

Delivering the Heart of Christ to the Heart of the City

Central Baptist Church Newsletter

MAY 2026 THEME: Resilient Resurrection People

Fighter Verse: Romans 8:3-34

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

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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Happy Mother's Day

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ who made heaven and earth give you grace and peace and richly bless both you and your children.

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."

Philippians 1:2,
 Psalm 115:14-15;
 Numbers 6:24-26



Mission Measure of the Month FEARLESS WITNESS

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.

WILL I BE A WITNESS FOR MY LORD?

by Sharrata Hunt

*A*h, to be a fearless witness. To stand up on the street corner or the subway station and proclaim, "Jesus Saves!" "God Loves You!" To state fearlessly without trepidation in casual conversation, "The joy of Christ wakes me up every morning!"



Pastor Fils-Aime always says, "Confession is good for the soul bad for the reputation." I don't do any of those things. Not boldly. I profess that I'm grateful to God for fill-in-the-blank. And yet, I am well aware that in the

May Devotional

DOUBTING AND BELIEVING

By Debby Holland Diaz MA THM

REJOICE GREATLY!

Sing, O Daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem!.....The Lord Your God is with you; He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you; He will quiet you with his love, He will rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:14 and 17 NIV)

Zion was originally a triangle-shaped, elevated part of the great city Jerusalem. Zion became known as The City of David, God’s chosen and anointed King. Zion was the ideal place for The Ark of the Covenant and, later, for the Temple that King Solomon built. The area became known as Mount Zion, the place where *Yahweh* dwelt. *Yahweh* means God in Hebrew, the Lord God’s first language.



Sheet music from Handel’s *Messiah* *Rejoice Greatly, O Daughters of Zion*”

The Psalms, such as Psalm 24:10, praise God as The King of Glory. God brings peace to the earth. Not war, but justice, righteousness and peace symbolize The Kingdom of God. God says to Jesus, You are My Son. Jesus is The Messiah (Hebrew,) The Christ (Greek.)

Jesus Christ, God’s Son, embodies Divinity on earth. As Christians we know how The Kingdom of God has come to the world through Christ’s life and ministry here and His death, burial and Resurrection to Eternal life. Through Jesus, we see the personification of Zion, God’s Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is central to Christ’s teachings.



All this is why we can rejoice, my Sisters and Brothers, as Daughters and Sons of God/Jesus Christ! No matter how wicked this world has become, we can shout aloud and be glad with all our hearts because The Lord Our God is with us! In spite of the pain and hatred and misery manifested on earth today, we know that the Lord Our Mighty God/ Our Lord Jesus saves us from sin and death. We need

mind of a non-Christian or “spiritual” person, I could be referencing a generic god, not the Creator of the Universe (Gen 1:1) who sent His Son Jesus to die for my sins and the sins of the world (John 3:16); the holy God who holds me in the palm of His hand (John 10:28); the God who sent the Holy Spirit (John 14:26) to live inside me as Counselor (2 Tim 1:14). And I’m a Deacon!

In week 6 of the “Praying the Vision” Prayer Journal, there is a question: “Do I identify and overcome obstacles to witnessing, even when I am uncomfortable?” I ask myself, “what obstacles are in my way?” “Is it anything other than just plain old fear?”

The Mission Measure of the Month is Fearless Witness – I think we are fulfilling our mission of “Delivering the Heart of Christ to the Heart of the City” when we speak up and out; and when we live fearlessly for Christ behind and in front of closed doors. Ah, to be a Fearless Witness.



As a refresher, in case you struggle with explaining the Gospel, Abundant Life Lesson 12, **How to Share the Good News with Others** has the four truths with scripture that are the Gospel.

God Loves You.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Your sins have separated you from God.

Isaiah 59:2 – But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Christ died to lead us back to God.

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

You can become God’s child.

John 1:12 -- Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

What does a Fearless Witness look like?

I am stepping outside my comfort zone to share Jesus Christ with those who are different than me.

Questions for Reflection

- ◆ Do I know what the gospel message is?
- ◆ Am I afraid to share the gospel?
- ◆ Am I courageous when sudden unforeseen opportunities arise in my witnessing?
- ◆ Do I identify and overcome obstacles to witnessing, even when I am uncomfortable?

May Devotional

continued from Page 2

never be afraid, knowing The Lord will comfort us and quiet our hearts with God's Love!

God rejoices over us with singing! Let us make that glorious truth part of our public praise and our private prayers! Let us glory in Jesus Christ, for The Lord Our God is with us and He is indeed mighty to save!



SCRIPTURE IN ART

Source: Google AI Overview excerpt on "Rejoice Greatly".

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion" (Zechariah 9:9) is a prophetic biblical command calling for celebration because the righteous King is arriving in Jerusalem, lowly and riding on a donkey. This prophecy, fulfilled in the Gospels when Jesus entered Jerusalem, signifies peace and salvation. It is famously set to music in [Handel's Messiah](#).**



Jeanine De Bique, Soprano

**Listen to the performance of Trinidadian soprano Jeanine De Bique singing 'Rejoice Greatly' from Messiah by Handel. 2018.

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O daughter of Jerusalem:
behold, thy King cometh unto thee:
he is the righteous Saviour,
and he shall speak peace unto the heathen"*
(Zechariah 9:9–10 KJV)

BBC Promenade Concerts (Proms): Handel's Messiah – 'Rejoice greatly'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHQpeGzio4k#:~:text=Add%20a%20comment%209:22%20%C2%B7%20Go%20to,views%20%C2%B7%209:13%20%C2%B7%20Go%20to%20channel>

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.

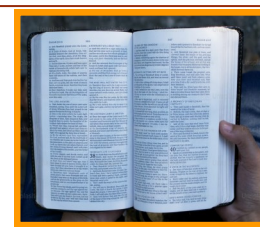
Phone: 646-558-8656



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

5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27

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

Friday, May 29, 2026
 At 7:00PM
 Zoom

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

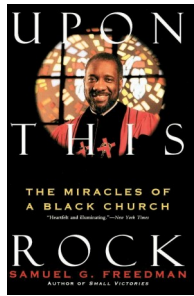


DEACONS

*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, June 6, 2026
 2:00pm to 4:00pm - Miss Ann's Room
Upon This Rock : The Miracles of a Black Church
 by Samuel B. Freedman



Senior Ministry Exercise Program

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

Saturday, May 2
 Saturday, May 9
 Saturday, May 23
 Saturday, May 30



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

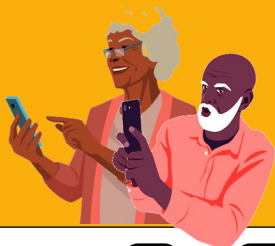


March's volunteers pictured **Front row:** Mona Parks, Aliana Soto, Debra James, Ron Pusey, Stephanie Cunningham, Sharrata Hunt. **Back Row:** Omari Pusey, Lisa Parson and Pastor John.

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.

May 9	June 13	July 11
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Senior Technology Class



"Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays
11am to 12 Noon
Miss Ann's Room
May 13
May 27



Saturdays — 8:00AM—1:00PM

Lower Gym

Open to the public.

All levels. Equipment available. Drills from 8AM-9AM

Open Play from 9AM-1PM



SENIOR MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 16
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 May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>April 26</i> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday	<i>April 27</i> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<i>April 28</i> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<i>April 29</i> 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	<i>April 30</i> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	1 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	2 8A-1P-Pickleball
3 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-Senior Ministry Technology Class—Miss Ann's Room	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	9 10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB 8A-1P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
10 MOTHER'S DAY 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	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	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	16 8A-1P-Pickleball 2P-Senior Ministry Monthly Meeting—Chapel
17 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A- SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group SIP & CHAT, Chapel	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	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	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	23 8A-1P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
24 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A- SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #f0f0f0;">MEMORIAL DAY</div>	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	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	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7:00P-Evening Prayer—via Zoom 	30
31 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A- SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group						

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

Dr. Azucena Matuté
World Outreach Ministries
Panama



Dr. Azucena Matute serves under World Outreach Ministries in Ngabe-Bugle, Panama. Dr. Matute decided to study medicine and use her education to serve God through missions. As a Doctor of medicine and surgery, she works evangelizing children and adults in the remote regions of Panama. Her vision is to enter communities where the gospel cannot reach. She provides medical care and at the same time provides spiritual help, by teaching the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Some updates: During the month of January, with the help of Fundacion Corazones de Matias, a foundation that helps children with congenital heart disease, Dr. Azucena was able to donate gifts to children.

The children’s dining room has continued to provide breakfast with bags of nutritional cream, but she is asking for continued prayer and financial support so that no child will go hungry.

Dr. Azucena Health Update: Please keep Dr. Azucena in prayer as has learned that the tumor that was biopsied is ‘incurable’. She has begun chemotherapy and is scheduled to receive chemo every 3 weeks but is experiencing a lot of nausea. The oncologist will do further testing to see if the tumor has responded to the treatment. In the meantime, she has left Panama City to return home to David Chiriqui with her family so she can continue work with her ministry.

Prayer Requests:

- Financial provision to cover the ongoing cost of medical treatment at \$1,150 per month.
- Healing for Azucena

AZUCENA NEEDS YOUR HELP

Today we want to unite to support Azucena, who is fighting cancer in her foot.

Ways to donate

www.worldoutreach.org/858



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION



AZUCENA MATUTE

"We are all here to help each other. When we are together, we can fulfill anything"

MAY BIRTHDAYS

As you all read this message, your Central family is praying for God to lift you up and grant you all the miracles and wishes you deserve.



Shelley Fortune	5/1
Natasha Robinson	5/1
Gabriel Edmond	5/3
Katherine Smith	5/3
Benjamin Johnson	5/4
Evelyn Grant	5/4
Robert Casteline	5/5
Sydney Jones	5/7
Otis Coleman	5/8
Cameron Keitt	5/11
Miles Morales	5/11
Fatima Graham	5/13
John Fils-Aime	5/15
Malik Winn	5/16
Lauren Jones	5/16
Isaiah Tejada	5/17
Taylor Corrodus	5/17
Marcia Awobuluyi	5/17
Kaleb McFarlin	5/18
Jermaine Bolden	5/19
Raquel Lachman	5/19
Matthew Planas	5/25
Deryck Tonge	5/27
Caleb Rodriquez	5/27
Hayden Chung	5/28
Melanie Fleming	5/30
Georgianna Spann	5/31



<https://abeautifulmess.com/emmas-birthday-cake-angel-food/>



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

CHURCH PICNIC SATURDAY, AUGUST 8



Holiday Hill offers a full-day event with activities for all ages, including sports, contests, crafts, and entertainment such as a clown, DJ, and ice cream truck. The package includes meals, access to pools, courts, and recreational facilities, with pricing based on age. The schedule is flexible, with various

competitions and attractions running from morning to late afternoon.

Deluxe round trip transportation from Central Baptist Church included in the price.

Secure your seat and don't miss the bus!

COST:

0-2: NO CHARGE;
CHILDREN 3-11: \$99pp,
12 & UP: \$135pp

PAYMENT PLAN:

Deposit: 50.00pp / Due April 30
2nd Payment: May 30
Final Payment: June 30

**FOOD AVAILABLE: 10:00A—4:30P
FUN AND SNACKS THROUGHOUT THE DAY**

WHAT TO BRING

Bring your towels for the pool (Hot showers are available).

Holiday Hill supplies the sporting equipment.

FIELD EVENTS	
Corn Hole	Tennis
Softball	Horseshoes
Volleyball	Badminton
Sand Volleyball	Basketball
AND MORE	

ACTIVITIES	
"Alpine" Rock Climbing Wall	Canoes and Kayaks at the Lake
Pony Rides	Mini Golf
Arts and Crafts	Heated Swimming Pools with Diving Area
AND MORE	

PLEASE NOTE: Due to health and food safety, coolers and pets are not allowed on the premises.

ADDRESS: 43 Candee Rd. /Prospect CT 06712
PHONE: (203) 758-4547
WEBSITE: www.holidayhill.com

THE LAST WORD

A BLOOMING SPIRIT

by Nadja Hicks



Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth." Genesis 9.1.NIV

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5

Every spring, cherry trees famously blossom briefly in a "blink, and you miss it" annual spectacle, as if such splendor is more than this world can sustain for too long. Many people take a stroll to enjoy the beauty, and some even have picnics or throw parties to celebrate the flourishing arrival of these dainty pink flowers. When the seasonal bloom of *sakura* (cherry) trees in Central Park is at its peak, the sight is breathtaking. Trees that begin with just a seed.

In its context, the verse from Genesis refers to procreation. Yet our generous tenderhearted God spoke these words, knowing His children throughout time would read them. Sons and daughters who would not all become fathers and mothers in that particular sense. Perhaps then these verses speak to something else profound too, a type of reproduction that is spiritual rather than exclusively biological.

Mentoring young people, multiplying faith by sharing the Word of God, helping others, contributing meaningfully to the community by living Christ-centered lives that make an impact—through the expansion of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. Fruitfulness that pulses with life 30, 60, 100 times more than where it began. Fostered through as many channels as there are believers to birth them.

...And those beautiful pink cherry blossoms return to mind. He the Vine, we the flowering branches...

Perhaps viewed from heavenly places the blooming of a human life lived through Christ appears in a similar manner. Blinding in beauty, unique in its fleeting bloom, yet breathtaking nevertheless.

May we all be fruitful and multiply, brimming with spiritual blossoms, drawing Life from the Vine, bringing forth spectacular glimpses of His wonder, more than this world can contain.