



# Reaching Wide & Growing Deeper

**FEBRUARY, 2025  
NEWSLETTER**

## February Theme: Revive Our Hearts

### February Fighter Verse: 2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

### OUR WORSHIP IN-PERSON

LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM  
[www.centralbaptistnyc.org](http://www.centralbaptistnyc.org)

Nursery available at 10:45a — Infant to 5 years old

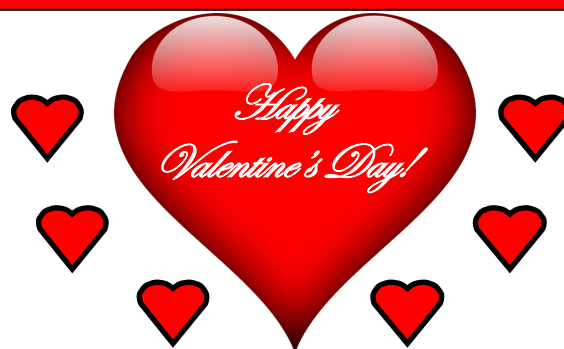
### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School 9:45AM In Person and via Zoom  
Youth Sunday School 11:15AM  
Kindergarten to 12th Grade  
2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.

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**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
Wednesday, February 26, 2025  
7:00PM, In person & Zoom**

### AIR RIGHTS DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR REVIEW Bio of Attorney of Note

There are materials regarding our possible air-rights project are available for your review in the church office. Please contact the main office Monday—Thursday, 10am-6pm



### NOMINATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Nomination Committee is asking you to help in our search of nominating new Deacons and Trustees. If there is a member of the church you believe fits the qualifications of a Deacon and or Trustee, please email the church office [tglenn@centralbaptistnyc.org](mailto:tglenn@centralbaptistnyc.org)

# FEBRUARY DEVOTIONAL

By Debby Holland Diaz MA ThM

**“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those that wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one’s mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope.) Lamentations 3:24-29 NRSV**

With what is going on in the world today and with the State of The Nation as I write this on Presidential Inauguration Day, 2025, I pray for us all to have hope! The Lord led me back to Lamentations, the third chapter, verses 24-29, because in this short passage there are two kinds of hope, one in the first verse (24) and one in (29) the last verse.

The first verse of this passage, verse 24, is preceded by familiar phrases assuring us of God’s “steadfast love” and “mercies” that “never end,” that are “new every morning” and “Great is your faithfulness!” (Lamentations 3: 22-23) These comforting phrases that many Christians know and sing make the meaning of the Hebrew word for “hope” stand out in a way that does not seem so hopeful! The “hope” in verse 24 (“therefore I will hope in him”) is defined as “a long, patient waiting, a lingering hope, still expecting and earnestly desiring that which, up to now, has been exercised with delay and disappointment.” Is this kind of hope at all familiar to you? I must confess it is to me.

Now let us reread the rest of the passage (verses 25-29!) I



wonder if it is as hard for at least some of you to wait quietly, to bear yokes, to sit alone even in God-imposed silence (whether we are youths or not) as it is for me? Well, I’ve got good news for all of us! As bad as the last verse (29) sounds, “to put one’s mouth to the dust,” the sentence ends in triumph, parentheses notwithstanding: **(there**

**may yet be hope.)** This “hope” means “to strongly stretch out the mind in a straight direction toward the object of hope or expectation and to wait patiently until it is effected”—i.e., until it happens!

When I discussed this verse with the only one of my Jewish friends who is bilingual in Hebrew, his face lit up at verse 29: “Oh yes!” he smiled. “That’s *Tikva*! It’s part of Israel’s National Anthem.”

*Tikva* is the strongest hope there is! May *tikva/strong hope* lead us all into what we know is the Next Step: Strong Faith in Jesus Christ! Amen.

NRSV=New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

## Black History Month Feature

### Shirley Anita Chisholm A Catalyst For Change 1924-2005

**S**hirley Anita Chisholm (née St. Hill) was born November 30, 1924 and died January 1, 2005. Although she was born in Brooklyn, New York, she lived in Barbados with her grandparents and her siblings from the ages of 3 to 10. Her parents sent their children to Barbados to be brought up by their grandparents for a while because it was difficult for them economically to bring up their children while they both worked.



Adam Cuerden,  
photographer

Mrs. Chisholm was from an economically lowly background but she never allowed that to dampen her ambitions. When she applied to college she had offers from both Vassar College and Oberlin College but could not accept either because even though she was offered full tuition in both cases, the family could not afford the cost of room and board, so she went to Brooklyn College - tuition free - where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Sociology and a minor in Spanish. After college, she started working in early childhood education. While developing her career in social services, she attended classes after work pursuing her Master of Arts degree in Childhood Education



February 1969

at Teachers College of Columbia University. She became an authority on early education and child welfare issues.

She was elected to the New York State Legislature in 1964, and in 1968 she was elected to the United States House of Representatives and was the first black woman to be elected to Congress. There she represented the 12th Congressional District from 1969 - 1983 when she retired from Congress.

Being a woman in politics, she faced many challenges which she always overcame. For example, in Congress, although she was from an urban area, she was assigned to the Agricultural Committee. This disappointed her because she represented a district in Brooklyn. She felt that she was not placed on a committee where she could make useful contributions for her constituents. However, she used this disadvantage to benefit them by working in collaboration with colleagues such as Bob Dole, to expand the Food Stamp Program. On the suggestion that she use the surplus food for the hungry, she played a critical role in the creation of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and rose to party leadership. She was later assigned to the Education and Labor Committee.

Mrs. Chisholm was known for standing against economic, social and political injustices and was always personally involved ensuring her principles were being advanced. She was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and a strong supporter of black civil rights as well as women's rights. Her success in the New York State legislature included unemployment benefits for domestic workers. And, it was in that spirit of pursuing change that she decided to run for President of the United States of America

In 1972 Shirley Chisholm became the first black candidate for a majority party nomination for the President of the United States and the first woman to be the Democratic Party's presidential nominee. Although she received 152 ballots at the Democratic National Convention in 1972, it was not enough to secure the nomination. Nonetheless, she knew that the process of her bid for office was an opportunity to bring many inconsistencies in our society to the forefront.

In 1983 she retired from Congress and was offered many teaching positions, but she accepted The Purington Chair at Mount Holyoke College and continued her political organizing.

In 1993 she was nominated for the position of Ambassador to Jamaica but withdrew because of health issues.

In 2015 she was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In an Interview, she was asked how she wanted to be remembered. She said, "As a woman who dared to be a catalyst of change."



Some additional resources are: Documentary : "Unbought and Unbossed" on YouTube; Movie: "Shirley" starring Regina King. Available on Netflix, March 22, 2025

Sources: Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shirley\\_Chisholm#1972\\_presidential\\_campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shirley_Chisholm#1972_presidential_campaign)



The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) was established in 1971 by 13 founding members. The founding members include:

**Rep. Shirley A. Chisholm (D-N.Y.)**

Rep. William L. Clay, Sr. (D-Mo.)  
Rep. George W. Collins (D-Ill.)  
Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.)  
Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.)  
Rep. Charles C. Diggs, Jr. (D-Mich.)  
Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Calif.)

Rep. Ralph H. Metcalfe (D-Ill.)

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.)  
Rep. Robert N.C. Nix, Sr. (D-Pa.)  
Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.)  
Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio)  
Del. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.)

**Church Wide Events — Celebrating Community**



**Central Baptist Church Senior's Ministry**

Invites you to: "NOAH"

Sight & Sound Theatre Lancaster, PA

**Saturday, July 19, 2025**

Leave Central at 8:00am – Return at 9:30pm

Tour Includes: Deluxe Motor Coach  
Transportation, Buffet Luncheon at Millers  
Smorgasbord, Shopping at Tanger's Outlet  
Discount Center

Cost: **\$240.00** Per Person  
(Deposit and 2 Payment)

Deposit of **\$40.00** due **ASAP** to Secure Seat.

**Make Checks or Money Orders payable to:**

Central Baptist Church  
(Note on check *Senior Trip*)

See Otis Coleman regarding payment plan. All  
payments are to be given to  
**Otis Coleman.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to come together to learn, pray and fellowship.

## BIBLE STUDY

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### Adult

9:45AM— In person and via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Phone: 646-558-8656

### Sunday Youth Group

11:15AM—2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays

In-Person OR

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Phone: 646-558-8656



### Senior Bible Study

Wednesdays

12 Noon to 1:00pm

Miss Ann's Room

**I**f we're creating disciples properly, discipleship goes beyond personal improvement. We are preparing those who will embrace God's mission and are passionate to continue it.

Robert Casteline

**Curious? Confused? Attend Wednesday in the Word.**

### WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD

7:00—8:00PM

Wednesday Night Bible study is a great way to keep your heart and mind on God! Join us for an interactive, in-depth reflection on the scriptures and how they can be applied to your life.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656



Join us as we explore and diagnose our spiritual health.

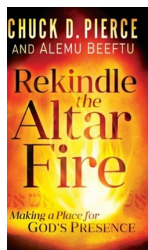
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Or dial in on your phone:

(646) 558-8656

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

## Senior Ministry Events



### SENIOR BOOK CLUB

Saturday, February 1st

2-4pm, Miss Ann's Room

*Rekindle the Altar Fire—Making a place for God's presence*

by Chuck D. Pierce & Alumu Beeftue



## Senior Ministry. Exercise Program

11:00am to 11:45 am - Chapel

NO CLASS FEBRUARY 1

Saturday, February 8

Saturday, February 22

### Senior Technology

### "Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays

11:00am to 12 Noon

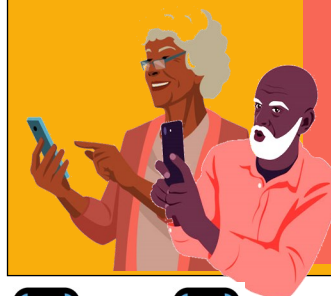
February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

Miss Ann's Room



### SENIOR MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday, February 15, 2025

2pm to 4pm - Chapel

## Praying Together

**W**ith so many opportunities to pray corporately with one another. Below are the leaders and ministries who need your prayers. Create a prayer journal and keep track of the requests and praise reports.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	CITY, STATE & COUNTRY
Pastor Fils-Aime	New York City
Pastor Robert Casteline	Leadership of NYC, State and Country
Willana Mack Hudson	The World and personal circumstances
Deacons & Elders	
Ministries	
Missionaries	
Members and Friends of Central	
Sick and Shut-in	

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16*

### DAILY PRAYER MEETING BY CONFERENCE PHONE

Led by Elder Deryck and Sonya Tonge  
(609) 746-1164  
Access Code: 667293#  
Monday — Friday  
6-6:30 AM

### EVENING PRAYER

Friday, February , 2025  
At 7:00PM  
Via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.  
Phone: 646-558-8656

## Praying for our Leadership

**B**elow are the names of our Elders, Trustees and Deacons. Please pray for them and their families. As members of our congregation, we each have a Deacon who will reach out to you periodically to see how you're doing and if you have any needs or prayer requests.

If you don't know who your Deacon is, email [deaconsasmarch2024@groups.outlook.com](mailto:deaconsasmarch2024@groups.outlook.com) or call the church office and leave a message requesting a call from your Deacon.



### ELDERS

Rev. John Fils-Aime  
Rev. Robert Casteline\*  
Vincent Clark\*

\*Interim for 1 year



### TRUSTEES

Yulando McMullen, Trustee  
Myrna Phillips Gibson, Trustee  
Taji Phillips, Trustee



### DEACONS

Deacon AnnDenise Brown  
Deacon Kimberly Casteline  
Deacon Otis Coleman  
Deacon Sharrata Hunt  
Deacon/Trustee Yulando McMullen  
Deacon Michelle Newkirk  
Deacon Joyce Powell  
Deacon Sherry Reid  
Deacon Esther Romero  
Deacon Jean Thelusme



**L**et us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

# February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> 9:30A-12:00P- Pickleball <b>NO SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS</b>
<b>2</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>3</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>4</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>5</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  11A-12P---Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel	<b>6</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>7</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>8</b> 10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB  9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
<b>9</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>10</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>11</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>12</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  11A-12P---Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	<b>13</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>14</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  	<b>15</b> 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 2P-Senior Ministry Meeting—Chapel <b>4P-Paint &amp; Pray—Parlor</b>
<b>16</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>17</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>18</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>19</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  11A-12P---Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel	<b>20</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>21</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>22</b> 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Ms. Ann's
<b>23</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>24</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>25</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>26</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  <b>7:00P-CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—In Person &amp; ZOOM</b>	<b>27</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>28</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7pm-Evening Prayer Zoom	

## Missionary of the Month

### Felix and Amnerys Abreu Missions Door



**F**elix and Amnerys have served with Missions Door since 1993. Central has been a longtime supporter of their ministry in the Dominican Republic. Felix's vision is to train leaders and start new churches. One of his goals is to expand ministries across the Caribbean.

Amnerys writes:

A church was started in the city of San Pedro de Macoris in 2024. The new church is part of the 5-5-5-Project to impact 5 cities with 5 church movements in 5 years. This is church number two. Felix says they are moving forward. He has developed social projects that impact the communities that he serves. He hosted an international congress with 41 leaders from 14 countries, sharing with them on how to spread the gospel.

Felix is asking for prayer for the development of leaders to pastor the churches and for the church planters. He thanks you for being a part in the ministry.

Contact [information-fabreu@mb-rd.org](mailto:information-fabreu@mb-rd.org)

**A**nd let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

**M**ay the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him. So that you may overflow with love by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

**Happy Birthday!**



LaJuana Smith	Feb 02
Tracey Knuckles-White	Feb 05
Helene Jean-Michel	Feb 05
Christopher Henderson	Feb 06
Elizabeth Almanzar-Wright	Feb 07
Samyah Ferdinand	Feb 08
Deborah Gorham	Feb 11
Brandon Martinez	Feb 12
Debra James	Feb 13
Cliff Jean-Michel	Feb 13
Stephanie Cunningham	Feb 14
Brielle Johnson	Feb 14
Meaghan Selch	Feb 15
Colliertine Walker	Feb 17
Willie Ray Gibson, Jr	Feb 17
Late Lawson-Drackey	Feb 18
Melinda Galbraith	Feb 19
Troy Carver	Feb 21
Saniya Barbour	Feb 25
Helen Dunn	Feb 26

Logan Chung's next calendar birthday is Feb 29, 2028. On Feb 28 celebrate another year with Logan REGARDLESS of what the calendar says.





## MORE Church Wide and Community Events



150 Riverside Drive  
& West 87th  
Street, New York,  
NY 10024

Each 2nd Saturday Central goes to The Riverside center to bring the residents a worship service. Come and bring a willing heart to serve. We meet at the church at 10AM and walk over to the center as a group. Ministry ends around 12 noon. See the upcoming dates.

February 8

March 15

April 12



Invite a friend. RSVP please  
heirsoftheking24@gmail.com



Saturdays  
9:30-12 noon in Lower Gym

Open to the public.  
All levels.  
Equipment available.

**R**emember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*  
**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

**Keep Central's  
finances in  
prayer!**



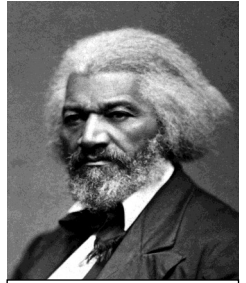
**Newsletter Staff:** Pastor Robert Casteline, Oversight; Paulette Forbes-Igharo and Sharrata Hunt. Special thanks to Debby Diaz, Nadja Hicks, and Tanya Glenn.

## The Last Word

by Nadja Hicks

*Then He said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from Me." - Genesis 22:12 (HCSB)*

**I**n mid-January I received a CVS snail mail coupon for Valentine's Day candy. I found it while watching a documentary about Frederick Douglass. February was just around the corner when we celebrate Black History Month with Valentine's Day planted smack in the middle. There are already heart-themed decorations everywhere in red, pink, and white. The month will soon overflow with fantastic events, programs, exhibits and other special coverage marking Black History Month. But other than both happening in February, they don't seem to have much in common. And they certainly never made me think of Genesis 22. Until now. Because each of them involves sacrifice.



Portrait of Frederick Douglass  
by George Kendall Warren

Those we honor throughout Black History Month faced private struggles, public challenges, and took their own grueling treks through some of the most brutal terrain of history and heart. Traveling toward their own Moriahs, with their eyes on mountaintops while aching on the journey. Likely never grasping how their actions, vividly personal at the time, would be so far-reaching and that their accomplishments still sing out today. Our closest relationships are like that too. Giving, trusting, loving, sharing—even when it's hard, even to our own hurt. Tough decisions made. Steps taken, whether bold or tentative, going farther forward than feet can ever take us.

Countless people in history suffered to break down barriers, to become the *firsts*, the *ones*, the *onlys*. They put their hearts on the line. More names than can be listed and more accomplishments than can adequately be measured. Some names we recognize. Others are lost to time. Even if some were simply sweethearts who married and started godly families that continue to this day. They all, like Abraham, carried generations with them.



John Robert Lewis

This month we celebrate and honor the loved ones with us and the ones who opened the way we go. It is ours to acknowledge what was given and what we can give. To recognize we are drenched in waters that flow to us and through us like a mighty river surging through time, onward to those whose ancestors we will someday be.

