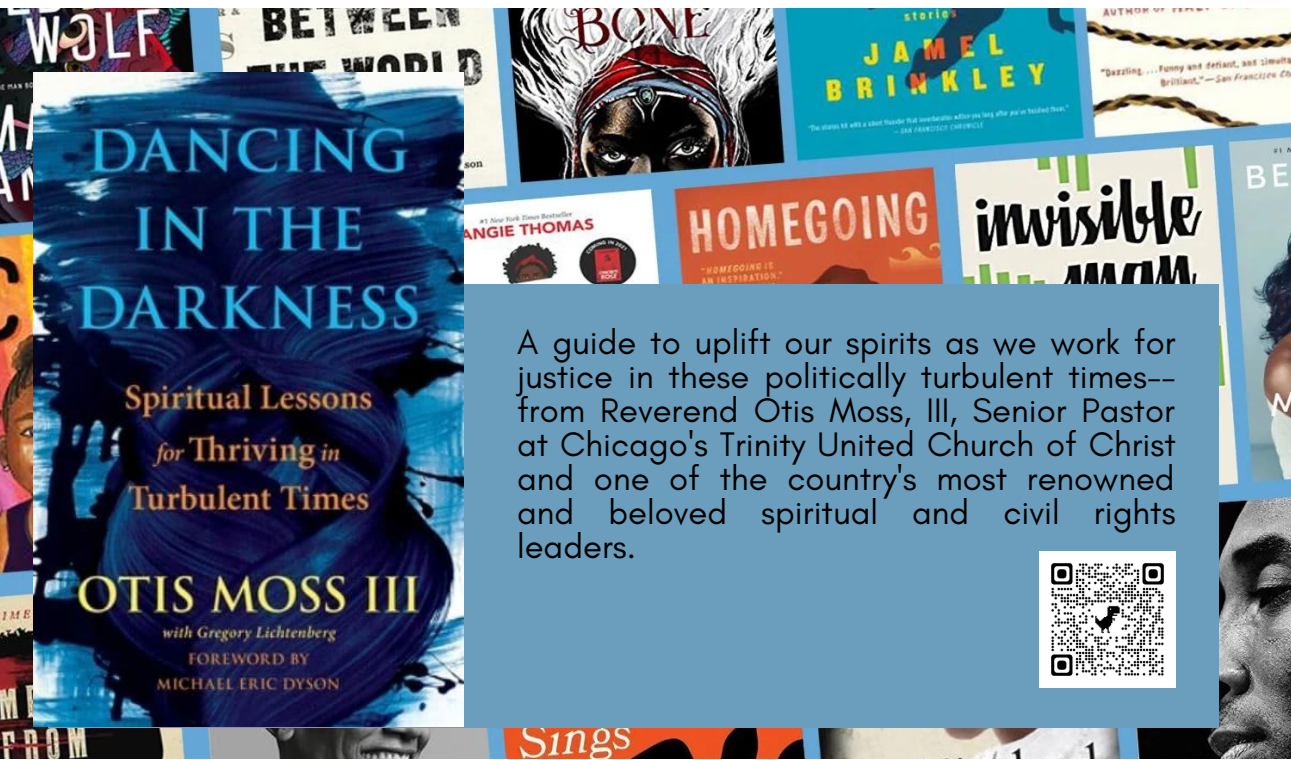
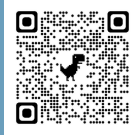


# BOOK READ



A guide to uplift our spirits as we work for justice in these politically turbulent times--from Reverend Otis Moss, III, Senior Pastor at Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ and one of the country's most renowned and beloved spiritual and civil rights leaders.



## WELCOME TO SWEET MAGNOLIA

Established in 1914, the name Magnolia honors the Mother Church founded in 1864 near Louisville.

Affectionately known as Sweet Magnolia, this ministry has stood as a physical representation of the hope and determination of the African American spirit. We are a Spiritual Anchor grounded in a liberation tradition operating as a Baptist community of faith.

720 Magnolia Church Road  
P.O. Box 1982, Statesboro, GA 30461  
P: 912.225.3152 • F: 888.360.6516  
[www.magnolia baptistchurch.online](http://www.magnolia baptistchurch.online)



# Magnolia

## MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Francys Johnson, Senior Pastor

# Welcome to Sweet Magnolia

"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color." – Maya Angelou



## FOR THE RECORD

As everyone knows by now, Hallmark networks have been tackling different kinds of content, and this year, we were treated to a look at Kwanzaa with Holiday Heritage.

Brooks Darnell stars alongside Lyndie Greenwood and Holly Robinson Peete as Griffin, the mayor of a small town who helps a local family and his ex-girlfriend celebrate Christmas and Kwanzaa.

## EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION 1863-2023

Today, we reflect on the 160-year journey of a still-not-yet -free people since the Emancipation Proclamation.

On Sept. 22, 1862, Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. In local churches, enslaved and free people awaited the midnight hour for the Emancipation Proclamation to go into effect. The occasion became known as "Watch Night." Under his wartime authority as commander in chief, Lincoln ordered that, as of Jan. 1, 1863, all enslaved individuals in all areas still in rebellion against the United States "henceforward shall be free."

No piece of paper even as grand as the Emancipation Proclamation can guarantee liberation. No war even one a great and terrible as the Civil War could secure liberation. Only a people determined to live free can do that.



Dweninmmen is a symbol of strength with humility.

# Church Covenant

## GOD'S WORK HERE AMONG AND THROUGH US

Living out the Christian faith Together

**LEADER:** Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and this assembly host solemnly and joyfully enters into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

**RESPONSE:** We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

**LEADER:** We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

**RESPONSE:** We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

**TOGETHER:** We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.



ADINKRAHENE is the King of the Adinkra symbols meaning Authority



## UNDERSTANDING THE SEASONS

**The liturgical calendar is a yearly cycle that corresponds to the life of Jesus from His birth to His resurrection, and then to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.**

It involves major holy days (Christmas, Easter, Pentecost) and seasons (Advent, Lent, Holy Week), and includes a few other significant days (Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Trinity Sunday) within these seasons.

Most baptist churches did not follow a liturgical calendar. Instead, we celebrated Easter and Christmas, but terms like Advent and Lent were not common.

It is more common for Baptist Churches to appreciate not only what these days and terms mean, but the value of participating in them. The church has a long and rich history of using the calendar to guide its worship throughout the year.

The liturgical year begins with Advent, which starts four weeks prior to Christmas (the Christian new year actually begins at the end of November!). During these weeks, we focus our attention on Israel's hope and longing for its Messiah to appear, seeing how the Old Testament prophesied and prepared God's people for their coming Savior. Advent is a season of expectation. As the saints of old awaited the coming of a Redeemer, we, like them, await Jesus's return.

Following Advent is the season of Christmas. According to tradition, Christmas is a 12-day celebration that begins December 25th and ends January 5th (hence the song, "Twelve Days of Christmas"). Punctuating the Christmas season is Epiphany. On this day, the church traditionally remembers the coming of the Magi to worship the Christ-child. Epiphany means "appearance," so during this time, the church focuses attention on the doctrine of the incarnation: the reality that God came to Earth in the flesh through Jesus Christ. This year, we will look deeply at the liturgical calendar as a tool that can strengthen our spiritual practice.

**ABOUT THE COVER |** A colorful work of art by the talented and renowned Larry "Poncho" Brown of three dancers performing with all of their heart and soul.

**4 WAYS TO GIVE**  
TEXT BLESSED TO 912.274.8802

ONLINE    SMART PHONE    MAIL    SUNDAY

Ananse Nmentan is the Spider's web. A symbol of wisdom, craftiness, creativity, and the complexities of life.

# Order of Service

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS | NEW YEARS DAY

January 1, 2023 | 9:00 AM

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teacher - Deacon Johnny Tremble

*O Give Thanks* by Judith Christie McAllister with *Spirit of the Living God* as a Chant, Doxology, The Church Covenant as a Responsive Reading, and *Let the Words of My Mouth* as the Response.

*Sweet Magnolia* will utilize all our resources to provide a Christ-centered setting where people in this community can be redeemed to a personal relationship with Christ, reconciled to God and his people, restored to wholeness, to well-being, and revived for a full life involved in service to others. In this church, everyone is welcomed and affirmed. In this community, you can be redeemed, reconciled, restored, and revived.

### SERVICE OF LIGHTS

*Lord, Keep Me Day by Day* by Eddie Williams

Today, we acknowledge Kwanzaa. This cultural observance centers around the Seven Principles, Nguzo Saba (En-GOO-zoh Sah-BAH), which represent the values of family, community, and culture for people of African descent to live by.

### TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Trouble Don't Last Always* by Timothy Wright

Offertory Claim - *I am a consistent Tither, a Bountiful Sower, and a Cheerful Giver. I have confessed my sins; therefore GOD rebukes the Devourer for my Sake, and GOD makes all Grace abound toward me!* Malachi 3:1-11 and II Corinthians 9:5-8

### HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Lord, You Are Good* by Todd Galberth

### THE PREACHED WORD

Ready. Set. Go!

Rev. Dr. Francys Johnson, Senior Pastor

### BENEDICTION

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:1

**Lectionary: Isaiah, Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Psalm 8, Revelation 21:1-6, and Matthew 25:31-46**