

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 1	CHURCH OFFICES ARE CLOSED	
January 4	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	Church Luncheon	Starting at 11:15AM
January 7	Night of Worship	6:30PM
January 10	Men's Breakfast	9:00AM
	at Red Oak Manor	
January 11	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
January 13	Sewing Sisters	6:00PM
January 14	MIDWEEK Resumes	6:30PM
	(Doors Open for Youth at 6:15PM)	
January 18	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	Church Luncheon	Starting at 11:15AM
January 21	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
January 25	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	Deacons Meeting	12:15PM
	Church Conference	6:00PM
January 27	Coffee with Carson	8:30AM
	at Red Oak Manor	
	Sewing Sisters	6:00PM

Mark your calendar  
for **NEXT STEPS**  
February 22nd

### 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

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

01-15 Roger & Nancy Kubeck  
01-22 Tommy & Susi Lumley  
01-23 Chris & Tiff Gurley  
01-25 Cody & Ari Hoagland  
01-26 Terry & Carol Carter

## BIRTHDAYS

01-04 Gary Wilkes  
01-05 Tommy Lumley  
01-08 Casey Allen  
01-10 Benjie Moore  
01-14 Tiffany Gurley  
01-17 Terry Cooper  
01-18 Kelly Hawkinberry  
01-18 Taylor Allen  
01-19 Claudia Rodriguez  
01-20 Gwen Hardy  
01-25 Kathy Holley  
01-26 Reece Stolte  
01-27 Kyle Knight  
01-27 Sang Lee  
01-30 Chase Sherbon  
01-31 Marcy Sawyer

HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH

UPDATED NEEDS:

# SATURDAY SACKS

URGENT ITEMS NEEDED:

- APPLESAUCE
- GRANOLA BARS
- PUDDING
- OATMEAL

## FINANCIALS

AS OF DECEMBER 28, 2025

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



## January 2026

### The Pastor's Desk

LOVE  
GOD

This month marks the beginning of a new season of ministry for HBC. After many months of prayer, listening, and discerning how the Spirit is moving among us, we have stepped out in faith and decided to begin a second Sunday worship service starting January 4. This decision was not made quickly or lightly. It was shaped by prayerful conversation and a deep desire to follow where the Lord is leading.

While we do not yet know all that God has in store for HBC in this new season, we are confident that He is at work. With that confidence, I am filled with anticipation and gratitude for what 2026 holds for our faith community.

As we've shared this decision, we've often used the phrase "Two Services, One Mission." We chose this intentionally. Though our service times are changing, our mission remains the same: to Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples. Adding a second service simply creates greater opportunity for us to live out this calling together.

One of the primary ways we love God is through worship. Psalm 34:3 invites us, "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together." Our faith is personal, but it was never meant to be lived in isolation. Expanding to a second service allows more people to gather, worship, and exalt the Lord together in community.

We are also called to love people. Jesus tells us in John 13 to love one another as He has loved us, and the second greatest commandment reminds us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31). Loving others well requires space for relationship and community to grow. A second service creates more room for people to connect, belong, and experience both giving and receiving Christlike love within our church family.

Finally, our mission calls us to make disciples. Discipleship begins where people encounter Jesus—where the gospel is proclaimed and where the body of Christ is seen and experienced firsthand. When we faithfully pursue this mission, growth follows—both spiritual growth and, at times, numerical growth. We are already seeing signs of this, and we thank God for it.

This coming year will undoubtedly bring many "firsts" for HBC. My prayer is that we would continue to joyfully plant and water seeds, trusting God to bring the growth in His perfect timing.

I am looking forward to a fruitful 2026.

*Merry Christmas!*  
Carson

# CHURCH NEWS

BEGINS JANUARY 4TH



## TWO SERVICES ONE MISSION

WORSHIP @ 9AM & 11:15AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 10:15AM



### Church Conference on January 25th at 6:00PM

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**BEGINNING IN JANUARY**, we are excited to launch a Young Adult Sunday School class for ages 18–30. This class will focus on faith, fellowship, and real-life application of God’s Word. All young adults are welcome!

#### COFFEE WITH CARSON



All retirees are invited to join Carson for coffee at Red Oak Manor on **January 27th** at 8:30 AM. Come enjoy good conversation and fellowship! Please let us know if you’re able to come.

I’ll never forget that Christmas. I was raising a ten-month-old by myself while working two jobs and finishing college. There wasn’t time or funds to go home to my parents for more than a day or two. One day after work, I trudged into my small apartment, looked around, and realized I couldn’t make it through the month of December without some Christmas spirit in my little home.

So I headed to the local dollar store and bought what I could afford—a tiny four-foot tree that I placed on top of a table to make it feel taller, along with a few inexpensive decorations. After putting Oliver to bed that night, I turned on Christmas music and slowly began adding ornaments and little touches around the apartment. And in those quiet moments, the sadness of being alone at Christmastime hit me hard. Then something inside me snapped.

I decided I wasn’t going to let loneliness steal my joy. I wasn’t going to let the challenges of a hard season change the way I felt about my favorite holiday. So I began to sing along to the carols. I put on a Santa hat. I wiped away my tears.

I chose joy. And in doing so, I learned a lesson that has sustained me through some of the hardest seasons of my life.

As we enter a new year, we don’t always get to choose our circumstances. Life is hard. Seasons can be painful, lonely, and heavy. But joy is a choice. Scripture has multiple examples of deciding in advance—pre-deciding how we will respond when life gets difficult. I think of Daniel, who decided in advance not to defile himself with royal food. He refused to let emotions or pressures of the moment sway him, choosing instead to honor God no matter what—so that when temptations came, the decision was already made. So what if we were to pre-decide to choose joy this year?

Maybe that looks like leaving a Christmas ornament on your nightstand all year long as a daily reminder to choose joy. Maybe it’s something else entirely. Whatever it is, remember this: you have a choice.

Even in the darkest, most sorrowful, grief-filled moments of our lives, we can choose joy. Not a fake smile. Not pretending everything is fine. But a decision not to let sorrow, loneliness, grief, pain, or struggle define our daily attitude. To process our emotions and situations through the lens that joy is not a feeling, but a God-honoring choice. We will hurt. We will cry. We will face hard times. But we can still choose joy—choosing to let our Savior fill us with His peace and His presence, resting in who we are in Him.

So don’t make a resolution this year. Just choose joy.

-Rebekah

#### Church Luncheon

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

**JANUARY 4**  
(YOUNG ADULTS)  
PORK LOINS & FIXINGS

**JANUARY 18**  
(MEDIA)  
HAMBURGER STEAKS  
& FIXINGS

#### MEN’S BREAKFAST



Men of all ages are invited to join us for Men’s Breakfast on **Saturday, January 10th 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.



**MIDWEEK** is back! Our Wednesday night service for all ages will resume on **Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 PM**. Join us for a meaningful time of worship, teaching, and fellowship as we gather together midweek to grow in faith and community. 3 adult classes available:  
—**Genesis** (taught by Carson Britt)  
—**Men’s** (taught by Gary Holley & Lander Fangsrud)  
—**Women’s** (taught by Mandy Fangsrud & Rebekah Dickerson)

Sign up today!



Happy New Year!!

Celebrating the new year often makes me think of a specific Bible story... one that might seem surprising.

In 1 Kings 17, the Bible introduces us to a prophet named Elijah. Throughout Chapter 17 and 18, it is well established that Elijah is in a bad way. He was a prophet raised up by God to proclaim the Lord’s power, authority, and might to the Israelite people... a people who had turned their backs on Him. Under the reign of King Ahab and his wife Queen Jezebel, the Israelites began worshipping the false god Baal. Elijah was doing the best he could to turn people’s hearts towards repentance, but his attempts put him at odds with Jezebel – a woman who thirsted for power and had the resources to track down Elijah and put him to death.

In Chapter 19, Elijah runs from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. He settles down in a cave in Horeb, and then God appears to Elijah. Elijah pleads with God, stating: “The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.” From these words, it’s easy to see that Elijah has been pushed to his limits. But then God does something cool. God responds, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the presence of the Lord is about to pass by.” How cool! Elijah is about to stand in the very midst of His presence.

Most of you know the story progresses in a spectacular way; there is a strong wind, an earthquake, and a massive fire, but the Lord’s presence is in none of those. Instead, God chooses to make himself known to Elijah through a “gentle whisper”. Through this whisper, God offers Elijah peace and comfort. God assures Elijah that he is not alone – “I have reserved seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.”

In one small moment, Elijah had been restored. He had been renewed. The downtrodden Elijah that entered the cave at Horeb was not the same emboldened Elijah that left that meeting with God.

This renewal is what many of us will try to achieve (of our own efforts) at the New Year as we “resolve” to do a great many things. But we must understand from Elijah’s story that we will fall flat in any attempt to re-make ourselves if God’s power and authority is not behind it. He is the source of our renewal. He alone is the one who can give us hope anew. In short, what we need most is not to summon a heroic willpower from somewhere deep within ourselves... what we need is to hear God’s still small voice. We need His whisper. Each and every day. So in 2026, may we all resolve to listen better so that we may hear God speak.

-Evan

#### NIGHT OF *Worship*

**JANUARY 7TH | 6:30PM**