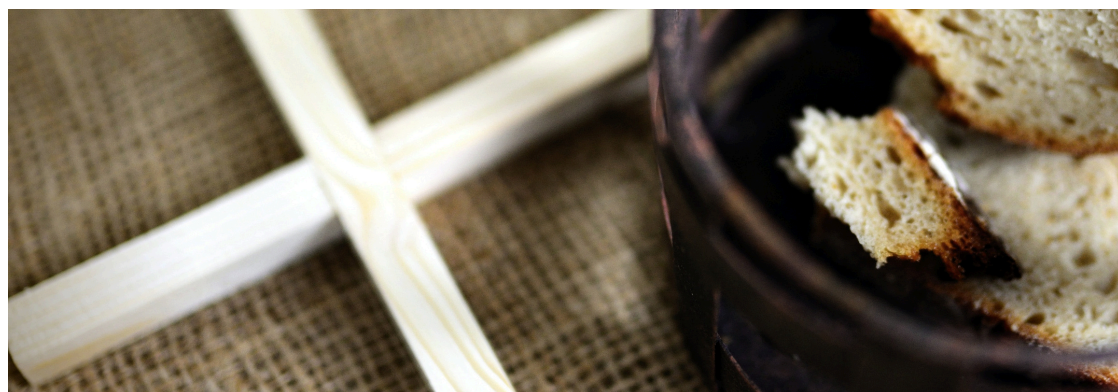


TOGETHER IN FAITH

Growing the Church from the Inside Out

From the Desk of Rev. Pemberton



Greetings, Greenwood Family!

As we step into the month of March, we do so with our 2025 theme ***“Strengthened in Spirit, United in Purpose”***. This serves as a powerful reminder that God calls us to grow stronger in our faith while walking together in unity. Just as the changing seasons bring renewal, we too are called to refresh our commitment to God and to one another.

One way we grow spiritually is through prayer and fasting—a discipline that draws us closer to God, sharpens our focus, and strengthens our spirit. As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 17:21, “This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” When we seek God intentionally, setting aside distractions and sacrificing in His name, we open ourselves to greater revelation, power, and purpose.

Ephesians 6:10 encourages us to “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” Our strength comes not from ourselves but from the Holy Spirit, who equips us to serve, love, and press forward in faith. When we stand together in purpose—lifting one another up, fasting and praying for breakthroughs, serving our community, and worshiping as one body—we reflect the true heart of Christ.

This month, I encourage you to embrace opportunities to fast, pray, and grow spiritually while strengthening the bonds of our church family. Stay engaged, remain faithful, and let us move forward, Strengthened in Spirit and United in Purpose.

May God bless and keep each of you!

Pastor Jonathan L. Pemberton

Happy 5th Anniversary

People and Pastor -
Let's Celebrate

Revival Announced

Renew the Right Spirit!

Heritage Legacy Sunday

Honoring Our Legacy!

The Power of Fasting: Strengthened in Spirit, United in Purpose

Fasting is a spiritual discipline that has been practiced by believers for generations, drawing them closer to God and deepening their faith. As we embrace this season with the theme “Strengthened in Spirit, United in Purpose,” fasting becomes an essential tool in aligning our hearts with God’s will and strengthening our unity as a church family.

Why Do We Fast?

Fasting is more than simply abstaining from food; it is a time of spiritual renewal, deeper prayer, and focused devotion to God. In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus teaches that fasting should be done with sincerity and humility, not for outward recognition but as an offering to God. Through fasting, we discipline ourselves, heighten our spiritual sensitivity, and allow God to work in and through us.

The Spiritual Benefits of Fasting

1. Strengthening Our Relationship with God – Fasting allows us to set aside distractions and focus on prayer and scripture, drawing nearer to the Lord (James 4:8).
2. Seeking Guidance and Breakthrough – In times of uncertainty or decision-making, fasting helps us seek divine direction (Acts 13:2).
3. Overcoming Spiritual Battles – Jesus Himself fasted for 40 days before beginning His ministry (Matthew 4:1-2), showing us that fasting strengthens us for spiritual warfare.
4. Deepening Our Unity as a Church – When we fast together as a body of believers, we become united in seeking God’s will for our church, our families, and our community (Joel 2:15-16).

How to Fast with Purpose

Fasting can take many forms, including:

- Complete Fast: Abstaining from all food for a specific time while drinking water or juice.
- Partial Fast: Avoiding certain foods (like Daniel’s fast in Daniel 10:3) while focusing on prayer and worship.
- Spiritual Fast: Stepping away from distractions such as social media, television, or other activities to spend more time with God.

As we engage in fasting, let us also pray, read scripture, and listen to God’s voice. Whether fasting individually or as a church, let our focus remain on growing in faith and seeking God’s direction.

A Call to Fast and Pray

This month, consider incorporating fasting into your spiritual routine. Whether you are seeking personal breakthroughs, praying for our church, or simply desiring to grow closer to God, fasting is a powerful way to align yourself with His will. As we do this together, let us remain Strengthened in Spirit, United in Purpose, trusting that God will move mightily in our lives and our church.

May God bless and sustain you as you fast and pray!



Honoring Our Legacy: A Reflection on Heritage Legacy Sunday



On Sunday, February 9, 2025, our Greenwood Church family came together in a powerful and meaningful celebration of Heritage Legacy Sunday. This special day served as a time to honor our elders, acknowledge our shared history, and recommit ourselves to preserving the rich legacy of faith and service that has guided us through generations.

One of the most moving moments of the day was the presentation of African Kente stoles to our elders aged 65 and older. The vibrant colors and intricate patterns of the Kente cloth symbolize strength, unity, and wisdom, reflecting the invaluable contributions of our elders to our church and community. As each elder received their stole, we recognized their faithfulness, leadership, and unwavering commitment to Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church.

Adding to the significance of the occasion, Councilwoman Norma Jackson led a libation ceremony, a sacred tradition honoring our ancestors and seeking blessings for the future. As water was poured in remembrance, we reflected on the sacrifices, prayers, and resilience of those who came before us. This act reminded us that we are deeply connected to a legacy of faith that continues to guide and inspire us.

Heritage Legacy Sunday was more than just a day of recognition—it was a spiritual homecoming, a celebration of our shared identity, and a call to action for the future. As we look ahead, let us remain Strengthened in Spirit, United in Purpose, ensuring that the values, faith, and traditions of our elders continue to live on in the generations to come.

May we always cherish our past, walk boldly in our present, and trust in God for our future.



Happy 5th Anniversary Pastor and Family

The Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church family came together in love, gratitude, and celebration for a special weekend marking Pastor Jonathan Lamont Pemberton's 5th Pastoral Anniversary. From honoring our senior saints to uplifting our youth and culminating in a powerful worship service, the weekend was a testament to God's faithfulness and the deep impact of Pastor Pemberton's leadership.

Senior Saints Luncheon – Friday, February 21

The celebration kicked off with a heartfelt Senior Saints Luncheon on Friday, February 21, where we honored the elders of our church for their wisdom, faithfulness, and dedication. It was a beautiful occasion filled with laughter, stories, and fellowship, as our senior members shared their journey of faith and their role in the foundation of our church. We thank God for their presence and continued leadership within our congregation.

Youth Skating Outing – Saturday, February 22

On Saturday, February 22, our youth were treated to a fun-filled skating outing, bringing the younger generation together for a day of laughter and joy. This event served as a reminder of Pastor Pemberton's heart for our youth, empowering them to grow in faith and community as they step into leadership roles in the future of our church. The energy and excitement of our youth are truly a testament to the hope and strength they bring to the body of Christ.

Worship Celebration – Sunday, February 23

The weekend culminated with a powerful worship service on Sunday, February 23, where we were blessed by the ministry of Rev. Dr. Melvin Owens as our guest preacher. Dr. Owens' timely and impactful message was a reminder of the importance of faithful leadership, community, and service in the kingdom of God. The service was filled with joyful praise, gratitude, and a spirit of unity, as we celebrated not only Pastor Pemberton's leadership but also the strength of our church family.

Honoring the Pemberton Family

We also want to take a moment to recognize the incredible support and dedication of Pastor Pemberton's family. His wife, Ericka, has been a steadfast partner in ministry, offering her love, wisdom, and unwavering support behind the scenes. Together with their daughter, Essa, the Pemberton family has been an inspiring example of faith, unity, and love. We thank Ericka and Essa for their sacrifices and their role in supporting our pastor as he leads us in fulfilling God's calling for our church.

Following the worship service, we gathered for a church-wide luncheon, where members shared a meal and expressed their appreciation for Pastor Pemberton and his family. The fellowship was a beautiful reflection of the strong community and deep relationships that Pastor Pemberton has cultivated over his tenure as our shepherd.

A Grateful Church Family

As we reflect on these five years, we are incredibly grateful for Pastor Pemberton's unwavering leadership, his commitment to God's Word, and his heart for the people of Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church. We look forward to the future with great anticipation, knowing that we are Strengthened in Spirit and United in Purpose under his leadership.

Pastor Pemberton, we celebrate you, we appreciate you, and we thank God for you and your family!



2025 Revival Announced at Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church

Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church is excited to announce our Revival Services, taking place every Thursday in April 2025. We invite you to join us for a time of powerful worship, inspiring sermons, and spiritual renewal. Each week, we will be blessed with guest speakers and churches leading the service. Below is the schedule of events:

- **Thursday, April 3**
 - Sermon by: Rev. Aarif Bradley, Senior Pastor, Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Mobile, AL
 - Church in charge of service: Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
- **Thursday, April 10**
 - Sermon by: Rev. Wesley Thompson, Senior Pastor/Teacher, Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church, Leighton, AL
 - Church in charge of service: Jubilee Christian Church
- **Thursday, April 17**
 - Sermon by: Rev. Angela Thomas, 2024 Lewis Fellow, Wesley Theology Seminary
 - Church in charge of service: Greater St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church
- **Thursday, April 24**
 - Sermon by: Rev. Kelvin Anthony, Senior Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church of Norwood, Birmingham, AL
 - Church in charge of service: Washington Chapel AME

Each service will begin at 6:45 pm with devotions. We encourage you to bring your family and friends as we gather to worship and grow in the Word. A meal will be served nightly beginning at 6:00 pm.

Mark your calendars and prepare your hearts for this month of revival. Let us come together to be strengthened by God's Spirit and renewed for the work He has called us to do. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ash Wednesday Drive-Through: A Meaningful Start to Lent


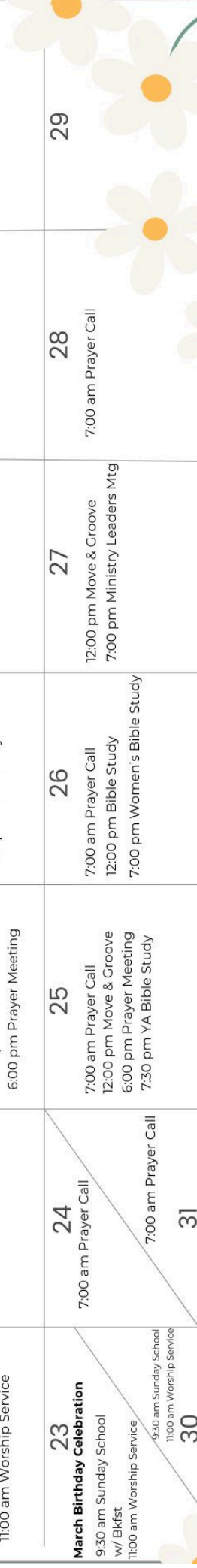
Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church will kick off the Lenten season with a special Ash Wednesday Drive-Through on Wednesday, March 5, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM. This event offers a convenient way for the congregation to receive the traditional imposition of ashes, marking the beginning of Lent, from the comfort of their vehicles.

As participants drive up, they will be greeted by church pastors and staff who will provide a brief prayer and reflection before applying the ashes in the shape of a cross on their foreheads. The drive-through format allows members to participate in this sacred tradition without needing to attend a formal service, accommodating busy schedules or other commitments.

This initiative is designed to encourage humility, repentance, and spiritual renewal as individuals embark on the Lenten journey. Whether reflecting, fasting, or deepening one's relationship with God, this event provides a meaningful way to begin the season of Lent.

Church leaders hope the Ash Wednesday Drive-Through will foster a stronger connection with God during this season of preparation and reflection as the congregation looks forward to the Easter celebration.



<div>  <div> 2025 <h1>March</h1> </div> </div> <div> <p> ALL (Wed., Women's, Men's) Bible Study Zoom Info - Meeting ID 334727087; 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 </p> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	3 7:00 am Prayer Call	4 7:00 am Prayer Call 11:00 am Monthly Pastor Prayer 12:00 pm Move & Groove 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting	5 LENT BEGINS 7:00 am Prayer Call 7:00 am Ash Wednesday Drive Thru 12:00 pm Bible Study	6 12:00 pm Move & Groove 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	7 7:00 am Prayer Call	1 11:00 am Marriage Ministry Bible Study
9 9:30 am Sunday School w/Bkfst 11:00 am Worship Service 2:00 pm Youth Dance Performance	10 7:00 am Prayer Call	11 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Move & Groove 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting 7:30 pm YA Bible Study	12 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Bible Study	13 12:00 pm Move & Groove	14 7:00 am Prayer Call	8 10:00 am Youth Usher Meeting 11:00 am Youth Dance Rehearsal
16 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	17 7:00 am Prayer Call	18 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Move & Groove 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting	19 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Bible Study	20 12:00 pm Move & Groove	21 7:00 am Prayer Call	15 11:00 am Prayer in the Square
23 March Birthday Celebration 9:30 am Sunday School w/ Bkfst 11:00 am Worship Service	24 7:00 am Prayer Call <div> <div>7:00 am Prayer Call</div> <div>31</div> </div>	25 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Move & Groove 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting 7:30 pm YA Bible Study	26 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	27 12:00 pm Move & Groove 7:00 pm Ministry Leaders Mtg	28 7:00 am Prayer Call	29 
30 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service						

Birthday Monthly Celebrations

At Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church, we cherish and celebrate the lives of our members, particularly those with birthdays each month. To honor and acknowledge the birthdays of our congregation, the church hosts a Monthly Birthday Celebration on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Celebration Details

Each month, those who have birthdays during that month are invited to participate in the celebration. Members born in that month are encouraged to get in touch with the designated Birthday Month Captains (to be assigned by the Church Office) to coordinate the festivities.

Meal and Dessert Coordination

A special meal and dessert will be served immediately after the Sunday worship service, with enough food for up to 60 people. This is a wonderful time for the church family to gather and enjoy a meal together, offering both joy and nourishment in celebration of the lives within our congregation.

These monthly celebrations are a reflection of the strong sense of community and love at Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church, and they serve as an opportunity to acknowledge God's blessings through another year of life for our members. We encourage those born in each month to be active in making their special day even more memorable by contributing to this tradition.

We look forward to celebrating with our birthday honorees each month, enjoying the fellowship, and lifting one another up in prayer and gratitude for the gift of life.



March Birthdays

3	Major Brooks Holland	20	Alecia Felton
5	Karen Boswell *	20	Beverly Likens
6	Aleari Felton	22	Zemora Metcalf, Jr.
8	Major L. Holland	26	Christopher Lee
8	Leo Upchurch	28	Maudine Lee
16	Michael Holland, Sr.	29	Reginald Williams
18	Frank Lee	31	Absalom Graham *

* Birthday Celebration Captains



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Jonathan L. Pemberton, Pastor