

## APRIL IS FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

**Sweet Magnolia believes Financial Literacy is important to resurrect our community.**

It's all about raising awareness of the importance of maintaining smart money-management habits. *Financial literacy is key to understanding how to save, earn, borrow, invest, and protect your money.*



The racial wealth gap that exists in the U.S. today has grown over centuries, and it is far from a simple fix. While the most effective solutions would likely require systemic change at the highest levels, a better understanding of how the wealth gap has formed — and the ways it has negatively impacted the Black community — can help individuals to use financial literacy to make a difference in their day-to-day lives.



## 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)



MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY

Rev. Dr. Francys Johnson, Senior Pastor

## ENDING SEXUAL ASSAULT

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. The work to prevent and end sexual violence has been ongoing for decades as advocates call attention to the building blocks of society that enable and even encourage violence.

**According to the Time's Up Foundation, as many as six in 10 Black women reported being subjected to coercive sexual contact by the age of 18.** Black women also report experiencing sexual harassment in their workplace at three times the rate of white women.

Black men, too, experience sexual assault. Data from the last two decades estimates that around **14% of all boys and men experience sexual assault**, though data about the rate at which Black boys and men are victims of sexual violence is often under reported.

5 Black-Led Organizations Working To End Sexual Assault

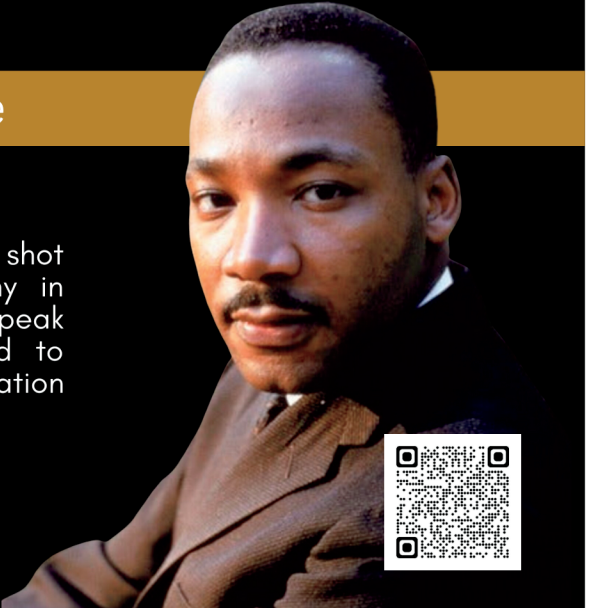


## eji A History of Racial Injustice

On April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and killed while standing on a hotel balcony in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. King was in the city to speak on his growing Poor People's Campaign, and to support an economic protest by Black sanitation workers.



Dweninmmen is a symbol of strength with humility.



## FASTING FOR LENT

February 22 - April 8

# re·new·al

**this is a Season of replacing or repair of the worn out, run-down, or broken.**

Lent consists of the forty days before Easter in which Christians prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ by practicing the spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer, and penitence. Sundays are always excluded as fast days during Lent because they are mini-Easters that symbolize the weekly celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

MEATLESS MONDAYS | Abstain from all meat.

TEN DOLLAR TUESDAY | Spend \$10 or less for the entire day.

WATER ONLY WEDNESDAYS | Abstain from all other beverages.

THRICE THURSDAYS | Pray a minimum of three times..

FRIED-NOT-FRIDAYS | Abstain from all fried foods

SILENT SATURDAYS | At least one hour in silent meditation.



*This sacrifice is in connection with the members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Pleasantville NJ by Pastor Willie Dwayne Francois III.*

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





# Responsive Reading

GIVING THANKS

Adapted from Psalm 118

Leader: O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endures forever.

**People: The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can anyone do unto me?**

Leader: The Lord is my strength and my power!

**People: The Lord has become my salvation!**

Leader: There are joyous songs of victory in the tents of the righteous.

**People: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.**

**All: This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!**



## BOOK RECOMMENDATION

CHRISTENA CLEVELAND Ph.D. is a social psychologist, public theologian, author, and activist. She is the founder and director of the Center for Justice + Renewal as well as its sister organization, Sacred Folk, which creates resources to stimulate people's spiritual imaginations and support their journeys toward liberation. [www.christenacleveland.com](http://www.christenacleveland.com)



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

# Welcome to Sweet Magnolia

"Nevertheless, in too many churches today dramatic predictions about individuals' unique personal concerns are presented as God-inspired "prophecies" by clergy who have never spoken out against social injustice, never uttered a word of political critique, yet still call themselves prophets."

- Obery M. Hendricks Jr., The Politics of Jesus



**ABOUT THE ART** | William Hemmerling | Born in Chicago and migrated to Ponchatoula near New Orleans, where he spent 25 years at Sears setting up store displays. He began painting in 2002, after finding a board on the side of the road during a morning jog and adorning it with some house paint he had on hand. Bill died in 2009 of colon cancer at 66.

**#PALMSUNDAY2023** | The biblical foundations for the celebration of Palm Sunday are found in all four Gospels: Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:11-27, and John 12:12-19.

The synoptic accounts describe Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem riding on an ass or colt as large crowds waved branches and chanted "Hosanna to the one who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

We can accompany Jesus through the peaks of joy that include that first Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday, and also the valley of suffering and death on Friday because we are certain that communion with God and the family of God for all eternity will be the final word!

# Order of Service

**PALM SUNDAY**

April 2, 2023 | 9:00 AM

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Deacon Johnny Tremble

Lesson Text: Luke 24:1-12; Time of Action: 30 A.D.; Place of Action: Jerusalem

Golden Text: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee (Luke 24:5-6).

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Gospel Medley, 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

The Altar Candles acknowledge Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The history of Black women spearheading the fight against sexual assault is an important reminder not only of who started and leads this movement but also of how whitewashed content related to the movement continues to be. A powerful example of this is the case of Recy Taylor, an African American woman who, despite being blackmailed, refused to stay silent, and spoke out in 1944 against the white mob who had gang-raped her. Today, Black women continue to lead the movement to spread awareness about sexual assault and make positive changes.

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

Music Ministry

## THE PREACHED WORD

What I Got To Do: Notes from the Obligated from Matthew 26:14-54

## BENEDICTION

*Passing from joy into sorrow and on to elation, we come to Christ this holy week. Today is only a part of the story. Jesus' triumph leads to his death, his death to his resurrection. May the journey of this week lead you into the fullness of Christ's love.*

Today's Lectionary

The Liturgy of the Palms - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 • Matthew 21:1-11 and the Liturgy of the Passion - Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 31:9-16 • Philippians 2:5-11 • Matthew 27:11-54

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

- ONLINE
- SMART PHONE
- MAIL
- SUNDAY

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



**GYE NYAME** means "except for God" This symbolizes the Supremacy of God.

**PLEDGE**  
*Campaign*

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



**PLEDGE**  
*Campaign*

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



**PLEDGE**  
*Campaign*

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



# PLEDGE Campaign

## PLEDGES IN PROGRESS

Roy & Lena Tremble  
Minister Justine Taylor  
Lillie Lundy  
Percell Tremble  
Brandon Thompson  
Deacon Mae Hendrix  
Jerry Hendrix  
Janie Hill  
Deacon Johnny Tremble  
John & Lee Ann Robinson  
Stacy Taylor  
Shirley Jones  
Mary Walker

\$100

PER MONTH  
BEYOND  
YOUR TITHES

17K GOAL

37%

TO GOAL

## PAID IN FULL

Mae Jones  
Michael Summers, Sr.  
Pastor Francys Johnson  
First Lady Meca Johnson



# PLEDGE Campaign

## PLEDGES IN PROGRESS

Roy & Lena Tremble  
Minister Justine Taylor  
Lillie Lundy  
Percell Tremble  
Brandon Thompson  
Deacon Mae Hendrix  
Jerry Hendrix  
Janie Hill  
Deacon Johnny Tremble  
John & Lee Ann Robinson  
Stacy Taylor  
Shirley Jones  
Mary Walker

\$100

PER MONTH  
BEYOND  
YOUR TITHES

17K GOAL

37%

TO GOAL

## PAID IN FULL

Mae Jones  
Michael Summers, Sr.  
Pastor Francys Johnson  
First Lady Meca Johnson



# PLEDGE Campaign

## PLEDGES IN PROGRESS

Roy & Lena Tremble  
Minister Justine Taylor  
Lillie Lundy  
Percell Tremble  
Brandon Thompson  
Deacon Mae Hendrix  
Jerry Hendrix  
Janie Hill  
Deacon Johnny Tremble  
John & Lee Ann Robinson  
Stacy Taylor  
Shirley Jones  
Mary Walker

\$100

PER MONTH  
BEYOND  
YOUR TITHES

17K GOAL

37%

TO GOAL

## PAID IN FULL

Mae Jones  
Michael Summers, Sr.  
Pastor Francys Johnson  
First Lady Meca Johnson

