

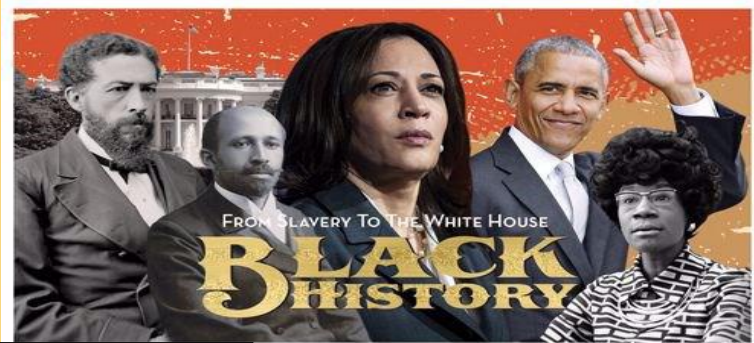
Joshua Baptist Church—Reaching People for Christ – God First!

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Grover, Pastor



**2008—Barack Obama, First African-American
US President**

**2020—Kamala Harris, First black and first Asian-
American US Vice-President.**



Why Me?

Why do you hate us the way that you do? We did no wrong; it was you. You sold us at markets like we were produce of little value or no use.

You stripped us of our dignity and took away our pride—how much longer will hate abide? The same God that created you, created us too.

Our mothers and sisters were raped you see, bore your children two and three. My brothers falsely accused but were hung from a tree or thrown into the sea.

Because of the dark pigment in our skin, please realize it's no sin. Jesus died to set all free. Why won't you let it be? You have excelled and so have we. Check our achievements and you will see. You can cut us down like you do a tree but growth is for us—just wait and see.

Black is beautiful and I'm glad to be a proud creation of God—that's me!

Written by Sister Helen Hill



Negro spirituals are songs created by the Africans who were captured and brought to the United States to be sold into slavery. This stolen race was deprived of their languages, families, and cultures; yet, their masters could not take



JOSHUA'S JOURNAL COMING IN APRIL

Celebrating African-American Heritage

Why is Black History Month celebrated?

Initially, Black History Month was a way of teaching students and young people about black and African-Americans' contributions. Such stories had been largely forgotten and were a neglected part of the national narrative.

Now, it's seen as a celebration of those who've impacted not just the country but the world with their activism and achievements. In the US, the month-long spotlight during February is an opportunity for people to engage with black history, go beyond discussions of racism and slavery, and highlight black leaders and accomplishments.

Why is Black History Month important?

For many modern black millennials, the month-long celebration offers an opportunity to reimagine what possibilities lie ahead. But for many, the forces that drove Woodson nearly a century ago are more relevant than ever.

As Lonnie G. Bunch III, Director of the Smithsonian Institution said at the opening of the Washington D.C.'s National Museum of African American History and Culture in 2016: "There is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history. And there is no higher cause than honoring our struggle and ancestors by remembering".

Famous Christian Leaders | in Black History



Richard Allen (1760-1831), who founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church, is considered the father of the Black church. Born to slaves, he became a Methodist partly because of the church's opposition to slavery and founded his own denomination in 1816.

Jarena Lee (1783-1864) was the first official female preacher of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at a time when women were banned from preaching. She became a traveling minister, walking thousands of miles by foot.



Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) was also a traveling preacher who crusaded for abolition, racial equality, women's rights, and social justice. A Methodist, the former slave never learned to read or write, and dictated her autobiography.

Daniel Alexander Payne (1811-1893) established schools, including Wilberforce University, the first Black-owned and operated college in the United States. He joined the AME Church and became a bishop, greatly expanding the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968) oversaw marches and demonstrations against racial inequality. The ordained Baptist minister's activism and inspirational speeches played a pivotal role in creating the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

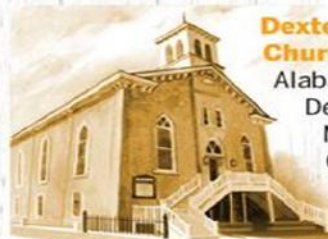
Important Churches | in Black History

Mother Bethel AME Church

(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) is the mother church of the nation's first Black denomination, African Methodist Episcopal. Founded by Richard Allen, it's the oldest property to be owned continuously by African Americans and provided refuge to runaway slaves in the late 1700s.



Dexter Avenue Baptist Church



(Montgomery, Alabama) is now Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who led the congregation

from 1954 to 1960. He organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott from his basement office in the church.

Brown Chapel AME Church (Selma, Alabama) was the headquarters of the voting rights effort during the Civil Rights movement and the starting point for the historic Selma-to-Montgomery marches in 1965.

