



# Reaching Wider & Growing Deeper



## Central Baptist Church Newsletter

### DECEMBER THEME: GOODWILL TOWARD MEN

#### Fighter Verse: John 1:14

**T**he Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 17 at 7PM**  
**Location: CBC and Zoom**

#### 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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#### CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

*Joy to the World!*

Central Baptist Church wishes you many blessings during this Christmas season and in the New Year.

#### FRIENDSGIVING An afternoon of fellowship and food.

**T**he list of words to describe this year's Friendsgiving: Welcoming, beautiful, fun, uplifting, surprising, and delicious. Everyone received their raffle ticket upon arrival then stepped into a room decorated in a gold, white and green. Fun because of the gathering of CBC members and friends and family together. Uplifting because of the spiritual intention through prayers of expressions of gratitude. Surprising when Pastor invited Ta'u Pupu'a, baritone and pickleball player to sing. Mr. Pupu'a sang, "Witness for My Lord" and the event pulls together around the delicious food. We were entertained when the pastors went head to head in Bible trivia. The event concluded with the raffle. Take out containers were available to anyone who wanted to any of leftovers.

All of this was because Tanya Glenn, office manager, had a vision and allowed God to use her. Thank you Tanya. You are an example of Central's commitment to build community and share the heart of Christ.

Invited guests and Pickleball players.



# CHURCH WIDE EVENTS & 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

**7 PM on Zoom**

**TALK BACK Tuesday**

Join us to dig deeper into Pastor's Sunday sermons.

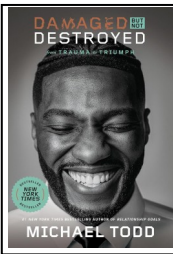
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Or dial in on your phone:  
(646) 558-8656  
Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

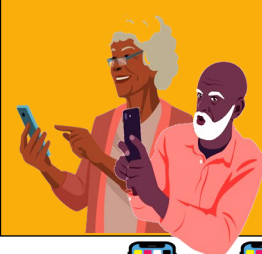
## Senior Ministry Events

### Senior Book Club

Saturday, February 7, 2026  
2pm to 4pm - Miss Ann's Room  
"Damaged But Not Destroyed: From Trauma to Triumph" by Michael Todd



### Senior Technology Class



### "Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays

11:00am to 12 Noon

Miss Ann's Room

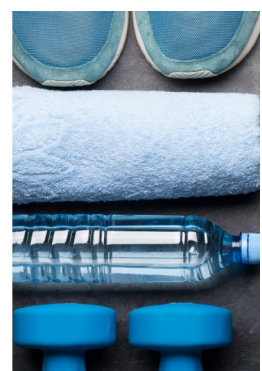
December 3

December 10

December 17

**NO CLASS** December 24

**NO CLASS** December 31



### Senior Ministry Exercise Program

Time: 11:00am to 11:45am

Location: Chapel

Saturday, December 6

Saturday, December 13

Saturday, December 27

### SENIOR MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING

**SECRET SANTA—\$15 GIFT LIMIT**

Saturday, December 20, 2025

2pm to 4pm - Chapel



# Church Wide Event—Celebrating Community



### Central Baptist Church Senior's Ministry

Invites you to:

### "JOSHUA"

Sight & Sound Theatre Lancaster, Pennsylvania

**Saturday, July 18, 2026**

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: **\$245.00** Per Person (Deposit and 2 Payment)

### To Secure a Seat:

\*\*Deposit of **\$45.00pp** due by **December 15, 2025**

2nd Payment due **March 15, 2026 (\$100.00)**

Final Payment due **May 15, 2026 (\$100.00)**

### Make Checks or Money Orders payable to:

Central Baptist Church (Note on check Senior Trip)

All payments are to be given to **Otis Coleman**

\*\*The January issue stated the deposit for the trip is 40.00. That was incorrect. The correct deposit is \$45.00. We apologize for any inconvenience.

### Juanita Bailey

*(no picture available)*

September 19, 1945—April 12, 2025



### Betty Jane Johnson

April 24, 1938—July 7, 2025



### Lenworth Lee Bennett

January 13, 1973—April 23, 1025

## In Memoriam

*As we remember our members and friends who have gone to be with the Lord, we pray for their families because this is their first holiday season without Juanita, Len, Karen, Betty, Elaine or Eddie. They will have many more firsts throughout 2026. Pray for them when they come to mind and thank the Lord for the loved ones that are still present in your life.*



### Elaine James

August 3, 1935—September 19, 2025



### Karen Marchak

July 7, 1945—July 18, 2025



### Mrs. Eddie Sims

April 4, 1938—November 4, 2025

## Praying Together

With 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.

<b>CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH</b>	<b>CITY, STATE, COUNTRY &amp; PERSONAL</b>
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	<i>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</i>
Ministries	
Missionaries	
Members and Friends of Central	
Sick and Shut-in	

### 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, December 28, 2025  
 At 7:00PM  
 Via Zoom

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

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

*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*

## Praying for our Leadership

Below 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\*



### TRUSTEES

Myrna Phillips Gibson  
 Taji Phillips  
 Natasha Robinson



### DEACONS

Deacon Charles Callaway  
 Deacon Kimberly Casteline  
 Deacon Otis Coleman  
 Deacon Sharrata Hunt  
 Deacon Michelle Newkirk  
 Deacon Joyce Powell  
 Deacon Sherry Reid  
 Deacon Esther Romero



# December 2025



*For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>NOVEMBER 30</b> <b>Advent Begins</b>  9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP— <b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b>	<b>1</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>2</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>3</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  11A-12P—Senior Technology Class-Miss Ann’s  12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann’s	<b>4</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>5</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>6</b> 9A-12P-Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
<b>7</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group  Missions Open House—after service	<b>8</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  10AM-Men’s Bkfst	<b>9</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back RESUMES via ZOOM	<b>10</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann’s  7P-Wednesday Night Bible Study-via ZOOM	<b>11</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>12</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>13</b> 10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB  9:00A-12:00P-Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—WALK
<b>14</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>15</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  6:30-8:30 – Women’s Min. Christmas Party - (Secret Santa gift \$10 limit)	<b>16</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>17</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann’s  7P- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	<b>18</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>19</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  4:30 Youth Movie Outing—“David” at Regal Movie Theater on 42nd St.	<b>20</b> 9:00A-12:00P-Pickleball  2P-Senior Ministry Monthly Meeting—Chapel –Secret Santa—\$15. limit,
<b>21</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  11A– SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group  <b>POST-SERVICE SIP &amp; CHAT, Chapel</b>	<b>22</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>23</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>24</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  <b>6:30pm-CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</b>	<b>25</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>  	<b>26</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7P-Evening Prayer Via Zoom	<b>27</b> 9A-12P-Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
<b>28</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>29</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>30</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>31</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  <b>WATCHNIGHT</b> 8PM-Movie 10PM Refreshments 11PM – Service  	<b>JANUARY 1</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>	<b>JANUARY 2</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>JANUARY 3</b> 9A-12P-Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel

## Missionary of the Month

### Barry & Peggy Owen

World Venture



**O**n 9/14/25, World Venture colleague, JS, led 15 men and women from the Grace Place through a series of interactive activities designed to communicate the importance of and principles for discipling children. During this training, the Joy House co-workers identified special needs of the children we serve and how to reach them more effectively.

G, a new co-worker, commented that now she really understands that developing deeper relationships with each child is key to sharing Jesus in meaningful ways.

In September, we had the privilege of working with women from several Southeastern Asian countries, facilitating a model entitled, "Facilitating Relational Learning." In this course, they participated in 6 on-line sessions and 4 days of in-person classes in Chiang Mai, Thailand. They learned how to design questions and write lesson plans that will help people dig deeper into Scripture in an interactive small group setting. The format of this model provides opportunities to gain confidence as they practice new skills in a supportive environment. In addition to helping these women develop ministry skills, they had the joy of hearing their hearts for serving God in a variety of settings. For example, JA, a theological educator in India, is writing interactive Nano-courses to equip lay leaders. AT, also in India, is active in on-line adult education and leading women's Bible studies. YS and KO serve with a disciple-making movement in Indonesia. IH, also in Indonesia, works in trauma healing. As we use these skills to study Scripture together, we are challenged to wrestle with how to apply Scriptural principles to our lives in our own cultural contents. There was also an opportunity for networking and sharing of ideas and resources.

Peggy continues to help train leaders here in Taiwan and throughout Southeastern Asia.

The Owen family is being blessed by the birth of the new family member, Celeste Owen, the daughter of Caleb and Grace Owen.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the new JH co-workers as they assume more leadership of weekly activities, build deeper relationships with children and seek opportunities to share Jesus.

Prayer for equipping leaders in Southeast Asia. Many women around the world have a heart to serve God but lack training that would help them to do that effectively in their local contexts. Entrust, now a part of One Challenge, has been equipping leaders in isolated or under-resourced areas since 1979 through interactive small groups.

Prayer for 2 women on baptismal, Crystal and Janet, and their new found faith.



**10% of Central's tithes and offerings go to support our missionaries.**

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**O**n your birthday let your heart leap for joy, and praise God with song!

*Psalm 28:7*



Aaron Foster	12/1
Chima Joseph	12/1
Cometia Banfield	12/2
Theresa Richardson	12/3
Seven Roberts	12/4
Courtney Tannis	12/4
Ketty Pierre	12/5
Imani Robinson	12/5
Emperor Van Buren	12/7
Nasiah Lowery	12/9
Preston Gordon	12/10
Christopher White	12/11
Bradford Davis	12/11
Elijah Winn	12/12
Gwendolyn Myles-Chisholm	12/12
Tyerra Dickerson-Porter	12/13
Lorraine Davis	12/14
Theadora Brown	12/14
Julian City	12/15
Lydia Endale	12/16
Edwina Chambers	12/20
Toni Barton	12/20
Maria Negron	12/20
Vincent Clark	12/22
Vincent Gerardi	12/22
Tara Dickerson-Parker	12/22
Dana Wright	12/23
Sharrata Hunt	12/26
Andrew White	12/26
Patresse Phillips	12/28
Zaria Dickerson-Parker	12/29
Guiliene Eloi	12/30
Hezekiah Triumph	12/30
Herbert Moore	12/31



<https://artofcakesbakery.com/>

## MORE Church Wide and Community Events

### MISSIONS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 7  
Come learn about Missions at CBC and how you can get involved.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 15  
6:30—8:30PM  
Secret Santa — 10.00 limit  
It will be an enjoyable evening of fellowship.



**THE RIVERSIDE**  
PREMIER REHABILITATION & HEALING CENTER


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.

December 13

January 10

♥ February 14 ♥



**PICKLEBALL**

Saturdays — 9:30-12 noon  
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!



CBC Capital Campaign Building Facade

Campaign Goal: 100,000.00.  
Will report quarterly.

Newsletter Staff: Pastor Robert Casteline, Oversight; Paulette Forbes-Igharo and Sharrata Hunt. Regular Contributors: Debby Diaz and Nadja Hicks. Special thanks to Guest Contributor Christopher Phillips and Tanya Glenn.

## The Last Word

### Unexpected Amazement

by Nadja Hicks

*Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"*  
Matthew 13:55-56



In 2007 world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell, conducted an experiment. For 43 minutes during rush hour at L'Enfant Plaza Metro in Washington, DC, he played classical pieces from Bach to Schubert. Did this performance—worthy of the finest concert halls where kings perked their ears to listen—draw a huge crowd? Nope.

Mr. Bell, playing his \$3.5 million dollar Stradivarius while casually dressed like any other street performer—was barely noticed. When presented as commonplace, almost 1000 people completely missed something spectacular. In that environment, people weren't expecting to be amazed. And being overly accustomed to what we're used to can become a kind of blindness in itself.

A few thousand years ago in Nazareth, such familiarity bred disbelief. For them, it was unthinkable that anything so wonderful could arise from among them. That the local carpenter they knew was scripture being fulfilled in their midst. In Nazareth, they recognized Jesus' face but were blind to who He was.



<https://www.primoartists.com/joshua-bell>  
Photo credit: Chris Lee

How many people passed Jesus as a child and saw just an ordinary boy? Or encountered Him as a young man and merely saw one of the sons of a Nazarene carpenter? Who breezed by Him in the marketplace because He seemed like any other Galilean? How about those who looked at the *Word made flesh* on a cross but just saw a criminal condemned? In these common and lowly places, no one expected to be amazed; no one expected to find the Savior...

Jesus, the brilliant music of His incarnation far beyond anything a violin could play in the finest of concert halls. The King of Kings to whom the Father ever perks His ear to listen was found in the common places of man.

The Spirit of that heavenly music is still in our midst, Immanuel, God with us. His divine melody thrumming throughout all Creation, and within all who believe.

Throughout this season that commemorates His birth, may hearts be perked to listen, to be aware of the extraordinary, no matter how familiar it may be.

This season, leave room to be amazed...

