



About Our Guest Pastor

## REV. DR. ASHLEY MORRIS

*Describing myself as "goal-driven," "student-focused," and "highly motivated" only scratches the surface of my passion for learning. My top priority is to provide educational opportunities that meet people's needs and inspire lifelong learning in all my endeavors.*

Dr. Ashley Morris is an accomplished educational leader, gifted preacher, author, and life coach. She founded The Center Ministries and UnleaSHed Leadership Coaching. Dr. Morris has held senior leadership roles in the Technical College System of Georgia and is a close friend and mentee of Pastor and First Lady Johnson. She has a Bachelor's degree in English from Mercer University and a Master's degree and Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Georgia Southern University. Her highest calling is "mom" to Isabella and Ashton.



## WELCOME TO SWEET MAGNOLIA

Established in 1914, 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 an African American 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)



#BlackJoyRising



MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Francys Johnson, Senior Pastor



# Welcome to Mount Moriah

## LIFELONG LEARNING

"When someone is taught the joy of learning, it becomes a life-long process that never stops. That is the challenge and joy of teaching." - Melva Colins



This summer, let's unite to celebrate and respect our Black culture and Christian faith, despite the ongoing challenges to our liberties. We are presently confronted with issues like attacks on critical race theory, diversity initiatives, and the truthful teaching of America's racial past. As we prepare ourselves for the upcoming academic year, let's face these challenges with an unyielding commitment to lifelong learning.

**Shocking, 33% of high school graduates never read another book in their lifetime, and 42% of college graduates never pick up a book after college.** In the past five years, 70% of US adults have not visited a bookstore, and 80% of US families did not purchase or read a book in the previous year.

In light of the historical attempts to prohibit our ancestors from learning how to read and write, a revolutionary act this week could be taking the time to visit a bookstore or local library and selecting a great book to read.



**SCHOLAR IN FOCUS** | Rev. Dr. Melva L. Sampson is a Wake Forest University School of Divinity Assistant Professor. She specializes in preaching, gender, digital media, performance, and sacred memory. Sampson is also the creator of Pink Robe Chronicles, a digital platform promoting faith and spirituality through womanist principles. She has a Ph.D. in Religion from Emory University and a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology. Sampson has published scholarship, sermons, and reflections that are highly regarded in the religious studies field.

Dr. Melva streams **Pink Robe Chronicles** every Sunday at 8:00 am (EST.) on Facebook Live.

# Order of Service

**#BLACKJOYRISING SUMMER**  
**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
August 13, 2023 | 9 AM

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School taught by Dea. Johnny Tremble

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Worship begins with Devotion followed by *O Give Thanks Unto the Lord*, Invocation by Pastor Ashley Morris, and *Hymn #528 Let the Words of My Mouth*, as the Congregational Response

## SERVICE OF LIGHTS

Brother Thurgood Johnson, a dual-enrolled 11th Grade Student, lights our Altar, noting the potential of our students. May their success center the educational process.

Our Vision Statement - *Sweet Magnolia utilizes all our resources, providing a Christ-centered setting where people in this community are 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. You can be redeemed, reconciled, restored, and revived in this community.*

## LIBATIONS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

Tithes and Offerings with *I Feel Like Praising Him* by Shirley Ceasar

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*

## SONG OF PREPARATION

*You Reign* by William Murphy

## THE PREACHED WORD

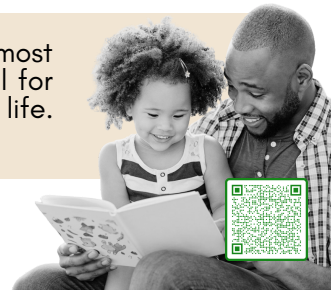
Rev. Dr. Ashley Morris

## BENEDICTION

Go in confidence. Know that God goes with you to give you hope, comfort, and peace. May God's love flow through you, and May God's power be yours as you move mountains. AMEN.

**Lectionary:** Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; I Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; and Matthew 14:22-33

**DEEPER UNDERSTANDING** | Reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for building these understanding and skills essential for reading success that your child will carry with them throughout their life. Follow the QR Code for *7 Benefits of Reading to a Child*.



**GYE NYAME** means "except for God" or Supremacy of God.

# 4 WAYS TO GIVE

TEXT "BLESSED" TO 912.274.8802



ONLINE



SMART PHONE



MAIL



SUNDAY



**ME WARE WO** means "I shall marry you" and symbolizes commitment and perseverance.



*This Moment*  
**Understanding the Montgomery Brawl**

Last week, the nation talked about Montgomery Brawl. I believe it was a powerful moment of solidarity and resistance. When a group of white people attacked Black riverboat co-captain Damien Pickett, a group of Black people came to his defense. This display of support and protection for one another is a testament to the strength and resilience of Black people. Their example of standing together in the face of adversity is a lesson we should long remember.

Black people coming to the defense of that Black man wasn't just a specific thing that happened at one place and time; it was also a departure, in some ways, from the most memorable images in a history that includes centuries of Black-targeted brutality, which traces the journey of Black people in this land that became the United States.

Montgomery's history shaped the response to the fight, which took place on a dock once used as a port for the thousands of enslaved people who arrived in the city on steamboats. According to the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a nonprofit Montgomery-based law firm and advocacy group, the port made Montgomery one of the busiest slave-trading centers in the nation.

Montgomery also was the backdrop for several pivotal battles in the civil rights movement. Just blocks away from the dock is a museum focused on the scourge of lynching, a church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once served as a pastor, and a former Greyhound bus station that has been converted into a museum about the civil rights-era Freedom Rides.

Coincidentally, Statesboro civic, business, and community leaders will be traveling to Montgomery later this month to learn more about redressing the historical wrongs of lynching in preparation for the dedication of an EJI marker noting the deaths of Jake Braswell, July 15, 1886; Kennedy Gordon, April 11, 1901; Paul Reed and William Cato, Aug. 16, 1904; Albert Roberts and another Black person, name unknown, Aug. 17, 1904; Sebastian McBride, Aug. 27, 1904; Thompson Gilbert, Feb. 18, 1908; Henry Jackson, April 21, 1911.



**ANANSE NTONTAN** means "spider's web" and symbolizes wisdom and creativity.



**DEEPER UNDERSTANDING**  
**How White Supremacy became**  
**part of this Nation's Fabric**

"The depth, breadth, and durability of American white supremacy and racial prejudice is certainly no revelation to modern historians and social analysts, Black and white. To understand why it has proved so dominant, so irresistibly appealing, and even essential, we must survey its development and range. **No better place exists to trace that development and cultural importance than in the long history of the nation's textbooks.** Embodying the values to be treasured by rising generations of Americans, textbook authors passed on ideas of white American identity from generation to generation. Writers crafted whiteness as a national inheritance, a way to preserve the social construction of American life and, ironically, its democratic institutions and values. Given the extent of the nation's belief in white supremacy, one would be astonished if it had not been a guiding principle of our textbooks."

EXCERPT FROM "TEACHING WHITE SUPREMACY: AMERICA'S DEMOCRATIC ORDEAL AND THE FORGING OF OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY" BY DONALD YACOVONE, ASSOCIATE, HUTCHINS CENTER FOR AFRICAN & AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH



**ADINKRAHENE** is the King of the Adinkra symbols meaning Authority





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