



Delivering the Heart of Christ to the Heart of the City

Central Baptist Church Newsletter

APRIL 2026 THEME: New life expressed through community

Fighter Verse: Romans 8:31-32

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

OUR WORSHIP IN-PERSON

LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM
www.centralbaptistnyc.org

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

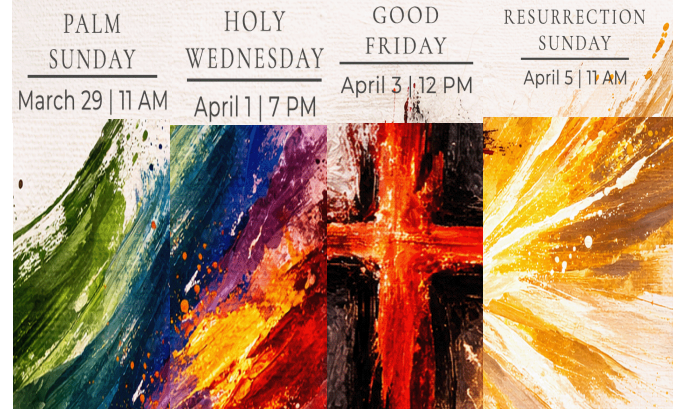
SUNDAY SCHOOL

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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Holy Week 2026



THE LAST WORD

Nadja Hicks writes The Last Word for our monthly newsletter. And, being the last word, its place is on the last page. However, this month's *Last Word* is especially appropriate for the front page to highlight to Holy Week.

Running with Perseverance

by Nadja Hicks

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV

In 1983 Cliff Young, a 61 year old Australian shepherd and potato farmer, won the 543 mile marathon from Sydney to Melbourne. That's quite an accomplishment. But he did it

April Devotional

DOUBTING AND BELIEVING

By Debby Holland Diaz MA ThM

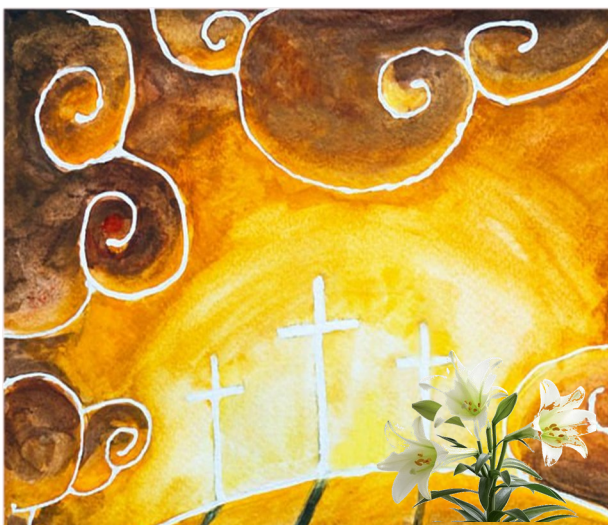
wearing overalls and galoshes over work boots, running for over 5 days straight without taking a break to rest! Doing what became known as the “Young Shuffle”, his slow peculiar running style bested other much younger highly trained athletes. Plus he beat the record by nearly two days! Carl’s remarkable endurance was gained from being unable to afford a horse, so for years Carl herded his sheep on foot. It seemed hardship had been the inadvertent preparation that resulted in winning the prestigious marathon.

During Holy Week we honor what Jesus did for us. Jesus’ deepest hardship that was pivotal for triumph; His unimaginable suffering and Crucifixion that led to the ultimate victory of Resurrection. Achieved not for His own benefit but for ours. Won not for a corruptible crown but to open the way to eternal life and peace with our heavenly Father.

As the author of Hebrews writes, we too are running a race, not for mere earthly victory, but towards what was already won at Calvary.

Therefore, let us hold fast during trials, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Knowing that in these challenges we are being refined. And as we faithfully endure we are readied not to finish *for* gold but *as* gold. And by grace, grace, and more grace we bring God honor and glory as testaments, as living trophies not of our victory but of Christ’s.

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY
APRIL 5 — 11:00AM**



Getty Images/Credit: Adyna
<https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/resurrection-abstract?page=2>

But Thomas, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came, so the others told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later His disciples were again in the house and Thomas was with them. Although the door was shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out and put your hand in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and My God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” (John 20:24-29 NRSV)

When Easter has passed and we have celebrated Resurrection Sunday, I invite you all to read the last two chapters of the Gospel of John which record some of Jesus’ appearances to His followers here on Earth before he went back up into Heaven. I stress “some,” because John says that Jesus “did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples,” (John 20:30a, NIV) so many that, “if every one of them were written down”, John supposes, “even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” (John 21:25b NIV)

When we read the Bible stories of Jesus today, we have to accept that we were not with Him in person but His disciples were! And yet, right up until Christ’s giving of His Great Commission just before He returned to Heaven, “some doubted.” (Matthew 28:16bNIV) Being human they had doubts. Being human so do we. What do we do with our doubts?

I believe Thomas may have been the most honest of the eleven disciples. Unlike the other ten, Thomas had not experienced Jesus’ first appearance to men after He arose from the dead. (Jesus’ VERY first appearance was to Mary Magdalene. See Mark 16:9.) The last time Thomas had seen Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was arrested and “all the disciples left Him and fled.” (Matthew 26:56b)



**The Incredulity of St. Thomas
by Caravaggio**

So let’s feel compassion for Thomas, not having shared with the other ten disciples those first glorious moments with JESUS ALIVE AGAIN! What many doubts must have filled his frightened mind? What about us? What doubts do we

April Devotional

continued from Page 2

have? We haven't seen Jesus fact-to-face yet. In today's terrible world, can't we allow each other to have more doubts than Thomas had? Can't we comfort each other when we doubt and then pray together for God to increase our faith In Jesus' Name?

Of course, Thomas was so stubborn—like none of us ever are, right? We must admit we can be stubborn, too, and not always about the right things! I admire "Doubting Thomas," honest, stubborn and insisting to see and touch his Beloved Jesus again! Much more than that, I love Jesus for accommodating Thomas so graciously, just as Jesus will accommodate us if we ask Him to. And in response to Jesus, Thomas gives the most concise testimony in the history of Christianity: "My Lord and My God!"

"Have you believed because you have seen me?" Jesus gently remonstrates His disciple. Then Our Lord and Savior proclaims to ALL followers of Christ across the ages right up to this very moment. **"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe!"**

Jesus is talking to us! Brothers and Sisters in Christ, let us rejoice in this fact! Jesus Christ blessed, blesses and will continue to bless us forever into Eternity as we release our doubts to Him and believe in Christ Jesus Our Lord and Our God!



Doubting Thomas
by PsalmPrayers

THANK GOD FOR DOUBTING THOMAS

By Malcolm Guite

*"We do not know... how can we know the way?"
Courageous master of the awkward question,
You spoke the words the others dared not say
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.
Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,
You put your finger on the nub of things
We cannot love some disembodied wraith,
But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.
Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,
Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.
Because He loved your awkward counter-point
The Word has heard and granted you your wish.
Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine
The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.*

Source: <https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2022/07/03/thank-god-for-doubting-thomas-10/>

CHURCH WIDE EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



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 Bible Study

Wednesdays

12 Noon to 1:00pm

Miss Ann's Room

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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

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.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	CITY, STATE, COUNTRY & PERSONAL
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	<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>
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

PRAYING THE VISION TESTIMONY NIGHT

Friday, April 27, 2026
 At 7:00PM

In-Person Worship Service
 Zoom Meetings will resume next month.

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, 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 Karen Bobbseple
 Deacon Charles Callaway
 Deacon Kimberly Casteline
 Deacon Otis Coleman
 Deacon Sharrata Hunt
 Deacon Michelle Newkirk
 *Deacon Mona Parks
 Deacon Joyce Powell
 Deacon Esther Romero



Senior Ministry Events



Senior Book Club
 Saturday, April 4, 2026
 2pm to 4pm - Miss Ann's Room
 "Do I Still Matter?" The Secrets of Aging with Faith and Purpose
 by Kim Taylor Henry



Senior Ministry Exercise Program

Time: 11:00am to 11:45am
 Location: Chapel

Saturday, April 11
 Saturday, April 25



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

SOLD OUT

Saturday, July 18, 2026

\$245.00 all inclusive

See Otis Coleman for Details

Payment schedule

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

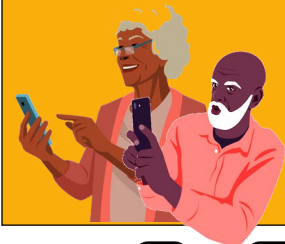


March's volunteers pictured **Front row:** Mona Parks, Aliana Soto, Debra James, Ron Pusey, Stephanie Cunningham, Sharrata Hunt. **Back Row:** Omari Pusey, Lisa Parson and Pastor John.

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.

April 11	May 9	June 13
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Senior Technology Class



"Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays
 11am to 12 Noon
 Miss Ann's Room
 April 8
 April 15
 April 22
 April 29



**SENIOR MINISTRY
 MONTHLY MEETING
 SATURDAY, APRIL 18
 2PM — 4:PM
 CHAPEL**



Keep Central's finances in prayer!

Remember 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

Calendar April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-Senior Ministry Technology Class—Miss Ann’s Room 12P Senior Bible Study—Miss Ann’s—Miss Ann’s Room  7PM—HOLY WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE	2 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	3 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 12PM—GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 	4 8A-1P-Pickleball 2:00-4:00PM-Senior Book Club—Miss Ann’s Room
5 RESURRECTION SUNDAY 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 	6 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	7 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	8 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-Senior Ministry Technology Class—Miss Ann’s Room	9 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	10 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	11 10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB 8A-1P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
12 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	13 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	14 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	15 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-Senior Ministry Technology Class—Miss Ann’s Room 12P Senior Bible Study—Miss Ann’s—Miss Ann’s Room	16 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	17 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	18 8A-1P-Pickleball 2P-Senior Ministry Monthly Meeting—Chapel
19 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A- SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group SIP & CHAT, Chapel	20 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	21 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	22 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-Senior Ministry Technology Class—Miss Ann’s Room 12P Senior Bible Study—Miss Ann’s—Miss Ann’s Room	23 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	24 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7:00P-Evening Prayer—via Zoom 	25 8A-1P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
26 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A- SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	27 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	28 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	29 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-Senior Ministry Technology Class—Miss Ann’s Room 12P Senior Bible Study—Miss Ann’s—Miss Ann’s Room	30 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call		

Love 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

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Francklin and Nerlie Alexis
Missions Door
Haiti



Haiti is one the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. This country has gone through its share of turmoil and political unrest for over three decades. Despite a lack of financial resources, an uprising in Voodoo, and political chaos, Haiti is responding to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Francklin Alexis along with his Wife, Nerlie, have been a Pillar of Hope in spreading the Gospel in Haiti for the past twenty years.

Francklin was appointed as a missionary of Missions Door in 2006 to serve as the youth and children’s ministries coordinator. He works with his mentor, Pastor Herode Guillomettre, and other local Pastors that are associated with Missions Door in Haiti, in helping those churches develop children’s and youth ministries, leadership training, church growth, and English as a second language programs in their local congregations. Francklin is also responsible for organizing Christian camps and Christmas outreach projects for many children across Haiti. Pastor Francklin believes that building the Kingdom of God in Haiti will bring Salvation amidst the chaos. With all the obstacles that Francklin faces, he is determined to never give up and to continue to do his ministry work with Joy and Happiness knowing they are serving God.

Pastor Francklin’s Prayer Request:

- Pray for my family that we remain strong, focused, and a blessing to others for Christ.
- Pray for Haiti. In October, heavy rains caused major flooding in several regions. In the town of Petit Goâve, 20 people died, and many families lost their homes and belongings.
- Pray for the ministry in Haiti, for strength and encouragement for my collaborators and church members. Many are discouraged by the difficult conditions, but we trust that God never abandons His people.
- Pray for Pastor Herode Guillomettre and his wife, for their safety, encouragement, and continued effectiveness in impacting lives for Christ in Haiti.



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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

May you feel the deep love of God on your birthday and always. Trust in Him and He will illumine and make your paths straight.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Erica Winn	4/4
Chris Gee	4/4
Eddie Sims	4/4
Jermaine Bolden	4/5
Ronald Pusey	4/6
Kimberly Kiplagat	4/8
Elijah Baptise	4/8
Grant Davis	4/9
Evan Triumph	4/9
Caritha Lee	4/11
Roderyck Lee	4/11
Lauren Jones	4/12
Azalee Evans	4/14
Iyanna Rivera	4/18
Eleise Menjivar	4/20
Anne Marie Stone	4/21
V. AnnDenise Brown	4/24
Gwendolyn Barnes	4/27
Aaliyah Yamageo	4/28
Sandra Richardson	4/29
Makayla Hudgins	4/29



<https://artofcakesbakery.com/>

Re-Visioning the Mission of Central Baptist Church

What is Mission:

Mission is an internal expression that we rally around, a single, big idea. Simply put, it is the Great Commission re-articulated for CBC's unique time and place.

Mission Re-vision

Mission Statement

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

Purpose of this Re-vision

We are empowering a skillful highly resourceful and creative congregation with a deep passion for serving, disciple making and unifying in a rapidly changing economically diverse and racially divided Community.

Mission Measure of the Month PRAYERFUL VISIONARY

Mission Measures: When are we Successful?

The mission measures are CBC's portrait of a disciple. They provide the standard by which the mission can be measured with respect to an individual's development over time.

What does a Prayerful Visionary look like?

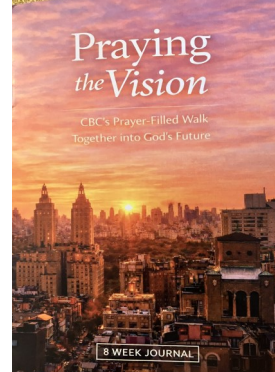
I am pursuing the future church guided through Godly intercession.

Questions for Reflection

- ◆ Am I seeking new things or old things?
- ◆ Am I listening to what God wants me to do instead of what I want to do?
- ◆ Do I continuously pray for the future of the church and our community?
- ◆ Am I alert and watchful to the holy spirit's guidance through prayer?

Mission Measure of the Month Prayerful Visionary

During the month of March the Theme was "When God's People Pray." The Fighter Verse was Ephesians 6:18 – *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*



The re-visioned mission for Central "deliver the heart of Christ to the heart of the city" can only truly be accomplished through prayer. The Vision Committee launched the prayer initiative "Praying the Vision" at the beginning of February. Using a specially designed prayer journal, we were to

engage in a time of corporate prayer leading up to Holy Week. During that time, we, as a congregation, would seek God, listen, and examine ourselves. Then, come together and testify to God's blessings, answers and insight. The eight-week period ended on the last Friday of the month March 27 at 7p when we usually have Evening Prayer over Zoom.

The time of testimony and worship was a beautiful time of sharing. Some recognized that drawing breath on a new day is a testimony. A member shared how going through the journal impacted their life especially through a personally difficult time. We were touched by the music led by our Music Director Willana Mack and the times of prayer led by Pastor Robert Casteline and Nadja Hicks

The testimonies tended to be personal, "what God had done or is doing in my life"; however, Pastor Robert challenged us to consider, what is God doing with us as a congregation and as a church. Who are we becoming as we pray corporately keeping focus on the Mission, our Values, Vision and making disciples.

Did you use the journal? What was your experience? What if you did not use the prayer journal? You can start any time. There is no end time for prayer. All the prompts in the journal help to concentrate on fulfilling the mission to "deliver the heart of Christ to the heart of the city." Without prayer, we cannot fulfill the mission.

