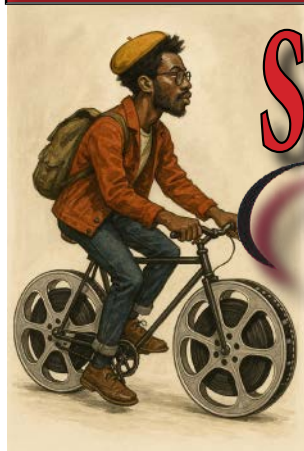


Columnist Launches Weekday Podcast - p. 2

FREE



Southern Fried Film Fest - p. 3

Friday
May 30, 2025
Vol. 11, No. 39
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



SALUTE!

Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Rosa Walker

"Keep alive the dream; for as long as a man has a dream in his heart, he cannot lose the significance of living." - Howard Thurman

CPCA Hosting 148th General Assembly in Huntsville



The Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA) will convene its 148th General Assembly in Huntsville, Alabama, from June 8-12, 2025. The five-day event, themed "Faith: The Firm Foundation," brings together members from across the nation to engage in worship, fellowship, and important denominational matters. (See **Full Story**, Page 9)

Ivy Center Foundation's White Linen Brunch June 21

The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Inc. will sponsor its 16th White Linen Brunch, our annual fundraiser, on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 10 a.m.

The 2025 event will be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on

the campus of the historic Alabama A&M University.

This year's White Linen Brunch will continue to honor remarkable civic, social, educational, and business leaders in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community of



Greater Huntsville.

The 2025 "Making a Difference" honorees will be recognized for extraordinary service in Education, Health, Economics; Religion; and Civic arenas. The most touching part of the brunch occurs as members award the Evangeline Herndon Spillman Single-Parent Scholarship

to deserving single parents to help them further their education.

Persons are invited to this traditionally festive and warm event. Tickets may be purchased for \$75 each. A reserved table for 10 may be purchased for \$850. Purchase tickets electronically via the online store, which may be accessed at: <https://ivcf.memberclicks.net/icf-store>.

In addition to purchasing tickets through the online store, persons may

also purchase tickets or digital ads via mail by completing the attached sponsor form and sending a check made payable to: The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Inc., P. O. Box 17587, Huntsville, AL 35810, postmarked by Monday, June 2, 2025.

Contributions are tax-deductible, and all proceeds from the event support the Foundation's many endeavors to enhance the community.

Commission Recognizing Juneteenth with 'Community Conversation'

Madison County will recognize Juneteenth with its third annual community conversation hosted by District 6 Commissioner Violet Edwards. Honoring the holiday's significance, the district is partnering with Huntsville-based Vision Excellence Company (VEC) for "Oh, Freedom 2025!"

Community leaders will join Commissioner Edwards and Dr.

Karockas "Doc Rock" Watkins of VEC to discuss: The Village R.E.S.E.T. - A conversation on the (R)eligion, (E)ducation, (S)ocial culture, (E)conomics, and (T)raditions of the Black community. "When you reset, you reevaluate and reprioritize. With this conversation, we hope to revisit the core values that helped us build our communities from scratch and have

kept our families strong for decades," said Commissioner Edwards. "How can we lean into those values, and what are the takeaways from our history to help navigate today's chaos?"

This free event is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 10 a.m. It will be held at the Robert "Bob" Harrison Wellness and Advocacy Center, located at 6156 Pulaski Pike, Hunts-

ville, Alabama. The program will feature a panel discussion, followed by a mortgage-burning ceremony to celebrate the center's debt retirement. The festivities will conclude with a food truck rally and networking opportunities.

Juneteenth celebrations often center on family, culture, and education. In the spirit of Juneteenth, event organiz-

ers seek to hold a thought-provoking conversation on resilience and lessons learned from the past.

Sharing their expertise are Dr. Dorothy Huston of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium, Dr. Clarence Sutton, superintendent of Huntsville City Schools, Ms. Tiffany Draper of The Women's Expo Huntsville, and Dr. Lyle Lee of Huntsville Bible College.



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Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in recess this week. Last Thursday at approximately 7:00 a.m., after a marathon session that began with a House Rules Committee markup at 1 a.m. Wednesday, the full House narrowly approved the massive \$3.1 trillion Budget Reconciliation/GOP Tax Cut Bill (officially known by the acronym “OBBA”) by a vote of 215-214-1 (with 2

Rs voting with all D’s and 1 R voting present). OBBA now goes to the Senate for consideration, with a goal of passing it before the July 4th recess.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. On Friday, the President threatened to impose new tariffs starting June 1: a 25% tariff on Apple products (because Apple is shifting production from China to India instead of the U.S.) and a 50% tariff on products from the EU due to his statement that EU trade talks were

“going nowhere” – although he extended the EU deadline to July 9 following a Sunday call with EU Chief Ursula von der Leyen ... The White House suffered a string of losses in court last week: (1) on Thursday a federal judge in Massachusetts ordered the reinstatement of 1,400 fired employees (34% of its workforce) at the Dept. of Education; (2) on Thursday a federal judge in California issued an injunction halting any firings of federal employees and the reorganization of the Executive Branch for the duration of a pending lawsuit; (3) on Friday a federal judge in Massachusetts blocked an order from the White House that would have barred Harvard’s ability to enroll international students and forced current international students at Harvard (about 25% of its student

body) to transfer to another school or leave the U.S.; and (4) on Friday a federal judge in Washington, D.C. struck down an executive order punishing the law firm Jenner & Block, dealing another setback to the administration’s vendetta against prominent firms that represented Trump’s political adversaries or employed lawyers who investigated him in the past.

3. SUPREME COURT. Last Thursday in a 4-4 tie (with Justice Barrett recusing herself), the Supreme Court left in place an Oklahoma Supreme Court decision that blocked a Catholic charter school from becoming the country’s first publicly funded religious charter school. The ruling applies in Oklahoma and does not resolve the question of whether religious charter schools are

constitutional nationwide. On Friday afternoon, Chief Justice John Roberts entered an administrative stay in a case as to whether Elon Musk’s U.S. DOGE Service is a government agency subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

4. HIGHER EDUCATION. Last Wednesday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing on proposals to modify Pell Grant eligibility—such as increasing the part-time credit hour requirement—which community college leaders warned could harm working students. Senators, including Tim Kaine (D-VA), emphasized the necessity of extending Pell to short-term training programs and addressed the ongoing bias toward four-year degrees.

Committee members also highlighted credit loss during transfers, TRIO program cuts in the Trump FY26 budget, and the success of community colleges in retaining students through tuition-free programs.

The hearing reaffirmed bipartisan support for community colleges as engines of upward mobility and financial stewardship, with senators urging reforms that enhance, rather than penalize, their students’ pathways. Community colleges were recognized for the essential role they play in making higher education accessible and affordable.

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Columnist Tim Allston Launches Weekday Podcast: “The Tim Commandments of Leadership”

Tim Allston, respected columnist of *The Valley Weekly*’s “God’s Perspective on Current News,” announces the launch of his new weekday podcast, *The Tim Commandments of Leadership*.

The show airs live Mondays through Fridays at 4:00 p.m. CST across Facebook, YouTube, and

LinkedIn, bringing biblical insight to the forefront of modern leadership and today’s headlines.

Staying true to his mission to educate, equip, and empower emerging and established leaders, Allston’s podcast



will provide timely commentary, spiritual guidance, and biblically grounded responses to the pressing issues of our day.

Each daily weekday episode seeks to uplift leaders while offering thoughtful, God-thought

leadership rooted in scripture.

“I’m grateful for this expanded platform and for the foundation laid by *The Valley Weekly* under the leadership of Dr. Dorothy

W. Huston and Senior Editor Jerome Saintjones,” said Allston. “Together, we continue to shine a light on leadership from a biblical perspective in a chaotic world.”

Listeners are encouraged to tune in, engage, and reach out directly with questions or comments to info@timallston.com.

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This Year’s Film Festival Seasoned to the Taste

Once Again: Drive, Bike, Run — Let’s All Rally Behind the Southern Fried Film Festival!

There are few things more powerful than storytelling — and few platforms more dynamic than film to bring those stories to life. That’s exactly what Huntsville’s own Southern Fried Film Festival sets out to do every summer, and this June, it’s back and bigger than ever. Thanks to the generous support from Arts Huntsville, the City of Huntsville, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts, this year’s festival promises to be an unforgettable celebration of culture, creativity, and community.

But behind the scenes of this growing festival is a local champion whose vision continues to bring it all to life: Trevite Willis, a local film producer, whose dedication to the arts is elevating Huntsville’s cultural landscape. It’s one thing to enjoy great films from afar — it’s another to meet the filmmakers, ask questions, and engage in conversations that linger long after the credits roll. That’s what the Southern Fried Film Festival offers: not just entertainment, but connection.



Running from June 5–8, 2025, the festival will take place at various venues around the Rocket City. Attendees can expect an array of culturally rich films, intimate Q&A sessions, and thought-provoking panels with filmmakers from across the globe — all within reach of our own backyard.

When we support events like the Southern Fried Film Festival, we’re doing more than buying a ticket — we’re investing in our city’s identity as a hub of innovation and artistic expression. We’re encouraging diverse voices, fostering understanding, and strengthening the kind of community that values inclusion and creativity.

So mark your calendars, grab a friend, and make plans to attend this extraordinary event. Let’s show up, show support, and celebrate the visionary work of Trevite Willis and the team behind the Southern Fried Film Festival. They’ve brought the world to Huntsville — now it’s our turn to welcome it.

Let’s make it a full house this June — our city, and its stories, deserve nothing less. Until next week ...

MAY 30 - ALICE MARIE JOHNSON - Alice Marie Johnson is an American criminal justice reform advocate and former federal prisoner. She was convicted in 1996 for her involvement in a Memphis cocaine trafficking organization and sentenced to life imprisonment. In June 2018, after serving 21 years in prison, she was released from the Federal Correctional Institution, Aliceville, after President Donald Trump commuted her sentence. In August 2020, Trump granted Johnson a full pardon. When Trump delivered his State of the Union address on February 5, 2019, Johnson was a guest of the president. Trump asked her to stand up to be recognized, and she received a standing ovation from members of Congress. On August 28, 2020—one day after Johnson spoke at the 2020 Republican National Convention—Trump granted her a full pardon. - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



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The Valley Weekly
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Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "Finding Favor with God"

Genesis 6:8 says, "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord."

According to the Bible, during the days of Noah the entire human race had become wicked and evil. God decided to destroy all the people on Earth. Genesis 6:5 says that "every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil and yet God found favor in Noah."

We should all be thankful for God's grace and favor. Where would we be without it? How can we be successful without the presence of God in our lives?

Noah found favor in God's eyes and was successful in completing the task that God had for him, which was to build an ark.

So, how do we find favor in the eyes of God in a wicked and evil world? Let us consider the characteristics of Noah.

In this scripture, we find that he was a righteous man. The word *righteous* means that he was in right standing with God. Being in

right standing with God means that you are obedient to His word.

It also says that he was blameless among his people. It doesn't say he was perfect; it says he was blameless. Blameless means innocent of wrong doings.

The Bible also tells us that Noah walked faithfully with God. Now to be faithful means that you remain loyal and steadfast. It also means you have to be patient



and wait on God's timing.

So, if we are in right standing with God, if we are blameless among our people, and if we walk faithfully with God just like Noah, we will find success and favor in the eyes of God as well as humans, even in a

wicked and evil world.

Our lives will stay in perfect peace because our minds are stayed on Him.

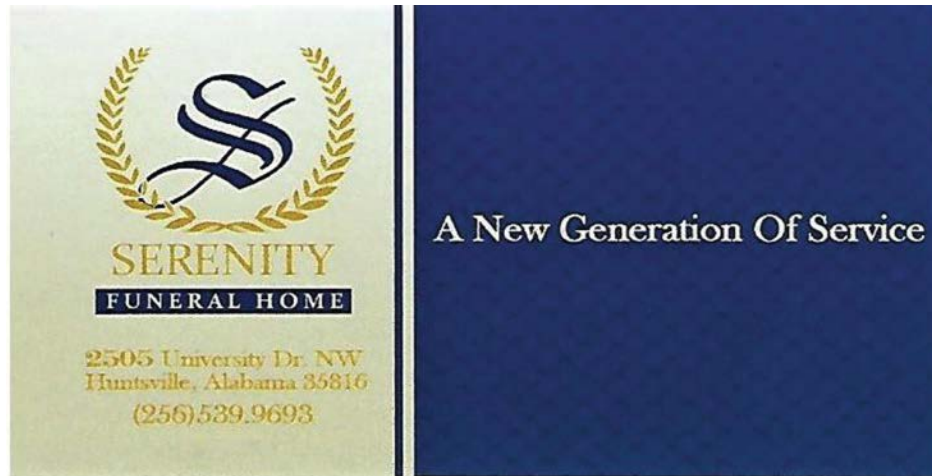
May God grant you spiritual success in being obedient to Him.

Prayer: Father God, encourage us to always seek your favor.

Question: Are you in right standing with God?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com.

NEXT WEEK:
"Payday"



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY DEATHS



SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816
www.serenityfuneralhm.com - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for **MR. JOHN RUSSELL** (b. 1966) will be held Saturday, May 31, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MS. REGINA BROWN** (b. 1965) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MR. CLARENCE HAWKINS** (b. 1954) was Saturday, May 24, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MS. EARNESTINE MCCAULLEY** was Saturday, May 24, at Serenity Funeral Home.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816
www.nelmsmemorial.net - (256) 539-8189

Funeral service for **MRS. EVELYN HIGHT** (b. 1930) will be announced later by Roberts Funeral Home in Birmingham, Alabama. She is the mother of Mrs. Janice Herod-Wilson of Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. ALBERT PARKER** (b. 1968) was Saturday, May 24, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Pastor Felix Parker, Jr., officiating

Funeral service for **REV. JACQUELINE M. WILSON** (b. 1947) was Saturday, May 24, at Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church with Pastor Dr. Gregory Scott officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. REMUS BALL, JR.** (b. 1942) was Friday, May 23, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Dr. C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35810 -
(256) 534-8481 - www.royalfh.com

Funeral service for **MR. CHRISTOPHER HATCHER** will be 12:30 p.m., Saturday, May 31, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Funeral service for **MR. JERRY LEWIS MCCAULLEY, SR.** (b. 1949) was Sunday, May 25, at the Moses Chapel Primitive Baptist Church, 372 Moses Chapel Road, Madison, Ala., with Elder Joe L. Hereford officiating.

When a Good Thing Becomes a God Thing: How I Learned to Manage Even a 'Good' Addiction

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything." -1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV)

My bookshelf was my altar. And in the cathedral of my study, I had unknowingly been worshipping at it for years.

Backstory & Confession

Raised in a home where books were prized, I inherited not just my parents' library, but their lifestyle. I became a bibliophile, a servant-leader seminar junkie, a collector of shrink-wrapped wisdom I never unwrapped!

The TruthTeller™ Moment

Then in 2010, my then-wife brought home *The Servant Leader* by Ken Blanchard. By page 33, I hit a wall. The author quoted Richard Foster's list of distractions that sabotage spiritual focus. I breezed through the first nine. But the tenth one—*"Shun anything that distracts you from seeking first the Kingdom of God"*—undid me.

That's when I saw it: books, my "good" thing, had become my *God* thing.

Theological Mirror

I was reminded of Exodus 4:2, where God asks Moses, "What is that in your hand?" Moses answers, "A staff." God transforms it. The power wasn't in the staff—it was in God's purpose for it.

Unlike Moses, I picked up my bookshelf idol by the tail—and it bit me.

Ego-Holic Signature

Books were my fig leaves—covering the fear of being seen as unprepared or ignorant. I wasn't addicted to reading. I was addicted to the image of always appearing wise.

Recovering Response

That night, I boxed up unread books. My shelves groaned in relief. My then-wife saw the empty space and said, "You're not finished." She was right. The problem wasn't just books. It was ego.

Unfinished But Unafraid

I'm still a book lover. But they no longer cover my fear. They no longer define my worth.

I'm not cured. But I'm no longer mastered.

What's your "good" thing? Don't let it become your God-thing, an addiction. Get help, contact me; let's walk this recovering together.

Written in collaboration with ChatGPT from OpenAI
#GoodThingGodThing #EgoDetox #SpiritualRecovery



Tim Allston

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<https://bit.ly/4aB9Lwm>, <https://bit.ly/4cYZyuz>

Email Address: leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com

Website: www.timallston.com

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Hey, You! Please Get Back on Track!

Life happens.

It's ever-changing, sometimes for good, sometimes not. Little distractions that bring a smile or frown can cause you to lose footing and get off track. You can be so blissful that you want to stay in the moment.

There is nothing wrong with celebrating. However, that moment is over! Don't just stand there in it. Stop, recognize, honor, and move to the next moment. Stay on track. There should be steps to get you to your next goal. As you arrive ... open the door to another stairway.

When the alternative strikes, it can cause you to retreat. Sleep. Feel defeated. Doubt. But don't stop! Keep mov-



ing. Again, acknowledge the moment, but then rise. You can't wallow in it forever. You've got to decide to keep pushing. It isn't over. You're still here, so you have to get back on track and keep moving.

Then, there's that exact spot. You're not excited or down; you're just blah. You are living your day-to-day life getting caught up in mediocrity, just going with the flow. You have a purpose, and that's a waste of time. STOP THAT NOW!

You have something to give. Get Back On Track!

Have the plan to enable you to stay on target. A "man" without a plan for the day is lost before he starts—one of my favorite quotes. Develop it, and understand your purpose. Start with a goal if you haven't figured out your purpose. Have steps to get there. Take them. Be mindful of what you're doing while working towards that goal that happens effortlessly. Your purpose is often right in front of you.

Usually, the easiest thing that serves others takes little effort but gives you joy! Stay busy figuring out what that is!

Stay focused. Stay on Track!

Live fearlessly!

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Valley Weekly
**VALLEY
 EVENTS**
 HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

May 28

Etowah Youth Orchestra
 Performance
 Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment
 2211 Seminole Drive SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 2-3 p.m.
 (Free)

Silent Book Club

The Orion Amphitheater
 (Backstage/Enter via Artist
 Meadow off Amphitheater
 Drive)
 5:30-7 p.m. (Free)

May 29

Thursday Summer Concert
 Series LIVE at Stovehouse
 3414 Governors Drive
 Huntsville, Ala.
 6-9 p.m.

Comedian

"Darren Brand"
 Huntsville Levity Live
 2012 Memorial Parkway SW
 Huntsville, Ala. - 7 p.m.

May 30

21st Annual Cigar Box Gui-
 tar Festival Kick-Off Casino
 Night
 AVIQ Showroom
 1833 University Drive NW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 6 p.m.

Concerts on the Dock

Lowe Mill ARTS &
 Entertainment
 2211 Seminole
 Drive
 Huntsville, Ala.
 6-9 p.m.

The 77 Experience:
 All Things 1977
 Concert

The Electric Belle
 3414 Governors Drive
 Huntsville, Ala. - 7 p.m.

2025 City Lights & Stars:
 Fireball Mail
 Burritt on the Mountain
 3101 Burritt Drive
 Huntsville, Ala.
 7:30 p.m.

May 30-31

Comedian
 "Shuler King"
 Huntsville Levity Live
 2012 Memorial Parkway SW
 Huntsville, Ala.

May 30-June 1

Cigar Box Guitar Festival
 The Orion

May 31

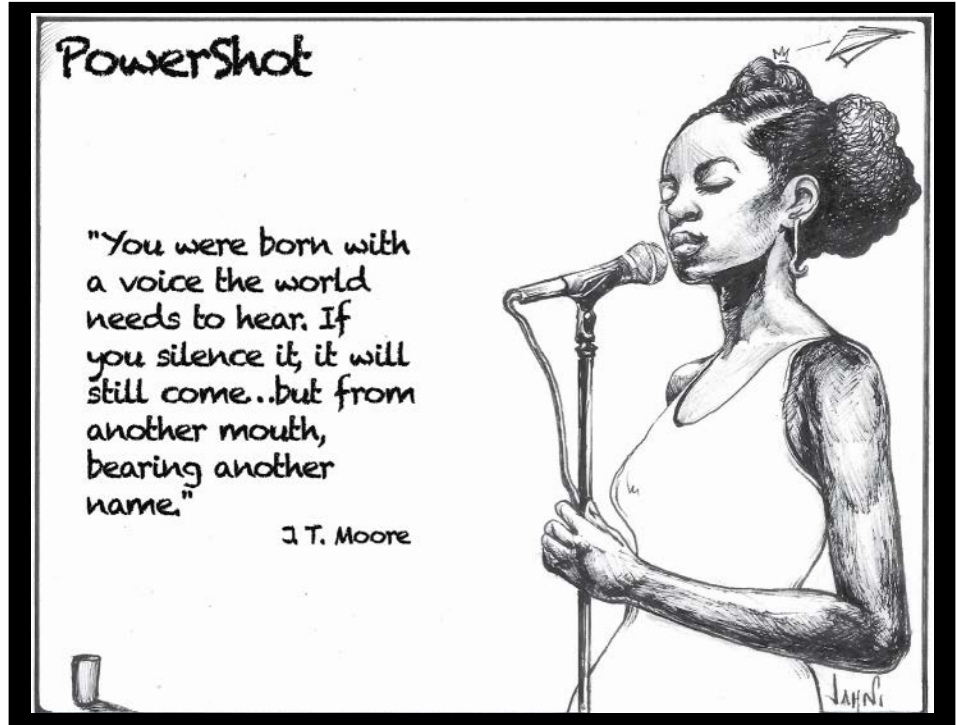
4th Annual Huntsville Choral
 Festival
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 Ferdinand
 Trinity United Methodist
 Church
 5:30 p.m.



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"God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! We are all in God's hands. Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and each other – let us go forward."
 - Pope Leo XIV



Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Mrs. Rosa Walker

Mrs. Rosa Rice Walker is a retired classroom instructor from the Huntsville City Schools System with more than 35 years of teaching experience in a variety of systems and settings.

Mrs. Walker's education career is broad and diverse, encompassing kindergarten through high school levels. Moreover, at the postsecondary level, she served as assistant director of the Career Testing and Education Development Center at Alabama A&M University; developed and administered summer learning camps at Alabama State University; and worked in admissions at Troy University (Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., campus). She has taught in public school systems in Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Beyond her public school experience, she also taught at a private Christian academy and served as a teaching effectiveness consultant at another. Additionally, she was a consultant and presenter with Empowerment Concepts, Inc., a business she co-founded with her husband.

Rosa grew up in Huntsville and graduated from William Hooper Councill High School. She earned an Associate of Arts degree at Crane [now Malcolm X] College in Chicago, Ill., a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Alabama A&M University,

a master's degree in counseling at Troy University, and a master's degree in elementary education at Alabama A&M University. Additionally, she attended Hampton University in Virginia for certification in school administration. Her professional certifications and training include Comprehensive Integrated Reading and Composition, Cooperative Learning, Education Technology, High School Enrichment Science, Huntsville Alliance Science Program, Learning Styles, Multi-Cultural Education, Professional Education Training (PET), Service Learning and William Glasser's Choice Theory and Reality Therapy.

Rosa conducted system-wide in-service training, as well as specialized training for individual schools, both public and private, and she has written several mini-grants for reading and science instruction. She also volunteers time to mentor/tutor local high school and college students.

Her current and past board affiliations include: AAMU-UAH Regional In-Service Education Center, Huntsville Education Association, Regional Hands-On Science Center (Tullahoma, Tenn.), Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and South Jackson Civic Center (Tullahoma, Tenn.).

Rosa's community involvement includes Alpha



Kappa Alpha Sorority, Huntsville Human Relations Council, Huntsville Depot Museum Curriculum Group, Junior Achievement Classroom Presenter, Madison County Retired Teachers Association, Red Cross Teen Baby Sitter Skills Instruction program, Searcy Homes Tutorial Program, United Negro College Fund Planning Committee-Oakwood University, United Way Speaker On-Loan Program, Village of Promise and Weeden House Docent.

She has been nominated for the Alabama State Board and Department of Education Teacher of the Year Program, representing East Clinton Elementary School. Rosa is a member of St. John AME Church, where she has taught both Sunday and Bible School, served on the newsletter staff and is currently a stewardess and member of the church's Caregivers Ministry.

She and her husband, Dr. Arthur Walker, have one adult daughter, Angela.



"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valleyweeklyllc.com.



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No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Seventh
Sunday
of Easter



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Second Lesson:

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

GOSPEL:

John 17:20-26



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but we're
celebrating
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AAMU Wins Seven Telly Awards

Alabama A&M University was named the Gold Winner for educational institutions in the 2025 Telly Awards, Tuesday. The honor was just one of seven (7) awards earned by AAMU in this year's competition. The University's 2025 institutional commercials – which launched in select markets

during Super Bowl LIX – earned the top honor which highlighted multiple wins.

AAMU's 2024 Magic City Classic Rivalry Week Series also earned the following honors: the Silver Award for Film & Shorts, the Silver Award for Lighting, the Silver Award for Production Design, the Silver Award for

Character Design, the Silver Award for Directing, and the Bronze Award for Culture & Lifestyle category.

"The relevance of the Rivalry Week Series is a testament to the special nature of our traditions," said Assistant Vice President Aaron J. Thompson. "Alumni, fans, and newcomers to the

brand alike enjoy and find connection to the storytelling. That's something that has reverberated into awards season, and we're happy to bring recognitions to The Hill through these projects."

Titled "Heartbeat on the Hill", the institutional commercials also celebrate the 150th Anniversary and

have earned industry-wide applause since launching in February.

"Authenticity was the top priority in the development of our new institutional spots," said Thompson. "Our students, staff, and amazing partners at UWG were all locked in on not producing just another University

commercial, but one that conveyed the true spirit of Alabama A&M. The spots strike that tone while centering our vibrant student-life and beautiful campus in the storytelling process. It's always rewarding when that approach is recognized on a platform like this."




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CPCA to Hold 148th General Assembly in the Rocket City June 8-12

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA) is pleased to announce its 148th General Assembly, to be held in Huntsville, Alabama, from June 8-12, 2025.

The worship service will be held at the Historic Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, and the business sessions will be held next door at the National Cumberland Presbyterian Denominational Center. The five-day event, themed "Faith: The Firm Foundation," will convene clergy, church leaders, and members from across the nation to engage in worship, fellowship, and critical denominational business.

The theme is inspired by Lamentations 3:21-23, which reminds us: "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; 1 great is your faithfulness."

Under the leadership of Moderator, the Reverend Dr. Michael Jones (Tennessee Valley Presbytery), and Vice-Moderator, the Reverend Perry Jackson (Hiwassee Presbytery), the General Assembly will include a series of worship services, business sessions, educational workshops,



Church Street CPCA, Huntsville

and special events.

Other key officers include Stated Clerk Elder Vanessa K. Midgett (Huntsville Presbytery) and Engrossing Clerk Sister Vanessa Collier (Huntsville Presbytery). The assembly will open on Sunday, June 8, 2025, with registration, an informal meet-and-greet hosted by the Tennessee Valley Presbytery, and the Commissioners' Orientation Briefing. On Monday, June 9, the Opening Worship and Holy Communion Service will set a reverent tone for the week, followed by the first business session.

Among the featured events:

- **CPCA Revitalization Workshop** facilitated by the Reverend Dr. Michael Higgins (Open to the Public)
- **Youth Unity Choir**

Concert (Open to the Public)

- **Traditions Luncheon** (Tickets Required - Purchase in Advance). Keynote Speaker: Chaplain at Stillman College (scholarships will also be awarded).
- **Alabama Synod Bar-B-Que Cook-Off** (Closed event)
- **Moderators' Reception** – Music details pending, By Invitation Only.

We are incredibly excited to announce that the CPCA Youth Choir will perform in concert on Tuesday night, June 10, 2025, at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This will be a powerful evening of worship, music, and praise as our youth share their God-given talents with the CPCA family. As the Psalmist declares, "Sing

to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!" (Psalm 105:2, ESV). Music is a powerful way to worship, uplift, and inspire, and we look forward to seeing our youth come together in one voice to magnify the Lord.

The General Assembly is honored to welcome Chaplain (Colonel-Retired) David M. Lockhart as one of the keynote speakers. A native of Harvest, Alabama, Colonel Lockhart served 25 years in the U.S. Army as a dedicated chaplain. Following his military career, he has become a sought after motivational speaker and an author, with publications including *The Table Talk Series: Volume One: The Impact of Fred Shuttlesworth on the Civil Rights Movement* and *Volume Two: Dr. Martin Luther King*

Jr., the Prophet of Love.

Colonel Lockhart's passion for servant leadership has led him to inspire audiences in corporate settings, youth groups, religious organizations, academia, and community outreach programs.

His insights on faith, leadership, and perseverance will be a highlight of this year's assembly.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America is the first and only African American denomination in the United States of America that adheres to the Presbyterian form of government and was founded during the mid-1800s by freed African American slaves. Desiring to worship their God freely and independently, hope and vision arose within the founders; they were guided by the Holy Spirit to form the Colored

Cumberland Presbyterian denomination.

Location & Additional Information

Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church 228 Church Street NW, Huntsville, AL 35801

Lodging Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton Huntsville Hotel 800 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL 35801 Phone: (256)-539-7373

For more details about the 148th General Assembly, please contact the General Assembly Office, located in the CPCA Denomination Center (Room 100/101), which will be open throughout the event.

Join us for a spiritually enriching and transformative experience as we gather to strengthen our faith, honor our traditions, and shape the future of the CPCA.

To learn more about the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of America and this year's host presbytery, join their online virtual tour and informational session on May 18th at 4 p.m.

Contact: Venessa Edmonds, venedmon@hotmail.com or (256) 340-4824.