



They will know us by our Love
John 13:35

JANUARY, 2023 NEWSLETTER

JANUARY THEME: A New Thing

January Fighter Verse—Isaiah 43:18-19

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

OUR WORSHIP

IN-PERSON

**LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @
11:00AM**

Www.centralbaptistnyc.org

Adult Sunday School 9:45AM via Zoom

**Youth Sunday School 11:15AM—2nd, 3rd and 4th
Sundays.**

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|--------|
| Going Forward in 2023 | Page 1 |
| January Birthdays | Page 2 |
| Pastor's Devotional | Page 2 |
| Missionaries of Central Baptist Church | Page 3 |
| Announcements & Capital Campaign | Page 4 |

Newsletter Staff: Pastor Robert Casteline, Oversight; Paulette Forbes-Igharo and Sharrata Hunt. Special Thanks to Tanya Glenn.

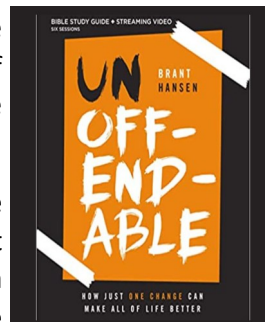
A Not so New “New Thing”

In the September Congregational Meeting, Pastor Fils-Aime shared about building a stronger loving community here at Central starting with discipleship groups that then extends out to the Upper West Side and beyond. Not only will Central be the friendliest church, but also a congregation known for our love.

“I believe that the presence of a few unhealthy relationships can lead to us thinking that unhealthy relationships exist throughout the church. I have come to believe that’s not the case; especially as our leaders have worked together. I’ve heard how people care for one another here at Central, so it’s not that we need to build healthy relationships, it’s that the healthy relationships that exist need to spread throughout this church. Then, as we love each other collectively, I think that will impact how people feel when they come into this church. I am really excited to flush out this theme in 2023.

To be in healthy relationships, you need to be in some type of community to allow healthy relationships to grow. Coming to church on Sunday is not how you form community. You form community by getting involved in one of the small groups that’s available to you at Central and live life together. I think living life together is the start of where you can be transparent and honest.”

Pastor is inviting all the members of Central Baptist to become involved with a group and go through the



book "Unoffendable—How Just One Change Can Make All of Life Better" by Brant Hansen.

UNOFFENDABLE STUDY GUIDE LAUNCH PARTY **SUNDAY JANUARY 22, 2023 .**

Join our church wide launch of the six-session study guide and streaming videos in one of the discipleship groups.

- Study Guide/Video becomes available January 10th anywhere books are sold.
- The church will be pre ordering copies. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office at 212.724.4004 or tglenn@centralbaptistnyc.org by January 8th. (Price \$22)



January Birthdays



*May God always guide you and
be with you throughout your
journey in life.
Happy Birthday
All God's Blessings to you and
Blessed and Prosperous New Year*

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------|---|
|  | Paul Jones | Jan 02 |  |
| | Christopher Phillips | Jan 08 | |
| | Georgia Ana Coates | Jan 09 | |
| | Myrna Phillips Gibson | Jan 09 | |
| | Christine Lewis | Jan 11 | |
|  | Jarren Bolden | Jan 11 |  |
| | Omari Pusey | Jan 12 | |
| | Madelyn Woodard | Jan 13 | |
| | Taji Phillips | Jan 13 | |
| | Lenworth Bennett | Jan 13 | |
|  | Coralita Simon | Jan 16 |  |
| | Michelle Newkirk | Jan 18 | |
| | Ruth Browne | Jan 20 | |
| | Judy Sabater | Jan 21 | |
| | Elaine Parker | Jan 22 | |
| | | | MORE |

| <i>January Birthdays (cont'd)</i> | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Grant Jefferson | Jan 23 |
| Noah Foster | Jan 23 |
| Edith Phillips | Jan 26 |
| Marta Clark | Jan 26 |
| Clarence Williams Gee | Jan 29 |
| George Berrios | Jan 29 |
| Kaylee Castillo | Jan 29 |

***Christianbirthdaywishes.com*



Pastor's Devotional

Nehemiah 2:17-18



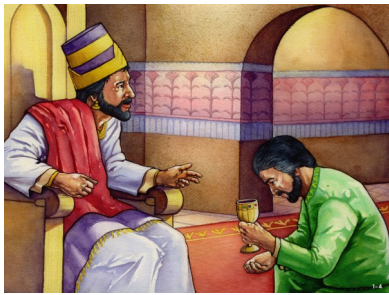
Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

Nehemiah 2:17 marks an important turning point in the story of Nehemiah. It not only records how Nehemiah announced his dream but where Nehemiah found the strength to carry out his dreams. Nehemiah was able to take the first step because he believed that God was sovereignly in control of the yes and no's of his life. Nehemiah was a cupbearer in the court of the Persian king Artaxerxes when he first felt a call to Jerusalem to begin the work of rebuilding the wall. For Nehemiah to get to Jerusalem the king would have to allow Nehemiah to leave his service; and Nehemiah needed more than just permission from Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem, Nehemiah also needed provisions. He needed the king to give him the supplies and the material resources required to rebuild the wall such as the wood that would come from the king's own supply of timber.

To put this in perspective, Nehemiah needed to ask his boss for some paid time off but he didn't know when he was coming back. And he needed his boss to let him borrow the company car with the company credit card. And he needed

his boss to take some money from his own account and give it to Nehemiah. And though cupbearers were esteemed members of the royal court, a cupbearer's relationship with the king never crossed the boundaries of vassal and lord. In order for the king to say yes, he had to consider Nehemiah as some type of friend. Moreover, before Nehemiah could make the request, the king had to inquire of Nehemiah and a servant was never allowed to address the king. So, there was no guarantee that Nehemiah would be able to speak the king let alone grant him such a huge favor.

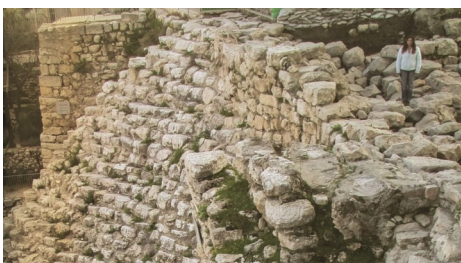


However, at the beginning of chapter 2, the king notices Nehemiah's sullen and sunken appearance, and as a result asks

Nehemiah what is wrong which opens the door for Nehemiah to make his request. Not only does the king give Nehemiah all he asks for, the king also gives Nehemiah what he didn't ask for: protection for the journey in the form of the king's army officers and calvary to ride with him all the way back to Jerusalem. The king did a lot for Nehemiah.

Notice in telling the story of how he came to Jerusalem, Nehemiah never credits the king for the blessing he receives; rather at the beginning of verse 18, Nehemiah says that it was the gracious hand of God on him that was responsible for his return. Nehemiah's words reflect his theological understanding that people may be put in positions of authority over us, but it is God who controls our destiny. Nehemiah believes that the king only granted his request because of God, who is in control. In fact, before Nehemiah made his request to the king in chapter 2:5, Nehemiah appealed to God in chapter 2:4. The king asked Nehemiah what was it that he wanted, and before Nehemiah uttered a word, the Bible says that Nehemiah first prayed to the God of heaven. Nehemiah understood that he needed a "yes" from God before he could have a "yes" from the king. H. G. M. Williamson in his commentary on Nehemiah writes, *"Nehemiah's correct perspective is seen here as he*

Nehemiah's wall, as seen in the foreground, was constructed on top of an older wall.
Courtesy of Elliot Mazar
<https://armstronginstitute.org/204-discovered-nehemiahs-wall>



first points to God's favor as the cause for their change in fortune and only secondly to the king as God's instrument."

Nehemiah's perspective on the relationship between God and the king is a reminder of the perspective that you and I need to have on the relationship between God and every other person in a position of power in our lives. Though they may have authority over us, it is God who is in control. It is God who says yes or no, it is God who grants requests, it is God who opens doors, it is God who ensures opportunities. Proverbs 21:1 says, *"it is the Lord who controls the king's heart and God channels it like a stream of water towards all who please him."* That is why you and I should never be afraid to entrust our dreams and desires to God; because though other people may think that it is their say so that determines how far our dreams proceed, we as the people of God know, it is God's word that determines how far we go.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

What concerns, dreams and desires will you entrust to the sovereignty of God in 2023? Begin with prayer.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Pray For Our Missionaries

Missions Door

Francklin and Nerlie Alexis, Haiti
Felix and Amnerys Abreu, Dominican Republic
Edwin and Liz Colon, Brooklyn, NY
Herode and Edline Guillomettre, Haiti
Duane and Miriam Mansveld, Montreal, Canada
Vincent and Maryam Morgan, Brooklyn, NY & Middle East
Ray and Valerie Ramos, Brooklyn, NY
Marvin and Denise Robinson, Rochester, NY

World Venture

Barry and Peggy Owen, Asia

United World Mission

Matt and Nicole Paschall, Hungary

Urban Life Source Connection

Dale Belli, New York City

World Outreach Ministries

Luis and Azucena Matute, Panama & Costa Rica
Dr. Azucena E. Matute, Panama

Global One 80

Joaquin and Oneida Vargas, Arizona & Mexico

COMINAD

(Cooperative Mission Network of the African Dispersion)

Brian and Ruth Johnson, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to come together to learn, pray and fellowship.

Bible Study

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adults—9:45AM

Youth — 11:15A, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays

Join in person and via Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

7:00—8:00PM

Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656

Prayer Meetings

Prayer Meetings by Phone Conference Call

(712) 770-4711

Access Code: 667293#

Monday & Thursday

6-6:30 AM

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

"POWER HOUR"

Sunday,

JANUARY 15

@ 12:30PM

Join the Zoom meeting by phone at

646-558-8656

EVENING PRAYER

Friday, JANUARY 30 @

7:00PM

Dial into the Zoom Meeting

phone number:

646-558-8656

MID-WEEK PRAYER

Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 PM

(712) 770-4711—Access Code: 667293#

CORPORATE PRAYER FOR THE BUILDING PROJECT

The leaders of Central Baptist Church are asking you to join us for prayer on Wednesdays at 12PM for corporate prayer. We will be praying specifically about the building project as well as anything you would like. Please note this is not a time to discuss the details of the project but to pray. If you have questions about the project, please call the church to speak to Pastor Fils-Aime.

We will be using the prayer line phone number: (609) 746-1164 Passcode: 667293#

Senior Ministry Events

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

SENIOR MINISTRY BOOK CLUB MEETING @ 2:00PM

Book: Whisper—How to hear the voice of God " by Mark Batterson

All seniors are invited to join us.

•Join us In-Person in Ms. Ann's Room

•Or dial in on your phone:(929) 205-6099

Enter the meeting ID 816 901 3583 when prompted



SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 @ 2:00pm

SENIOR MONTHLY LUNCHEON MEETING

Location: The Parlor

All seniors 55 and older are invited to join us.



Senior Trip to Sight & Sound

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Saturday, July 15, 2023

COST: \$200.00 all inclusive . See Otis Coleman for more information and the payment plan.



Capital Campaign

WHAT: Raise \$100,000.00

WHY: To offset the \$500,000 overall cost of exterior
AMOUNT DONATED AS OF 12/21/22 as per Corporate
Congregational Meeting—\$2,843.00