



BACCALAUREATE

SUNDAY

Worship Service

Beulah AME Church

3175 Florence Highway – Sumter, SC 29153

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Church School: 9:00am

Worship Service: 10:00am

Wednesday Bible Study at 6:00pm

Right Reverend James L. Davis
Presiding Prelate of the 7th Episcopal District

Reverend Adrian R. Kollock, Sr.
Presiding Elder of the Sumter District

Reverend James B. Leonard, Pastor
Post Office Box 7425 – Florence, SC 29502 phone: (1-843-430-0306)

**BEFORE THE SERVICE, SPEAK TO GOD!
DURING THE SERVICE, LET GOD SPEAK TO YOU!
AFTER THE SERVICE, SPEAK TO EACH OTHER!**

Reverend James B. Leonard

Baccalaureate Worship Service

Sunday, May 17, 2026

10:00AM

Sis. LaShonda Charleas Harvin – Worship Leader

ORDER OF SERVICE

***THE PROCESSIONAL..... “God Of Our Fathers” #568**

Graduating Class of 2026

Escorted by the Marshalls – Bro. Gabriel Lesane and Bro. Kingston Smith

***THE DOXOLOGY “PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. **AMEN.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP *Worship Leader

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down.

People: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

Leader: For he is the Lord our God.

People: And we are the people of his pasture. And the sheep of his hand.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE “To God Be the Glory” #21**

To God be the glory, great things He has done;

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain: *Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!*

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,

And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

To every believer the promise of God;

The vilest offender who truly believes,

That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. **Refrain**

THE INVOCATION..... *Bro. Charles Grant

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

****No one to enter or leave at these designated times!***

***THE SCRIPTURAL READING.....Sis. Kaitlyn Blackwell**
Acts 1:6-14 New King James Version

- 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"
- 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.
- 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
- 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,
- 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."
- 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.
- 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.
- 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

***THE SUMMARY OF THE DECALOGUE (*Congregation and singing*)**

Leader: Hear what Christ our Savior saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory 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.**

THE OFFERINGS (Tithes, Benevolent, and General Offerings)

***THE STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:**

Matthew 6:33, NIV: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Our Stewardship Prayer (*In Unison*)

Lord God, take our gifts, large or small, and let them build the Kingdom. We realize that no gift is small and no service unrewarded in the economy of God. Amen.

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER** (*congregation please stand*) **"ALL THINGS COME OF THEE"**

****All things come of Thee O Lord; and of Thine own, have we given Thee. Amen***

****No one to enter or leave at these designated times!***

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER.....*Dr. Rebecca McCauley*

THE MINISTRY IN MUSIC *The Heavenly Highlights and Inspiration Choir*

THE SERMON *Rev. Dr. Adam Lamont China*
Pastor of Flat Rock AME Church in Abbeville, SC

*THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP *Pastor Leonard*

The Graduating Class of 2026

~ The Presentations of Gifts ~

The Women's Missionary Society - Dr. Brenda F. Bowens
Brother Keith Britton and Sis. Mary Cooke

~ Replies from the Graduates ~

~ The Remarks ~

Bro. Keith Britton - Steward ProTem and Bacculaureate Committee
Closing Remarks - Rev. James B. Leonard, Pastor

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS *Sis. Rashida Johnson*

THE PASTOR'S REMARKS

***THE APOSTLE'S CREED** *(Congregation please stand)*

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead; and buried. The third day he arose from the dead' he ascended into heaven and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

***THE CLOSING HYMN** **"PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW"**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

THE BENEDICTION

***THE RECESSIONAL** *Marshals, Participants and the 2026 Graduating Class*
(Congregation, please remain in place for the recessional)

**No one to enter or leave at these designated times!*

Meet our speaker.....Reverend Dr. Adam LaMont China



Rev. Dr. Adam LaMont China is the oldest son of Rev. and Mrs. Robert L. China Jr. He was educated in the public schools of Sumter District 17 and is a graduate of Sumter High School. He is also a graduate of Morris College in Sumter with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Broadcast Media. He has done further studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center and Columbia International University. He earned a Master of Divinity from Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary and earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dr. China spent 13 years in the field of journalism media as a radio personality, television news editor, special correspondent, and news videographer. He has interviewed people from all walks of life, including Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Rev. Dr. China is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. where he has served as Director of Social Action. He has served the AME Church in various capacities, including: local president of the Sons of Allen; local YPD president,

conference historiographer, vice president and Episcopal chairperson, and as Coordinator of the Columbia Conference Sons of Allen, where he served the Men's Ministries of over 87 congregations. He was appointed to Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin's Faith Coalition. He is also a co-founder of the Midlands Organized Response for Equity and Justice (MORE Justice).

Rev. Dr. China has received numerous awards, such as the Beulah AME Achievement Award, Spring Hill AME Man of the Year, WLTX Employee of the Quarter, and 1998 Outstanding Young Man of America.

Rev. Dr. China served as pastor of Adams Northeast AME in Columbia, SC for 16 years. Under his leadership, this congregation grew in membership, tithes and offerings, and constructed a new sanctuary and administrative wing. He is now the proud pastor of Flat Rock AME Church in Abbeville, SC.

Rev. Dr. China is the proud father of two sons, Alexander LaMont and Adam Jameson China.



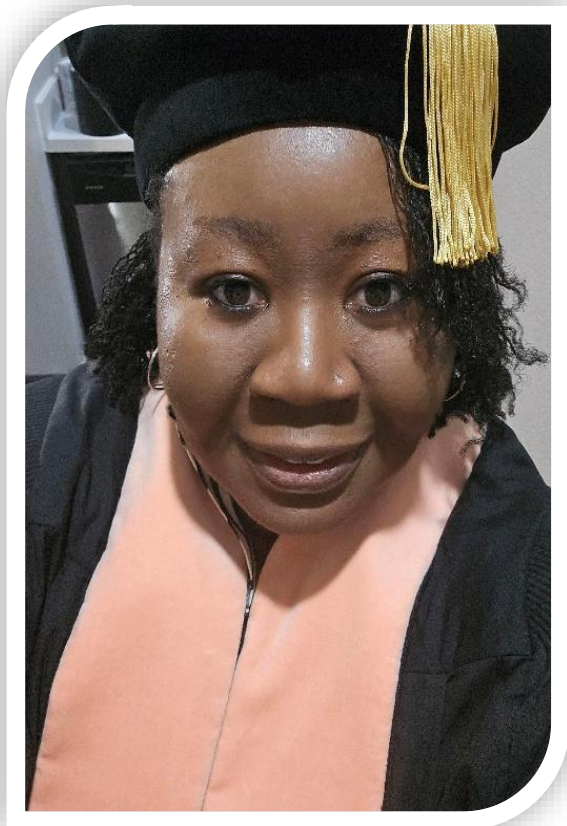
MEET THE 2026 GRADUATES



Rev. Dr. Adam LaMont China

Rev. Dr. Adam China is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Robert L. China, Jr. He is a graduate of Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry. He is the pastor of Flat Rock AME Church in Abbeville, SC of the Piedmont Conference. He has served the AME Church in various capacities. He has been actively involved with the Sons of Allen and the Young People's Department (YPD). He is a graduate of Sumter High School and Morris College.

Motto: My faith fuels my works.



Dr. Rebecca McCauley

Dr. Rebecca McCauley the daughter of Willie McCauley, Sr. and the late Mary McCauley. She graduated from Capella University on August 26, 2025 with a Doctorate of Health Administration with a Specialization in Healthcare Quality and Analytics. Dr. McCauley is a Compliance Manager for Tandem Health. She received a certificate from the Sumter Chamber of Commerce FUEL Program and hopes to open her own business in the future. At Beulah AME Church, she is a member of the Trustee Board and the Women's Missionary Society. She serves as the Big Mak Coordinator for the Sumter Area Women's Missionary Society. She has six siblings. She enjoys traveling, writing short stories and poems, and reading. She is guided by Isaiah 41:10.

Favorite Scripture

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10.



LaShonda Charleas Harvin

LaShonda Charleas Harvin is the daughter of Rev. Druscilla Harvin. She is a graduate of Liberty University with a Masters of Arts in Human Services Counseling: Dobson Center Parenting and Child/Adolescent. At Beulah AME Church, she is the Third Vice President of Women's Missionary Society, a Young Adult Missionary (YAM), an advisor of the Janie Mae Green Youth Choir, and a member of The Mass Choir. She is a member of the Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society in Social Sciences. She is a graduate of Sumter High School and Saint Leo University.

Favorite Scripture

God is within her; she will not fall. Psalm 46:5a



Charles James Grant

Charles James Grant is the son of Kevin Grant Sr. and Sheila Davis Grant. He is a graduate of Winthrop University with a Masters of Athletic Training. At Beulah AME Church, he is a member of Audiovisual Ministry, the Trustee Board, the Young People's Department (YPD), and the Mass Choir. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and he is an Event DJ. He has been accepted into the Doctoral Program for Occupational Therapy at Francis Marion University. He is a graduate of Crestwood High School, the University of South Carolina at Sumter (USC-S), and Lander University.

Favorite Scripture:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24





Kaitlyn Blackwell

Kaitlyn Blackwell is the daughter of Bridget and Philip Blackwell. She is the granddaughter of Hattie Bell McLeod Davis and the late Lucious Davis. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina-Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude. At Beulah AME Church, she was active with the Praise Dance Ministry and YPD. She was a Spring 2024 initiate of the Iota Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She was active in Pillars for Carolina, a M.A.P.P. Mentor, a participant with the Apple Core Initiative, and a University 101 Peer Leader. She received awards from the Apple Core Initiative and the Outstanding Achievement Award. Kaitlyn enjoys doing community service, especially volunteering with Harvest Hope Food Bank, Families Helping Families, the F.A.M.M. Foundation, and a community soup kitchen. She is a graduate of Westwood High School in Blythewood, SC.

Favorite Scripture:

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11



LaMonte S. Harvin

LaMonte S. Harvin is the son of Rev. Drusilla Harvin and Jose' P. Martinez, Jr. He is a December 2025 graduate of Kansas Wesleyan University with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a 3.84 GPA. He is a retired United States Army Staff Sergeant and Combat Medic who proudly served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He was inducted into the Rowan University Athletic Hall of Fame on October 21, 2018 for Basketball. His dedication to service, leadership, faith, and academic excellence continues to inspire those around him. He has been married to Sequena Harvin for eleven years. His siblings are twin, Shawn D. Harvin and LaShonda C. Harvin Franklin. His children Tatiana Harvin, Jahi K. Harvin, TaMya Harvin and Eric Green who is also graduating with a major in Sports Management. He has five grandchildren.

Motto: Excuses are tools of the weak and incompetent; don't make excuses.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTE: *Beulah's Van Ministry - Please call 803-840-9324 by 9.00am Saturday with your name and address to arrange pickup for Sunday worship service.*

NOTE: *Beulah's Wednesday night virtual Bible Study. Link information is sent out via e-blast and text.*

NOTE: *This is an election year for the state of South Carolina. Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements for voting by Absentee may apply for an Absentee Ballot with their local voter registration office. For additional information, please contact Sis. Mary Cooke, Social Action Chairperson*

NOTE: *Thursday webinar series @ 7pm sponsored by our 7th Episcopal District Leader, Bishop and Supervisor Davis. Next session is Thursday, May 7th @ 7pm. Presentation: "Artificial Intelligence, Real Impact: Ministry in the Matrix". Link information to register and attend these powerful sessions will be sent out by eblast.*

SED Presents: "Mission Beyond the Gates" Dominican Republic Trip November 23rd-29th, 2026. For more information Contact call Dr. Nicole Pass at 1-800-438-7672 or email: jld123bishop@yahoo.com

Enrollment site online: <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/7thepiscopaldistrictwecaretour>

NOTE: Registration (\$125) is now open for the upcoming SED Lay Retreat, June 12th-13th at Allen University. Any questions, please contact Sis. Mary Cooke, Dr. Brenda Bowens or Bro. Keith Britton

NOTE: Registration is now open for the Seventh Episcopal District Summer Summit, July 12th-15th, at the Florence Civic Center. Early registration is \$150. You can register online at: <https://www.amec7.com>

May

23rd:..... NECB WMS Statistical Report Training Workshop – Beulah AMEC @ 10:00am (Area Chairs, Local WMS Presidents, Financial Secretaries, Treasurers) and is open to everyone. Sis. Eva M. Grant, Presenter

24th:..... Beulah's Pentecost and Memorial Day Observance Worship Service – Rev. Robert China, Jr., Speaker

26th:..... CDMC and Commissioners meeting with participants and parents @ Wayman Chapel – 6:30pm

30th..... Sumter Area WMS/YPD Spiritual Health Workshop-10am at Howard Chapel AMEC @ 10am

31st..... Beulah's WMS Young Adult Members Worship Service – Sis. Della Lesane Player, Speaker

31st..... WMS Big MAK Sunday. Please submit your Big MAK hours electronically or complete the form.

31st:..... Sumter District Pentecost Worship Service – 2:00pm at Wayman Chapel AMEC

31st: Sumter District Pentecost Worship Service, 2:30pm at Wayman Chapel AME Church

June:

6th:..... Sumter Area WMS Workshop – 10am (Virtual) (canceled)

9th-11th: Beulah's Vacation Bible School 6pm-8pm

12th:..... SED Lay Retreat @ Allen University

14th:..... Beulah's Children's Day and Youth Choir Worship Service

14th..... Beulah's Honor Roll Recognition. Report cards must be received in advance by June 11th

20..... Beulah's Father's Day Dinner sponsored by the Ladies' Club at 12 noon

21st..... Sons of Allen Celebrating Father's Day Worship Service and Remembering Emanuel 9

22nd-24th: AMEC General Board and Bishop's Council Meeting – Orlando, FL

24th-26th: AMEC CED 20th Quadrennial – Orlando, FL

27th:..... Sumter District Church School Convention at the Sumter Civic Center

28th:..... Beulah's Church Anniversary and Family/Friends Worship Service

29th:..... Beulah's WMS Women's Bible Study at 6:30pm

30th:..... NECB WMS Gun Violence Forum (Virtual) at 6:00pm

COMMUNITY:

New positions have recently been added to the [Sumter County Job Openings page](#). We encourage you to review the opportunities and, apply if interested, or share them with qualified individuals in the community who may be interested.

Also, the county is currently hiring 6–8 Summer Camp Program Site Assistants for the upcoming Summer Camp Program. This is a great opportunity for graduating high school seniors, teachers, school employees, college students, and others seeking summer employment.

Camp Site Locations: • Catchall-Shaw Community Center; • Salterstown Community Center; • Ebenezer Community Center

Please keep our sick and shut-in members and bereaved families in prayer!

NOTES:

Text: _____

Introduction _____

Main Points

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Conclusion _____

Welcome!

Enter to Worship! Depart to Serve!



**POST OFFICE BOX 2713
3175 FLORENCE HIGHWAY
SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29151
(803-495-3999) phone
Web: beulahame.org
Email: beulahame@gmail.com**

Reverend James B. Leonard, Pastor

