

BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH  
WOMEN'S EMPHASIS MONTH

# PENTECOST

Sunday May 19, 2024

BISHOP REGINALD T. JACKSON, PRESIDING PRELATE, 6TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

MRS. CHRISTY DAVIS JACKSON, ESQ EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR, 6TH DISTRICT

REVEREND LARRY W. HUDSON, PRESIDING ELDER, NORTH ATLANTA DISTRICT

REVEREND JOHN FOSTER, PH.D., SENIOR PASTOR

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# WELCOME TO BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH • ATLANTA 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024



**THE ORGAN PRELUDE.....BRO. KELVIN THOMPSON**

**THE DOXOLOGY.....A.M.E. HYMN No. 647**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### \*The Call to Worship

**Minister: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!" Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! (Psalm 122:1-2)**

**People:** For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. (Psalm 84:10)

**Minister: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God; I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:9)**

**People:** They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:13)

**Minister: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells. (Psalm 26:8)**

**People:** But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)

**Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)**

**People:** O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! I will sing of loyalty and of justice, to you, O Lord, I will sing. (Psalm 98:1,4)

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE.....AMEC Hymn # 386 Guide My Feet While I Run This Race**

- 1 Guide my Feet while I run this race, Guide my feet while I run this race, Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!
2. Hold my hand while I run this race, Hold my hand while I run this race, Hold my hand while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!
3. Stand by me while I run this race, Stand by me while I run this race, Stand by me while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!
4. Guide my Feet while I run this race, Guide my feet while I run this race, Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

### The INVOCATION

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC.....BIG BETHEL CHORALE**

**THE RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE.....Acts 2:1-4**

**Minister:<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.**

**THE RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE (CONTINUED).....Acts 2:1-4**

People: <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Minister: <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

ALL: <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

**THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE.....IN THE TUNE OF AME HYMN #258**

*From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise;  
let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every tongue.*

**THE SUMMARY OF THE DECALOGUE**

**THE GLORIA PATRI.....AME HYMN #627**

*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, Amen.*

**THE WELCOME TO BIG BETHEL.....THE PHILIPPIAN MINISTRY**

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH CREATIVE EXPRESSION.....SIGNS OF PRAISE MIME MINISTRY**

**THE PASTOR'S WORDS/ THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER .....REV. ANDREA LEWIS, PH.D.,  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SENIOR PASTOR**

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC.....BIG BETHEL CHORALE**

**THE SERMON.....REV. JASMINE R. SMOTHERS  
LEAD PASTOR, ATLANTA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**THE WORSHIP IN GIVING: TITHES & OFFERING**



**The Exercise of Christian Stewardship— 2 Corinthians 9:7(NIV)** You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

**THE BENEDICTION**



# SUNDAY SCHOOL *Revival* A CLASS FOR EVERYONE!!



Bro. Everett Jolly, Sunday School Superintendent  
Rev. Monica C. Jones, Ph.D., Christian Ed. Director  
Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor

## All Are Welcome!

When: June 9, 2024  
Where: Fellowship Hall  
Time: 8:15 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.



**\*\*Visitors may register their attendance online on the Big Bethel Guest Registration Form. Thank You for worshipping with us and feel free to come again!!**

❤️ 📞 **Let us remember our sick and shut-in with our calls.** 📞 ❤️

Sis. Patricia Coles (404) 254-4806

Sis. Brenda Queen (404) 274-0705

Rev. Betty Miley (770) 323-6841

Sis. Lillian Taylor (404) 284-6414

Sis. Elizabeth Parks (Liz) (404) 691-4590

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

<u>Day of Pentecost</u>	<u>First reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
May 19, 2024	* <a href="#">Acts 2:1-21</a> or <a href="#">Ezekiel 37:1-14</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 104:24-34, 35b</a>	<a href="#">Romans 8:22-27</a> or <a href="#">Acts 2:1-21</a>	<a href="#">John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</a>



## *Reverend Jasmine R. Smothers*



**Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers**  
Lead Pastor

Jasmine Rose Smothers currently serves as the Lead Pastor of the historic Atlanta First United Methodist Church. When she was appointed to Atlanta First in 2016, she became the first female, the first person of color, and the youngest leader in the congregation's 175-year history. Jasmine's love for the urban center of the City of Atlanta; her dedication to inclusive church communities; and her call to help lead people to abundant life makes her appointment to Atlanta First a perfect fit! This year, Atlanta First UMC celebrates 175 years of ministry with the city of Atlanta. To celebrate, Pastor Jasmine is leading the church's development of the 360 Peachtree Street campus to better serve the community. The development project includes affordable and attainable housing, new space for two schools, and community services.

Previously, Rev. Jasmine served as Associate Director for Congregational Vitality through the Office of Connectional Ministries in the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. In this role, Rev. Jasmine partnered with congregational leaders to equip them for maximum effective ministry in church and community. Rev. Jasmine served as the primary staff resource for several ministry initiatives including working to increase the vitality of congregations; racial-ethnic ministries; and the development of young clergy leaders.

She has served the United Methodist Church as a board member of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race; the Ministry Study Commission; and several task forces on Ministry with Young People. Rev. Jasmine is a 2015-2016 [Lewis Center for Church Leadership](#) Community Fellow. Rev. Jasmine served as a member of the United Methodist Church's Commission on a Way Forward, currently serves as co-convenor for UMCNext, and is a 2018 alum of [LEAD Atlanta](#).

In March 2017, Rev. Jasmine was inducted into Morehouse College's prestigious Martin Luther King Jr Board of Preachers. Rev. Jasmine has been named one of the "12+ Preachers that the English Speaking World Needs Now" by [Nevertheless She Preached](#).

Pastor Jasmine is co-author of the Washington Post best-selling book, [Not Safe for Church: Ten Commandments for Reaching New Generations](#), with Dr. F. Douglas Powe. Her newest resource, [Blank Slate: Write Your Own Rules for a 22nd-Century Church Movement](#), is a collaboration with Dr. Rodney T. Smothers and Rev. Lia McIntosh.

Rev. Jasmine is a native of Atlanta, GA. She is an amateur shutterbug, loves music and crafting, spending time with her family and friends, and traveling the globe. Jasmine is a Birkman Certified Consultant. She is a graduate of Spelman College (B.A., Political Science) and Emory University's Candler School of Theology (M.Div.).

# WESLEY CHAPEL AND BIG BETHEL AMEC

Wesley Chapel was formed in December 1847. The congregation consisted of white members and Black slaves who were allowed to attend the services. When the first church building was built, a balcony, or gallery, was built for the Black members to use during services. Two sets of stairs were built next to the two main doors of the building so the gallery could be accessed without going into the main part of the church. Conference Minutes record that in 1854 there were 580 white members and 143 Black members.

By 1858, the Conference Minutes list 414 white members and 199 Black members. Some histories of Wesley Chapel state that Black members were “crowding” the white members for space and were asked to leave and form their own church. Other histories state that in 1858 the Black members petitioned the Trustees of Wesley Chapel for a separate church of their own. All the histories agree that permission was granted for the Black members to leave and form their own congregation. A subscription of \$700 was raised for the new Black church, and the money was used to erect a building on the Alley, north of Gilmer Street. In 1859, the new church was known as the African M.E. Church.

Although the Black congregation had their own separate building, records show that they were not completely independent of the white church. The oldest existing written church records in our Archives are Quarterly Conference Reports dating March 1865. This report was for Wesley Chapel and “the Colored Church”. Reports were given on Sunday School, new members, spiritual condition of the church and other categories. In most of the categories, the Black church out performed Wesley Chapel. In the June 10, 1865 report, Wesley Chapel had 2 new members, the Black church had 40. The spiritual condition of Wesley Chapel was “good but not making revival”. The Black church was reported to “be lively and in prosperous condition”. The third quarter of 1865 is the last time the Black church is mention in the records and no figures or comments are given for it.

Both Big Bethel A.M.E. and Atlanta First United Methodist Churches consider Wesley Chapel and her members, both Black and white, as our mother church. We are sisters in the faith with a bond of kinship that cannot be broken.

## References:

Board of Stewards, Wesley Chapel. “Quarterly Conference Reports 1865”.

Mitchell, Peggy. “First Methodist Started in a Log Cabin”. Atlanta Journal, July 15, 1933

Rice, Frank. “The First Church of Atlanta, GA.”, in” History of Atlanta and Its Pioneers 1833-1904”. Pioneer Citizens’ Society of Atlanta, Atlanta Ga., 1902.

Yancy, Dr. J. W., II. “Sketch of Historical Origin of Bethel A.M.E. church of Atlanta”, in One Hundred Years-A.M.E Involvement.” Texas and the African Methodist Episcopal General Conference of Atlanta, Georgia, 1876-1976.

# **BBAMEC's EARLY CHURCH HISTORY**

## ***Bethel Church-Atlanta's Oldest Congregation***

### ***The Origin of the Bethel Congregation in Atlanta's First Church - The Union Church.***

The year was 1847. Only ten years before, surveyors of the W & A Railroad line had driven a stake in the ground and called it "Terminus" (meaning the end), giving Atlanta its first name. Slavery was an entrenched national institution which President James Polk made no effort to disturb. The state capital was Milledgeville, a nearby city nestled among the central Georgia counties where slave labor and record cotton production made the state the richest in the South. With a population now numbering in the hundreds, Terminus had first changed its name to "Marthasville" to honor a governor's daughter, before finally taking the name, "Atlanta," which was believed to be more appropriate for the newly incorporated city.

The fast-growing number of migrants brought to the little city by all the new rail lines built their first church, the Union Church, where preachers from all denominations, could preach until the various religious sects could build their own churches. The little clapboard church was situated on Atlanta's Peachtree Street, close to the present site of the "Georgia Pacific" building. In the Union Church, several of Atlanta's Methodist slave owners allowed their slaves to worship, although from segregated pews.

While the denominations were quickly their own individual churches, the core group of slaves allowed to worship in the Union Church remained intact. Separate worship services were allowed for Blacks in the evenings, although under the supervision of whites, as the law required. Eventually, the whites granted a petition for the 8 slaves to have their own church and set aside \$700 to make it happen. In 1855, the new slave church - Bethel Tabernacle - was completed. The first ministers were white men - Isaac Cravern and James Payne.

### ***The Slave Church and the Civil War***

Into the little Bethel Tabernacle came more slaves who left the segregated balconies of other churches. The little 600 square feet church had a balcony, 250 seats, glass windows and even a bell that hung from a scaffold. Located on Jenkins Street (now "Auditorium Way") at the present-day site of Georgia State University, the existence of a slave church in those days was nothing short of a miracle. By law, slaves could neither read nor write, and abolitionist activity in the South had frightened most slave owners and discouraged them from allowing slaves to assemble. Many slave owners, moreover, did not feel that the slaves even had souls to be saved, and thus saw no need for religious training.

Notwithstanding the racist beliefs and obstacles facing Black worshipers in the small slave church, Bethel Tabernacle stood as a great testament to the faith and strength of our stalwart forebearers. From the Union Church on Peachtree Street, to Bethel Tabernacle on Jenkins Street, to Old Bethel on Wheat Street (now Auburn Avenue), to its present site on Auburn Avenue and Jesse Hill Drive, Big Bethel AME church stands as a historic landmark and cornerstone of that heritage.

# BBAMEC's EARLY CHURCH HISTORY (continued)

It was not long after the establishment of Bethel Tabernacle, that our nation was involved in the Civil War battle between the North and the South over the question of slavery. Bethel Tabernacle, the small slave church established in 1855, found itself in the midst of a struggle for survival during the war period (1861-1865). When the Union Army reached Atlanta in August, 1864, many of the slaves had already been evacuated with the whites. Lemuel T. Grant, a Yankee who migrated to the South and became a prominent Atlanta citizen, was now a colonel in the Confederate Army, charged with the specific responsibility of overseeing Atlanta's defense. From his vast holdings around the city, Grant had donated the land on which stood Bethel Tabernacle. The parcel was located on old Jenkins Street (now, Auditorium Way) just a few blocks from the present church. Although Grant built elaborate defenses around the city, forty-two days of pounding from General Sherman's cannons destroyed most buildings. Bethel Tabernacle was used as a hospital for the confederate soldiers, six thousand of whom were wounded in the battle. Eventually, Yankee soldiers tore down the slave church. After the war ended in 1865, Bethelites petitioned the state government for financial help in rebuilding the church. Although badly damaged, the building was the site where post-war missionaries from the North observed two former slaves- Grandison Daniel and James Tate, conducting Atlanta's first school



Scan the QR code



**OR**

# ATTENTION

## All Big Bethel Graduating Seniors!!

**The Big Bethel African Methodist  
Episcopal Church  
Scholarship Application  
IS NOW AVAILABLE**

(For those who are active at Big Bethel  
and going to college this Fall)

**Applications must be postmarked by  
June 3, 2024**

Go to <https://www.bigbethelame.org/Member-Services> and click on the button for application and instructions

**BBAMEC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
(Must be Postmarked by June 3, 2024)



Big Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor



# Women's Emphasis Month

theme: "Where Friends Gather"  
scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

## Weekly Bible Study

May 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 7:30pm

## Love Feast

May 4 at 8am - Love Feast  
Teleconference (605) 472-5512 Code 772576#

## Secret Sister

sign up by May 11

## Trinity House Dinner

May 24 at 5pm

## Women's Emphasis Sunday & Brunch

May 26 at 10am

speaker: Rev. Jennifer Watley Maxell  
attire: fancy in fascinators and flowers  
BRUNCH after worship - \$20, RSVP by May 15

More details are in the Women's Emphasis emails.  
If you are not receiving the emails, send a message to  
[womensemphasis@bigbethelame.org](mailto:womensemphasis@bigbethelame.org)





# Welcome to the 150<sup>th</sup> session of the Atlanta North Georgia Annual Conference



May 22 - 24, 2024

## “FINISH STRONG”



**The Rt. Reverend Reginald T. Jackson**  
*Presiding Prelate of the Sixth Episcopal District*

**Christy Davis Jackson, Esquire**  
*Episcopal Supervisor of the Sixth Episcopal District*



**The Reverend Nathaniel Veal**  
*Host Presiding Elder*

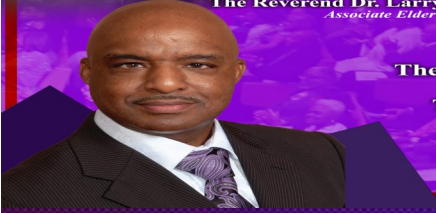
**The Reverend Dr. Larry Hudson, Sr.**  
*Associate Elder*

**The Reverend Dr. David Rhone**  
*Associate Elder*

**The Reverend Thomas Stegall**  
*Associate Elder*

**The Reverend Dr. Susan H. Buckson**  
*Host Pastor*

**The Reverend David Richards**  
*Co - Host Pastor*



**Allen Temple AME Church**  
1625 Joseph E. Boone Blvd NW  
Atlanta, GA 30314

20  
24

MAY

Allen Temple AMEC  
1625 Joseph E. Boone  
Blvd NW,  
Atlanta, GA 30314

150<sup>th</sup>  
events

SAT	18	9:00 AM Young Peoples Division 3:00 PM Richard Allen Young Adult Council
SUN	19	3:00 PM Musical Concert
MON	20	9:00 AM Women's Missionary Society 7:00 PM Sons of Allen Worship
WED	22	8:00 AM Roll Call 10:00 AM Opening Worship Service 3:00 PM Business Session 7:00 PM Lay Witness Service
THU	23	9:00AM Business Session 12:00 Noon Women in Ministry Service 3:00 PM Business Session 7:00 PM Ordination and Communion Service
FRI	24	9:00 AM Business Session 11:30 AM Ecumenical Service 3:00 PM Business Session 7:00 PM Closing & Commissioning Service





Rev John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor

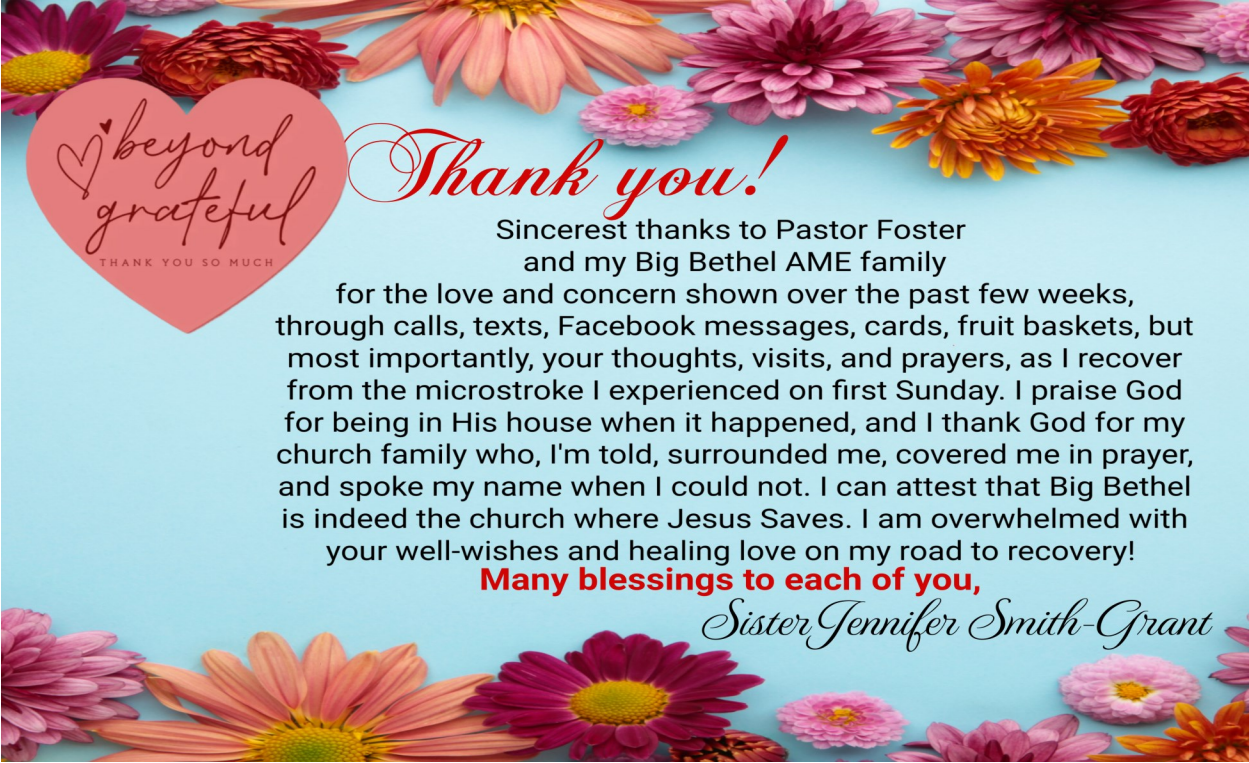
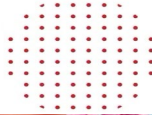
# Join our Team WE ARE RECRUITING



**ALL INTERESTED YOUTH  
WHO ARE 7 - 18 YEARS OF AGE  
ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE**  
*Azira G. Hill*  
**ACOLYTE MINISTRY**



*For more info contact:*  
DONNA WILLIAMS  
678-596-7854  
OR  
CLARISSA CARMICHAEL  
404-408-2673



## Thank you!

Sincerest thanks to Pastor Foster and my Big Bethel A.M.E. family for the love and concern shown over the past few weeks, through calls, texts, Facebook messages, cards, fruit baskets, but most importantly, your thoughts, visits, and prayers, as I recover from the microstroke I experienced on first Sunday. I praise God for being in His house when it happened, and I thank God for my church family who, I'm told, surrounded me, covered me in prayer, and spoke my name when I could not. I can attest that Big Bethel is indeed the church where Jesus Saves. I am overwhelmed with your well-wishes and healing love on my road to recovery!

**Many blessings to each of you,**

*Sister Jennifer Smith-Grant*

# BBAMEC VIRTUAL Blessings



## Weekly 10AM Sunday Worship

[www.bigbethelame.org](http://www.bigbethelame.org) WATCH LIVE  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgvakMryvM9uae7Rk3w4g>



## Weekly 2PM Sunday Thrive Next Shift Worship

[www.bigbethelame.org](http://www.bigbethelame.org) WATCH LIVE  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgvakMryvM9uae7Rk3w4g>

**Thrive - Tuesdays @ 7pm -**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87238857567>

Contact Rev Jess 770-940-0293

**NEW**

## Tuesday 7PM Women's Bible Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87171726645?pwd=anFGaTlwZlIsaEFlL3ROdlBNQVpFQT09>



Women's Bible Study



## Prayer Call 6AM Mon-Sat

PH: (605)-472-5512

Code: 772576#

## Wednesday

### Noon & 6 PM Bible Study

Rev. Monica Jones, PhD

**SAME AS Adult Sunday**

**School ZOOM LINK**

## Wednesday 7PM

### Discipleship Bible Study

PH: (605)-472-5512

Code: 772576#

## Big Bethel Village Bible Study Monday 4PM Worship Sunday 3PM

**PH: (202)926-1123**

**Code: 673604#**

Isaiah 43: <sup>19</sup> See, I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

## Youth Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays 10:00AM

**Zoom Meeting ID: 775-4987-0483**

**Password: YE10W**

## Seasoned Saints - Thursdays @ 12pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82655698611>

Dial in #: 1 929 205 6099 -  
Meeting ID: 826 5569 8611

Contact Rev Jess 770-940-0293

**NEW**



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ZOOM

## Adult Sunday School 8:30AM

PH: (309)205-3325 Code:7789893084#

**ZOOM LINK:**

**ID: 847-251-8679 PassCode: adultclass**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8472518679?pwd=NzZlRDZlQmVYYORsRFYyVzV6ZGZlMzZ09>

## Youth Sunday School 8:30AM

Email Everett Jolly  
[jjoll@comcast.net](mailto:jjoll@comcast.net)

**Don't miss your opportunity to receive God's Blessings!**