To all those who enter here, be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent. Before the service, speak to God. During the service, let God speak to you. After the service, speak to others.”

Black History Sunday

9 am
Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs
President, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and
Pastor, First Missionary Baptist Church of Huntsville, Alabama

(Please scroll down to view Rev. Scruggs’ bio)

Prelude

9 am
Dina Foster Osbourne, Organist

Call To Worship
Leader: Life is a journey and we are pilgrims traveling through a strange land.
People: Guide our feet, Lord, while we run this race.
Leader: In this hour of worship, we come uncovering our blisters, sharing our testimonies, and proclaiming that there is a balm in Gilead.
People: Let us journey on together with those who have gone before, those who walk with us today, and those who are yet to come! We will remember what God has done! Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Processional
"Lift Every Voice and Sing” #540
(Please scroll down to view words)
Invocation and Chant

Responsive Reading
“Black History Observance” #59

Gloria Patri

Prayer and Choral Response

Anthem
9 am 11 am
The Cathedral Choir

“Hold Fast to Dreams” Roland Carter
Guest Soloist: Priscilla Baskerville, Soprano

Hold fast to dreams. For if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams. For if dreams go, life is a barren field covered with snow.
First in the heart is the dream. Then the mind starts seeking away.
Then the hands seek other hands to help; a community of hands to build.
Thus the dream becomes not one man’s dream alone;
Not my dream alone, but our dream, belonging to all the hands who build.
- Langston Hughes

Pastoral Emphasis

Scripture

Meditation
9 am 11 am
The Cathedral Choir

“Deep River” arr. Larry Farrow
Soloist: Justin Austin, Baritone

Sermon and Invitation
Invitational

(Please scroll down)
Offertory

9am

11am

Offertory Sentences & Selections

“Down by the Riverside” Traditional Gospel

Offertory Prayer

Baptism

Recessional

“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”  #464

Benediction and Amen

Postlude

(Please scroll down)
Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing,  
till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
let our rejoicing rise,  
high as the list'ning skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea  
sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun, of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
bitter the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the day when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,  
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
we have come over a way that with tears has been watered  
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who has by thy might, led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray  
lest our feet stray from the places our God where we met thee,  
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world we forget thee,  
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
True To Our God, True To Our Native Land.

(Please scroll down)
Abyssinian Baptist Church

In conjunction with
The Mattie Fletcher Powell Ministry

proudly observe

BLACK HISTORY SUNDAY

with Guest Preacher
Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs

President, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

(Please scroll down)
Reverend Dr. Julius Richard Scruggs is President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated, and Pastor of the renowned First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama. He was born in Elkton, TN to Reverend & Mrs. Earl Scruggs, Sr.

Dr. Scruggs earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at American Baptist College in Nashville, TN, and completed requirements for the Master of Divinity (M. Div.), and Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degrees at Vanderbilt University School of Divinity in Nashville, TN. His pastoral experience began at age 18 at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church (Harvest, AL) where he served from 1960 to 1965. From 1965-1972, he pastored Mt. Ararat Baptist Church (Nashville, TN). He continued to follow the Holy Spirit’s call and pastored the Antioch Baptist Church (East Chicago, IN) from 1972 to 1977. Since January 1977 he has been the shepherd of God’s people at First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville.

On September 10, 2009, in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Scruggs was overwhelmingly elected as 17th President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. During his presidency, Dr. Scruggs has led the largest African American church organization in the nation with vision, integrity, structure, and accountability.

A man of deep social consciousness, Dr. Scruggs is a member of the Board of Trustees at American Baptist College, former board member of the Selma University and former President of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention (President Emeritus). He also authored four books: Meditations on the Church, Baptist Preachers with Social Consciousness: A comparative study of Martin Luther King Jr. and Harry Fosdick, God is Faithful, and How to Study and Teach the Bible.

The accomplishments of President Scruggs have been recognized in "Who's Who in Religion," "Outstanding Young Men in America," and "Personalities in America Hall of Fame." Additionally, he is the 1998 recipients of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award presented by GHIMF and Alpha Phi Alpha Award recipient.

Dr. Scruggs is a much sought-after minister for his biblically-based, doctrinally sound, and life-centered preaching and teaching. His servant-leadership style and his personal integrity have molded and shaped the thrust of First Missionary Baptist Church’s Christian Education emphasis, outreach ministry, stewardship commitment, physical growth and spiritual maturity.

During over 30 years as Pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Scruggs has led his congregation in giving to Home and Foreign Mission causes annually. The church built and paid for two houses in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, allocated funds annually to the program, and members of the church assisted in building twelve Habitat homes.

(Please scroll down)
Even more significant than Dr. Scruggs' many pastoral accomplishments and academic credentials is his genuine love for the people of God. He is a "tender shepherd" who takes his calling seriously. Reverend Scruggs is married to the former Josephine Stewart Tipton. They have two children and are grandparents of three grandchildren.

**WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Sunday Morning Praying Band** assembles **Sunday mornings at 7:00 AM**.
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** meets **at 8:45 AM**
- **Monday Afternoon Bible Class** meets **Mondays at 12 Noon**.
- **Mid-Week Manna Worship Service** held **Wednesday evenings 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**.