

July CALENDAR

July 2	NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES	
JULY 3	CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED	
July 6	Sunday School Morning Worship	9:45AM 11:00AM
July 9	Youth OASIS	6:45PM 6:45PM
July 11-13	Centri Kid Camp	
July 12	Men's Breakfast At Red Oak Manor	9:00AM
July 13	Sunday School Morning Worship <i>Guest Speaker</i>	9:45AM 11:00AM
July 16	Youth OASIS	6:45PM 6:45PM
July 20	Sunday School Morning Worship	9:45AM 11:00AM
July 22	Coffee with Carson	8:30AM
July 23	Youth OASIS	6:45PM 6:45PM
July 26	Church Work Day	8:00AM
July 27	Sunday School Morning Worship Deacons Meeting	9:45AM 11:00AM 12:15PM
July 30	Youth OASIS	6:45PM 6:45PM

FINANCIALS	
AS OF JUNE 24, 2025	
Actual Expenses YTD \$178,918	
Actual Received YTD \$178,224	

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	
07-03	Mitchell & Brigitte Cozart	07-01	Randall Hill
07-05	Bob & Susan Knight	07-02	Peggy Edwards
07-11	Evan & Katie Powell	07-03	Raymond Hawkinberry
07-18	Benjie & Annette Moore	07-03	Susan Knight
07-18	Brett & Kathy Arrowood	07-05	Pamela Jones
07-24	Curtis & Mandy Rhodes	07-05	Ken Meyer
07-31	Miguel & Claudia Rodriguez	07-09	Randall Cook
		07-14	Scott Williams
		07-15	Shann Lee
		07-16	Daniel Dickerson
		07-16	Dakota Banford
		07-17	Ruth Hill
		07-18	Tara Taylor
		07-18	Debbie Brown
		07-18	Taryn Allen
		07-19	Tommy Stolte
		07-21	Kandise Sherbon
		07-23	Jill Williams
		07-27	Ken Adams
		07-29	Chris Gurley
		07-30	Talyn Birchfield
		07-31	Donna Johnsey

We want to be a praying church. Here are some specific ways you can be praying for HBC throughout the month of July.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- As our nominating process is underway, pray that the Lord would provide the servants needed for the upcoming church year. Ask the Lord where he would lead you to serve.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

- Pray for spiritual growth. Our desire as individuals and as a church body should be to grow in Christlikeness. This doesn't happen by accident. Let's pray that each individual at HBC will be led to join a discipleship group where they will grow in relationship with Christ and with one another.

CONNECTIONS

July 2025

The Pastor's Desk

And just like that, summer is halfway over. No one, myself included, really likes facing the reality that in just four short weeks, a new school year will begin. It is unfortunate that the months of June and July seem to always go by at warp speed. If you're like me, you may spend those two months trying to do all the things. You want to take advantage of every opportunity to go to the lake or make new memories by the pool. Maybe you burn up the road between Harlem and your favorite beach. Summer often affords us opportunities to do all the things. But, if we are not careful we may find ourselves doing all the things at the expense of what is supposed to be the main thing.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus issues the call to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" (Mt. 6:33, NIV). This is one of those passages that I remember learning as a child. In fact, there was a song that I learned which helped me learn this passage. As I have grown, I have come to realize that seeking the kingdom and righteousness of God first does not happen naturally. Our tendency as humans is to seek after the things of this world first. In the midst of the summer, when the rhythms of our lives are altered, it can be easy to let our daily pursuits become entirely worldly. And then, when summer comes to an end, and our normal rhythms of life commence, it becomes challenging to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness once again. I have found in my own life that the easiest way to get back on track spiritually and missionally is to be diligent to not get entirely off track in the first place.

I do realize that our humanity, that is our sinfulness, makes seeking after the kingdom of God daily virtually impossible. Even the best of Christians have days and seasons that are challenging spiritually. But, when we strive to develop daily and weekly rhythms of Bible study, prayer, worship, and discipleship we will find that seeking His kingdom each day becomes much easier. In fact, if you have developed healthy spiritual rhythms you may find that interruptions to those rhythms make you feel a bit out of balance. But this should be the goal for the Christ follower. We should strive to establish spiritually healthy rhythms that we immediately recognize when our lives are out of balance.

As you walk through these final four weeks of the summer let me encourage you to be intentional to maintain those healthy spiritual rhythms. Commit yourself to daily scripture reading and prayer. Be intentional to make worship and discipleship part of your weekly rhythm. And if these healthy spiritual activities have not been part of your rhythm for some time (or ever) now is a great time to get started. Let's be committed to making the 25-26 church year a year where we develop healthy spiritual rhythms that lead us to grow in Christlikeness individually and corporately.

Press on!
Carson

Church News

Coffee with Carson



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

Tuesday, July 22nd
8:30AM

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



**NO LUNCHEONS FOR
THE MONTH OF JULY**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, July 12th
at 9:00am
at Red oak Manor

A Word From Your Worship Leader...

Hi church family,

Worship has always played a significant role in my walk with Christ. Music is a powerful tool that the Lord has used time and time again to draw my heart back to Him. It's in worship that I've experienced the nearness of Jesus, the truth of His Word, and the transforming power of His presence. Leading worship isn't just about singing songs. It's about proclaiming who Christ is and responding to what He's done. I've seen Him use worship to bring conviction, healing, and hope, both in my own life and in the lives of others. It's how I've cried out in repentance, rejoiced in His faithfulness, and offered thanks in seasons of joy and suffering.

My journey to Harlem Baptist was definitely unexpected. My wife and I didn't even know Harlem existed until we took over Harlem Java House in 2023. That decision planted us in this community and eventually led us to meet Pastor Carson, who would often stop by the shop to work on his sermons. One conversation led to another, and over time I began to sense the Lord gently leading me toward something more. I had plenty of doubts along the way. I didn't know many people at the church, and I've struggled for years with insecurities, whether in my musical ability or in how I relate to others. But God has continually reminded me to lean on His strength instead of my own and to fear Him more than I fear the opinions of people. As Proverbs 29:25 (NLT) says, *"Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety."*

As I look ahead, I feel a deep sense of anticipation for what God is doing and will continue to do here at Harlem Baptist. I'm eager to know Him more through this church family and to help grow a worship ministry that is rooted in Scripture, led by the Spirit, and centered entirely on Christ. My heart has always been for discipleship and community, two things I believe are essential acts of worship. I pray that through worship, both on Sundays and in our daily lives, we would grow in love for one another and in obedience to Christ. As John 13:35 (NLT) says, *"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

Lately, we've been going through a sermon series on the life of Peter, and one moment that always moves me is in Luke 22. After Peter denies Jesus three times, Scripture says, *"At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed through Peter's mind... and Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly"* (Luke 22:61-62, NLT). That look wasn't one of anger, but of deep, knowing love.

Even in that moment of failure, Jesus had already prepared a way back. In Luke 24, when the women arrive at the empty tomb, the angels remind them, *"Remember what he told you... that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day"* (Luke 24:6-7, NLT). That promise of resurrection included Peter. Christ didn't just forgive his sin. He invited Peter back into closeness with Him.

That kind of mercy is what fuels my worship. It's my humble response to the God who sees me at my worst and still calls me His own.

My wife and I are so thankful for the warm welcome we've received from this church family. We're grateful to be here, and we're excited to grow and worship alongside all of you in the seasons ahead.

In Christ,
Sang Lee

"Everything communicates...even, especially, NOT communicating."

One time, many years ago, I walked into a local fast food joint for lunch, and immediately began to get the feeling I wasn't wanted. I walked up to the counter, said hello, and the cashier just looked at me. She was standing at the register, finger posed to enter my order, but she said *nothing*. Not a word. No, "Hello." Not, "Can I help you?" Just...nothing. I ordered, waited for my food, and when it was ready, they also said nothing. It was disconcerting. I didn't even bother to ask for extra sauce. I just ate and left...and I never forgot. I also never went back to that particular restaurant.

Another time, I saw an ad about an upcoming special at a casual dining establishment. It looked so great, and I couldn't wait to go try it. A few days later when the opportunity arose, we went to check it out. The line was out the door, but we had time. When I arrived at the hostess stand, she seemed frazzled, "Hey! Sorry, we are super busy, it's going to be a minute!" Okay, no problem. Twenty minutes later, they still hadn't asked how many were in our party. My patience was wearing thin. The room was crowded; every seat taken. Not enough workers to handle the crowd. And all I could think was, "We're going to be waiting forever, not get any attention from the waitress, and our food will be cold." So we left. We decided it wasn't worth the effort, not because they weren't friendly, but because they just didn't seem to have room for us.

I know that I am not alone in my experiences of feeling "unwelcome" at a random restaurant. But in both instances, the business itself had advertised well. I was interested in their product. I knew their name and what they offered. But the execution between what was communicated to me and how I was received was severely lacking. They just didn't seem to want, need, or be prepared for my presence.

What are we communicating to visitors to our church? We are a well-known, well-established, ideally located house of worship here in Harlem. People are able to find us and have an idea of what we have for them here. But what do they experience when they walk in? Do they feel welcome in worship? Do we seem excited to have them? Are they invited to sit? Are they prioritized as a meaningful part of our Sunday or Wednesday? Do they feel seen, heard? Can they find their way around our facility to where they need to be? Do people help them get there? These are the questions I ask myself every day.

What do visitors experience when they walk onto the campus of Harlem Baptist Church? Open your eyes. Pray. Try to see our church as they would see it. And then step in where you can to help make this an inviting and exciting place for new folks to want to come and find and worship *JESUS*. Because that's what they need. They need the sustenance of His love and grace, and we are here to serve them.

-Rebekah



SUNDAY, JULY 13TH

Greg Wison
CSRA FCA Director



JULY 11-13

Pray for our children going to CentriKid

Church Work Day



July 26th | 8:00AM



WEDNESDAY, JULY 2ND
No Wednesday Night Activities

THURSDAY, JULY 3RD
Church Offices Will Be Closed