

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2	Men's Breakfast <i>at Red Oak Manor</i>	9:00AM
May 3	Worship Service Sunday School <i>Child Dedication Parent Class</i> Worship Service Church Luncheon	9:00AM 10:15AM 10:15AM 11:15AM 11:15AM
May 6	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
May 7	National Day of Prayer — 11:00AM-1:00PM & 4:30PM-6:30PM <i>Sanctuary open for prayer</i>	
May 10	Worship Service Sunday School <i>Aaron Baldrige Missions Moment Located in the FLC</i> Worship Service <i>Child Dedication in Both Services</i>	9:00AM 10:15AM 11:15AM
May 13	MIDWEEK	6:30PM
May 17	Worship Service Sunday School Worship Service <i>Graduate Recognition in Both Services</i> Church Luncheon	9:00AM 10:15AM 11:15AM 11:15AM
May 19	Coffee with Carson <i>at Red Oak Manor</i>	8:30AM
May 20	MIDWEEK <i>Last Day of Midweek</i>	6:30PM
May 24	Worship Service Sunday School Worship Service <i>Deacons Meeting After Second Service</i> Church Conference	9:00AM 10:15AM 11:15AM 6:00PM
March 26-29	Camp Harlem	9:00AM-1:00PM
March 31	Sunday School Joint Family Worship Church Luncheon	9:00AM 10:15AM 11:30AM

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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U.S. Postage Paid
Harlem, GA
Permit No. 8

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

05-23	Harold & Margie Smith	05-01	Tara Cooper
		05-02	Kevin Allen
		05-03	Terry Carter
		05-05	Jason Truitt
		05-07	Roger Kubeck
		05-18	Rob Lewis
		05-20	Barry Fleming
		05-21	Susan Camp
		05-22	Margie Smith
		05-29	Lynda Adams

Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming June Events:

- June 7— Next Steps Breakfast
- June 14-18— Youth Trip
- June 23—Family Night at Main Street Treats
- June 27—Families 4 Families Parents Day Out
- June 28—Deacons Meeting
- July 1—No Wednesday Night Services

FINANCIALS

AS OF APRIL 26, 2026

Actual Expenses YTD \$131,332
Actual Received YTD \$136,680



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

HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH

CONNECTIONS



May 2026

The Pastor's Desk

Have you ever experienced a season where gratitude seemed to come almost naturally? Maybe it followed a difficult stretch of life, or perhaps it came in a moment when you felt especially loved, supported, or cared for. I try to live with a thankful heart, but if I'm honest, that doesn't always come easily. There are days when I find myself focusing more on frustrations than on the many evidences of God's goodness around me. And yet, there are also moments—like the one I find myself in as I write this—when I pause, reflect on my life, my family, and our church, and I'm simply overwhelmed with gratitude.

About a year ago, I sat down with our staff and shared some direction that I believed the Lord was leading us toward as a church. I don't always think of myself as a visionary, but in that moment, there was a clear sense of where we needed to go. At the same time, it felt weighty. The path ahead would require us to stretch in ways we hadn't before. It would mean having difficult but necessary conversations, and ultimately, it would involve embracing a significant amount of change.

One of the most noticeable areas of change has been our Wednesday nights. Moving away from the Awana program was not an easy decision, and for many, it marked the end of something deeply familiar and meaningful. But in many ways, that season felt like pruning—and as Jesus reminds us, pruning is never the end of the story. Over time, we've begun to see new growth. This past year, we've watched marriages strengthened through our couples study, individuals grow deeper in their faith through men's and women's groups, and our children and students engage more intentionally with God's Word. It's been encouraging to see how God has worked through these changes.

As we entered 2026, we stepped into two more major transitions. The first was the addition of a second Sunday service. This change has come with both challenge and blessing. Many of us have felt the tension of letting go of what once was while stepping into something new. That's not easy. And yet, through it all, our church has remained unified around the "why"—making more room for people to come, to hear the gospel, and to grow in relationship with Jesus. I can't adequately express how grateful I am for the spirit in which you have embraced this change. Already, we are seeing signs of both spiritual and numerical growth, and that is something to give thanks for.

The second transition was welcoming Lindsey Rogers as our Director of Children's Ministries. Any leadership change brings an adjustment period, and this has been no exception. I know it has required much from Lindsey and from our preschool and children's teams, so I would ask that you continue to keep them in your prayers. At the same time, it's evident that God is already at work through this transition. I truly believe this step has helped position us well for the season we are now in—especially as we've moved to two services.

When I look back over this past ministry year, one word comes to mind: transition. And yet, through every change, God has been faithful. I am deeply grateful for the many of you who have prayed faithfully for our church and for our leadership. Your prayers matter more than you know.

As we continue forward, let's remain a people who seek the Lord together, trust Him in every season, and give thanks to the One who was, who is, and who will always be faithful to His children.

*Press On!
Carson*

CHURCH NEWS

CHILD DEDICATION SUNDAY, MAY 10TH

Child Dedication will be held on May 10th. **All families participating are required to attend a preparation class on May 3 at 10:15AM.** We look forward to celebrating this special moment with you and your family!

**Last Day of MIDWEEK
May 20th**

**Deacons Meeting
after 2nd Service
May 24th**

**CHURCH CONFERENCE
MAY 24TH
6:00PM**

Church Luncheon

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

MAY 3
(A/C REPLACEMENT)
STIR FRY & FIXINGS

MAY 17
(YOUTH)
HAMBURGER STEAKS & FIXINGS

MAY 31
(BUILDING AND GROUNDS)
LASAGNA/SPAGHETTI & FIXINGS

1613 Men's Conference July 17-18

Scan QR code to register!



National Day of Prayer

Our Sanctuary will be open May 7th at 11am-1pm and 4:30pm-6:30pm

May is here and it brings with it a whole heap of excitement. Across Harlem Baptist Church Family ministries, it has already been a very busy spring. In January, we launched our new church schedule with two Sunday services and a new Sunday School class for young adults. In March, there was a big DiscipleNow Weekend event for the youth group and a Women's Ministry event. And just in the last few weeks there was the Master's Juniors Putt-Putt Tournament and the annual Spring Fling.

So as we look ahead at the rest of the schedule for this new month, we can see that we will be dedicating babies/children during Sunday morning worship service, school will release for the summer, and then... Camp Harlem is coming!

I count it joy that there is so much going on in the life of our church. Because truly, it seems to point to growth. However, when you're employed by the church – there is an ever-present temptation to see growth only in terms of numbers; the number of dollars given or the number of people in the pews. I suspect this may be the case for many who work in church ministry and perhaps quite a few people who are simply active in their local church body. We look around... and if there are lots of people in the seats next to us, we are encouraged. If there's not as many people, we are discouraged.

Recently as I was reading through Ephesians Chapter 3, a thought stopped me in my tracks. What if instead of measuring growth by attendance or by our budget, we measured it by how captivated we have become by the Gospel of Christ?

Consider: "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:17b-19)

Wow! Talk about growth! Of course I want Harlem Baptist Church to grow numerically, but far more important than the numbers is the heart of the church. And as I read this passage, I passionately want our church to more fully grasp how wide and long and high and deep is Christ's love for His bride. I suspect it would be better to have a sanctuary half-full of those whose hearts have been set ablaze by the Holy Spirit than to have a sanctuary full of those who have become bored by the good news.

We are in the midst of an exciting season here at HBC. But as we move forward, my prayer is that what will excite us most is what is going on inside of us as God works and moves in our presence as only He can. I am confident that we will be astonished at the spiritual fruit that will be harvested if we can again be amazed and astonished by the simple message of just exactly how much Christ loves us.

-Evan

MEN'S BREAKFAST

**MAY 2 AT 9AM
AT RED OAK MANOR**



Graduate Recognition May 17th

During Worship Services

HBC PRE-K

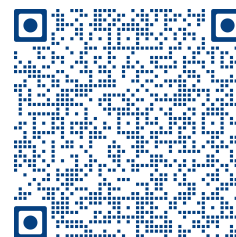
**End of Year Program
Tuesday, May 19th
6:00pm**

Joint Family Worship Sunday, May 31st

**Sunday School 9:00am
Worship 10:15am**

**Churchwide luncheon
following worship service**

**NEXT STEPS
JUNE 7TH AT 10:15AM**



SCAN QR CODE
TO SIGN UP!

**"You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways."
— Psalms 139:1-3**

Have you ever considered the fact that God *likes* you?

Not just that He loves you—we're usually comfortable with that idea. *God is love. He loves me.* Even when we sin, mess up, lose our temper, or fall short in our prayer life, we remind ourselves that God still loves us anyway.

But that's often how we frame it—*He loves me anyway.*

There's a difference between love... and like. To borrow a line from comedian Mark Lowry: "I've got a lot of family I love that I don't really like. I mean, I'll cry at their funeral, but I don't want to go on vacation with them."

And if we're honest, that resonates. We all have people in our lives—family, coworkers, even acquaintances—we care about, but they're not exactly our favorite people to spend time with.

So here's the question: do we ever, even subtly, assume God feels that way about us? Yes, He loves us—but does He actually *like* us?

Scripture paints a very different picture. God doesn't just tolerate you—He enjoys you. He delights in you. He longs to spend time with you.

Think about that for a moment. You make Him smile. You bring Him joy. Not just because of what you do—but because of who you are.

Have you ever taken time to consider what God likes about you?

It might feel uncomfortable—even self-serving—but it's actually an important exercise in understanding how God sees us. When we begin to recognize the good things He is forming in us, our confidence in His love deepens. It no longer feels distant or obligatory—it becomes personal and precious.

So what does God like about *you*?

Maybe you have a heart for helping others.

Maybe your sense of humor lifts people when they're struggling.

Maybe you have the courage to say hard things with grace and care.

Maybe you show up for people, even when it costs you something.

Maybe you're generous without needing recognition.

Maybe you are the dependable one.

Maybe you pray faithfully for others.

Maybe you have a gift for loving "difficult" children and pointing them to Jesus.

Maybe your presence brings joy and steadiness into a room.

God has built into each of us something, many things—so deeply—that, if you weren't worried about sounding arrogant, you could honestly say, "*God likes this about me.*"

Try it. Name five things. And if that's hard, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal them to you. Or ask a trusted Christian friend, "I'm trying to see myself the way God sees me—what do you think He likes about me?"

This isn't about pride. It's about perspective.

God created you with intention—for a purpose. And if we don't acknowledge what He's placed in us, it becomes difficult to walk confidently in His love or step fully into what He's called us to do.

God doesn't just love you. He likes you. The question is—are you living like you believe that?

-Rebekah