

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3	OASIS Summer Bible Study	6:30PM
June 4	Brunch Bible Study for Youth	10:00AM
June 6	Men's Breakfast	9:00AM
June 7	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Next Steps (FLC)	10:15AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
June 8	Nachosen Night for Youth	6:00PM
June 10	OASIS Summer Bible Study	6:30PM
June 11	Brunch Bible Study for Youth	10:00AM
June 14	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	Church Luncheon	11:15AM
June 14-18	Youth Trip to Charlotte, NC	
June 21	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
June 22	Nachosen Night for Youth	6:00PM
June 23	Family Night at Main St. Treats	6:30PM
June 24	OASIS Summer Bible Study	6:30PM
June 27	Families 4 Families Parents Day Out @ 10AM-1PM	
June 28	Worship Service	9:00AM
	Sunday School	10:15AM
	Worship Service	11:15AM
	Deacons Meeting After 2nd Service	
	Church Luncheon	11:15AM

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

06-05 Rob & Brandi Lewis
 06-08 Barry & Paige Fleming
 06-13 Mark & Roxie Whitaker
 06-15 Jimmie & Nancy Lewis
 06-19 John & Hope McClellan

BIRTHDAYS

06-03 Beverly Welch
 06-03 Darlene Rainwater
 06-05 Ben Hill
 06-05 Katie Powell
 06-18 Kristen Camp
 06-23 Joy Ray
 06-24 Andre Miller
 06-26 Brett Rogers

Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming July Events:

- July 1—No Wednesday Night Activities
- July 2—Church Office Closed in observance of Independence Day
- July 5—Deacon Nominations Due
- July 10-12—CentriKid Camp
- July 17-18—1613 Men's Conference
- July 26—Deacons Meeting
- July 28—Coffee with Carson

DEACON NOMINATION

Deacon nomination forms will be available at the welcome center and due back July 5th. Nominating committee will be calling and praying over the new deacons.

FINANCIALS

AS OF MAY 27, 2026

Actual Expenses YTD \$170,359
 Actual Received YTD \$178,608



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

HARLEM BAPTIST CHURCH

CONNECTIONS



June 2026

The Pastor's Desk

From June 8th to July 19th, I will be on sabbatical. I will return to the office on July 20 and spend two weeks transitioning back into the normal rhythm of ministry before returning to the pulpit on August 2. Because sabbaticals are unfamiliar to many people, I wanted to take this opportunity to explain a little about this season and answer a few questions you may have.

Why a sabbatical?

At its core, this sabbatical is meant to be a season of rest, renewal, and deeper communion with Jesus. Ministry is one of the greatest joys of my life, but like any calling, it requires intentional rhythms of rest and replenishment. Stepping away from the regular demands and pace of ministry for a brief season will allow me to devote focused time to prayer, study, reflection, and simply abiding in Christ. I have not planned every detail of these weeks, but I am seeking to balance rest with intentional spiritual renewal. My prayer is that this time will deepen my walk with the Lord and strengthen me for years of faithful ministry ahead. I would be grateful for your prayers that the Lord uses this season to refresh my heart, mind, and soul.

Is something wrong?

No—absolutely not. I realize that when a pastor takes a sabbatical, people may naturally wonder if there is a hidden problem or difficult situation behind the scenes. Please know that this is not a response to a crisis. Rather, it is a proactive and healthy investment in long-term ministry. In a time when many pastors experience exhaustion and burnout, our deacons believed it would be beneficial to provide this opportunity before issues arise. I am deeply thankful for their care, wisdom, and foresight in encouraging this season of rest and renewal.

"Must be nice..."

The honest answer is yes! This sabbatical is truly a gift, and I am incredibly grateful for it. At the same time, stepping away from Harlem Baptist for six weeks is not easy for me. I genuinely love being your pastor. I love worshiping alongside you, opening God's Word together, and walking with you through the joys and challenges of life. Leaving those rhythms, even temporarily, is deeply challenging for me. Still, I believe this season can also be understood through the words of Jesus in John 15. Jesus reminds us that the Father, the gardener, prunes fruitful branches so that they may bear even more fruit. Pruning is not punishment; it is loving preparation for greater fruitfulness. My hope is that this sabbatical will be a season of pruning and renewal—not only for me personally, but perhaps for our church family as well. I pray that God uses it to produce even greater spiritual fruit in the days ahead.

What if we see you this summer?

Please say hello! Although our family will travel a bit more the summer, I will still see many of you around Harlem. I can assure you I will not make it an entire summer without visiting Java House! If you see us around town, I would love to talk with you and catch up. My only request is that, during this season, we try to not talk about church. This sabbatical is intended to create some healthy space from the normal responsibilities of ministry, and I would appreciate your help in protecting that space.

Continued on next page

LOVE
GOD

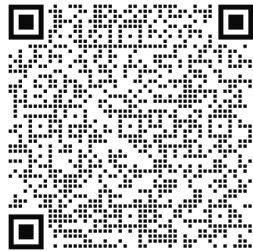
LOVE
PEOPLE

MAKE
DISCIPLES

CHURCH NEWS

1613 Men's Conference July 17-18

Scan QR code to register!



OASIS Summer Bible Study begins May 27th at 6:30pm (NURSERY PROVIDED)

**DEACONS MEETING
JUNE 28TH
AFTER SECOND SERVICE**

Church Luncheon

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

JUNE 14
(FIRST IMPRESSIONS)
MEXICAN BUFFET

JUNE 28
(MEN'S MINISTRY)
STEAK/POTATOES
AND FIXINGS



Family Night at Main Street Treats JUNE 23RD @6:30PM

YOUTH EVENTS

JUNE 14-18
Summer Trip to
Charlotte, NC

MONDAYS @6PM
Nachosen Nights*

THURSDAYS @10AM
Brunch Bible Study*

**Dates and locations will vary.
See Evan Powell for details.*

FAMILIES 4 FAMILIES



PARENT'S DAY OUT
JUNE 27TH @10AM-1PM
Volunteers are needed! Please see Evan Powell.

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



More Than Just Singing

Hello Church,

Worship is something many of us do every week, and because of that, it can quickly become part of the "norm." We know the songs, we know when to stand, and sometimes we can sing every word while our minds are daydreaming about what to eat for lunch afterward. But throughout Scripture, worship was never meant to be routine background noise. Worship has always been a response to who God is and what He has already done.

When we gather together on Sunday mornings, we are doing far more than simply singing songs we like. We are participating in worship and praise orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. We are joining with the "capital C" Church: believers from the past, believers around the world today, and believers yet to come. Every Sunday gathering should be a small glimpse of what Heaven will one day look like. This is what we are participating in when we come together in worship, and it should change the way we approach it. Worship is way bigger than us. It is bigger than our preferences about songs or styles. It is bigger than our feelings of not wanting to sing out loud or raise our hands because it may feel awkward. Worship is not just a warm-up before the sermon. **It is not simply music. It is not a performance to watch.**

It is the people of God responding together to the greatness of God. That is why posture matters. And when I say posture, I do not only mean whether someone lifts their hands, kneels, closes their eyes, or sings loudly. Scripture shows many outward expressions of worship — clapping, bowing, kneeling, lifting hands, singing with joy, and even moments of stillness. But posture is ultimately about the heart before it is ever about the body. It reminds me of something Pastor Carson says during every baptism: baptism is an outward expression of inward transformation. I view worship posture in a similar way. It is an outward expression of inward reverence, gratitude, and awe for who God is.

When we are truly moved by something, our bodies naturally respond. We cheer when Georgia scores the game-winning touchdown in a national championship. We cry during funerals when we lose someone close to us. We stand in awe when we visit the Grand Canyon for the first time. In the same way, worship can move us outwardly because God has changed us inwardly. This is not about legalism or forcing everyone to worship in the exact same way. God is not measuring spirituality based on how high someone lifts their hands or how emotional they appear. But there is something meaningful about engaging fully in worship rather than remaining distracted or disconnected.

Worship was never meant to be passive. The words we sing are declarations. They teach us, shape us, remind us of truth, and help anchor our hearts in the gospel. When we sing about God's faithfulness, we are reminded of His faithfulness. When we sing about grace, the Holy Spirit reminds us of what Christ has done for us. When we sing together as one church body, Christ is honored and glorified through His Bride, the Church. Even in difficult seasons, worship becomes an act of trust.

Some of the deepest worship in Scripture happened during moments of suffering, uncertainty, and weakness. Worship is not pretending life is perfect. Rather, it is a declaration that God is still worthy even when life is hard. My prayer for us is that our heart posture would reflect the words of Psalm 95:6: "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"

That in humility, we would come to worship each Sunday with eagerness to honor and glorify the Lord who has given us far more than we could ever deserve.

-Sang

Continued from Pastor Carson's article on front page

How can you help?

Please pray! Pray that this season would truly be refreshing and restorative for me and my family. Pray that the Lord would deepen my love for Him, renew my spirit, and help me steward this time wisely. Please also pray for our church staff, deacons, and lay leaders who will faithfully carry additional responsibilities during my absence. I am deeply thankful for each of them and confident the Lord will continue to work powerfully through their service.

Finally, thank you. Thank you for loving and caring for my family so well. Having grown up in and around ministry, I have seen many pastors and ministry families who were not cared for in healthy ways. For the past fourteen years, Harlem Baptist has consistently demonstrated extraordinary love, generosity, and support toward us. Your care has never been taken for granted. Jennifer and I, along with our family, are deeply grateful to serve this church. We love you dearly, and we are thankful for the privilege of walking alongside you in ministry. I already look forward to worshipping with you again soon.

Pastoral Sabbatical – Things to Know

Communication During Sabbatical

I will not be checking or responding to emails during my sabbatical. Ashley will monitor my inbox regularly, respond when appropriate, and organize anything that may need my attention upon my return. If you have an urgent need during this time, please contact another staff member or your deacon.

Meetings & Counseling

During my sabbatical, I will not be available for meetings, counseling, or church-related matters. However, we are blessed with a caring and capable staff that is ready to walk alongside you and provide support, encouragement, and counsel as needed.

Emergency Communication

Our staff and sabbatical team have established guidelines to help determine if a situation is significant enough to require contacting me during this time. I have complete trust in their wisdom and discernment should they need to make that decision.

Leadership During My Absence

Evan, several deacons, and other lay leaders will be preaching and leading Oasis Summer Bible Study during my absence. I am deeply grateful for their willingness to serve and fully confident they will lead faithfully and well. Please pray for them and encourage them throughout the summer.

In Christ,
Carson

PASTORAL SABBATICAL PULPIT SUPPLY

JUNE 14—BRETT ROGERS
JUNE 21—EVAN POWELL
JUNE 28—EVAN POWELL
JULY 5—EVAN POWELL
JULY 12—EVAN POWELL
JULY 19—JEREMY DAVIS
JULY 26—GARY HOLLEY

MEN'S BREAKFAST

June 6th
9:00AM
Red Oak Manor

