

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 1	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	Church Luncheon	11:15AM
February 4	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
	<i>Doors Open for Youth at 6:15PM</i>	
February 7	Men's Breakfast	9:00AM
	<i>at Red Oak Manor</i>	
February 8	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	<i>Deacons Meeting after 2nd Service</i>	
	Youth Super Bowl Party	6:00PM
	<i>Hosted in the Youth Building</i>	
February 11	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
February 15	Worship Service	9:00AM
	<i>Communion During Service</i>	
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	<i>Communion During Service</i>	
	Church Luncheon	11:15AM
February 18	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
February 21	Women's Painting Party	10:30AM
	<i>(Registration Required)</i>	
February 22	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Next Steps	10:15AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	Church Conference	6:00PM
February 24	Coffee with Carson	8:30AM
	<i>at Harlem Java House</i>	
February 25	MIDWEEK	6:30PM

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Carson Britt  
 Pastor  
 Evan Powell  
 Minister of Youth and Young Adults  
 Rebekah Dickerson  
 Communications and Connections Minister  
 Sang Lee  
 Worship Leader  
 Ashley Driggers  
 Administrative Assistant  
 Lindsey Rogers  
 Director of Children's Ministries

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 Harlem, GA  
 Permit No. 8

## ANNIVERSARIES

02-02 Randy & Marcy Sawyer  
 02-02 Jim & Trisha Laughery  
 02-23 Don & Joy Ray

## BIRTHDAYS

02-02 Trisha Laughery  
 02-02 Nancy Kubeck  
 02-03 Jeremy Davis  
 02-07 Carter Adams  
 02-07 Alicia Fitzgerald  
 02-17 Gary Holley  
 02-20 Mandi Fangsrud

### Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming March Events:

- **March 2**— Families for Families Info Meeting at 6:30pm
- **March 7**—Men's Breakfast at 9:00am
- **March 14**— Church Work Day
- **March 13-14**—Youth DNOW Weekend at Kiokee Baptist Church
- **March 29**—Joint Family Worship Service at 10:30am
- **March 31**—HBC Pre-K Registration Event from 5:00pm-6:30pm (HBC members can begin registering March 22).

### FINANCIALS

AS OF DECEMBER 28, 2205

Actual Expenses YTD \$421,077  
 Actual Received YTD \$423,863



DOWNLOAD OUR NEW CHURCH CENTER APP TO STAY UP TO DATE!

HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH



# CONNECTIONS



February 2026

### The Pastor's Desk

LOVE GOD

Well, now that we're one month into 2026, how are you feeling about the year ahead?

For some, January has already been heavy. There may be a quiet anxiety lingering beneath the surface—a fear that if the next eleven months resemble the first, you're not sure how you'll make it through. For others, this month has been a gift. You're hopeful, even prayerfully longing for the rest of the year to carry the same joy and momentum. Most of us, however, probably find ourselves somewhere in between—grateful for some moments, burdened by others.

Wherever you find yourself on that spectrum, it's important to remember this simple truth: one month does not define a year. A difficult beginning does not mean the year is doomed, and a wonderful start does not guarantee a smooth road ahead. Life rarely moves in straight lines. It unfolds with turns and twists, with stretches of calm and seasons of challenge.

LOVE PEOPLE

I am continually reminded that life is marked by rhythms—ups and downs, ebbs and flows. Joy gives way to sorrow. Peaceful seasons are often followed by anxious ones. This is not a failure of faith; it is the reality of life in a broken world. Scripture acknowledges this with remarkable honesty. In Ecclesiastes 3:1, Solomon writes, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." He then names the contrasting moments that make up a human life. The passage does not promise that we can avoid certain seasons—it simply reminds us that we will walk through them all.

That truth presses an important question upon us: how do we live faithfully in every season we're given?

Jennifer and I are currently in a season of parenting that is filled with laughter and deep joy, but also with frustration and exhaustion. In the harder moments, I've had to intentionally remind myself that there was a time when we weren't sure we would ever have children—when we prayed for the very things that now sometimes wear us down. That perspective doesn't erase the difficulty, but it reshapes it. It leads me back to the words of the Apostle Paul: "Give thanks in all circumstances." Not because every circumstance is good, but because God is present and faithful in each one. In this sense, gratitude becomes an act of trust. It is a decision to see our lives through the lens of God's goodness rather than our immediate comfort.

MAKE DISCIPLES

As we continue walking through 2026 together, there will undoubtedly be moments of celebration and seasons of struggle. In all of it, we are invited to give thanks to God. Not as a denial of the hard seasons, but as a declaration of hope in the midst of them. Friends, may we learn to recognize God's hand in every season and trust Him with each one, knowing that He is at work even when the path ahead feels uncertain.

*Press On!  
 Carson*

# CHURCH NEWS

## DEACONS MEETING

**FEBRUARY 8TH**  
AFTER 2ND SERVICE

Join us for **Next Steps at Harlem Baptist** on **Sunday, February 22nd at 10:15am** in the Family Life Center during Sunday School.

Enjoy a light breakfast while learning more about membership, baptism, small groups, and ways to get connected. Children are encouraged to attend Sunday School while parents participate. Registration is encouraged—just let us know how many will be attending breakfast.



## COFFEE WITH CARSON



All retirees are invited to join Carson for coffee at Harlem Java House on **February 24th** at 8:30 AM. Come enjoy good conversation and fellowship! Please let us know if you're able to come.

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

**FEB 22 | 6:00PM**

## COMMUNION DURING WORSHIP SERVICE

**FEBRUARY 15TH**

The cold winter months can be tough, especially early in the morning. And over the past few weeks, we have had some weather that's been even colder than usual! I always worry about our two little ones in the mornings as we are getting out of the house and going to daycare, especially because they can't wear thick jackets in their car seats. I do the best I can to keep them warm, though. I carry them each out to the car snuggling them real tight to my body – I used to carry them inside my own jacket, but they are both too big for that now! And as soon as I get them in the car seats, I lay a blanket over the top of them and try to tuck it snugly around them.

You can imagine my exasperation then, when every morning – by the time we get to daycare – Sonny has pulled off his blanket, his shoes, and even his socks! I can see him back there, being all kinds of mischievous, while he's shedding layers that protect him from the cold. But there's nothing I can do to stop him. Since he's a baby still, there's no point in trying to reason with him. He can't understand that what I'm trying to do is for his good. To keep him warm, safe, healthy. He makes choices he doesn't fully understand. And I'm powerless to stop him.

I wonder if God feels that way too, sometimes... when He watches over us. He has given us rules and boundaries – they are safeguards to ensure that we are living lives that will be happy and healthy. He has charted out a map for our lives with our very best good in mind, and yet we still choose to stray from the path. We constantly make destructive choices and settle for less than our lives could be because we are distracted by the temptation of something that looks better.

Ultimately, Sonny could take his blanket, socks and shoes off every morning for the next 3 months... but I'm still not going to stop putting them on him and doing everything I can to keep him warm. I am grateful that I have a loving Father who loves me even more than I love my son. And I am grateful that He never gives up on me, either.

-Evan

*Join us for the Young Adult SS class —reach out to Evan for more details!*

## Church Luncheon

*Church luncheon will begin at 11:15AM and continue after second service.*

**FEBRUARY 1**  
(BUILDING & GROUNDS)  
PORK CHOPS & FIXINGS

**FEBRUARY 15**  
(YOUTH)  
CHINESE BUFFET

## MEN'S BREAKFAST



Men of all ages are invited to join us for Men's Breakfast on **Saturday, February 7th at 9:00 AM** at **Red Oak Manor**. Come enjoy a good meal, great fellowship, and an encouraging start to your weekend. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can prepare accordingly.



**YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY**  
February 8th | 6:00pm  
Located in the *YOUTH BUILDING*

## Paint, Pray & Pancakes – Women's Brunch –

Join us for a sweet Saturday morning of creativity, connection, and encouragement! **Paint, Pray & Pancakes** is a relaxed women's brunch where we'll enjoy fun food, meaningful fellowship, prayer, and a guided painting project—no experience required.

**Saturday, February 21**  
**10:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

**\$10 per person | Registration required**

Questions? Text Rebekah: 706-528-6496  
Cost a concern? Please still join us!

*BRING A FAVORITE PANCAKE TOPPING.*



Register here!

Hello church,

Today I want to talk about what it truly means to be part of a church family when it comes to dealing with sin. We all know that sin is inevitable and prevalent in the broken world we live in. Becoming a Christian does not make us immune to sin. In fact, Scripture reminds us that there are often greater temptations and spiritual attacks because of the active work of the enemy. We are called to live righteously, to flee from sin, to ask for forgiveness when we fall short, and to forgive those who sin against us.

But practically speaking, this becomes much more complicated when sin is brought before the church. What does it look like when sin is public? When it is serious? When it affects others? How should the church respond when someone from within the congregation commits grave sin? Scripture gives us guidance, not only in what we believe about sin, but in how we walk together through it.

**First, we must treat sin seriously.** Grace does not mean minimizing sin. Grace is not a "sin all-you-can-buffet." Love does not mean pretending harm didn't happen. When Scripture speaks about sin, it does so with honesty and weight, because sin separates, destroys trust, wounds people, and ultimately grieves the heart of God. A church that ignores sin or brushes it aside for the sake of comfort is not being loving.

Taking sin seriously means acknowledging the damage it causes, protecting those who may have been harmed, and upholding holiness as something worth guarding. It means resisting the temptation to explain sin away, excuse it, or compare it to others. Sin must be named for what it is. Only then can healing begin.

At the same time, we must also do our due diligence to protect those who have fallen into sin. God knows that people are often in their darkest and most vulnerable places when they give in to sin and the deceit of the enemy. When a brother or sister falls, they are not only accountable, they are also in great need of help, care, and guidance.

**Second, we must maintain a posture of grace.** Taking sin seriously does not mean taking on a posture of condemnation. The church is not a courtroom. It is a place of healing. Every one of us stands before God not by our own righteousness, but by His mercy. When we forget that, we lose the heart of the gospel.

A posture of grace means remembering that the person caught in sin is still someone deeply loved by God. It means approaching situations with humility, prayer, and compassion rather than gossip, anger, or self-righteousness. Grace does not erase accountability, but it does shape how accountability is carried out. Grace reminds us, "but for the grace of God, there go I." Let me be very clear about this: there is no room for shame in the church. Shame does not produce repentance. It drives people deeper into darkness. The gospel calls us to conviction that leads to repentance, not humiliation that leads to despair.

**Finally, repentance and restoration must always be the priority and the end goal.** The goal of confronting sin is never punishment for punishment's sake. The goal is repentance, healing, and restoration. God's desire is not to discard broken people, but to redeem them. True repentance involves humility, confession, and a genuine turning away from sin. When repentance is real, the church should be the safest place for restoration to take place. Restoration does not always happen quickly, and it does not always look the same in every situation. But it should always be the direction we are moving toward. A healthy church believes that God is still in the business of transforming lives, no matter how messy the story may be.

Church, these moments are never easy. They require wisdom, prayer, patience, and deep reliance on the Holy Spirit. My prayer is that we would be a church that takes sin seriously, walks with grace, and never loses sight of restoration as the heart of the gospel.

Thank you for walking this journey together, not perfectly, but faithfully, trusting that God is at work in us and among us.

With love,  
Sang