

Sunday
April
26



#SocialJustice #EnvironmentalJustice

Guest Speaker

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis

President

National Newspaper Publisher's Association

Former National President, NAACP



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



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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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!

Meet-and-Greet

5PM - 6PM

Candidate Forum

6PM - 8PM

Register Here:

28 APRIL
2026

Location

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

Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor



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



Urban League of Greater Atlanta



THE PEOPLE UNITED



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



The Peoples' Agenda



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Tau Pi Omega Chapter
Connection and Social Action Committee



The Georgia Democracy RESILIENCE NETWORK



Reverend Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Reverend Dr. Benjamin Franklin Chavis Jr. (born January 22, 1948) in Oxford, North Carolina is an African American civil rights leader and icon, United Church of Christ (UCC) ordained minister, author, journalist, organic chemist, environmentalist, global entrepreneur, university professor, and currently President and CEO of the [National Newspaper Publishers Association](#) (NNPA) based in Washington, DC since 2014.

Dr. Chavis is a teaching professor at Duke University as the **2026 Fellow for Divinity and Interdisciplinary Studies at the Duke Divinity School**.

Dr. Chavis is the Executive Producer and Host of **The Chavis Chronicles**, now in season six, www.TheChavisChronicles.com, broadcast multiple times weekly on **PBS TV Network** stations reaching over 90 million households throughout the United States.

Dr. Chavis is the **Chairman of Spill the Honey and Co-Chair of the Black-Jewish Action Alliance**.

The Chavis family has been deeply rooted in the “freedom movement” in Granville County, North Carolina for over 250 years as landowners, farmers, educators, theologians, physicians, and activists. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr is the great, great, great-grandson of the [Reverend John Chavis \(1763-1838\)](#), the first Black American to attend Princeton University, and the first Black American to be ordained as a Presbyterian minister in the United States in 1799.

In his youth in the early 1960s, Chavis was the North Carolina statewide youth coordinator and [Southern Christian Leadership Conference \(SCLC\)](#) assistant to [Martin Luther King Jr.](#), who inspired him to work and to become a Christian minister in the [civil rights movement](#) across the United States, and to later to champion African liberation in Angola, Namibia, South Africa and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Chavis became an active supporter and associate of the African National Congress (ANC) led by Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela.

Chavis first attended Saint Augustine University (HBCU) in Raleigh, NC in 1965 and 1966 majoring in chemistry. He transferred to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1967 and graduated with a BA in Chemistry in 1970. While in Charlotte, Chavis continued to work as a college student for SCLC and as a labor organizer for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

At the age of 24, Reverend Benjamin F. Chavis Jr rose to international prominence in 1972 as the leader of the [Wilmington Ten](#) in NC, civil rights activists who were “political prisoners” as designated by Amnesty International, and who were unjustly convicted of committing arson and sentenced to a combined total of 282 years in prison. The Wilmington Ten convictions and sentences were appealed and eventually overturned in 1980 by the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals due to unconstitutional systemic racism and "prosecutorial misconduct." During Chavis’ frontline foot-soldier civil rights career in the 1960s, 1970s, and in the 1980s, he has been unjustly charged, arrested and jailed over 67 times, and in each case subsequently found not guilty or dismissed as unjustly charged.



Chavis returned to graduate schools in NC, DC and NY in the field of civil rights as a minister and a program director of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice under the leadership of another mentor, the Reverend Dr, Charles E. Cobb, Sr, Chavis received the [Master of Divinity \(*magna cum laude*\)](#) from Duke

University (1980) and a **Doctor of Ministry** from **Howard University** (1981). Chavis was admitted in 1982 into the PhD program in **Systematic Theology** as a graduate student at **Union Theological Seminary** in New York City and completed all of the academic course requirements in 1984. Chavis was elected National Vice President of the **National Council of Churches** in 1988.



In 1993, the national board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (**NAACP**) elected Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr as the youngest Executive Director and CEO of America's oldest national civil rights organization. In July of 1993, Chavis was proud to introduce The Honorable Nelson Mandela to speak in person at the NAACP national convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Benjamin Chavis actually began his journalistic career at the age of 11 while in the sixth grade at Angier B. Duke Elementary School in Oxford, NC. Chavis wrote weekly news stories about Black youth activism for The Carolina Times, published by one of the leading members of the NNPA, Louis E. Austin, in Durham, NC. From 1985 to 1993, Chavis authored and produced a weekly national commentary “Civil Rights Journal” for the NNPA, Jet Magazine, National Black Radio Network, and for the American Urban Radio Network. Chavis has continued to write award-winning Op Eds, news features, and columns for the NNPA from 2003 to 2023.

In 1982, Dr. Chavis was the first person to coin the term **environmental racism** during environmental justice protests in Warren County, NC. Over the past four decades, Dr. Chavis has emerged as the **"Godfather of the Environmental Justice Movement"** that today has evolved into an effective worldwide movement for environmental and climate justice and equity.

Dr. Chavis defined environmental racism as “racial discrimination in the deliberate targeting of ethnic and minority communities for exposure to toxic and hazardous waste sites and facilities, coupled with the systematic exclusion of minorities in environmental policy making, enforcement, and remediation.”

In 1986 Dr. Chavis conducted, co-authored and published the landmark national study: ***Toxic Waste and Race in the United States of America***, that statistically revealed and substantiated the national correlation and causation between race and the location of toxic waste throughout the United States. In 1991, as Executive Director of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, Dr. Chavis Co-Chaired, funded and organized the First People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in Washington, DC that codified the **Principles of Environmental Justice**



In 1992-1993, Dr. Chavis served as a member of the Clinton-Gore Transition Team and later became an active member of the President’s Council on Sustainable Development. Dr. Chavis was the National Director of the successful **Million Man March** on October 16, 1995, in Washington, DC., the largest African American event mobilization in the history of America.

In 2001, Dr. Chavis and Russell Simmons co-founded and organized the first National Hip-Hop Summit in New York City that led to establishment for the **Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN)**, www.HSAN.org the world’s largest international coalition of recording artists, producers, and entertainment industry leaders. From 2001 to 2012, over 75 Hip-Hop Summits were held in NY, TX, CA, IL, MI, MD, PA, NJ, NC, GA, MO, IN, WI, VA, AL, Toronto, and Johannesburg.

Dr. Chavis also served as the former Co-Chair of **No Labels**; Chairman of the **National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)**; Chairman of the **Thurgood Marshall Center Trust**; and Co-Founder Chair Emeritus of **Diamonds Do Good**.

Dr. Chavis has four sons: Benjamin III, Franklin, John Mandela and Reginald Louis. He has four daughters are Michele, Paula, Renita, and Ana Elisabeth. He is a grandfather and a great grandfather.

The Order of Liturgy
Sunday, April 26, 2026 @ 10:00 AM
The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine,
Senior Pastor and Presiding Liturgist

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 #221 How to Reach the Masses.....Sis. Paige Thomas

The Prayer of Invocation.....Sis. Nala Bivins
(Prayer chant)

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

The Responsive Scripture Reading..... John 10:1-10 NRSVUE.....Bro. Christopher Greene

Leader: ¹Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

People: ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

Leader: ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hears his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

People: ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Leader: ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

People: ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Leader: ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

People: ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them.

Leader: ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and find go out pasture.

All: ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

The Announcements and Welcome to Big Bethel.....Sister Carolyn Smith
(Everybody, Hug Somebody)

The Big Bethel Ministry Moment.....Going Green

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

Christian Stewardship Worship in Giving.....The Reverend Dr. Garland D. Higgins

GIVE ONLINE

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via Tithing Envelope

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via www.bigbethelame.org

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Big Bethel AME Church

Give@bigbethelame.org

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.....Sister Dawn Montgomery

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

The Proclaimed WordReverend Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President & CEO, National Newspapers Publishers Association

The InvitationThe Reverend Charmain R. 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..... Pastor Jay



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!!!!



Worship in *Style*



Shades of Green

Worship in shades of green on the **first Sunday** to bring awareness for Mental Health Month, representing "growing in strength."



Skirts and Scarves

For **Mother's Day**, worship in unique fashion, showcasing the many ways to style your skirts and scarves, representing "covered in grace."



Denim, Diamonds and Pearls

Let your light shine on **third Sunday** in your denim, diamonds, and pearls; reflecting on how you've been "refined by the process" of your faith walk.



Red with Gold Accents

It's **PENTECOST SUNDAY!** "Walk in courage" in your red with gold accents.



Camouflage

You made it to **Women's Emphasis Sunday!** Worship in the many variations of camouflage, displaying your "survival of the fight!"



WOMEN'S EMPHASIS MONTH 2026

WOMEN'S EMPHASIS MONTH 2026

CONTACT & SIGN UP FORM

Upcoming events.



APRIL
30

LOVE FEAST
6:30PM
BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH

MAY
26

\$2 TUESDAY
7:00PM
ZOOM/BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH

MAY
2

"BEAUTY SHOP TALK"
1:00PM
TRACY FRANKLIN RESIDENCE

MAY
29

TRINITY HOUSE FELLOWSHIP
6:00PM
TRINITY HOUSE

MAY
5

\$2 TUESDAY
7:00PM
ZOOM/BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH

MAY
30

"TEA AROUND TOWN"
TIME TBD
CENTENNIAL PARK

MAY
12

\$2 TUESDAY
7:00PM
ZOOM/BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH

MAY
31

WOMEN'S EMPHASIS DAY
10:00PM
WORSHIP SERVICE

MAY
19

\$2 TUESDAY
7:00PM
ZOOM/BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH

TASTE OF BIG BETHEL/MOBB
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

"Strength of a Woman"
Proverbs 31:25

WOMENSEMPHASIS@BIGBETHELAME.ORG



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.

REMINDER:

MAY 1st Is the deadline for scholarship applications!!

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!



Big Bethel AME Church
220 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.bigbethelame.org



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



[@BigBethelAMEChurch](https://www.instagram.com/BigBethelAMEChurch)



GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Is Your Student *Graduating?*

Kindergarten through Post-Grad

Visit our website to submit their information for our

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SERVICE!

Go to:

bigbethelame.org



Graduate Honors Sign-up

**TODAY IS
THE LAST
DAY TO
REGISTER!!**

Fill out the Graduation Info Form to
honor all of our graduates

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
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 8AM-4PM
- 03** HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 09** ANGC YPD CONF. CHOIR REHEARSAL 1PM
- 10** MOTHER'S DAY
- 13** BIRTHING/HEALTH SEMINAR 6PM
- 14** RUN GIRL RUN 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
- 31** WOMEN'S EMPHASIS SUNDAY
PREACHER: DR. TONI ALVARADO, GRACE CHURCH INTL. ATLANTA
KWANZA SOL DANCE MINISTRY RECITAL 4PM

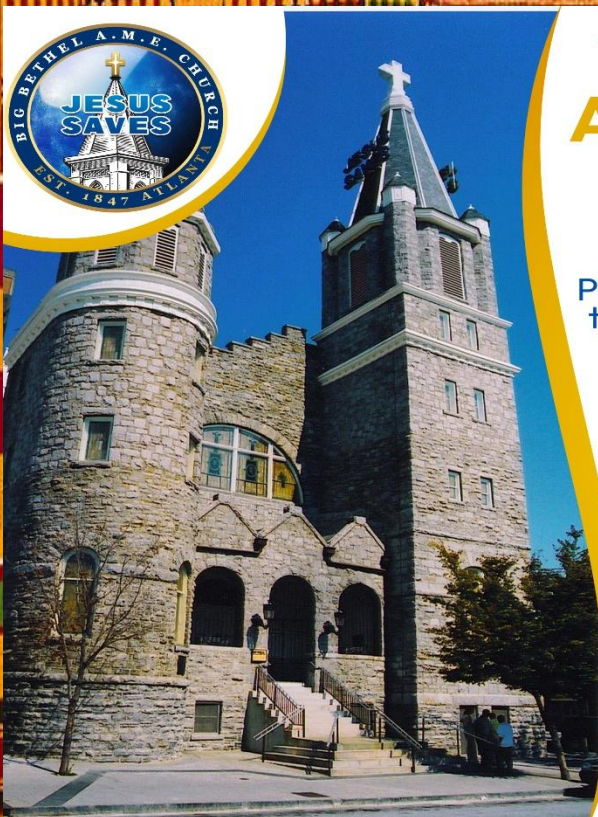


Text alerts are here!

Stay connected with
Big Bethel—opt in
today.



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



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 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 st Tuesdays 6:30 pm
Board of Trustees	2 nd 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 st & 3 rd 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

@bigbethelamechurch	@bigbethelamechurch
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404 . 827 . 9707	jesus.saves@bigbethelame.org

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