Celebration of Life, Legacy, and Love of
REV. JUNIUS BOYD DOTSON

Sunrise
AUGUST 7, 1965

Sunset
FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 11:00am

Windsor Village United Methodist Church
6011 W. Orem Dr. | Houston, Texas 77085

Kirbyjon Caldwell, Eulogist
Dr. Michael L. Bowie, Jr., Officiating
A TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER
Written by Wesley Dotson

On behalf of my family, I’d like to thank everyone that is here today and those who have sent their condolences. We have received so many messages of thoughts and prayers, and the outpouring of love for my Dad has been comforting and heartwarming during this difficult time.

I am so incredibly proud of my Dad, who was a true servant of God. I’m amazed at the impact his ministry had on so many lives across the world and how he dedicated his life to helping others grow closer to God. Hearing all of your stories about what my Dad meant to you is something I’ll cherish greatly.

To my Dad: You meant the world to me and always will. Those annual Thanksgiving trips to watch our Dallas Cowboys helped us bond in so many ways other than just football. It became my favorite tradition.

I loved hanging out with you in the “J-Spot” and talking about life. I learned so much from you just from the example you set for Janelle and me.

There was nothing like seeing the joy music brought to your life. Over the past few years, I couldn’t pick up the phone and call you without hearing you playing the piano in the background. Guess it’s my turn to finally get back on the keys, too.

You were always the life of the party. I am going to miss your cooking and grilling, especially those ribs. It was amazing to see how good food, family, friends and music was all you needed to bring a smile to your face.

Above all, I’ll never forget how you were always there for us. You were quick to help and comfort anyone in a time of need and always made sure we were all right.

Dad, I love you more than words can say. I’m proud to call you my father. May you Rest in Heaven.

Love, your Son, Wesley
OBTUARY OF  
REv. JUNIUS BOYD DOTSON

On August 7th, 1965, Paul Dotson and Patricia Durden dedicated a beautiful brown baby boy to God. As a man, Junius Boyd Dotson offered himself as a messenger of God spreading His word with spiritual gifts and a fire to serve humanity, whose aims was drawing people together and leading them to salvation.

Junius’ brief but powerful life reflected his vision of a ministry without boundaries and one of possibilities and transformation.

As a child, he attended church with his grandmother, Hilda L. Durden, who encouraged him scholastically and was his first Sunday School teacher at Windsor Village United Methodist Church (UMC). Patricia and Hilda directed Junius toward Christ. Junius’ primary education began at Garden Villas Elementary where Hilda taught. He arrived at Jack Yates High School of Communications in 1980. A charismatic speaker, he excelled in debate and speaking at community events.

Two opportunities shaped his personal and professional future: an immersive year as an exchange student to build human connections, while his work with Communication in 1980. A charismatic speaker, he was ordained in June 1992.

Junius began his pastoral career at Jones (UMC) and was tap-aged to plant a new church, Genesis (UMC) in San Francisco’s Silicon Valley. He incorporated technology to boost membership, ultimately growing the church and its community impact.

In 2002, Junius arrived at Saint Mark (UMC) in Wichita, Kansas endeavoring to build a diverse congregation. Under his leadership, the church developed the Saint Mark E.C. Tyre Medical and Dental Clinic. He also launched dozens of new outreach ministries, including the Annual Community Day, as well as youth and senior ministries.

On Christmas Eve 2013, Junius’ nationally televised sermon from Saint Mark celebrated a moment of family pride and allowed him to broadcast God’s message from the ABC Network into millions of homes across the country.

In 2016, Junius left Saint Mark to become the Chief Executive Officer of Discipleship Ministries, an international agency of the UMC, based in Nashville, Tennessee. His family’s premonition of his greatness settled into focus.

This position allowed Junius to share the mission of Jesus Christ worldwide. He traveled to Korea, South Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and beyond, satisfying the Great Commissions of Jesus found in the Book of Matthew. In addition, Junius was part of the ministerial leadership that brokered the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, an effort to help the UMC to accept progressive and centrist members as well as to sanction same sex marriages and to embrace LGBTQ congregants.

Discipleship Ministries allowed Junius to do what he loved most. As a dynamic organizer and teacher, author and national speaker audiences appreciated his radio broadcasts. He had an uncanny ability to bring world wide audiences together, leading ministry training and organizing seminars. Junius remains a big presence on YouTube. Junius lived what his family had predicted – a ministry with world-wide impact.

Junius married Christina Marie Price (d) in August 1980 and that union produced two children. Son, Wesley, a sportswriter, welcomes his first son, Kayden, in April 2021. Daughter, Janelle, a student at Tennessee State University, will graduate in spring 2021. Junius spoke lovingly and proudly of his children, talking often about their accomplishments and talents. Junius and Christina encouraged their children to seek God.

Toiska Medlock Lee was Junius’ ministry partner, companion, and best friend.

Junius is preceded in death by his mother, Patricia Stewart; stepfather, Johnny Stewart; grandparents, Junius B. and Hilda Durden; brother, Nicholas Durden; aunts, Judith Durden, Hazel Patton, Viola Mae Alexander and Dorothy Alexander; uncles, Ashton Alexander, Edward Alexander, Junius B. Durden and George Durden; and cousin, George Durden, II.

“I am his disciple. And when He comes back for me, He will have no problem recognizing who I am, because my banner will be clear.”
– JUNIUS B. DOTSON, SPEAKING AT THE TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

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Junius leaves to mourn his passing: Wesley Dotson, son; Janelle Dotson, daughter; Christina Dotson, wife (d); Toiska Medlock Lee, companion; Paul Dotson, father; Paul Bennett, friend/brother; Timothy Dotson, brother; Paul Dotson (Rita), brother; Carol Chatman, sister; Olivia Chatman, Brian Washington, Quanterra Dotson, nieces; Marcelius Malone (Kendra), Bryce, Brail, Bradford Cross, Bradford Cross, Josh Wehbert, Christian Dotson, nephews, Dora Durden, aunt; and, cousins Kevin Hail, Carlton Hail, Norman Thompson, Wanda Kramer (Mark), and Angela Durden, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity brother, Frank Dyer, whose brother Kramer (Mark), and Angelia Durden; and cousin, George Durden, II.

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LEADER: Holy God, we have come here to thank you for the sacredness of the life bestowed upon your beloved son and servant, Junius B. Dotson.

ALL: God of life, we do indeed offer praise and thanksgiving for Junius’ life and for all who are present here, and the memories of Junius we now gather to share.

LEADER: God who ordered the cosmos, we thank you for Junius’ legacy of leadership across the United Methodist Church Connection.

ALL: Creator of all things, we thank you for raising up Junius as your messenger for such a time as this. May his clarion call for justice and equity continue to echo loud and clear among the people called Methodist, and beyond.

LEADER: God who is Love, we thank you for Junius’ passion for discipleship in the local church and his #SeeAllThePeople initiative that breathed new life into so many congregations.

ALL: Jesus, Great Teacher, may the good work of discipleship that you birthed through Junius continue to nurture your people for the sake of God’s Kingdom.

LEADER: God who is Joy, we thank you for Junius’ broad smile, musical heart, and keen mind that graced our lives.

ALL: Immanuel, we give you praise for the gift of Junius’ presence among us as leader, colleague, musician, pastor, brother, father, and friend.

LEADER: God of comfort, we recognize the holes Junius’ absence leaves among us.

ALL: God of healing, we acknowledge the void Junius leaves, yet we are confident that the work you began through him will be carried on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

LEADER: We do believe that love is as strong as death.

ALL: And death does not have the final word.

LEADER: Risen Savior, we are a Resurrection People who move forward on our journey, strengthened by your love and our love for one another.

ALL: Christ, our Resurrection and Life, give us the grace to make every moment count with love for you and love for each other in this pilgrim journey. Amen.
I am a believer, not a doubter.
I am a winner, not a whiner.
I am victorious, not victimized.
I am the head, not the tail.
I am above, and shall never be beneath.

I am blessed and highly favored.

This is the word of the Lord.
I can do, what it says I can do.
I can have, what it says I can have.
I can be, who it says I can be.

And all of this is brought to me in the name of Jesus.

Amen...Hallelujah!

Joy
The words “joy,” “rejoice,” or “joyful,” appear more than 400 times in scripture. The joy of Junius’ spirit was felt by everyone he came in contact with. It was Jesus’ Joy that caused him to engage complete strangers in coffee shops, at gas stations, or in line at grocery stores. Junius’ Joy for friend and foe alike, reminds me of Nehemiah when he said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Upstanding
Junius left every community he lived in a better place. He served on committees and boards and was also a supportive confidant to others serving in a civic capacity. His brilliance often meant that he would find himself leading or being sought out by people in leadership who needed his advice and counsel.

Nourishing
Junius fed everyone around him a steady diet of love, positivity and hope. He poured himself into others through his ministry and through his friendships.

Intentional
Junius was intentional in every level of his life, because God was intentional about him. His intentionality and gentleness in fostering meaningful relationships, both personal and professional, will be felt for generations. I am reminded of Romans 8:28-30, that reads, “and those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

Unique
Unique is often misused in sentences. Unique doesn’t take a modifier, which means you never place a word like “very” in front of it. Anything “unique,” is singular. There’s nothing else like it. Everything about Junius was unique, from his laughter to his moves on the dance floor, to his heart, and finally, to his soul.

Sociable
No one had a bigger, warmer or more genuine smile. No one enjoyed the work of organizing and energizing more than Junius. No one filled a room with laughter quite the way he did.
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REV. JUNIUS BOYD DOTSON

Special Thanks
The family, friends and loved ones of Junius B. Dotson acknowledge with genuine appreciation all expressions of kindness and love tendered during this difficult time. The love and support you have shown our family will always be remembered.

THE DOTSON FAMILY

ACTIVE Pallbearers
Bradford Cross
Bryce Dotson
Braell Dotson
Kevin Hail
Carlton Hail
Jason Medlock

HONORARY Pallbearers
Wesley Dotson
Frank Dyer
Emanuel Cleaver, III
Ron Bell
Ed Jones
Mark Norman
Paul Bennett
Michael L. Bowie, Jr.
Kevass Harding
Stephen Handy

Interment
Paradise Cemetery South
2237 Cullen Blvd.
Pearland, TX 77581

Service & Arrangements
McCoy & Harrison Funeral Home, Inc.
4918 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77021