

April

CALENDAR

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------|---------|
| April 3 | Sunday School | 9:45AM |
| | Morning Worship | 11:00AM |
| | Church Luncheon | 12:15PM |
| April 6 | — NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES— | |
| April 10 | Sunday School | 9:45AM |
| | Morning Worship | 11:00AM |
| April 13 | AWANA | 6:15PM |
| | Youth | 6:45PM |
| | OASIS | 6:45PM |
| April 14 | Maundy Thursday Service | 7:00PM |
| April 17 | Easter Sunrise Service | 7:00AM |
| | Sunday School | 9:45AM |
| | Easter Worship Service | 11:00AM |
| | Church Luncheon | 12:15PM |
| April 18 | Women’s Sewing Ministry | 7:00PM |
| April 20 | AWANA | 6:15PM |
| | Youth | 6:45PM |
| | OASISA | 6:45PM |
| April 23 | Golf Tournament Fundraiser | 2:30PM |
| April 24 | Sunday School | 9:45AM |
| | Morning Worship | 11:00AM |
| | Church Conference | 6:00PM |
| April 27 | AWANA | 6:15PM |
| | Youth | 6:45PM |
| | OASIS | 6:45PM |
| April 30 | AWANA Musical Rehearsal | 10:00AM |

HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Carson Britt

Pastor

Evan Powell

Minister of Youth and Children

Rebekah Dickerson

Minister of Music and Media

Ashley Driggers

Administrative Assistant

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Harlem, GA
Permit No. 8

Happy Anniversary

04-05

Jeremy & Liza Davis

04-06

Danny & Julie Henslee

04-10

Raymond & Sheila Fulcher

04-17

Casey & Andrea Allen

04-18

Jordan & Grier Whitaker

04-30

Julian & Lynda Adams

* Please call the Church Office if your anniversary is not listed.

Happy Birthday

04-01

Valerie Allen

04-02

Raymond Fulcher

04-02

Leslie Arnold

04-03

Yong Cha-Clark

04-05

Jim Laughery

04-06

Harold Smith

04-09

Kirsten Sawyer

04-10

Jerry Williams

04-11

Rosie Cook

04-11

Alan Hall

04-11

Travis Liming

04-11

Sonja Soloman

04-12

Paige Fleming

04-13

Summer Laughery

04-15

Steve Camp

04-19

Becky Windham

04-21

Caleb Sawyer

04-24

Dianne Mundy

04-27

Katy Arrowood

04-27

Carson Britt

* Please call the Church Office if your birthday is not listed.

SAVE THE DATE

Spring Fling

Sunday, May 15th

FINANCIALS

as of March 27, 2022

Actual Expenses YTD \$ 86,382

Actual Received YTD \$ 93,011

Deacon of the Month

Ken Sweatman

706-799-6304

CONNECTIONS

HE IS RISEN

alleluia

April 2022

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Several weeks ago Jennifer and I sat down and watched the movie “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.” The movie is based on the true story of a real life friendship between Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod. In the movie, Junod is tasked with interviewing and writing a story on the life of Mr. Rogers. And in the process, Rogers does a remarkable job of extending kindness, hospitality, and love to this journalist. The movie made clear that Mr. Rogers had a desire to spend time with, listen to, and minister to people. He was rarely in a hurry. He was intuitive, sincere, loving, and kind. It certainly appeared to me that Fred Rogers, who was also a Presbyterian pastor, was intentional each day to put on Christlikeness.

I must confess that I came away from that movie with deep conviction. Although I like to think that I am accessible, kind, sincere, and loving I know that these characteristics are not always evident in my life. There are occasions when I’m “too busy” for others, knowing that I will spend at least an hour sitting on the couch watching television later that evening. There are times when my sincerity and love is nothing more than a really good acting job. We are, at times, too busy to be accessible, kind, sincere, and loving to one another. This however, is problematic for the Christ follower. We’ve been called to put on Christlikeness. And didn’t Christ make time for others? Sure He did! In fact, I think we would quickly recognize that in Jesus’ three years of public ministry he was highly accessible, always sincere, and a constant source of love and kindness.

As I write these words I imagine that many of you are thinking the same thing. “Carson, I’m barely accessible to my own family, how can I be accessible to those outside of my household?” Well, let me first encourage you to figure out how to be accessible to your family. If you’re not making time for your spouse and your children it is only a matter of time before major conflict will creep into your lives (if it hasn’t already). As a whole, we need to do a better job of creating schedules that allow for breathing room. We need to create routines with the expectation that the Spirit will lead us towards opportunities of ministry. That is, we need to expect that there will be someone who needs us to lend them our ear. There will be someone who needs us to extend kindness and love. These things will never happen if we don’t first commit to intentionally creating space for these opportunities. Who is it that needs you to simply listen to them today? Who needs your sincerity, love, and kindness? May we strive daily to eliminate some of our busyness so that we can better minister to one another!

Our Vision:

To glorify God through loving Him and serving others

Our Mission Statement:

A Faith Family helping to make and develop mature disciples of Jesus Christ

Press on!
Carson

CONNECTIONS is a monthly publication of Harlem Baptist Church-PO Box 790 Harlem GA 706-556-6439• e-mail Church@HarlemBaptist.org

Church News



Will meet each Sunday
at 11:00AM

YOUTH
MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS
AT 6:45PM



JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

Our dates for VBS will
be **June 8, 15, 22, 29.**

AWANA
PRESENTS

KIDZ UNDER
CONSTRUCTION

May 1st
6:00 PM

Ice Cream Social to
Follow Performance

Child DEDICATION

SUN, MAY 8

If you would like to dedicate
your child, please let us know.

HBC LUNCHEON



April 3

Hamburger Steaks and Fixings

April 17

Low Country Boil and Fixings



The Easter season is one of the busiest of the year on the church calendar, rivaling that of Christmas and lasting longer. I enjoy the challenge that this time of year brings, along with the personal reflection the story of the Cross and Resurrection calls to mind. We are given so many opportunities to share the Gospel, to tell our story and why we celebrate Easter, and to renew our hearts in worship and service to our Great God during this time that by the morning the Easter arrives – celebration is the only possible result. I am so thankful we serve a God of seasons – one who designed our lives to ebb and flow, to grow and change, to never stay stagnant. Some seasons are harder than others. Seasons of grief, pain, poverty or struggle do not seem good at the time (and they seem to last forever). Other seasons of joy and excitement, becoming new parents, an upcoming wedding, graduation – those seasons are sweet, yet seem to be gone in the blink of an eye. But seasons are how we grow – physically and spiritually. God will pull us into a season we struggle to understand, yet on the other side of it we can see His guiding hand. Our reaction to the more trying seasons is often the determining factor as to how long and how hard they are. Sometimes we resist the forward motion the season demands – perhaps by refusing to make a decision we know God is calling us to or being unwilling for Him to bring about change in our lives or ourselves. By doing this we extend the life of a longer season, instead of walking forward with God into the next season. Perhaps it is fear of what the next season will bring that holds us back. Perhaps we are unsure of what God wants from us. We have all felt this way from time to time.

Embrace your season. Whatever it may be. Hard or happy. Encouraging or exhausting. Full of promise or full of pain. You don't have to put on a fake smile and force your feelings; that isn't what God asks of us. But embrace the change. Embrace the reality of what you are facing. Tell God that you are not okay. Tell him that you are scared or hurting. Share your heart with Him, and open up your heart for His grace and peace. Don't try to "get through" the season by ignoring it; embrace it. This may be a season you wish was over; but grow through it anyway. Worship anyway. Serve anyway. The God who holds the universe is still holding you in His hands. He will continue to walk beside you on your journey, season by season – lean into His love and

-Rebekah

Easter

SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday
April 10th | 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday
April 14th | 7:00 PM

Easter Sunrise Service
April 17th | 7:00 AM
(on the lawn between HBC and HUMC)

Easter Worship Service
April 17th | 11:00 AM

Dear HBC,

Thank you for your thoughts
and prayers for our grandson,
David. We covet your prayers in
the future. We appreciate our
church family.

Emmit and Annette Coleman

Women's Ministry:

"A Night at the Piano"
featuring
Michael W. Smith

April 28th
7:00PM

Tickets will be \$25 per person if there are at
least 10 people signed up.

Please sign up by April 17th online or at the
IC station at church. For more information
please contact Kathy Holley.



Wow! The spring sure is a busy season of the year for HBC Children's and Youth Ministry. Just this past month in Youth we had a Lock-In event, started a new series called "Making History", and had "March Snackness". In children's ministry, BLAST Children's Worship has continued, the children sang in "big church" on Sunday the 20th (Thanks Rebekah), and this weekend there is the Junior Master's Golf Tournament at Augusta Putt-Putt Fun Center. A little further out, on April 23rd there is the Youth Fund-raiser Golf Tournament at AppleWood Golf Course in Keysville at 2:30pm. Cost of that is \$40/person. Next, Rebekah is directing the Children's Musical on May 1st. And Finally, on Sunday May 15th, we have the Church-Wide Spring Fling. All that to say, if you are ever looking for a time to get more involved at HBC, now is the *perfect* time to do so with so much going on. And just as a reminder, for all these wonderful activities, events, and programs... HBC staff need *your* help. We need your help. I need your help!

With that said, I feel like I can't make a plea for more help and more church volunteers without also praising the very committed team of volunteers across HBC Family Ministries that we already do have. Between AWANA, BLAST, nursery, and Wednesday night Youth meetings, it takes upwards of 35 different people working and serving to make all these ministries run. If you are currently serving on any of these teams – or if you ever have in the past – please know just how much I appreciate your contributions to making my service here at our church possible. You are the backbone and the glue. I pray for you frequently, that God would allow you to gain fulfillment and joy from your service, and that Christ's peace would protect you from burn-out. I love y'all and am thankful for you.

Spring is a wonderful time to reflect on the fact that what we are building and working towards with our church programs and ministries is a beautiful, beautiful thing: it is the advancement of the Gospel here on Earth, the outreach as we both preach the Good News and also share the love of Christ with others in our community. Our local church body connecting with the global church body across the world (like the Baldridge Family in Guinea) is a God-honoring thing and this teamwork is pleasing to God. It is beautiful. But it is hard work. Right now, in this very moment, whatever you are doing, wherever and whenever you are reading this article, stand up and go outside. Maybe go for a drive. Look at all the trees and bushes and flowers... beauty is springing up everywhere. But that beauty didn't come by accident, but by design and hard work. When volunteer service to the church feels draining and tiresome and not much fun, may the beauty of nature remind you that what we are all building towards together as a church congregation is also remarkably beautiful.

-Evan