



# Delivering the Heart of Christ to the Heart of the City

## Central Baptist Church Newsletter

### FEBRUARY THEME: Delivering the Heart of Christ

#### Fighter Verse: Mark 6:34

**W**hen Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.



<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-valentines-day>

#### 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.



#### OUR NEW MISSION STATEMENT AND VISION REVEAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
10AM-2PM, Chapel  
Lunch will be served

Don't miss the second of the important meetings regarding Central's ministry. Let's discover together how God will use us in our ministry to the Upper West Side and beyond as we embrace our new Mission Statement

*"Central Baptist Church exists to  
Deliver the Heart of Christ to the Heart of the City."*

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# February Devotional

## LOVE LOVE, LOVE

By Debby Holland Diaz MA ThM

**Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The First is: 'Hear O Israel, The Lord Our God, The Lord is One; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12: 28b-32, NRHV)**

LOVE is the operative word here, love for God, love for others and love for ourselves! Jesus stresses the necessity of loving God in four different ways, with our heart—our feelings or emotions, with our soul—our spirit—with our mind, the creative, rational, decision making capacity with which God has blessed all humans, and to strongly love in each of these ways!

We sing "I Love The Lord:" our worship pleases God. The Lord "inhabits the praises of Israel." (Psalm 22:3 KJV) Jesus teaches us that there is more to loving God, and it started not with the Greek words *agape* and *filios* ( Love for God and love for each other which appear in the Epistles, the church-letters written after The Resurrection) but in the Hebrew language of God hundreds of years before Jesus came to Earth!

The Lord God (*Yaweh*) gave laws to His Chosen people, The Children of Israel, by way of Moses and the first great commandment was exactly what Jesus recited in Mark:12.

By the time Our Lord Jesus was ministering on Earth and answering a scribe's question. about the First Commandment , every observant male Jew was required to repeat exactly what Jesus recited about the First Commandment twice a day! Female Jews were not forbidden from doing this; in fact, Jesus encouraged equality by praising Mary, the sister of Martha, for sitting with their brother Lazarus while Jesus taught them. (Luke 10:42)

This month, many of our neighbors, Christian, Jewish and otherwise, celebrate Saint Valentine's Day, said to be named for a Catholic priest who married couples who were in love. Some people today see February as "The Love Month."

Why don't we consider meditating twice a day for the rest of February on what Jesus deemed to be the greatest commandments: love God, love our neighbors and love ourselves! We can also use verses from I Corinthians 13, what has come to be known as "The Love Chapter" of the New Testament:

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs .Love does not rejoice in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. (I Corinthians 13: 4-8, NIV)

Let's love God/Jesus, our neighbors and ourselves this month and always.!

### Romans 8:38-39

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the **LOVE** of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



### Ephesians 2:4-5

*But because of his great **LOVE** for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

**Highlighting Black History Month**



<https://asalh.org/black-history-month/about/>

**2026** marks a century of national commemorations of Black history. Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, George Cleveland Hall, William D. Hartgrove, Jesse E. Moorland, Alexander L. Jackson, and James E. Stamps institutionalized the teaching, study, dissemination, and commemoration of Black history when they founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) on September 9, 1915.



In 1925, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson planned the inaugural week-long observance of Black history, he could hardly have anticipated the imprint he would leave on the world. From Negro History Week to Black History Month, ASALH has carried forth the tradition, and the observances have become part of the warp and weft of American culture and increasingly the global community. For our 100th theme, the founders of Black History Month urge us to explore the impact and meaning of Black history and life commemorations in transforming the status of Black peoples in the modern world.

As part of the global African diaspora, people of African descent in the United States have viewed their role in history as critical to their own development and that of the world. Along with writing Black histories, antebellum Black scholars north of slavery started observing the milestones in the struggle of people of African descent to gain their freedom and equality. Revealing their connection to the diaspora, they commemorated the Haitian Revolution, the end of the slave trade, and the end of slavery in Jamaica. They observed American emancipation with Watch Night, Jubilee Day, and Juneteenth celebrations. Eventually they feted the lives of individuals who fought against slavery, most notably Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The scholar Arthur A. Schomburg captured the motivation of Black people to dig up their own history and present it to the world: “The American Negro must remake his past in order to make his future.”

When Carter G. Woodson, as director of the Association, established Negro History Week, he did so as part of that tradition. Yet, by concentrating the attention of the American public on the scientific findings of historians, he sought to turn

the commemorations more forthrightly into a far-reaching, organized, and sustained effort to transform how Black folks viewed themselves and how the world viewed them. Year after year, he built Negro History Week into an African American and American cultural institution. He set the themes and provided materials to illustrate the contributions people of African descent had made to the movement of history and modern culture. As his contemporary W. E. B. Du Bois put it, “He literally made this country ... recognize and celebrate each year a week in which it studied the effect which the American Negro has had upon the life, thought and action in the United States. I know of no other man who in a lifetime has unaided built up such a national celebration.”

Since the passing of the founder, ASALH has continued his work, making Negro History Week and Black History Month an even more deeply rooted American institution. On February 10, 1976, during the United States Bicentennial, President Gerald R. Ford became the first president to issue a message recognizing Black History Month. Then in 1986, Congress passed Public Law 99-244 designating February as Black History Month. These efforts have made February the month when Black history finds its way not simply into the schools of the American nation, but also into cultural heritage sites (museums, archives, libraries, parks, etc.), public squares, workplaces, houses of worship, and homes across the land and across the oceans. These institutions offer sites to discover and learn more about African American history through programming, camps, book displays, and exhibitions.

To understand the modern world, especially nations where Black peoples form a significant population, one must grapple with the impact that the public observances have had on the past and the present. This year, when we are also commemorating the 250th anniversary of United States independence, it is important to tell not only an inclusive history, but an accurate one. We have never had more need to examine the role of Black History Month than we do when forces weary of democracy seek to use legislative means and book bans to excise Black history from America’s schools and public culture. Black history’s value is not its contribution to mainstream historical narratives, but its resonance in the lives of Black people.



## 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

February 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25

**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



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.

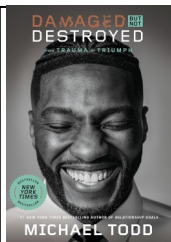
### Senior Ministry Events

#### 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 Ministry Exercise Program

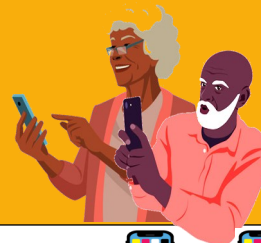
Time: 11:00am to 11:45am

Location: Chapel



Saturday, February 14  
Saturday, February 28

#### Senior Technology Class



#### "Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays

11am to 12 Noon

Miss Ann's Room

February 18

February 25



#### SENIOR MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

2PM — 4:PM

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.

<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, February 30, 2026  
 At 7:00PM  
 Via Zoom

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

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

***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

*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  
 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 Esther Romero



# Calendar February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:45A ---Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP</p> <p>11:15-Sunday Youth Group</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p> <p>7PM-Tuesday Talk Back</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p> <p>12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann's—Miss Ann's Room</p> <p>7P-Wednesday Night Bible Study-via ZOOM</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH-WIDE VISION REVEAL 10AM-2PM Chapel</b></p> <p>8A-1P-Pickleball</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:45A ---Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP</p> <p>11:15-Sunday Youth Group</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p> <p>7PM-Tuesday Talk Back</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p> <p>12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann's—Miss Ann's Room</p> <p>7P-Wednesday Night Bible Study-via ZOOM</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB</p> <p>8A-1P-Pickleball</p> <p>11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:45A ---Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP</p> <p>11:15-Sunday Youth Group</p> <p><b>SIP &amp; CHAT, Chapel</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p> <p>7PM-Tuesday Talk Back</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p> <p>11A-Senior Ministry Technology Class—Miss Ann's Room</p> <p>12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann's—Miss Ann's Room</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>8A-1P-Pickleball</p> <p>2P-Senior Ministry Monthly Meeting—Chapel</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:45A ---Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP</p> <p>11:15-Sunday Youth Group</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p> <p>7PM-Tuesday Talk Back</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p> <p>11A-Senior Ministry Technology Class—Miss Ann's Room</p> <p>12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann's—Miss Ann's Room</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>8A-1P-Pickleball</p> <p>11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel</p>

**L**ove the LORD, all his faithful people! The LORD preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD. Psalm 31:23-24

MISSIONS AT CENTRAL



**GLOBAL ONE80**  
**Joaquin and Oneida Vargas**  
 CEO and Chief Operations Officer  
 Arizona & Mexico



**I**n their January 2026 newsletter, the focus was on *The Engine of Missions, Intercessory Prayer*

*Colossians 4:2-4*  
 "Prayer isn't simply the warm up before the real work begins; it is the engine that drives every missionary endeavor forward."

**Prayer as the Foundation of Spiritual Warfare.**

Missionaries serve on the front lines of spiritual battle. Prayer breaks down invisible walls and softens hardened hearts.

**The Power of Partnership Through Prayer**

Intercessory Prayer creates a supernatural partnership between those who go and those who stay.

**Transforming Communities One Prayer at a Time**

When communities are transformed by the Gospel, they emerge from prayers of believers who understand that God moves in response to the prayers of the people.

Pray for the Church Planters Macedo and Gomez.

Pray for Joaquin's health.

Pray for the finances of Global One 80.

Join CBC's Prayer Line each morning Monday-Friday at 6am

**The Great Commission**  
**Matthew 28:16-20**

**T**hen the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

**T**he Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. Numbers 6:24-25



Lajuana Smith	2/2
Charrisse Worley	2/3
Tracey Knuckles-White	2/5
Christopher Henderson	2/6
Elizabeth Almanzar-Wright	2/7
Samyah Ferdinand	2/8
Deborah Gorham	2/11
Brandon Martinez	2/12
Katherine Lin	2/12
Debra James	2/13
Cliff Jean-Michel	2/13
Brielle Johnson	2/14
Stephanie Cunningham	2/14
Meaghan Selch	2/15
Colliertine Walker	2/17
Willie Ray Gibson, Jr.	2/17
Late Lawson-Drackey	2/18
Melinda Galbraith	2/19
Troy Carver	2/21
Zion Johnson	2/24
Saniya Barbour	2/25
Helen Dunn	2/26
Lily Morales	2/27
Logan Chung - Leap year baby—next official birthday	2/29/28

<https://artofcakesbakery.com/>



**Central Baptist Church Senior's Ministry**  
 Invites you to:  
**"JOSHUA"**  
 Sight & Sound Theatre  
 Lancaster, Pennsylvania

**SOLD OUT**

**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:**

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**



**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 14 ♥

March 14

April 11



**Saturdays — 8:00AM—1:00PM**  
**Lower Gym**  
**Open to the public.**  
**All levels. Equipment available.**

## Keep Central's finances in prayer!

**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**

**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

### Look at Love

by Nadja Hicks

*The Lord your God is with you. He is a hero who saves you. He happily rejoices over you, renews you with his love, and celebrates over you with shouts of joy. Zephaniah 3:17 (GW)*

*Yahweh your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will bring you quietness with His love. He will delight in you with shouts of joy. Zephaniah 3:17 (HCSB)*

**E**ach February the subject of love takes center stage. Hearts, flowers, chocolates, and cutesy stuffed animals dominate the commercial landscape while restaurants feature themed specials on February 14th. The light fun-fare of Valentine's Day arrives with the bubbly sweetness of strawberry soda. All in the name of love.

Of course, First Corinthians 13 leaps to mind when it comes to love. Yet this verse from Zephaniah captures something special—God's presence with us, His love for us, His delight in us, and, most astonishing, His elation about us.

Jesus said how all the scriptures reveal Him and this provides a wonderful glimpse. The salvation, the renewal, God's delight in those He loves. And His joyous satisfaction that issues forth melodic shouts. It's the Father running to embrace his prodigal son. It's instructing to "go tell" the disciples He'd risen but specifically Peter who was especially grieved. It's the love that cries out on the Cross, "forgive them Father for they know not what they do." This love isn't easy to cultivate when the beloved argues, resists, and rejects. Yet this love can endure storms of rejection and strife, despair and disappointment, pain and brokenness. This Love knows that the storm isn't the end of the story and is with us through it all.

This love saves us. It changes us. It shows us what pure love is by flowing to us from its original Source. A Father who loves His imperfect children. Love with muscles and backbone, and hands calloused from the hard work of sowing and tilling hard wintry ground for the potential of the harvest. The love that God sows into us. And there aren't any teddy bears or chocolates for that.



Svetlana Diacenco

Here is something to pray this month and see what the Spirit of the Lord may lay on your heart: As hopeless as it looks, where does love see opportunity? What can I do, be it ever so small, to help that happen?