

BETHEL

African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Sunday, June 21, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

Happy Father's Day



The Reverend Brandon L. Thornton, *Pastor*

The Reverend Charles A. Lewis, *Presiding Elder, The Mobile District*

Bishop Julius H. McAllister Jr., *Presiding Prelate, Ninth Episcopal District*

Ministerial Staff

Doctor Olivia Martin, *Itinerant Elder,*

Family, Community & Leadership Development Leader

The Reverend Irmatine Chastang, *Itinerant Elder,*

Congregational Care & Discipleship Leader

The Reverend Pamela Greene-Irby, *Itinerant Deacon,*

Worship & Evangelism Leader

Order of Worship

Worship Leader.....Rev. Pamela G. Irby

The Doxology.....

“Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....Rev. Pamela G. Irby

Leader: O Lord, open our lips,
People: and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High,
People: to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.

Leader: Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
People: Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

All: Come, let us worship God.

The Opening Song.....Bad Boys of Bethel

#429 - “Faith of Our Fathers”

Faith of our fathers! living still In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with joy Whene’er we hear that glorious word! Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! faith and prayer Have kept our country brave and free; And through the truth that comes from God Her children have true liberty. Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! we will strive To win all nations unto thee; And through the truth that comes from God Man-kind shall then be truly free. Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! we will love Both friend and foe in all our strife; And preach thee, too, as love knows how By kindly words and virtuous life. Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

THE INVOCATION.....Dr. Olivia Martin

Ministry of Music.....Bad Boys of Bethel

THE SCRIPTURE READING.....Rev. Pamela G. Irby

Romans 8:18-31

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

The Decalogue (Contemporary Abridged).....Dr. Olivia Martin

From all that dwells below the skies, let the Creator’s praise arise; Let the Redeemer’s name be sung, through every land by every tongue.

Minister: Let us express our commitment to keep God’s law.

People: God of our salvation, only you are God. We will make no idols. We will not invoke with malice Your name, O God. We will remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. We will honor our father and our mother. We will not commit murder. We will not commit adultery. We will not steal. We will not be a false witness. We will not covet anything that belongs to our neighbor.

Singing: *Nearer My God to Thee!*

Minister: And He said unto Him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Singing: Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Ministry of Music.....Bad Boys of Bethel

Acknowledgement of Visitors

A Moment of RemembranceMother Emanuel 9

Voter’s Education Presentation

Ministry of Music.....Bad Boys of Bethel

Bringing of the Tithes and Offering..... Steward

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

This is my seed. It shall meet all my needs.
I give it today, because I obey – my God and His command.
My tithe is out of obedience and love. My offering is my sacrifice.
My return shall be magnified, because I’ve learned to give right.
I’m the head and not the tail, a lender and not a borrower, on top and not beneath.
Because I give, I am blessed – in the city and in the field.
I’m blessed because I give my God my best.
Today and every day, I am blessed.

Ministry of Music.....Bad Boys of Bethel

Sermon.....Rev. Brandon L. Thornton

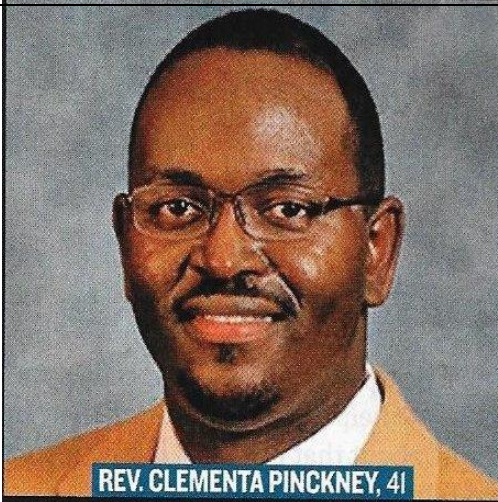
Invitation to Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. The third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of GOD the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

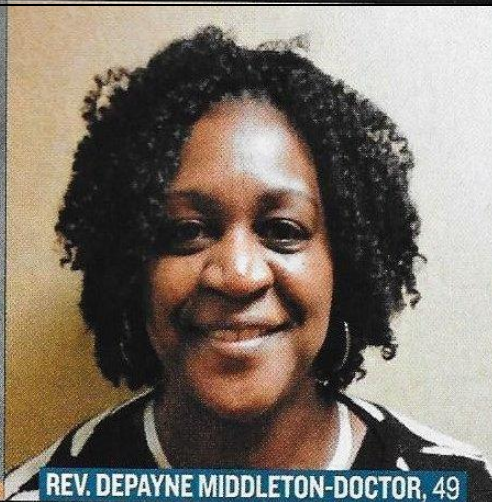
The Doxology “Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow”

Benediction



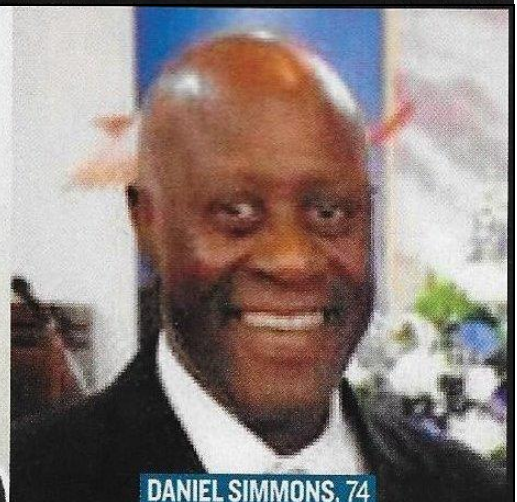
REV. CLEMENTA PINCKNEY, 41

The state senator and senior pastor was married to wife Jennifer and had two children. "He was a protector of that church," says parishioner Myra Singleton.



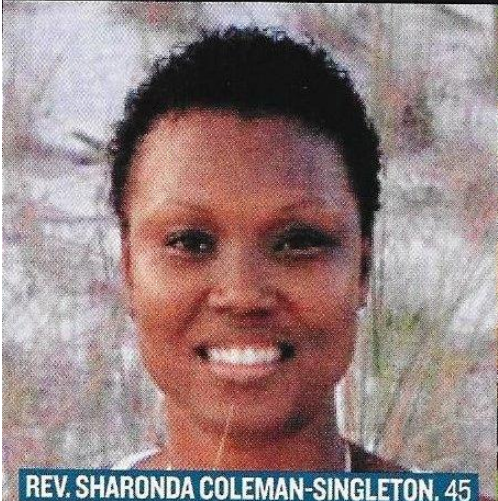
REV. DEPAYNE MIDDLETON-DOCTOR, 49

A minister who also sang in the choir, she left behind four children. "Our hearts are troubled, but our faith remains steadfast," said relatives.



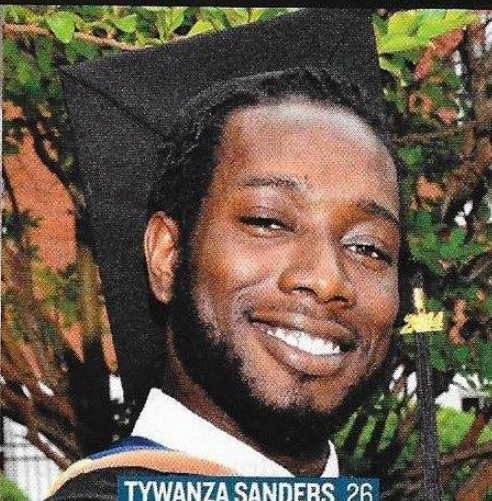
DANIEL SIMMONS, 74

A retired pastor, Simmons was the only victim who survived the attack; he died at the hospital. "His door was always open," says neighbor Kristen LeVaur.



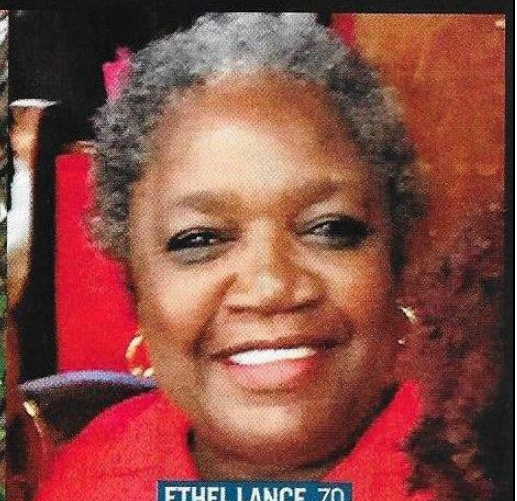
REV. SHARONDA COLEMAN-SINGLETON, 45

The mom of three—a speech pathologist and minister—"was absolutely funny and supportive," says her friend Goodjoin.



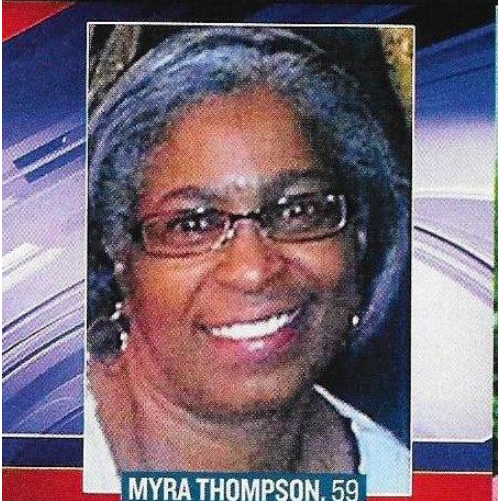
TYWANZA SANDERS, 26

The Allen University grad "had the biggest smile you'd ever see," says his pal Torrence Shaw. "He was versatile; he wrote poems. He had a lot of ambition."



ETHEL LANCE, 70

A sexton for the church, Lance attended Emanuel for most of her life. Says Myra Singleton: "Any time the doors were open, she was there."



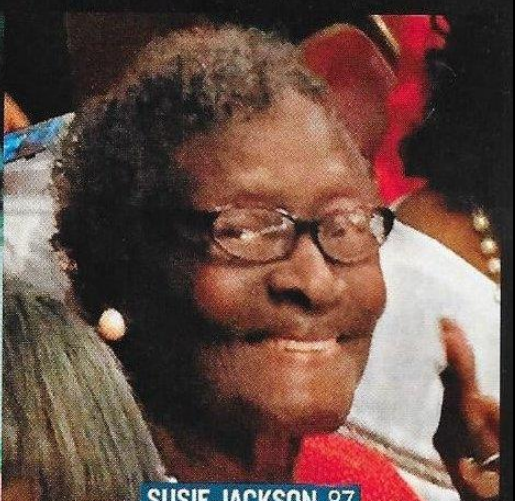
MYRA THOMPSON, 59

The former teacher and Bible study leader was "a sweet person," says Myra Singleton. "If you needed her to do something, she never said no."



CYNTHIA HURD, 54

The librarian was a "nerd" as well as "the glue that held everyone together," says her brother Malcolm Graham, a former North Carolina state senator.



SUSIE JACKSON, 87

The longtime church member made her home a family gathering spot. "She could stir a mean pot," her nephew Robert Sanders told *The Post and Courier*.

SERMON APPLICATION

HEARING GOD'S WORD IN THE SERMON

Since we forget 90% of what we hear, it has been suggested that note-taking will double the percentage of what we may receive during the hearing of God's Word.

PARTICIPATE IN THE SERMON

SERMON SCRIPTURE: _____

SERMON TITLE: _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: _____

THE OUTLINE OF THE MAIN POINTS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECIFICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?



**TO ALL THE FATHERS OF BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

JUNE 21, 2026