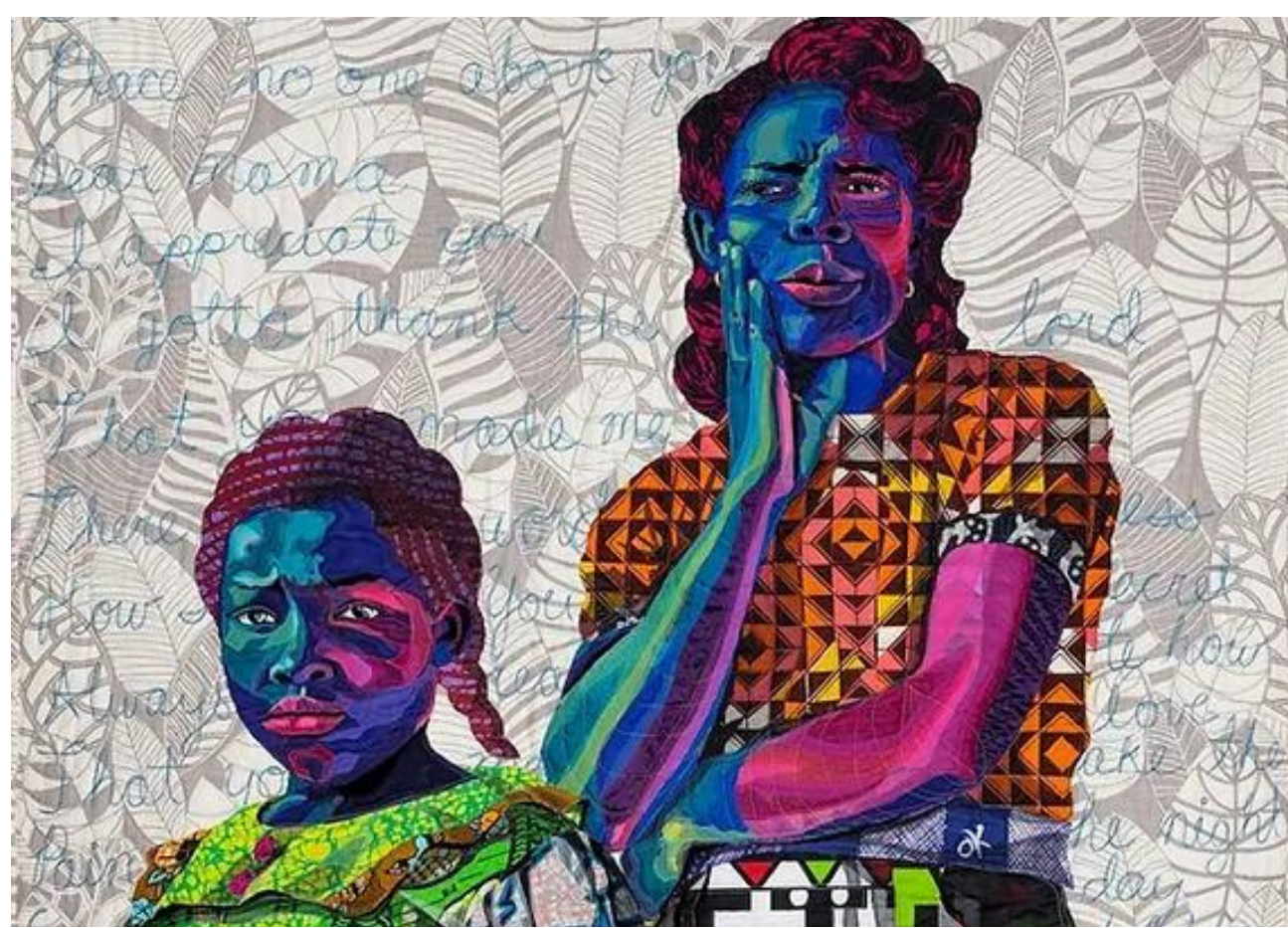




Jimmy Carter served as the 39th President from 1977 to 1981. Awarded the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize for work to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development. Together with Rosylann Carter, Carter's faith in action is a positive witness of Christianity.



## 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)

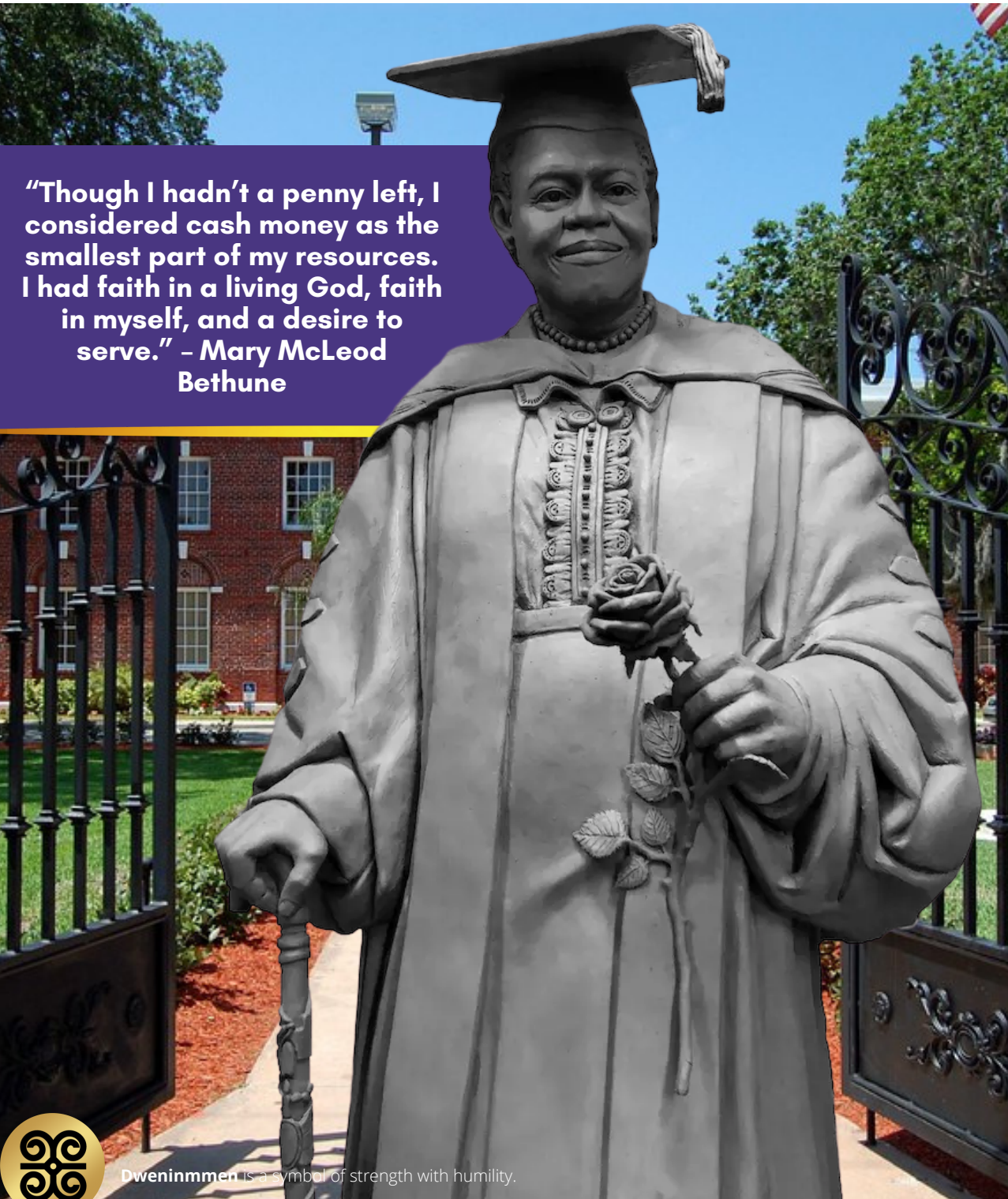


# Magnolia



## MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Francys Johnson, Senior Pastor



**“Though I hadn’t a penny left, I considered cash money as the smallest part of my resources. I had faith in a living God, faith in myself, and a desire to serve.” – Mary McLeod Bethune**

# Church Covenant

## GOD’S WORK HERE AMONG AND THROUGH US

Living out the Christian faith Together

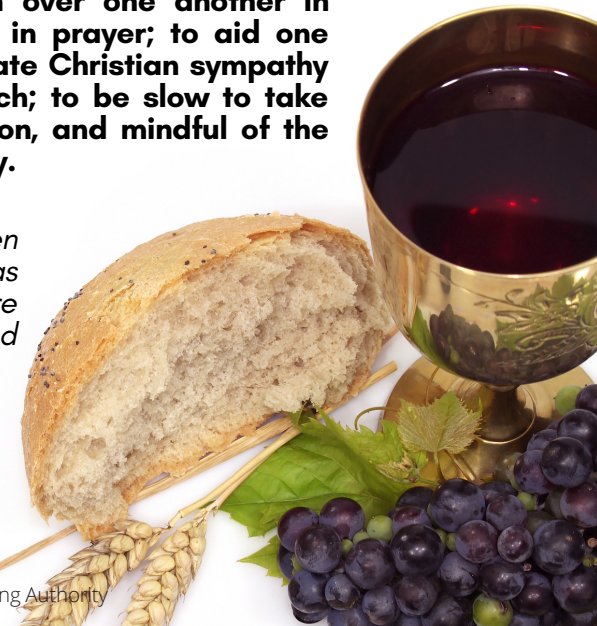
**LEADER:** Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and this assembly host solemnly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



Dweninmen is a symbol of strength with humility.



ADINKRAHENE is the King of the Adinkra symbols meaning Authority

# Welcome to Sweet Magnolia

"Our deepest, most painful wounds not only leave us with scars that we bear forever, but also, if we make our peace with them, leave us wiser, stronger, more sensitive than we otherwise would have been had we not been afflicted with them." — Renita J. Weems, *Listening For God: A Minister's Journey Through Silence And Doubt*



**#BHM2023** | Black History Month is a time to celebrate the fullness of African American history and culture, but that cannot be contained in one month alone.

We are following the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture Calendar as we seek to humanize history and objects through the lives, tragedies, and triumphs of everyday people—while paying tribute to our pioneers' trailblazing contributions.

- Week 1, Feb. 1-5: A Tradition of Activism
- Week 2, Feb. 6-12: Foundations of Faith
- Week 3, Feb. 13-19: The Value of Education
- Week 4, Feb. 20-26: The Black Press
- Week 5, Feb. 27-28: Leaning into Black Joy

● ● ● ABOUT THE COVER | Bisa Butler is an award-winning African American textile artist. She is known for her vibrantly stunning larger than life-sized quilted portraits that captivate viewers around the world. Discover 10 Groundbreaking African American Artists That Shaped History.



## 4 WAYS TO GIVE

TEXT BLESSED TO 912.274.8802

- ONLINE
- SMART PHONE
- MAIL
- SUNDAY

Anansi Nwanji: The Spider's web. A symbol of wisdom, craftiness, creativity, and the complexities of life.

# Order of Service

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH | TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 19, 2023 | 9:00 AM

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teacher - Deacon Johnny Tremble

Lesson Text: James 2:1-12; Time of Action: around 45 A.D.; Place of Action: James writes from Jerusalem. Golden Text: "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" (James 2:5).

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Bless the Lord With Me* by Darwin Hobbs, Doxology, 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 AND A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

*You're Amazing* by Ricky Dillard

Today, we light the candles on the Altar, acknowledging our history as Africans and people of African descent in the Americas. Our Youth & College Ministry presents a Special Tribute in honor of #BHM2023. God has been with us in our past, filled with trial and tumult. God is present with us as we seek to preserve and retell our story today. God will be with us as we shape our story in the days ahead.

### TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*You Brought Me Through This* 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

### CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE

An Act of Remembrance and Recommitment

### SONG OF PREPARATION

*Precious Jesus (I Am Persuaded)* by Thomas Whitfield

### THE PREACHED WORD

*In Love: Two Words from the Heart*

Rev. Dr. Francys Johnson

### BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

**Lectionary: Exodus 24:12-18 • Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 • 2 Peter 1:16-21 • Matthew 17:1-9**

**Get moving,  
start simple,  
help your  
heart.**



**You can lower your  
risk for heart disease.**

Visit [livetothebeat.org](https://www.livetothebeat.org) for heart healthy tips and tricks based on your lifestyle.



## *Responsive Reading*

### ON GOD'S CARE FOR US

Leader: "God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way. Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light keep us forever in Thy path we pray." Even as the worlds were formed, continents named, oceans separated, and your plan for mankind began to unfold, you had us on your mind.

**People: Thank you, Gracious Lord, for including us in your divine plan.**

Leader: When you decided to perfectly place man in your world, you chose to place him in our Motherland.

**People: Thank you, Gracious Lord, for including us in your divine plan.**

Leader: Throughout Holy Scripture and throughout our history, we have witnessed your keeping power and we have been recipients of your love and grace.

**People: Thank you, Gracious Lord, for including us in your divine plan.**

Leader: We shall ever be mindful of how you brought us together after the middle passage, delivered us from the chains of slavery, and carried us through the civil rights movement.

**People: May we always remember your love towards us.**

Leader: We thank you, dear Savior, for the gifts, talents, uniqueness, and cultural blessings you have poured out upon our people.

**People: May we always appreciate the blessings you have given us.**

Leader: We thank you for our mathematic, scientific, and literary genius. We thank you jazz, gospel, and the blues. We thank you for beautiful locks of hair and beautiful shades and complexions of skin, and even for soul-food.

**People: May we always appreciate our unique beauty and giftedness.**

Leader: We thank you for the wisdom, strength, and determination we learned from our ancestors and for the blessings and love of family, O God.

***Together: And we stand today, as a corporate family in love to remember, reflect, honor, and celebrate the heritage, history, and legacy you have given to us. And we ask that you, O Lord, will keep us forever in thy path, we pray. Amen.***



ADINKRAHENE is the King of the Adinkra symbols meaning Authority