



## Rev. John Harris Bethea

December 13, 1944 - February 18, 2020

BETHEA, Rev. John Harris - Age 75, passed away Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at his residence. Family hour 10:00 AM Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church, 3502 Lapeer Rd., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM, Pastor Dr. Marvin A. Jennings Sr., officiating. Interment Lovedale Memorial Cemetery, G-5175 E. Bristol Rd., Burton, MI. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the Church 10:00 AM Saturday. Rev. Bethea will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM Friday, with family present to receive friends from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

Rev. John Harris Bethea aka "Louie", age 75, of Flint, Michigan peacefully went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. John was born on December 13, 1944, in Washington, D.C. the son of King David and Marie Bethea.

Rev. Bethea graduated from Columbus High School in Lakeview, SC where his favorite subjects were history and math and his favorite activities were football, basketball, baseball and track. His childhood friends were Grady Johnson and Robert Bryant. After High School he was enrolled at Vorhees College in Denmark, SC where he played football. John obtained a Bachelor of Theology Degree from the Northern Baptist School of Religion in Newark,

NJ.

Rev. Bethea was ordained by Rev. Radden at the Friendship Baptist Church in Rahway, NJ. During his ministry, he served as Pastor of the Greater Providence Missionary Baptist Church in Newark, NJ and served as Associate Minister at Evangelist Center Baptist Church and Mt. Olivet Baptist Church of Newark NJ, Miracle Baptist Church of Plainfield NJ, Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church and Grace Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church of Flint, Michigan. In addition, he served as Acting Minister at the Forest Nursing Home in Newark, NJ. Rev. Bethea was affiliated with The Baptist Ministers Alliance of Flint MI, Newark Minister's Conference of Newark and Vicinity, The Garden State Convention, The Committee of Black Churchmen of NJ, National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., The Shiloh Association of NJ and the NAACP.

As a child, his favorite foods were banana pudding and macaroni and cheese. He enjoyed playing with his siblings and Sport, the family dog. Rev. Bethea enjoyed going to Myrtle Beach with his family as well as going to the Annual Fish Fry where there were fun-filled activities such as sack-races, baseball and hide-and-seek. He would also go hunting with his father for squirrels, rabbits and raccoons.

Rev. Bethea loved family and cherished his position as husband and patriarch. Everyday, he would remind his sweetheart, Eula C., that he loved her and that she was the best thing that happened to him. They enjoyed going to the annual family reunions and going on long drives to view fall foliage. Rev. Bethea would bring her flowers- just because. They just had fun together. Rev. Bethea loved unique designs and dreamed of visiting the Taj Mahal, The Great Wall of China, and Egypt. He enjoyed playing Chess and listened to a wide variety of music like the sounds of Sam Cooke & The Soul Stirrers, Curtis Mayfield, Jessye Norman and Motown. His favorite Christmas Carol was "Silent Night".

The poem 'If' by Rudyard Kipling helped him develop a personal philosophy for his life. When asked what one word best described his life, he said it was

the word Conviction. He admired preachers like his pastor, Dr. Marvin A. Jennings Sr., Rev. B.F. Johnson, Rev. Henry Fuller and Rev. Gardner Taylor. He appreciated good preaching and he attended the Hampton Ministers Conference for many years with great jubilation. When asked how he would like to grow spiritually, he replied "I would like to be a better preacher....more effective in reaching people."

Rev. Bethea is survived and cherished by: his loving sweetheart and devoted wife of 17 years, the love of his life, Eula Bethea; his children from the union of Mary Page, Glendoreia (Moustapha) Diop , John Bethea, Jr., Carlensha (Darrel) Grady, all of New Jersey; his siblings and in-laws, Moses Bethea of New Jersey, Andrew (Laura) Bethea of Georgia, Mary Bethea, Alexander (Gloria) Bethea and Betty Bethea of New Jersey; step-children, Gail Toles, Thomas Toles and Tywan Iverson (special nephew) of Michigan; sisters-In-law, Ruby Walker of Arkansas and Charlester Toles of Michigan; and step-grand-children, Joshua Guidry (best friend and Bubby), Brittany Toles, Marcus Toles, Roshawnda Williams, Taisha Toles, Thomas Toles, Jr., Kortez Toles, Kynika Thompson and London Toles of Michigan. In addition, there's a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, church members and associates to cherish his memory and carry on the legacy of love and generosity in Jesus' Name we pray.

Rev. Bethea was preceded in death by his parents, King David and Marie Bethea, siblings, Pharoh (Barbara) Bethea, King Edward Bethea, Walter James Bethea (toddler), Horace Bethea, Joe Louis Bethea (infant) and step-son, Sercy Smith.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith  
2 Timothy 4:7

# Cemetery Details

## Lovedale Memorial Cemetery

G-5175 E. Bristol Rd.  
Burton, MI

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

FEB 28. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-6666  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<https://lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Family Present

FEB 28. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-6666  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<https://lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Family hour

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FEB **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church  
3502 Lapeer Rd.  
Flint, MI

## Service

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FEB **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church  
3502 Lapeer Rd.  
Flint, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. John Harris Bethea*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *I didn't know his name, but I would see him walking through the dialysis. He would always say Good morning. Even if he was feeling bad. Always had a smile on his face. He will be missed. God bless the fa*

**Carnie Palmer** - March 05, 2020 at 10:08 AM



“ *Shauna Chambers lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Harris Bethea*



**Shauna Chambers** - February 29, 2020 at 10:35 AM

DC

“ To my Sister Eula, I pray at this time that God give you the strength, to get through this difficult journey. We are family. I am here for you. He will surely be missed. Rev. Bethea was a man of action and few words. Yet he showed love and concern for everyone. We thank God for allowing our lives, to have been touched by his presence. His legacy and achievements in life will always be remembered as he humbly demonstrated, to show love to his family and others while proclaiming God's word.

You have my deepest heartfelt love and sympathy at this difficult time. I realize what you are going through. I'm praying for you and your family.

Your Sister in Christ;  
Dr. Carolyn D. Davis and Children



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**Dr.Carolym D. Davis and Children** - February 28, 2020 at 11:04 PM



“ 55 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home** - February 28, 2020 at 10:49 AM

BR

“ *BrendaFluker lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Harris Bethea*



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**BrendaFluker** - February 27, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. John Harris Bethea.*



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February 27, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Rev. John Harris Bethea.*



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February 27, 2020 at 01:27 PM

JD

“ *LOVED OUR ROBUST CONVERSATIONS. .  
CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY.  
RIP JOHN.*

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**June Dungee** - February 27, 2020 at 09:45 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rev. John Harris Bethea.*



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February 26, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ *Rose Topps lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Harris Bethea*



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**Rose Topps** - February 26, 2020 at 03:51 PM



“ *Velma Williams lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Harris Bethea*



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**Velma Williams** - February 24, 2020 at 05:44 PM



“ *John & Tujunana Reaves lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Harris Bethea*



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**John & Tujunana Reaves** - February 23, 2020 at 03:39 PM

PR

“ *To the Bethea Family:*

*I was sorry to hear about the passing of your loved one. Death is liken to a thief that comes and takes away our love ones. Or due to old age and sickness we lose that precious gift of life that leads to death.*



*However, have you ever asked: Is death the end of it all? Or is there something else after death? The bible clears up any question we might have about death. It also shows that there is a real hope for persons who have faith.*

*Yours truly,  
Patricia*

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**Patricia Rison** - February 22, 2020 at 12:15 PM

SJ

“ *To the Family of Rev. John Bethea,  
Reverend Bethea always provided clarity to scriptures during Bible Study at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Newark, NJ. Even during his visits after he moved to Michigan. A Reverend and a Friend,  
You will truly be missed, 🙏🙏🙏  
Sister Shelley I. Jackson- Cox  
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Newark, NJ  
Church Administrator*

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**Shelley Jackson-Cox** - February 21, 2020 at 11:54 AM

AP

“ *Sending prayers to the family. Minister Bethea will be missed. Shelton & Anna Pinnix*



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**Anna Pinnix** - February 20, 2020 at 02:51 PM

PW

“ *Pam Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Harris Bethea*



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**Pam Williams** - February 20, 2020 at 11:10 AM

VK

“ *Vivian Kelley lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Harris Bethea*



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**Vivian Kelley** - February 20, 2020 at 08:20 AM

RJ

“ *REV. JACKSON sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Harris Bethea*



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**REV. JACKSON** - February 20, 2020 at 07:44 AM

PW

“ *Pam Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Harris Bethea*



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**Pam Williams** - February 19, 2020 at 09:37 PM

LC

“ *Prayer for the entire family, he will surely be missed. May God comfort & give peace.*



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**Loria Corder** - February 19, 2020 at 03:58 PM