



**BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN**  
**138 YEARS**  
*Church Anniversary*

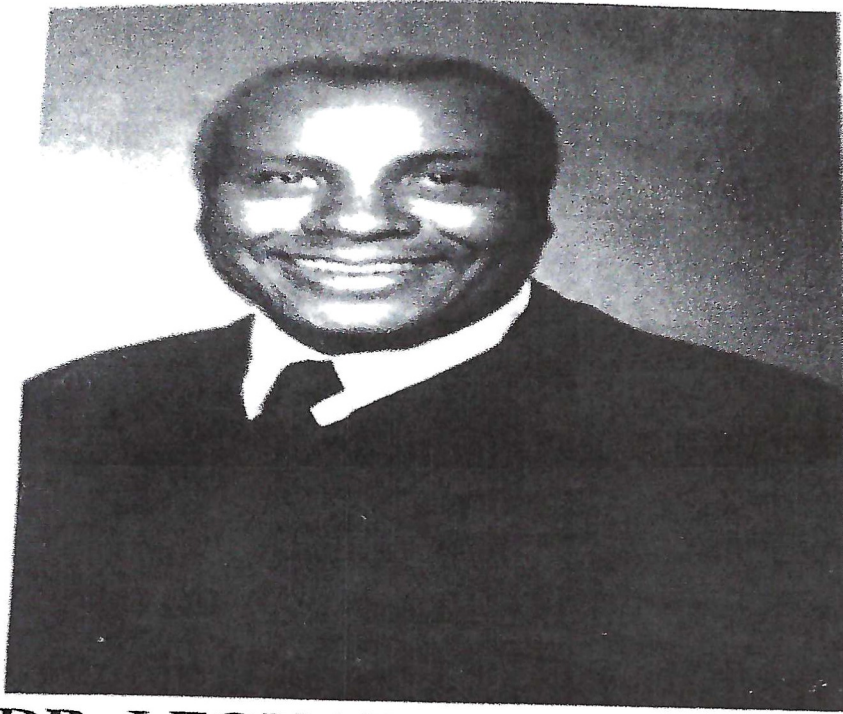
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**SUNDAY • DECEMBER 11 • 10AM**  
**300 EAST 5TH STREET, PLAINFIELD NJ**

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*Guest Speaker*

**REV. DR. LEONARD L. BETHEL**



**DR. LEONARD L. BETHEL,  
B.A., M.DIV., M.A., D.ED.**

Today we welcome home the Rev. Dr. Leonard Bethel has been an ordained Presbyterian minister since 1964. He has served as pastor of the Washington Presbyterian Church in Redding Pennsylvania, Assistant Chaplin at Lincoln

University in Pennsylvania, and a Chaplin at Kirkpatrick Chapel at Rutgers University. From 1982 – 1992 Dr. Bethel served as the pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church until health issues required that he leave his beloved Bethel.

Dr. Bethel is professor emeritus at Rutgers University, New Brunswick having served as a professor from 1969 until his retirement in 2011. During his tenure he established the African Studies Department and served for a period of time as its Chair. He has been an advisor to graduate students in the School of Education and was Director of Counseling for the *Urban University at Rutgers*.

What is most noteworthy about his time at Rutgers is the relationships that he established with students, serving as an advisor and mentor to hundreds of students, supporting them during their years at the university. Many still remain in contact with him

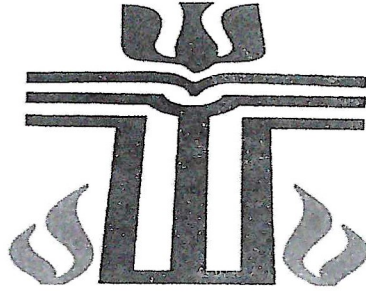
Dr. Bethel has received numerous awards and accolades over the years. Most recently he was the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Letters from his Alma mater, Lincoln University.

He is an author of five books and a soon to be released 6<sup>th</sup> book on.

Dr. Bethel has been married to Veronica Bynum Bethel for 60 years and they are the very proud parents of two adult children Kama Pierce, Esq. and Dr. Amiel Bethel and 5 wonderful grandchildren

Dr. Bethel is known for his commitment to God, service to his community, commitment to civil right, and the importance of the African American church.

Currently he is a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia and an Associate Pastor of the Oxford Presbyterian Church in Germantown, Pennsylvania where he continues to mentor the next generation of Presbyterian Ministers.



## ***Bethel Presbyterian Church***

300 East Fifth Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

<https://bethelpresbyterianchurchplainfieldnj.com/>

December 11, 2022

## **138<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**Theme:** A Community of faith, fellowship, study and service, seeking God's Peace, Justice and Love

*"Forward Ever, Backward Never"*

Dear Heavenly Father, Creator of a Bethlehem birth and of all mankind, we come before you for the many, many blessings that you have bestowed upon us through your son Jesus Christ and for the vision to continue to celebrate Christ with service and love to help Bethel Presbyterian Church survive and thrive for many years to come. **Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after the service for conversation, food and drink. Nursery School Parking lot available corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Roosevelt.**

In Christian Love,

### **The Anniversary Committee**

Elder Charlotte Onque-Wright, Chairperson

Sister Judith Horne Johnson

Elder Fredrica Williams

Elder Hernal Braham

Elder Jeffery A. Wright

Brother Frank McArthur

### **Special Guest**

Rev. Dr. Leonard Bethel, Minister of the Word

Brother Wendell Woods, Minister of Music

Sister Veronica Bethel, Vocalist

Sister Veronica Smith, Vocalist

## Order of Service

December 11, 2022

### Prelude

Brother Wendell Woods

### Welcome

Liturgist, Frederica Williams

Good morning and welcome to Bethel Presbyterian Church. We are so glad that you have chosen this place of worship to honor the Lord's name with us. If you are new to this church, we would like to thank you for worshiping with us and we warmly welcome you as our brothers and our sisters. For our online community some of you starting on Resurrection Sunday in 2022 thank you. Your presence inspires us to keep on pushing. May God bless you all.

### Hymn #207

"Angels from The Realms of Glory"

Elder Hernal Braham

### \*Call to Worship

Elder Jeffery Wright

Good morning everyone let us stand as grateful servants of the Lord.

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory; For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen! Ashe! *You may be seated!*

### Hymn #206

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Elder Hernal Braham

### The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Onque-Wright Family

We watch and wait for the coming of Christ by the lighting of candles. We have lit the first candle of hope and last Sunday we lit the candle of peace. Today we light the candle of Joy. We look forward to the coming of Christ the Light of the world.

### Prayer of Confession

Elder Jeffery Wright

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask for mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. In your great compassion, forgive us and cleanse us from our sins. Create in us a clean heart. O God, renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us with the joy of your salvation and sustain us with our bountiful Spirit. Amen. *Please pause for a minute of Silent Reflection.*

### Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Leonard Bethel

### \*Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Bethel & Congregation

### \*Congregation Hymn

#498 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

**\*Act of Praise:** Gloria Patri-----

The Congregation

*Gloria 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.*

**Prayer of Illumination**

Liturgist Fredrica Williams

Dear God, open our hearts and minds to be able to hear your word. Quiet any uncertainties so we can be closer to you and follow your will and ways. Amen.

**Introduction of our Guest Minister**

Brother Marcus McArthur

**The Old Testament** Exodus 25: 1-9

Brother James Howard

**New Testament** Matthew 18: 18 – 20

**Musical Selection #208** "Away in a Manger"

Sister Veronica Bethel

**Sermon** "Jesus and The Church"

Rev. Dr. Leonard Bethel

**The Invitation to the Lords Supper**

Rev. Dr. Bethel

Song "Break bread together"

Elder, Eric Williams

**Original Poem**

Poet Sister Judith Horne-Johnson

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (in Unison)

Elder Frederica Williams

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

**Musical Selection** "Mary did you Know"

Sister Veronica Smith

**History of Bethel Presbyterian Church**

Brother Marcus McArthur

**Offertory**

Elder Jeffery Wright

**\*Doxology** "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

Congregation

**Announcements**

Liturgist Fredrica Williams

**Hymn** "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"

Elder Hernal Braham

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

Elder Hernal Braham

**Closing Selection #201** "O Holy Night"

Sister Veronica Bethel

**Final Remarks**

Elder Jeffery Wright

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Dr. L. Bethel

**Postlude**

Brother Wendell Woods