



April 2	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
	<i>Easter Egg stuffing after luncheon</i>	
April 5	NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES	
April 6	Maundy Thursday	7:00PM
April 9	Sunrise Service	7:00AM
	Easter Service	11:00AM
April 12	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
April 16	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Church Luncheon	12:15PM
April 17	Sewing Sisters	6:00PM-8:00PM
April 19	AWANA	6:15PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
April 23	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	Small Groups*	5:30PM
April 26	AWANA	6:16PM
	Youth	6:45PM
	OASIS	6:45PM
April 30	Sunday School	9:45AM
	Morning Worship	11:00AM
	<i>Family Worship Service-No BLAST</i>	
	Spring Fling	5:00PM-7:00PM



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

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U.S. Postage Paid
Harlem, GA
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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

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 or anniversary is not listed.

HBC LUNCHEON



APRIL 2

(YOUTH LUNCHEON)

FISH/CHICKEN & FIXINGS

APRIL 16

(GUINEA MISSION TRIP LUNCHEON)

POT ROAST & FIXINGS

CAMP HARLEM

MAY 31ST-JUNE 2ND
9AM-2PM

RIISING PRE-K THROUGH
COMPLETED 5TH GRADERS

More information to come!

FINANCIALS

as of March 26, 2023

Actual Expenses YTD \$106,785
Actual Received YTD \$85,118

Deacon of the Month

Brett Rogers
770-596-2662

CONNECTIONS

April 2023

The
Pastor's

During holy week our church comes together for a service of remembrance. We call this our Maundy Thursday service. This is a service where we sing hymns, read scripture, and share in the Lord's Supper together. We gather for the purposes of remembering and reflecting. I hope you will join us for this poignant service.

In recent weeks I have been studying through the final chapters of Mark's gospel in my personal devotion time. Mark's gospel, as well as Matthew's and Luke's, records the final meal that Jesus shared with his followers. This is a large part of what we gather to remember on Maundy Thursday. Although I've read this passage many times, in my most recent reading I was struck with the significance of Jesus "giving" his body and blood to the disciples to eat and drink. First of all, let's admit for just a moment that to those who are not familiar with the gospel this is probably a weird practice. Eating and drinking someone's body and blood is a bit odd even if it is in a metaphorical manner. But when we remember some of the "I am" statements found in John's gospel this concept of eating the figurative body of Christ and drinking the figurative blood of Christ takes on a new meaning.

In John 6:35 Jesus says, "I am the bread of life." In John 11, Jesus says "I am the resurrection and life." Then, in John 14, Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Are you beginning to notice a pattern here? Jesus gives life! Just as "bread" sustains us and just as the blood running through our veins keeps us alive physically, Jesus, in giving us his body and his blood, gives us life. When we gather to take Holy Communion we do so to remember that Jesus' broken body and his shed blood make new life possible for all of humanity.

Author Eugene Peterson says this, "Without the Eucharist (Communion) it is very easy to drift into a spirituality that is dominated by ideas about Jesus instead of receiving life from Jesus... The Eucharist puts Jesus in his place, dying on the cross and giving us the sacrificed life. And it puts us in our place: opening our hands and receiving the remission of our sins, which is our salvation." As Peterson reminds us, Communion serves as the fundamental reminder that Christ gave up himself so that we could be forgiven of our sins and walk forward into new life.

As we walk through Holy Week together, I invite you to join me in praising our God for all that he gave up so that we could live.

Press on!
Carson

Church News

HBC PRE-K REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year will open for HBC members April 10th-16th. Registration for new families will be April 16th from 3:00pm-6:00pm at HBC. Come register your child, meet the director, tour the facility, and ask any questions you may have. Your spot will not be reserved until registration and a \$100 enrollment fee have been received. Once all slots have been filled, a waitlist will be formed. For more information please contact HBC.



Easter Sunrise

SERVICE

7:00AM

Easter Worship

SERVICE

11:00AM

— FAMILY —
WORSHIP

NO BLAST ON APRIL 30TH

SEWING SISTERS

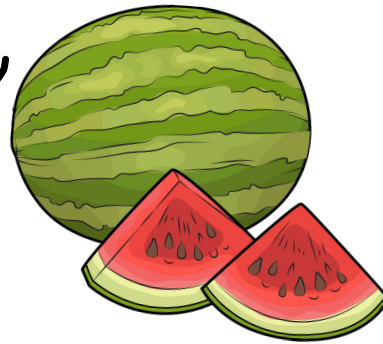
will meet

APRIL 17TH



Spring Fling

SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH
5-7PM



Watermelon Chunking • Watermelon Crawl • Watermelon Carving Contest

TO SIGN UP TO PROVIDE A FOOD ITEM VISIT HARLEMBAPTIST.ORG/EVENTS



I don't know about you, but I have found the forty days of prayer to be eye opening in so many ways. Maybe it is because I can walk out into the halls of HBC and see the physical evidence of a church praying on the walls, but knowing we are all working to pray more for each other, the church, the community, and to personally walk closer to God just thrills my heart.

What has struck me more than anything is seeing what God is doing in my own life through prayer. You know how when you buy a new car, you start seeing that same car *everywhere*? It's the same with God and prayer. When you start praying intentionally, consistently, you begin to see God working in everything. You realize that asking Him for an easy time driving to an appointment, or for your child to do well on a school test, or for the music to go smoothly on Sunday morning (that one might be pretty specific to me that your prayers are answered on the regular! Not that He wasn't before – but I just didn't *notice* it as much. By setting aside time to pray more consistently, I have noticed God answering prayers left, right, and center. Things the world might call "coincidences" but are really direct responses to that which I've asked about – just small things offered from my heart on different days, often answered the same day or the same hour.

Along with our forty day challenge, I would like to see us continue past Easter praying very specifically and intentionally for our church. In his book, *The Circle Maker*, Mark Batterson makes the statement, "What if you were to focus your prayers on one thing for one person for one month? What might God do?" That is what I would love to see, beloved. Pick one thing to pray for about the next month, and pray consistently about it every day. If just one of us prays consistently for the same thing every day for one month, don't you think God will break down the doors of heaven to bless our endeavors to honor Him? Here are some suggestions to pray for:

- 1) Pray for our Easter services, that people will feel welcome and want to join in worship and will find HBC to be a place they might call home.
- 2) Pray for our children's ministry; for more volunteers, for seeds to be planted in their hearts and minds, and for our upcoming events to draw the community in.
- 3) Pray for our PreK as we continue to work towards our first year. Pray for our director, the search and hiring of new teachers, the students, and their parents, and for God's provision for all things big and small.
- 4) Pray for our youth as they walk through the challenges of teen years; that they will come to know Christ and grow in His word.
- 5) Pray for our Guinea mission trip – for those going, for peaceful and successful travel, for fundraising, that we will be effective in our efforts to serve there, etc.
- 6) Pray for our community to see HBC as a light; that we as a church will seek out opportunities to reach them where they are and love them with all of God's heart.

These are just a few ideas - there are SO many more. You don't have to do them all – just one person, pick one thing – whatever you feel God is calling you to ask about for HBC - and pray about it every day for one month. I can't WAIT to see what happens next!

-Rebekah

Women's Ministry:

The ladies of HBC and their guests began the month of March with a wonderful day of renewal. We worshipped through music with Andrew McMahon and were blessed with Keagan Sather as she shared her testimony and taught us how to use the Word of God to rest in Him. Arranging flowers in lovely little vases gave us time to mix and mingle with each other. A Chic-Fil-A lunch was a special treat. Anita Conley, a Mary Kay consultant, brought Goody Bags and shared beauty tips about how to take excellent care of our skin. The merchants in Harlem also donated wonderful door prizes. Needless to say, we were pampered in every way. God blessed us with a day of spiritual renewal and rest along with wonderful fellowship with sisters in Christ.

Our "Sewing Sisters" group has just completed handbags for girls in Zambia. Lynda Morris found the material for these bags in Atlanta and has a unique story to share about how it came to pass: "I was attending the Quilt Con Conference in Atlanta. I noticed the beautiful fabrics and asked to buy the 6 yard piece. I told the vendor I was using the fabric along with my sewing group at church to make bags for girls in Zambia. The bags will be used for the girls to carry their personal products in when attending school. The lady said "THANK YOU" and sold me the fabric for half the price. She gave me a tight hug and again was so appreciative of the project our group was doing for the girls." We not only will minister to the girls of Zambia, but this sweet lady obviously felt the moving of the Holy Spirit by what we were led to do. Our God blesses in big and small ways.

Blessings, Kathy

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saturday, April 1st
9:00AM at Red Oak Manor

Family Style-\$10 for all over age 10
10 and under pay their age.



Important Family Ministry News/Announcements:

On Friday, April 7th in the afternoon, the Family Ministry Team will be going to church members' homes to "Egg" their houses! And by that, of course, I mean hide Easter eggs for their children to hunt! I will be contacting all BLAST and AWANA parents over the next week to make sure its ok for us to come to your house to deliver this sweet surprise for your kids!

On Sunday, April 30th we will have a church-wide Spring Fling event. More details to come, but mark your calendars and plan to be in attendance! It's gonna be "sweet"!

Finally, May 21st will be High School Graduate Recognition Sunday at Harlem Baptist. Parents, please send me about 15-20 pictures of your graduate **no later than Monday, May 1st!**

Important Personal Update:

Katie and I received a long-awaited email just yesterday. Our home study has been finalized through our agency and has been submitted to the state of Georgia. We expect and anticipate that the state will approve our application and officially "open" our home for placement of foster children. That said, we feel somewhat confident that by Easter Sunday, we will probably have an extra family member! Which is super exciting. However, I need your help with one very specific thing. Under Georgia law, we are unable to post ANY pictures of our potential foster children online. This does not mean that you can't take pictures of the child, but we absolutely cannot post any pictures on Facebook, Instagram, or any of our church-affiliated accounts. This is very important to us for the privacy of our foster child and for our safety and protection. So we would appreciate your cooperation on this mission.

Finally, please consider joining Katie and I in our prayer over these last few weeks. We understand that whatever kid(s) we are about to receive are very likely going through a very difficult time in life right at this moment. Please love this unknown child by beginning to pray now for them and for their family of origin. Pray also for Katie and I; for wisdom, strength, and peace.

Thanks Faith Family!

We love y'all!

-Evan

MEN'S MINISTRY WILD GAME SUPPER

GUEST SPEAKER: REGGIE THACKSTON

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH | 6:00PM

DOOR PRIZES!
NO COST-BRING A FRIEND!



Coffee with Carson



All retirees are invited to join Carson at
Red Oak Manor for breakfast!

Tuesday, April 25th
8:30AM

Let us know if you are coming!
706-556-6439 or church@harlembaptist.org