office
204 Auburn Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

Online: www.bigbethelame.org

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Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
Senior Pastor
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BIG BETHEL A.M.E CHURCH
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

FALL FESTIVAL



FOOD | GAMES | FELLOWSHIP

OCTOBER 31, 2026 AT 1 PM

FREE ENTRY

Located in the Big Bethel Amphitheater
190 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30303
Dr. Jay Augustine, Senior Pastor



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*Growing in Faith.
Living on Purpose.
Making an Impact.*

A PLACE TO
BELONG.

A FAITH TO
BECOME.

A PURPOSE TO
FULFILL.



OUR 4 PILLARS

FELLOWSHIP

Building
meaningful
connections.

WORSHIP

Exalting God in
spirit & truth.

TRANSFORMATION

Renewing minds.
Changing lives.

SERVICE

Making a
difference in our
community.

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY

2:00PM

(EXCEPT 5TH SUNDAY)

**IN-PERSON
& LIVE ON**



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Volunteer on the Atlanta Habitat Faith Build



Join volunteers from the
Big Bethel AME
community and other
local congregations
in service and fellowship.

Saturdays
7:30am-3:30pm
October 31
November 14
December 5

Sign up Today

<https://vhub.at/bigbethel>

Scan the QR Code on the right or use the link
above to create a profile on VolunteerHub, sign
a waiver, and choose the day(s) you want to
volunteer on site.



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
October 25, 2026	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Psalm 1	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46

SERVING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Acolytes/ Stewards		Altar Servers: Dr. Chris Parker and Brother Tim Crim	
Choir	The Big Bethel Mass Choir~ Brother Cornelius Pettway	Trustees	Brother Floyd Baxter & Brother Keith Halford
Philippians	Sister Stephanie S. Shepherd	Ushers	Usherette Board #3
Stewardesses	<i>Bussey-Watson Stewardess Ministry</i> Sisters Frankie Akins & Teresa Robinson	AV Ministry	Sister Phyllislorena Smiley & Brother Brandon Collins

Finance Team | Sisters Linda Williams, Juanita Aiken & Olivia Alston;
Brothers Tony Jones, & Joe Patterson

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:941 4160 8101|Passcode:939 252| Phone +13052241968).....12:30 pm & 6:00pm
Love Feast.....In-person on Thursdays before Communion Sunday at 6:30pm
Holy Communion.....First Sundays
Discipleship New Members Class.....Monthly Specified Saturdays -TBA
Board of Stewards.....1st Tuesdays 6:30 pm
Board of Trustees.....2nd 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 1st & 3rd Sunday
Johnson-Schofield Men’s Choir.....Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays before Second Sunday
Bearden-Scott Youth Choir.....2nd Saturdays before Fourth Sunday
Big Bethel Praise Ensemble.....2nd Thursdays @ 7:00 pm and Saturday before Fourth Sunday

STAY CONNECTED

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