

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Growing the Church from the Inside Out

From the Desk of Rev. Pemberton



Beloved Church Family,

Grace and peace to each of you as we step into the vibrant and spirit-filled month of June! I pray this message finds you well and enjoying the blessings of summer's arrival. June is always a special time in the life of our church, and this year is no exception.

We are especially excited for our Vacation Bible School, a cherished time where our children and youth are nurtured in the Word of God through creative lessons, joyful praise, and heartfelt fellowship. Let us continue to support this ministry with our time, prayers, and presence—because when we invest in our children's spiritual growth, we invest in the future of the Kingdom.

This month also brings the National Baptist Convention, where representatives from churches across the country will gather in unity, worship, and service. Please be in prayer for those traveling and attending, that God would pour out fresh vision and strength for the work ahead.

And we can hardly contain our excitement as we prepare to celebrate our Church Anniversary! What a joy it is to reflect on God's faithfulness through the years. Whether you've been with us for decades or just a few Sundays, we are all part of a legacy of faith, hope, and love. As Psalm 100:5 reminds us, "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations." Truly, we serve a faithful God!

As always, I am thankful to serve such a faithful, loving congregation. Let's remain rooted in the Word, rich in love, and ready for the work of ministry God has for us this season.

With a shepherd's heart,
Rev. Jonathan L. Pemberton
Pastor, Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church

Juneteenth

A Day of Freedom,
Faith and Reflection

More than Melody...

Minister Kindric Mario
Hooks

Vacation Bible School

June 16 - June 20

Juneteenth: A Day of Freedom, Faith, and Reflection



Juneteenth, celebrated each year on **June 19**, marks the official end of slavery in the United States. On this day in 1865—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation—Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform the last remaining enslaved African Americans that they were free. Since then, Juneteenth has been recognized as a time of celebration, remembrance, and hope for African American communities across the nation.

For the Black Church, Juneteenth is more than a historical milestone—it is a spiritual moment rooted in the biblical themes of liberation, justice, and deliverance. Just as God delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, Juneteenth reminds us of God’s ongoing work in delivering His people from systems of oppression. It reflects the power of faith, perseverance, and the belief that freedom delayed is not freedom denied.

Juneteenth is a time to:

- **Honor our ancestors** who endured slavery with dignity and unshakable faith,
- **Celebrate our cultural heritage** and spiritual resilience,
- **Reflect on the continued fight for equity and justice** in our communities,
- And **renew our commitment** to love, service, and discipleship in Christ.

As Galatians 5:1 declares, *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.”* Juneteenth reminds us that true freedom comes from God—not only freedom from physical chains, but freedom from sin, fear, and injustice.

This year, let us use Juneteenth as a sacred opportunity to educate, engage, and empower. Whether through worship, learning, or community service, may we continue to walk in the light of freedom and lift every voice in praise and purpose.

“More Than Melody, It's Ministry” – A Conversation with Minister Kindric Mario Hooks

As Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church prepares for a new season of worship, we sat down with Minister of Music Mario Kindric Hooks to hear his reflections on nearly four years of service and the evolving sound of worship at Greenwood.

Q: Minister Hooks, how would you describe your time at Greenwood so far?

"First and foremost, I have to give all glory to God the Father, God the Son, and God the precious Holy Ghost. He alone deserves the credit for everything we are and everything we will be. My time at Greenwood has been a blessing—a season of growth, transformation, and purpose. Under the leadership of our pastor, Dr. Jonathan Pemberton, I've grown not only in my understanding of God but in what it truly means to worship."



Q: You mentioned that your view of worship has evolved. What has changed for you?

"I've come to see worship not just as a routine or musical expression but as an active journey of freedom and revelation. The Bible is a story of progression—of people growing, evolving, and moving closer to God. That same evolution should be reflected in our music ministry. Worship is about creating space for liberty, because the Scripture says, 'Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.' That liberty breaks chains—spiritually, emotionally, and socially."

Q: Greenwood has a rich history as a predominantly African American congregation. How does that influence the music ministry?

"Hugely. Music is in our bones. It carried our ancestors through the unimaginable—through slavery, through the civil rights movement, and even now through personal and societal struggle. At Greenwood, we honor that legacy. Music has never just been entertainment for us—it has been our voice, our strength, and our connection to God."

Q: What changes should the congregation expect in the music ministry?

"You'll notice a shift in how we engage worship. We're incorporating more praise team elements to create a consistent spirit of worship and freedom. It's not just about sounding good—it's about moving the hearts of people toward God."

Q: How are you working to cultivate new musical talent within the church?

"I believe God has already placed what we need right here. There are so many young people eager to learn and serve. I don't always have the time for one-on-one lessons, but I make it a point to pour into our youth when I can. And when you see them participating—encourage them. Celebrate them. They are the future of this ministry."

Q: You've said before that some churches struggle with finding musicians today. Why do you think that is?

"Because we stopped reaching back. We stopped teaching. But that won't happen here at Greenwood. We're going to be a church that identifies gifts, nurtures them, and puts them to use for God's glory. I pray that when my time here comes to a close, the seeds planted will continue to bear fruit for years to come."

As Greenwood moves forward, the message is clear: music here is more than melody—it's ministry. And through the leadership of Minister Hooks and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the worship experience is expanding to meet both the moment and the mission.

Serving with Strength: Men of Greenwood Feed the Community "Under the Shade Tree"

On the morning of Saturday, May 31, the men of Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church rose early—not to be served, but to serve. As part of the ongoing “Under the Shade Tree” outreach in Tuskegee, our brothers came together in love and unity to prepare and serve a hot breakfast to those in need across the community.

Gathering in the church kitchen before sunrise, the aroma of sausage, grits, eggs, and biscuits filled the air as the men worked side-by-side—frying, scrambling, pouring, and packing. Each meal was made with care, but more importantly, with compassion. What may seem like a simple plate of food became a tangible expression of God’s love.

Once breakfast was prepared, the team set out to the designated outreach site, where neighbors were already waiting under the familiar shade tree. Smiles, prayers, and warm greetings were exchanged as meals were handed out. There was no rush, no judgment—just fellowship, food, and faith.

This effort, led by the men’s ministry, reflects Greenwood’s ongoing commitment to meeting people where they are and sharing the love of Christ through action. As James 2:15-17 reminds us, “Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?”

The impact of this day went beyond full stomachs. It offered dignity. It offered hope. And it reminded us all that ministry doesn’t only happen inside church walls—it happens in parking lots, on sidewalks, and under shade trees. We are grateful for the leadership of our Men’s Ministry and everyone who supported this outreach. May we continue to serve boldly, love deeply, and always remain available to be used by God.



Heavenly Helpings from the Kitchen Ministry

Submitted by Sister Patricia Garrett

Garrett's Signature Chili: A Bowl Full of Bold Flavor

1lb. ground beef
1/2 cup of chopped onions
1/2 cup of chopped green peppers
1/2 cup of chopped celery
1 can (16 oz.) chili beans or kidney beans (undrained)
1 can (15 oz.) chili with beans
1 can of diced tomatoes
1 can of water 1 pkg. of chili seasoning
1 tablespoon of chili powder
2 teaspoons of cayenne red pepper
1 teaspoon of crushed red pepper



In a large pan, cook beef, onions, celery, and green peppers until meat is brown. Drain excess grease and add package of chili seasoning into the meat. In another large pot cook the chili beans and diced tomatoes. Add the meat into the pot with the chili beans and diced tomatoes. Bring to a boil, cover and reduce heat to a simmer for 20 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste. The key to good chili is to season your meat!

Vacation Bible School 2025: Celebrating Our Heritage, Empowering the Next Generation, Strengthening Our Faith

This summer, Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church invites you and your family to a powerful and faith-filled experience at Vacation Bible School 2025, taking place Monday, June 16 through Friday, June 20 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at 1510 Washington Avenue, Tuskegee, AL.

This year's theme—"Celebrating Our Heritage, Empowering the Next Generation, Strengthening Our Faith"—honors the richness of our Black history and the boldness of our faith. Rooted in the Scripture "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7), our VBS will offer engaging Bible lessons, music, crafts, and activities designed to inspire all ages.

We are especially excited that this year's VBS falls during the week of Juneteenth, a time when we reflect on the powerful legacy of freedom and the enduring strength of our community. It's a special opportunity to not only learn about the past, but to build a future grounded in faith, hope, and love.

A light meal will be served nightly, and all ages are welcome—from children and youth to adults looking to grow deeper in their spiritual walk.

Join us as we come together to honor our heritage, uplift our children, and grow stronger in Christ. For more information, contact Dawn Calhoun.

Let's walk by faith—and celebrate together!



“For we walk by faith, not by sight” 2 Corinthians 5:7

BLACK HISTORY, BOLD FAITH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

**CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE,
EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION,
STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH.**

MONDAY, JUNE 16- FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025

**ALL
AGES
WELCOME**

**GREENWOOD MB CHURCH
1510 WASHINGTON AVENUE
TUSKEGEE. AL
6:00PM-8:00PM**

**LIGHT MEALS
SERVED
DAILY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CALL 334-727-0871

ALL (Wed., Women's, Men's) Bible Study Zoom Info - Meeting ID 3347270871; Password 1510
 Prayer Call Conference Call Line - (862) 799-9042
 Weekly Prayer Ministry Zoom Info - Meeting ID 829 5695 8634; Password 1510
 Young Adult Bible Study Zoom Info - Meeting ID 893 9136 1817; Password gmbcya

JUNE '25



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 1	2	3	4	12:00 pm Move & Groove 5	7:00 am Prayer Call 6	9:00 am Marriage Ministry Bible Study 7
9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 8	7:00 am Prayer Call 9	7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Move & Groove 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting 10	7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Bible Study 11	12:00 pm Move & Groove 12	7:00 am Prayer Call 13	9:00 am Laymens Ministry Breakfast Women's Ministry Activity 14
National Baptist Convention Assistant Dean Visits 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service Birthday Celebration 15	Vacation Bible School 6pm - 8pm				7:00 am Prayer Call 20	21
122nd Church Anniversary 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 22	7:00 am Prayer Call 23	7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Move & Groove 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting 24	7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 25	12:00 pm Move & Groove 26	7:00 am Prayer Call 27	28
9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 29	7:00 am Prayer Call 30					

A Month of Honor: Mark Your Calendars

June is a sacred and celebratory month at Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church, filled with meaningful milestones and distinguished guests who reflect the strength of our heritage and the promise of our future.

On Sunday, June 15, we are honored to welcome Rev. Dr. Tyrone B. Martin, Assistant Dean of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, to worship with us. His visit is part of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.'s official outreach to select churches across the country as we prepare to gather for the annual National Baptist Convention. To be chosen as a host site is a significant honor, affirming Greenwood's continued dedication to Christian education, spiritual growth, and kingdom-building. We look forward to receiving an encouraging word from Dr. Martin and embracing this moment of connection to our national denomination.

Just one week later, on Sunday, June 22, Greenwood will celebrate an incredible milestone—our 112th Church Anniversary. As we reflect on more than a century of worship, service, and community impact, we are delighted to welcome Rev. Dr. Thomas Wilder, Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, as our anniversary preacher. Dr. Wilder is a powerful voice in the Black church tradition, known for his deep biblical insight and unwavering commitment to equipping the Body of Christ.

These two Sundays offer us a unique opportunity to celebrate where we've been, who we are, and what God is still doing in and through us. We encourage all members, families, and friends to be present, engaged, and prayerful as we walk into this season of honor and heritage.

To God be the glory—for the great things He has done!



June Birthdays

- 11 Alvin Jackson
- 12 Delores Baker
- 16 Deborah Banks
- 16 Kailyn Boykin
- 17 Annette Harris
- 23 Isaiah Rose
- 29 Carolyn Sippial



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Jonathan L. Pemberton, Pastor