

AugustCALENDAR

August 2	Men’s Breakfast + Church Work Day <i>ALL ARE WELCOME!</i>	8:00AM
August 3	Sunday School Morning Worship (Deacon Election During Service) Church Luncheon	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM
August 6	Guinea Share Night	6:45PM
August 10	Sunday School Morning Worship (Communion During Service) Wedding Shower for Wade McClellan & Anna Keller	9:45AM 11:00AM 2:00-4:00PM
August 13	Youth OASIS	6:45PM 6:45PM
August 17	Sunday School Moring Worship Church Luncheon Church Conference	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM 6:00PM
August 20	MidWeek Begins	6:30PM
August 23	First Impressions Team Brunch	10:00AM
August 24	Sunday School Morning Worship Deacons Meeting	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM
August 26	Coffee with Carson At the Harlem Java House	8:30AM
August 27	MidWeek	6:30PM
August 31	Sunday School Morning Worship — FAMILY WORSHIP — <i>Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jimmy Gentry</i>	9:45AM 11:00AM
September 1	Labor Day—Church Offices Are Closed	

FINANCIALS
AS OF JULY 25, 2025

Actual Expenses YTD \$241,448
Actual Received YTD \$222,309

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Carson Britt
Pastor
Evan Powell
Minister of Youth and Children
Rebekah Dickerson
Communications and Connections Minister
Sang Lee
Worship Leader
Ashley Driggers
Administrative Assistant
Lindsey Rogers
HBC Pre-K Director

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


Happy Anniversary	Happy Birthday
08-05 Chris & Ariel Smith	08-04 Alice Jones
08-06 Gary & Kathy Holley	08-05 Zach Fleming
08-08 Emmitt & Annette Coleman	08-07 Russ Lewis
08-11 Steve & Susan Camp	08-10 Dale Arnold
08-19 Caleb & Alicia Sawyer	08-10 Roxie Whitaker
08-27 Jerry & Jill Williams	08-13 Edee Sweatman
	08-15 Taryn Birchfield
	08-16 Inez Brown
	08-16 Grier Whitaker
	08-18 Rachael Hill
	08-25 Emmitt Coleman
	08-25 Jimmy Tankersley
	08-26 Tony Mundy
	08-29 Carol Carter
	08-31 Alicia Sawyer

Mark your Calendar! Next Steps Luncheon for newcomers will be in September.

As we begin a new church year, we want to be praying over our church. Here are a few ways you can pray specifically over our church throughout the month.

- Pray for Wednesday nights as new adult discipleship and children’s programs begin—ask for God’s powerful work in these ministries.
- Pray for the new Deacons—may God grant them wisdom, grace, and strength to serve faithfully.
- Pray for all ministry volunteers—that God would encourage them and bless their work with eternal impact.
- Pray for church leadership—that they would be Spirit-led as they guide the church in faithful obedience.

CONNECTIONS



August 2025

The Pastor’s Desk

“Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Psalm 51 is one of the most heartfelt and vulnerable prayers recorded in Scripture. It was written by King David after he was confronted by the prophet Nathan regarding his sin with Bathsheba. Faced with the gravity of his actions, David doesn’t hide or excuse himself—he comes before the Lord completely broken, overwhelmed by the weight of his guilt, and in desperate need of mercy.

In his prayer, David pleads with God for forgiveness. In verse 10, we hear the cry of a repentant heart: “*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*” At this moment, David’s deepest desire is not just to be forgiven—it is to be transformed. He longs for God to purify his heart and to restore him to a place of spiritual integrity and closeness with the Lord.

Have you ever paused to consider what such a reformation of the heart truly involves? At the very least, it begins with a willingness—a readiness to be changed by God. It means adopting a fresh perspective, one that shifts our desires away from self and aligns them with the heart of God. It requires surrender. It requires change. Change, however, doesn’t come easily to most of us. We often resist it because it unsettles us. And yet, change is the soil in which growth takes root. Think about the ways families grow: without change, there would be no marriages, no children, no new generations. Though it can be uncomfortable, change often ushers in blessings we never could have imagined.

The same holds true for our spiritual lives. If we desire to grow in Christ, we must invite Him to do the deep work of heart transformation within us. Like David, we must ask God to create in us clean hearts, to redirect our desires toward Him. When we allow Him to do that work, spiritual growth becomes the natural result. And truly, there is no greater joy than growing deeper in our walk with the Lord.

This call to heart change isn’t only personal—it extends to us collectively as a church body. Harlem Baptist, like every local church, is a living, breathing community of believers. We are called to pursue Christ together, to carry out His mission, and to reflect His love. But in order to do this faithfully, we must each be willing to let the Spirit create clean hearts within us. Only then can we be united in purpose and filled with the vitality that comes from God alone.

This fall, you’ll notice a recurring theme throughout our worship and ministry: “Making Room.” Our community is growing. Our church is growing. And growth requires space—not just physically, but spiritually. We must be intentional about making room in our lives, our gatherings, and our hearts for what God is doing among us.

So throughout the month of August, I invite you to join me in a simple yet powerful prayer: “Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

Let us also ask Him to *renew a steadfast spirit within us*, so that together, as the body of Christ, we can make room for His work—within our hearts, within our church, and throughout our community. May God lead us, shape us, and fill us with His Spirit as we step into this new season—together.

LOVE GOD

LOVE PEOPLE

MAKE DISCIPLES

Press on!
Carson

Church News

MID WEEK

@HBC

BEGINS AUGUST 20TH
WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30PM



AUGUST 3
(MUSIC)
PORK CHOPS & FIXINGS

AUGUST 17
(PRE-K)
POT ROAST & FIXINGS

CONNECTION CORNER:

“Everything communicates...even, especially, NOT communicating.”

For the last few weeks, social media has been very active with the scandalous story of two people who recently attended a concert. When shown on camera, they quickly showed fear and shame, and tried to hide their face. They didn’t say a word...yet within hours, their names, faces, families, and situation were everywhere – and none of it was good.

I’m not condoning gossip or condemning them – that’s not my place – and the entire situation is heartbreaking to the extreme for their families, business, and more. But I keep coming back to the way their reactions communicated so much to the audience, that within seconds they were called out. I keep thinking about how their families were tracked down within hours and (while empathized with) tormented with what has to be one of the worst moment of their lives. The situation has gone viral in a way that is unprecedented, and the keyboard warriors just keep coming: memes, videos, mock re-enactments at sports venues, the works. And the parties themselves – when they did finally respond to going viral, how people picked apart what they said, calling it “insincere” and a “mockery” of the damage their actions had caused.

When we are walking through our daily life...what are we communicating to the world about ourselves? About our families? About Harlem Baptist Church? About Christ? Would we be terrified if a camera was to suddenly thrust us in the spotlight – knowing that our actions/ attitudes/words could be damaging?

But would it affect how others receive the gospel? Would it make people go, “If that’s how they act, I don’t want to go to their church?” Does it make others question your walk with Christ? What are we communicating?

Or are we not communicating? Are we staying so silent about who we are in Christ that any ‘scandal’ would not surprise people. Would people be more shocked by the fact that we attend church, because our actions regularly speak otherwise?

So what are you saying? Would going viral help or harm your reputation? You can’t control what people think...but you can control your integrity.

Who would people say you are if the camera was suddenly playing the story of your life to the world? What would people say about HBC if a camera was in the face of Sunday morning worship, of how we welcome visitors, of how we go about being a part of our community. ?

“Everything communicates...even, especially, NOT communicating.”

-Rebekah

MEN’S BREAKFAST

+ **Church Work Day**



Saturday, August 2nd

at 8:00AM

in the FLC//Everyone is welcome

CHURCH CONFERENCE
AUGUST 17TH
6:00PM

GUINEA SHARE NIGHT
AUG 6TH//6:45PM

Join the mission team on August 6th to hear about their time in Guinea.

Coffee with Carson

All retirees are invited to
join Carson at
Harlem Java House

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26TH
8:30AM



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

DEACONS MEETING
AUGUST 24TH

What Worship Really Means

“God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” – John 4:24

Dear Church Family,

As we come together on Sundays, I want to invite each of us to reflect on what worship really means. It can be easy to think of worship only as the time we sing, pray, or listen to the message during a service. Those are certainly important moments. But worship is much more than something we do during church.

Worship is our response to God's presence and His character. It begins with the heart. When we recognize who God is and what He has done for us, The Holy Spirit reveals in our hearts the spirit of reverence and gratitude. Whether we are lifting our voices in song, raising our kids with integrity, showing kindness to our co-workers that are difficult to deal with, sharing the gospel with our neighbors, or having fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ; when God is the priority of all we do, that is worship. It is an outward expression of the inward change in our hearts, shifting from a 'me' focus to the ‘Kingdom’ focus.

True worship does not depend on music, lighting, or the atmosphere around us. It flows from a heart that desires to honor the Lord. It is just as real in a quiet kitchen, in our living room, or on our drives to work, as it is in a packed sanctuary. It shows up in our relationship with others when we forgive, when we encourage, and when we share the joys of life. However, I also recognize the power of congregational worship. I truly believe there is power when we gather together and prioritize God together, throughout generations and throughout cultures.

Worship also reminds us of who we are and who God is. In a busy and noisy world, worship invites us to slow down and center our lives again on the One who holds all things together. It strengthens our faith, renews our hope, and fills our hearts with peace.

As we prepare to worship together on Sundays, let us come with open hearts and a willingness to meet with God. Let us not come only to receive something, but to bring an offering. We can bring our gratitude, our questions, and even our burdens. God welcomes it all.

Gracious God,

Thank You for calling us into Your presence. Thank You for being faithful, loving, and true. As we gather, help us to lay down everything that distracts or discourages us. Help us to focus fully on You.

Teach us what it means to worship with our whole lives. Show us how to praise You not only with our songs, but also with our words, our actions, and our attitudes. May our worship bring You joy, and may it change us from the inside out.

We ask that You fill us with Your Spirit. Draw us closer to You and to one another. Let our hearts overflow with gratitude and love for who You are and all that You have done.

In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

-Sang

**GUEST
SPEAKER**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Gentry



FAMILY WORSHIP
JULY 31ST

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS
BRUNCH**

AUGUST 23//10AM

YOU’RE INVITED TO
A WEDDING SHOWER



Wade McClellan
& *Anna Keller*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH
2:00-4:00PM