

April 15, 2022

7:00 p.m.

7 DAUGHTERS OF THUNDER

7 LAST WORDS

ORDER OF SERVICE

MUSICAL PRELUDE

"He Would Not Come Down from The Cross"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From the busy-ness of our lives we have come here on a day that is different.

People: In the midst of the world which holds the promise of spring and new life, we have come to share a story of betrayal and execution.

All: Come and hear the tale, come and share the tragedy, come and embrace the darkness.

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

GLORIA PATRI

WORDS OF WELCOME

FIRST WORD: REV. MARIA CROMPTON

"Father, Forgive Them For They Know Not What They Do – Luke 23:34"

SECOND WORD: REV. DR. MAMIE BRIDGEFORTH

"Today, You Will Be Me In Paradise - Luke 24:43"

THIRD WORD: MIN. RENEE BROWN JOHNSON

"Behold Your Son; Behold Your Mother - John 19:26"

FOURTH WORD: DR. AMEY VICTORIA ADKINS-JONES

"My God, My God Why Have You Forsaken Me – Matthew 27:46"

OFFERING

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

"NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD"

DOXOLOGY

FIFTH WORD: REV. CAROLYN C. CAVANESS

"I Thirst – John 19:28"

SIXTH WORD: REV. GABBY CUDJOE WILKES

"It Is Finished – John 19:30"

SEVENTH WORD: REV. DONNA OLIVIA OWUSU-ANSAH

"Father, Into Your Hands, I Commit My Spirit – Luke 23:36"

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

BENEDICTION



BETHANY

BAPTIST CHURCH • NEWARK

Rev. Timothy L. Adkins-Jones, PhD

Senior Pastor

Pastor Emeritus:

Rev. Dr. M. William Howard, Jr.

WELCOME

It is our sincere prayer that something said or done today will be an inspiration and a blessing to you. The doors of Bethany Baptist Church-Newark are always open to all. If you are searching for a church home, we encourage you to seek God in prayer and ask if this is where you should join. We thank God for you and hope you will worship with us again.

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm

Contact Us:

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Rev. Maria Crompton is the first woman to serve as the Senior Pastor of Elmwood United Presbyterian Church in East Orange, NJ. She is a dynamic preacher, teacher, sought after speaker, Mentor and workshop facilitator.

Reverend Crompton received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies and English from Drew University, the Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and the Certificate in Executive Leadership from McCormick Theological Seminary.

Rev. Crompton is called to empower the people of God through prophetic leadership. She currently serves as the President of the East Orange Clergy Association where she partners with church and community leaders. Rev. Crompton is a board member for Circle of Sacred Fire, a preaching intensive for women of color in

ministry and the Vice President of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus.

Rev. Crompton has been afforded the opportunity to serve in a variety of ministry contexts including, Bethel Baptist Church in Orange, NJ, where she was the first woman and youngest minister licensed, First Congregational Christian Church in Irvington, NJ and Middle Collegiate Church in New York City.

Rev. Crompton holds dual ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA). When it comes to ministry, Reverend Crompton believes that like Esther, God has placed her in position for such a time as this.

Reverend Crompton is married to Andre Crompton and they have three children, Nilah Marie, Andre Joshua and Noah Alexander.



Dr. Mamie Bridgeforth is the **Chairperson of the Division of Social Sciences, Humanities and Bilingual Studies at Essex County College**. She has completed her 46th year as a member of the Faculty of the College. She is the longest serving Chair and in that capacity she is responsible for the supervision of 11 academic departments and an estimated 23 full-time and 160 adjunct faculty members. This Division consistently has the largest number of graduates at Commencement and is known as the Mighty Social Sciences Division.

In June 1998, Dr. Bridgeforth made history when she became the first woman to be elected to lead a political ward (West Ward) in the City of Newark. During her tenure in office 320 units of housing was built in the West Ward: Bakery Village I, 2, 3., new Infill neighborhood housing specifically the entire block of 19 Street between Grove Street and South Orange Ave. and finally the Pabst Blue Ribbon site, abandoned for 20 years, was demolished.

Dr. Bridgeforth is a former member of the Editorial Board of Annual Editions/Social Problems: McGraw-Hill/ Dushkin Publishing Company. Throughout her professional and personal career, Dr. Bridgeforth has worked to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Newark. She organized the first **faith based homeless day camp in the City of Newark** and became the founder of the "Magic Kingdom Express" yearly bus tour to Orlando, Florida for underprivileged urban

youngsters. Recognizing the struggle so many parents experience providing for their children, Dr. Bridgeforth established the "West Ward Children's New Winter Coat Drive" upon her inauguration to the office of West Ward Councilperson. During her eight years in office, she distributed over 3,000 new coats to West Ward youngsters in the City of Newark. Currently, Dr. Bridgeforth's ministry provides **free** nutritional hot dinners every Sunday for the community at Faith Christian Center from 12:00-2:00 and lunch for the community every Wednesday from 1:30-2:30 .All are welcome.

Dr. Bridgeforth has received many awards and recognitions. Among them has been the "Inner City Education Award," the "National, International and Pan-American Sambo Federation Award," the "Sharing Network Appreciation Award", the "United States Army Appreciation Award" and the N.A.A.C.P. Keeper of the Dream Award to name a few. She is a member of numerous academic and professional organizations. She was a Founding Board Member of Offenders Aid and Restoration and the Founder of Daughters of Deborah, a reentry, educational program for women. She is also the founder of the N.J Pastors Wives Achievement Awards,

a Trustee of the Resident Ministers Alliance of Newark and the Newark West Ward Clergy Alliance. Highly respected for her wisdom and intelligence, Dr. Bridgeforth was appointed by Mayor Ras J. Baraka as his representative to PWI, the West Ward Special improvement District Board.

Called to the ministry over two decades ago, Dr. Bridgeforth is an ordained minister and is currently Pastor of the Faith Christian Center Ministries in Newark, New Jersey. In that capacity she has served as a mentor for many young ministers. Her family has always been her main focus. Dr. Bridgeforth was married to the late Deacon Lawrence Bridgeforth, for 47 years, and they have three daughters: Leah, NaDeen and Lawren; two sons who are Pastors; fourteen grandchildren: Stephanie, Alanna, Deven, Rose, Kayla, Jeremiah, Trinity, Aaron, Shannon, Tayla, Jordan, Tyesha Alicia and Corey and two great grandsons Lathan and Xavier, and two great granddaughters, Lark and Arie Skye.

Dr. Bridgeforth holds an Associate Degree from Essex County College; and advanced degrees from Rutgers University. She holds an Advance Certification in Gerontology and she is a Certified HIV Family Counselor. Dr. Bridgeforth is a Licensed Social Worker (L.S.W.) in the State of New Jersey and holds a permanent Social Studies teaching certificate and she has undertaken post graduate studies at Liberty University Baptist Seminary in Lynchburg Virginia. She credits her success in life to her late 96 year old mother, Lucille White, who was called home in June 2013 **and an unwavering belief that God is faithful. What He promised that He will do.**



Minister Renee Olivia Johnson came to ministry in adulthood from a foundation of Bible Study and a curiosity about God's purposes for her life. She has served as usher, pianist and Sunday School teacher in three churches in Essex County.

Mentored by many pastors, Minister Johnson entered the "Certificate of Ministry" program at the New York Theological Seminary, New York City, NY in 2000 and graduated as Chaplain in 2002.

Minister Johnson was licensed for ministry by Rev. Dr. M. William, Jr. at the Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, in March of 2004. Since that time she has been privileged to serve God at Bethany by offering Bible study lessons on Thursday evenings, Wednesday afternoon Midday service, Refuge Youth Church, founding The Get Ready -Youth Preparedness Program, and offering the Homily at Bethany's monthly Jazz Vespers services. Currently, Minister Johnson joyfully serves as one of 6 Ministerial Associates to the newly elected pastor, Rev. Timothy Levi Jones.

Minister Johnson has worked full time for the Social Security Administration as a Senior Disability and Fraud analyst for 37 years. She also currently serves as a Union Shop Steward for CWA Local 1037.

Minister Johnson was wed to Minister Crispin Nathaniel Johnson on April 23, 2008. She is the only child of Ann Smith Brown and Oliver Clayton Brown (now deceased). Minister

Johnson is a product of Newark Public Schools. She is a graduate of Arts High School majoring in fine and graphic art.



Amey Victoria Adkins-Jones (she/her) is Assistant Professor of Theology and African and African Diaspora Studies at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, MA. A graduate of the University of Virginia and Duke Divinity School, she received her Ph.D. in Religion from Duke University in 2016 with a Certificate in Feminist Theory. She was the first Black woman to graduate from the program in Christian theology and ethics.

Professor Adkins-Jones recently completed her first monograph project, *Immaculate Misconceptions: Black Mariology, Freedom, Fugitivity*, a theological account of the rise of the global sex trade. She is at work on a second project, *See No Evil: A Theology of Black Life*, a theological account of technology and anti-Blackness. Her scholarly work has been published in several academic journals.

Outside of academia, Professor Adkins-Jones is a Baptist minister who frequently preaches and teaches around the country and brings pastoral sensibility to her work centering social justice. She is a practicing birth worker, a trained iconographer, and has a career background in UX Copywriting and Design. A 'displaced Southerner,' she joyfully builds community and hospitality with her family in Newark, NJ.



Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness is the daughter of the late Rev. Harold Cavaness and Ms. Karen Cavaness. A fourth generation preacher, Rev. Cavaness' great-grandfather, The Rev. Dr. Joseph Slade, Sr., pastored numerous churches in the Philadelphia Annual Conference and the historic St. James AME Church in Newark, NJ. Her great-uncle, Rev. Walter Slade, founded Union Chapel AME Church in Newark, NJ, where Rev. Cavaness served on the Ministerial Staff. Rev. Carolyn embarked on her ministerial journey at Israel Memorial AME Church, Newark, NJ, where she answered her call to preach at the age of 14, rendered and received her license to preach at the age 15.

Rev. Cavaness is a graduate of Barnard College of Columbia University in New York City, with a major in Urban Studies with a concentration in Economics. During her time at Barnard, she served as President of the Student Government Association, Vice President of Student Government, President of the Columbia University Gospel Choir, President of Black Church at Columbia, and was involved in many other activities and boards. Also, she was Programming Coordinator for the 2003 New Student Orientation Program at Columbia University. For her contributions to the Barnard Community Carolyn received the Frank Gilbert Bryson Prize the highest leadership award of the College. She was also the recipient of the Barnard Bear Pin for her dedication and commitment to campus life.

Rev. Cavaness graduated in May, 2011 from Union Theological Seminary in New York City with a Masters of Divinity degree. In her second year, she was awarded the Hudnut Preaching Award. The award is conferred annually by the faculty at the end of the middler year to a student who, in their judgment, has made the best preparation for the preaching ministry. Prior to enrolling in seminary, Rev. Cavaness was deputy finance director for Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's historic campaign for President. She was employed by Barnard College as Officer to the Barnard College Annual Fund. She was also Finance Director for New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Carolyn was also Director of Development for George Jackson Academy in New York City. Rev. Cavaness has been featured in the CRAINS Business magazine as well as the New York Post's Page Six magazine. Rev. Cavaness is fluent in Spanish after spending her junior year in high school abroad in Zaragoza, Spain. Rev. Cavaness served for eight (8) years as New Jersey Conference YPD President of the AME Church. She was also 2001 AME Youth

At the age of 16, Rev. Carolyn was admitted on trial in the AME Church. She was ordained an Itinerant Deacon in the AME Church on April 17, 2010 and on April 14, 2012 an Itinerant Elder in the AME Church.

On August 15, 2012, Rev. Cavaness was appointed by the Rt. Rev. Gregory G.M. Ingram, pastor of First AME Church, Sharon Hill, PA. On May 18, 2014, Rev. Cavaness was appointed by the Rt. Rev. Gregory G.M. Ingram, pastor of Bethel AME Church, Ardmore, PA, the first female pastor in the church's 125 year history. Blessed to serve this historic congregation, Rev. Carolyn's innovative style and initiative has assisted her in leading the congregation to embark on various capital improvements including: upgrade and overhaul of the HVAC system, roofing and complete renovation of the lower level of the church. In addition, the church's indebtedness has been reduced by almost 60%. In Spring, 2018, the congregation launched the Bethel Community Garden, which in its first year harvested over 1,000 lbs. of produce, which impacted local pantries, members and friends.

Paramount to the work has been increasing Bethel's outreach, evangelism and community engagement - inclusive of expanding Bethel's opportunities for Worship and Christian education. Strategic partnerships have been advanced with the business community and various non-profit agencies and boards across the Main Line, as well.

Joining with sisters and brothers of other faith traditions, she helped to form the Lower Merion Clergy Interfaith Alliance and also serves as co-convenor of the Lower Merion/Narberth Food Insecurity Working Group, which has been at the cutting edge of bridging resources to children and families in need of food and social service access. She has been blessed given her commitment to interfaith dialogue, to travel to Israel in 2017 by invitation twice to advance dialogue between the African American and Jewish communities.

In 2018, she and the Bethel, Ardmore Family were blessed with the honor and privilege to host the 202nd Session of the Philadelphia Annual Conference - the first time ever held on the Main Line and hosted by a Main Line congregation.

Rev. Cavaness considers herself a bridge connecting people and resources all towards creating the beloved community. She is blessed to serve(d) on various boards and initiatives including: Interfaith Philadelphia, Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, CommUNITY Breakfast for the Main Line, Main Line NAACP Executive Committee, Vice President/Program Chair, Ardmore Rotary, Community Volunteer, HealthSpark Foundation, , Common Space, Ardmore Initiative, Lower Merion Police and Minority Relations Board, AME Preachers Meeting/AME Ministerial Alliance of Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Vicinity, Main Line Black Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Ardmore Library and many others.

She desires to use all of her God-given talents and gifts to reach and help all that she can. She lives by the statement, "Only what you do for Christ shall last."



Pastor Gabby Cudjoe Wilkes is the co-founding, lead pastor of The Double Love Experience Church in Brooklyn, New York. She is an ordained baptist minister, a writer, board member, innovation strategist and entrepreneur. At the age of 27, Pastor Gabby was hired as the Co-Young Adult Pastor at The Greater Allen Cathedral of New York under the senior leadership of Reverends Floyd & Elaine Flake. She served in that capacity for five years.

Pastor Gabby was appointed to NYC Mayor Bill DeBlasio's Covid-19 Clergy Task Force in March 2020. She served as an Eastern Region Convener of the Black Church Pac, where she trained hundreds of clergy across the eastern region of the nation on matters of faith & voter engagement strategies in preparation for the 2020 presidential election. Pastor Gabby is a regular on-air contributor to the nationally syndicated radio show: Get Up Mornings with Erica Campbell. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Guy R. Brewer Religious Leader Award, a senatorial citation from New York State Senator Leroy Comrie, The Charles S. Mersick Preaching Award from Yale University, the Outstanding Graduate Student award from the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale, and more.

At Hampton University she graduated as a William R. Harvey Leadership Fellow.

Prior to her work as a pastor, Pastor Gabby worked as a publicist, event planner & entrepreneur for a decade in the music industry in New York City. She worked with companies such as Beyoncé's management company: Music World Entertainment, BET, Sony Records, eOne Music, & Plan A Media LLC. Her former clients include artists such as Jonathan McReynolds, Mary Mary, BeBe Winans and Mathew Knowles' Music World Gospel roster. Pastor Gabby has since blended her brand strategist expertise with her expertise as a faith leader. While at Yale, she worked as The Senior Brand Strategist at the Dwight Hall Center for Social Justice & Public Change. She appeared on-air to go head to head with Bill O'Reilly to speak on behalf of the black students at Yale. Pastor Gabby has coached and trained countless pastors & leaders on brand strategy. She continues to bridge the divide between innovation, strategy & the black church.

Pastor Gabby has been featured in publications such as Essence Magazine, Forbes, Yahoo News, Jet, The Vineyard Gazette & CBS News for her work on love and ministry. She is a proud graduate of Yale University Divinity School where she serves on the alumni board, Hampton University and New York University. She's currently in the writing stage of her doctoral studies at Duke University. Follow more about her work at: www.gabbycudjoewilkes.com



Rev. Donna Olivia Owusu-Ansah is a vibrant visionary, passionate about stirring people to live life creatively. She encourages creativity by helping others to think higher, go deeper, connect wider, and embrace artistic expression as a means to attain their personal and vocational aspirations. With an extensive background in fine arts and pastoral theology, she knows how to fuse creativity and spirituality to INSPIRE CREATIVE discipleship, preaching, and living.

Reverend Donna Olivia Owusu-Ansah was born in Mount Vernon, New York to John and Lois Powell. She is a preacher, chaplain, teacher, artist, writer, thinker, and dreamer who loves to study the Word of God, encourage others, and worship God. In April 2007, Donna answered her call to ministry. She was licensed to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in June 2008 at the Bethesda Baptist Church of New Rochelle, NY under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Allen Paul Weaver, Jr. Rev. Owusu-Ansah was ordained to the Gospel ministry in August 2010 at Bethesda. She served as the Assistant-to-the Pastor at the Bethesda Baptist Church from June 2010

until June 2012.

Most recently, Rev. Owusu-Ansah worked as a Chaplain at Haven Hospice located at JFK Medical Center (Hackensack Meridian Health) in Edison, NJ and also served as the Associate Minister of Church Life at the New Hope Baptist Church in Metuchen, NJ under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Ronald L. Owens.

Rev. Owusu-Ansah graduated from New York University in 1999 (Bachelor of Science) and Howard University in 2004 (Master of Fine Art, Photography). In 2007 she enrolled in the Theological School at Drew University and graduated at the top of her class in May 2010 (Master of Divinity). She also completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education at JFK Medical Center in Edison, NJ.

Rev. Owusu-Ansah has always been interested in the creative power of words and the way in which words and story can be used to bring forth new life, heal individuals, and grow communities. She is Founder and Creative Director of Inspiring Creativity Ministries. She is also the author of *Loves...Regardless: Forty Devotions Inspired by Womanist Creative Thought and Theology* and a contributing author in *#MinistryThatImpacts: A Collection of Strategies to Create Ministries that Impact Congregations and Communities* and the forthcoming book *She Is Called Women of the Bible Study Series (Volume 3)* published by the Reformed Church Press.

Rev. Owusu-Ansah is married to Joseph Owusu-Ansah and together they have two beautiful daughters.