# November

Rev. Carson Britt Evan Powell

Lindsey Rogers

11-18

11-22

HBC Pre-K Directo

Minister of Youth and Children Rebekah Dickerson Minister of Music and Media Ashley Driggers Administrative Assistant

Happy Anniversary

Wil & Gwen Hardy

-UPCOMING-

Jason & Raven Truitt

	CALENDAR				
Nov 2	Men's Breakfast	9:00AM			
Nov 3	Sunday School Morning Worship Church Luncheon 2025 Budget Conference	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM 6:00PM			
Nov 6	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM			
Nov 10	Sunday School Morning Worship Youth Dodgeball Tournament 5:30P	9:45AM 11:00AM M-7:30PM			
Nov 13	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM			
Nov 14	2nd Thursday 6:00PM-8:00PM Music Rehearsals				
Nov 17	Sunday School Morning Worship Communion During Wo Church Luncheon	9:45AM 11:00AM rship 12:15PM			
Nov 20	AWANA Youth OASIS	6:15PM 6:45PM 6:45PM			
Nov 24	Sunday School Morning Worship	9:45AM 11:00AM			
Nov 27	27 No Wednesday Activities				
Nov 28	—THANKSGIVING DAY - CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	-			

#### ADDRESS SERVICE REOUESTED

11-01

11-06

11-07

11-11

11-11

11-13

11-156

11-18

11-19

11-21

11-28

11-30

December 5th— Women's Ministry Christmas Event at 6:30PM

**December 14th**— HBC Stocking Shop: We need your help with our 1st

provide a memorable Christmas for their children. More information on

ever "stocking shop." This is an outreach event that will help families

how you can help with this event will be given soon

FINANCIALS

as of October 28, 2024

Actual Expenses YTD \$288,933

Actual Received YTD \$303,287

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



Happy Birthday

Jetta Moon

Julian Adams Jr.

**Emily Lonergan** 

Jaime Adams

Curtis Rhodes

Evan Powell

Lindsey Rogers

Kenneth Welch

Kacee Morris

Mandy Rhodes

Ky Arnold

Ryan Guy

Non-Profit Org.

# November 2024

LOVE GOD

 $\sim$ 

LOVE PEOPLE

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ΜΑΚΕ DISCIPLES  $\sim$ 

The Pastor's Desk

Few of us will walk through the month of November without taking the time to reflect on the blessings that the Lord has given to us. I also suspect we may, at times, have to fight the temptation to wish we had more of this or more of that. At times, we might wish that this circumstance had turned out just a little bit different. Or, perhaps that a situation would be resolved a bit more quickly. Even in a month that is marked with thankfulness, it can be challenging to only count our blessings. In fact, many of you have already made your way to the polls to vote in the 2024 election and the rest of us will vote on November 5. While I do not expect that we will know the results of this election guickly, I suspect that no matter the result, there will be many throughout our country who will feel as though they suddenly have less to be grateful for. So, in light of that, I think it would be helpful if we were reminded of a few truths that will remain after this election is over.

First and most importantly, remember that you are a child of God. You have a God who Secondly, let's strive to remember that even when we can't see it, God is at work. As we

created you in His image and then willingly gave up his son so that you could be "reborn" and one day enter into eternity with Him. John says in his first epistle, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 Jn 3:1, NIV). have walked through the book of Esther, we have heard this truth time and time again. This is a particularly important truth to remember in seasons of waiting and seasons where things aren't going as we prefer. Even in the midst of these seasons there is peace in knowing that God is working. Let's strive to remember that God is always, already there!

Thirdly and finally (and this list is by no means exhaustive), let's remember that we belong to So, as we walk through this next month, let's strive to take hold of these truths and blessings

a community that loves us. I pray regularly that the people of HBC would know that they are loved by this faith family. Each of us matters to this community and to this church. We are family because we are all children of God! This is a truth that Jennifer and I have experienced firsthand for the past 12 years. When we count our blessings this month one of the first ones we will surely count is the blessing of Harlem Baptist Church. You have supported us through many seasons of life and I know you will continue to do so. You have made an impact on our lives that has reflected the selfless love of Christ. And we are truly grateful! I am both humbled and blessed to be your pastor! in our lives! I look forward to a wonderful month of worship and study with you all!

P.S. – Thanks to you all for the many kind notes and letters that I received during pastor appreciation month. They were yet another reminder of the blessing that HBC is to my family. You are all loved!

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

# CONNECTIONS



Press on! Carson

### Church News

For those who would like to donate to our HURRICANE RELIEF FUND, please scan the QR code. You can also text 706-528-6469 to get assistance with hurricane debris clean up or any other needs you may have.



MUSIC REHEARSALS

#### **NOVEMBER 14TH** 6:00PM-8:00PM

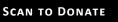


WILL SING ON NOVEMBER 3RD DURING MORNING WORHSIP

HBC will be taking orders for Poinsettias to prepare for the upcoming Christmas Season. To place an order please contact the church office.









**November 17** (Youth Ministry) CHICKEN CORDON BLEU & FIXINGS

*Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true* God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3

Often, when we think about eternal life, our vision is limited to after earthly life ends. But while praying for believers just before His death, Jesus Christ defines eternal life in a clear, concise way. "Knowing" the triune

God is the literal definition of eternal life. And that makes sense to the believer; we even use that terminology daily. But I've always loved this verse, because when you break it down, it becomes one of the most profound and life changing things we as Christian will ever learn.

It struck me years ago that we serve a God that is many, many things. Studying the attributes of God means realizing that you can never truly study ALL of the attributes of God, because God is eternal. His eternity means that He has an infinite number of characteristics, so many that even in heaven we will never be able to study them all. But more than that, I realized one day that if knowing God is eternal life – if that is THE GOAL – then it explains why God doesn't take us straight to heaven after we commit our lives to Him. You see, there are aspects of God's character that we cannot know in a perfect existence (such as there will be in heaven).

We cannot know the God of comfort if we never experience sorrow. We cannot know the God of provision if we never experience need. We cannot know the God of mercy if we never make mistakes. We cannot know the God of victory if we never fight a battle. We cannot know the God of righteousness if we do not know and grieve the depths of our own sin. We cannot know the God of knowledge and truth if we do not lack understanding. We cannot know the God of healing if we are never sick. We cannot know the God of protection if we are never in danger. We cannot know the God of peace if we are never frustrated in our spirit. We cannot know the God of restoration if we are never broken. We cannot know the God of grace if our lives are already perfect. We cannot know the God who carries us if we never fall down. We cannot know the God of rest if we are already at peace in this present age. We cannot know the God of strength if we never acknowledge our weakness. We cannot know the God who completes us if we never feel alone.

As we face the challenges of this time after Helene and live in a bit of limbo - let us embrace the uncomfortable, the imperfect, the incomplete. Let us lean into the moment and trust that God is showing us something more about who HE is. Let us rejoice in the opportunity to know God in a new way; a way we might not have known Him before this struggle.

God is always, only good.

-Rebekah

#### **2025 CHURCH BUDGET CONFERENCE**

Sunday, November 3rd 6:00PM

#### Thanksgiving Week at HBC

**NOVEMBER 27TH** NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

**NOVEMBER 28TH** CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED





Saturday, November 2nd at 9:00am **Red Oak Manor** Harlem, GA

## HBC Pre-K

The HBC Pre-K will be collecting items for Operation Christmas Child for the month of October. Donations need to be dropped off before November 14th. See Lindsey Rogers for any questions.

Shoebox Items: -Toothbrushes -Washcloths -Hair Brushes/Combs -Socks -Flash Lights with Extra Batteries -School Supplies -Small Toys

\*No candy, toothpaste, food, liquids, etc.



This past Sunday was HBC's church-wide Fall Festival. I'm probably a little biased, but I thought the event was awesome!! The Family Ministry Team (Mandy Rhodes, Daniel Dickerson, Liza Davis, Dwight Ogle) did an amazing job planning the event and preparing for it, and I believe their hard work was on full display. If you see any of them this week, give them a high five and a word of encouragement. And it wasn't just those four that worked hard to make the night a success... Coach Jimmie Lewis and Randall Hill did a labor of love setting up the guardrails along Main Street to keep all of us safe (thanks to the city of Harlem for allowing us to borrow them!). Mark Whitaker and Jason Truitt provided hay rides for families, which was a big hit. And thanks to Jim and Trish Laughery for supplying us with the pulled pork! Finally, I want to thank all of YOU for your attendance and for preparing food to bring with you so we could enjoy a really fun night together. God even gave us some weather that felt like "Fall"!

30 on your team!!

Looking ahead, I want to be sure to mention that HBC Youth is having a Dodgeball Tournament on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Students – don't forget to invite your friends from school and make sure you have someone over the age of

Finally, I want to share with you some words from a book that I am reading right now called "Gentle and Lowly" by Dane Ortlund...

"We live with a diminished view of the compassionate heart of God sweeping over those in Christ. Thomas Goodwin and Hosea 11 and the sweep of the entire Biblical storyline cause us to catch our breath. The sins of those who belong to God open the floodgates of his heart of compassion for us. The dam breaks. It is not our loveliness that wins his love. It is our unloveliness.

Our hearts gasp to catch up with this. It is not how the world around us works. It is not how our own hearts work. But we bow in humble submission, letting God set the terms by which he will love us."

-Evan



