

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
April 2	Maundy Thursday Service	6:30PM
April 5	Easter Sunrise Service	7:00AM
	Easter Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Easter Worship Service	11:15AM
April 8	NO MIDWEEK—Spring Break	
April 12	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	Church Luncheon	11:15AM
April 15	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
April 18	Junior Masters Tournament <i>at Putt-Putt</i>	10:00AM
April 19	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	Church Luncheon	11:15AM
April 22	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
April 26	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Next Steps (FLC) <i>for newcomers at HBC</i>	10:15AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	<i>Deacons Meeting after 2nd Service</i>	
	Spring Fling	5:00PM-7:00PM
April 28	Coffee with Carson <i>at Harlem Java House</i>	8:30AM
April 29	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

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

04-05 Jeremy & Liza Davis  
04-10 Raymond & Sheila Fulcher  
04-17 Casey & Andrea Allen  
04-18 Jordan & Grier Whitaker  
04-18 Taylor & Kristen Camp  
04-30 Julian & Lynda Adams

## BIRTHDAYS

04-01 Valerie Allen  
04-02 Raymond Fulcher  
04-02 Leslie Arnold  
04-05 Jim Laughery  
04-06 Harold Smith  
04-09 Kirsten Sawyer  
04-10 Jerry Williams  
04-11 Rosie Cook  
04-11 Alan Hall  
04-12 Paige Fleming  
04-13 Summer Laughery  
04-15 Steve Camp  
04-19 Becky Windham  
04-21 Rafael Diaz-Ortega  
04-21 Caleb Sawyer  
04-24 Dianne Mundy  
04-26 James Oliver  
04-27 Katy Arrowood  
04-27 Carson Britt

### Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming May Events:

- May 3—Child Dedication Parent Class
- May 7—National Day of Prayer
- May 10—Child Dedication
- May 13—Last Day of MIDWEEK
- May 17—Graduation Recognition
- May 19—Coffee with Carson
- May 26-29—Camp Harlem

### FINANCIALS

AS OF MARCH 31, 2026

Actual Expenses YTD \$98,750  
Actual Received YTD \$102,287



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

HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH



# CONNECTIONS



April 2026

### The Pastor's Desk

How do you respond to stressful moments? What do you do when anxiety begins to rise?

I've come to realize that I don't always respond to stress in the most helpful ways. When I feel overwhelmed, my instinct is to shut down. I don't tell anyone what I'm going through, and I don't ask for help. In my mind, asking for help or sharing my struggles feels like admitting defeat. After I shut down, I begin trying to figure out how to handle the situation—but often I find myself paralyzed by indecision. I don't know what to do first, so I end up doing nothing at all. Eventually, I do figure things out. But it often takes days or even weeks to recover, because stress takes a physical toll on me as well. When I'm anxious, my habits change—sometimes I eat too much, sometimes not at all. Often, I end up getting sick. And if I'm honest, stress also affects how I treat others. I become less patient, less kind, and less compassionate. In those moments, I'm not the person I want to be.

Have you ever noticed that Jesus handled stress very differently?

The clearest picture we have comes from those final hours before the cross—in the upper room, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and during His trial. In these moments, we see how Jesus responded under overwhelming pressure.

In the upper room, the first thing we notice is His love. Jesus was fully aware of everything that was about to happen. He knew Judas would betray Him. He predicted Peter's denial. He even told the disciples that they would all fall away. He knew He would soon stand alone—and yet, He still served them. He shared a final meal with them. He washed their feet. As the Gospel of John tells us, He "loved them to the end." In a moment where He could have been consumed by stress, Jesus chose to love others well.

Then, in the Garden of Gethsemane, we see His distress on full display. There, Jesus turns to the Father in prayer. His anguish was so intense that it affected Him physically—He sweat drops like blood. But He didn't hide His struggle. He invited His disciples into it. Mark 14:34 records Jesus saying, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." When Jesus was under pressure, He didn't shut down or isolate Himself—He reached out. He asked for prayer. He let others see His burden.

Finally, as we follow the story from the upper room to the cross, we see that Jesus stayed the course. He remained fully committed to the mission the Father had given Him. He never allowed stress or fear to distract Him from His purpose—giving His life for the sins of the world.

Friends, to be human is to experience moments—sometimes seasons—of overwhelming stress. Stress is not a sign of weakness; it's a reminder of our humanity. Even Jesus, as He bore the weight of the world's sin, experienced unimaginable anguish. And yet, look at how He responded. He invited others in. He asked for prayer. He refused to let stress diminish His love for others. And He kept His eyes fixed on the finish line. He knew that beyond the suffering, victory was coming. And because of that, we can face our own moments of stress with hope. Happy Easter! He is Risen! Thanks be to God!

*Press On!*  
Carson

# CHURCH NEWS

## Easter Sunday HE IS RISEN

### Maundy Thursday

April 2 | 6:30pm

### Easter Sunrise Service

April 5 | 7:00am

### Easter Worship Service

April 5 | 9:00am & 11:15am

## Church Luncheon

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

**APRIL 12**

(HBC PRE-K)

GRILLED CHICKEN & FIXINGS

**APRIL 19**

(YOUTH)

PORK CHOP & FIXINGS

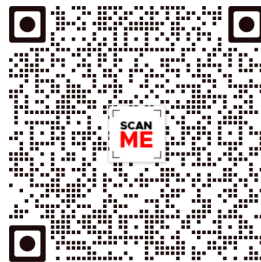


**CHILD DEDICATION  
SUNDAY, MAY 10TH**

Child Dedication will be held on May 10th. All families participating are required to attend a preparation class prior to the dedication. We look forward to celebrating this special moment with you and your family!

Scan the QR Code to sign your child up.

**Camp Harlem  
Registration  
is open!  
May 26-29**



## COFFEE WITH CARSON



All retirees are invited to join Carson at Harlem Java House on **April 28th** at 8:30 AM. Come enjoy good conversation and fellowship! Please let us know if you're able to come.

Hello church,

I want to talk about something simple when it comes to worship. Why do we sing the same songs over and over again?

If you've ever thought, "Didn't we just sing this?" you're probably right. We do repeat songs. And I get it, especially in a world where there is always something new to listen to. But worship is not really about what's new. It's about what's true.

Of course, we do introduce new songs at times. But the songs that really stick with you are not the ones you hear just once. They are the ones you have heard and sung again and again. Over time, they become familiar. They come to mind without you even trying. In many ways, that is what we are aiming for in worship.

When we repeat songs, we are giving those truths time to sink in. Sometimes a lyric you have sung before will hit differently depending on the season you are in. What once felt routine can suddenly feel personal.

So the next time we sing a song you recognize, try not to check out. Lean in a little more. Think about the words. Let them remind you of what is true. Because a lot of the time, the truths we need most are the ones we need to hear again.

Thank you for continuing to worship together.

With love,  
Sang

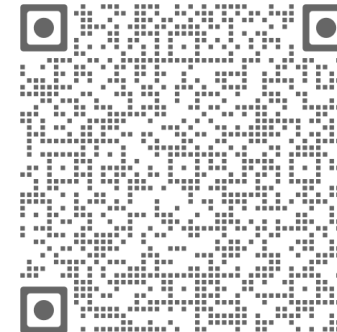
## No MIDWEEK April 8th Spring Break Week

## SPRING FLING April 26 at 5:00PM



Join us for our annual Spring Fling at HBC! This year's theme is "Grow" (1 Corinthians 3:6), and it's going to be a fun evening for the whole family with games, crafts, food and great fellowship!

## MASTERS JUNIOR TOURNAMENT



Saturday, April 18th  
10:00AM

Cost: \$5 per person or  
\$20 per family max

Putt-Putt Fun Center, Augusta, GA

A few weeks ago, the HBC youth group participated in an awesome DiscipleNow weekend event. Since that weekend, one thought has been stuck in my head, and I can't seem to get it out.

*"What am I known for?"*

Everything and everybody is known for something. We live near Augusta, so what puts us on the map is the Master's golf tournament. My hometown, Savannah, just had a big celebration that they are well-known for with the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Me? If I'm honest with myself, I'm probably known for Georgia football, being loud, and yes... pizza rolls. (It was also recently pointed out to me by one of those youth students that I am well known for using words that are "too big".) Those aren't "bad" things, but it's not really what I want to be most well-known for. I don't want to be able to be completely defined by snack foods, sports, and sophisticated language.

What I really want to be known for is being an Easter person— is a person who displays a "living hope" each day of their life. Someone who demonstrates joy in all circumstances. Someone who rests securely in knowing that the battle is already won – King Jesus has delivered to all of us the victory.

Hope, joy, peace, victory... do you know people who exude these qualities in their life? I bet if you know someone like this, you love spending time with them. Who wouldn't? And I want to be this kind of person, but I know I fall far short of these benchmarks. My life is often characterized by hopelessness and defeat, and as a believer in Christ, I know that should not be the case! What kind of testimony am I offering to nonbelievers when they look at my life and see a restless man who displays little joy or hope in what he does?

This week – with Easter quickly approaching – I am praying that God would fill me with a sense of victory. I'm praying that Easter morning would not be just another morning, that Easter service would not be just another thing that I do, and that "He is Risen" would not be just another thing that I say I am praying that Jesus would move in my heart and inspire within me great confidence that He is on the throne. I am praying that God would grant me a peace that surpasses all understanding so that I can rest assured that the biggest problem I will ever face in life – the problem of my own sin – is a problem that has already been dealt with once and for all in the death and resurrection of Christ.

If you look back at the last year of your life and you mostly see despair and defeat, I invite you to join me in praying these prayers. Let us look to the cross together and then on the empty tomb. Let us live victoriously, as that is our true and proper act of worship. Happy Easter everyone!

-Evan

## Next Steps on April 26th at 10:15am.

This is a great opportunity for newcomers to learn more about who we are here at HBC and how you can get connected. Simply scan the QR code to let us know you're coming!



Sign Up Here!