

DECEMBER THEME: Advent: Hope, Preparation, Peace & Love

December Fighter Verse— Luke 1:36-37 (NIV)

“Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

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. Ages—Kindergarten to 8th Grade

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

'Tis the Season

MISSIONS TOY DRIVE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 2022

It's the season of giving! Please support our annual toy drive so we can support local children and ensure that every child gets a gift this Christmas season. We are accepting unwrapped gifts at the church until **December 11th**. You can also purchase a toy online to be shipped directly to the church through the [Amazon Wishlist](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/24VV60XXS6204?ref=wl_share) using the link below.



https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/24VV60XXS6204?ref=wl_share

NEEDED: DECORATED GIFT BOXES

Dale Belli, one of Central's missionaries who leads weekly Bible study classes in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Manhattan, hosts Christmas parties for all the people that participate in Bible study classes, throughout the year.

She needs our help to purchase rolls of scotch tape, colorful tissue paper, gift tags, decorated Christmas gift boxes, in various sizes-- small, medium & large. And extra-large boxes for blankets, robes, and winter coats. Shirt size boxes are good for socks and underwear. She will also accept used gift boxes or used tissue paper, that you have from last year, that you may no longer want.



No wrapping paper, no plain boxes or bows are needed!!! There will be a container to receive the items at the back of the church.



Oh, What A Joyous Night It Was

by Jill Fortune

Are the stars out tonight? Lift your head upward, open wide your eyes and tip your head toward the sky. Wow! There they are, positioned in a field of darkness, blinking, twinkling, dancing and leaping as the stars delight in wonder. Oh look, there's the Big Dipper, over there the Milky Way and even a racing meteor! The heart pounds, the eyes flutter and the breath pants over the excitement caused by the activity in this magnificent canopy over the earth.

Many have not let God's beautiful, divine handicraft go unnoticed. Children sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and recite, "Star Light, Star Bright." Van Gogh paints the "Starry Night" and others wish upon a star. Harriet Tubman, guided by the North Star, leads over 70 enslaved people to freedom. Sopranos, tenors and baritones harmonize to the chorus of "We Three Kings."

But, there was something even more wonderous in the sky on that special night the star shined so brightly. It illuminated the way to Bethlehem that led the Three Kings to Baby Jesus. They knew that He was a king and brought gifts worthy of a king. He was a king who would encourage love for one another and embrace peace and joy. Oh, it was a night of love, worship and praise!



Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh

Pastor's Devotional

**"How will this be,"
Mary asked the angel,
"since I am a virgin?"
Luke 1:34**



In Luke 1:34, when the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive the long-awaited Messiah, rather than being elated and overjoyed, Mary is confused. She points out to the angel that what he is proposing is not biologically possible because she is a "virgin." But Gabriel explains that this child will not be conceived like other children. God will break the rules of biology so that Mary will conceive without sexual intercourse. This child will be the result of God's creative power, just as God brought life out of nothing when he created the world, God would create life in Mary's womb through supernatural means. The child would be created through divine conception so that Mary will become pregnant while remaining a virgin. Both Luke and Matthew make the claim that Jesus was born from a mother who never had sex.

Christian doctrine refers to this miraculous conception as the Virgin Birth. The Virgin Birth of Jesus remains one of the most controversial



The Annunciation by Henry O. Tanner

issues in all of Christianity because from the very onset people have denied this core truth of the Christian faith. In John 8 the Jews question Jesus' paternity, insinuating that he was an illegitimate child. In the second century the Greek philosopher Celsus wrote that the virgin birth was a lie that Mary made up to hide the fact that Jesus' father was a soldier named Pantera. Even today certain scientists claim that Jesus' birth was the result of what is known as parthenogenesis, where

an embryo grows and develops without being fertilized by a sperm. See the movie Jurassic Park, where parthenogenesis was the explanation behind the dinosaur's ability to reproduce even though they were all created as female.

We can try to explain away the Virgin Birth all we want to, but for Christianity, the Virgin Birth is one of the fundamentals of the faith. As Christians, our claim is that Jesus was born like no other person in human history because in human history there has never been another person quite like Jesus. The Virgin Birth of Jesus stands as a testament to the uniqueness of Jesus. Nobody was ever born the way Jesus was born and nobody would ever go on to live like Jesus would live. Nobody would ever do the things that Jesus did. Nobody ever died the way Jesus died. And nobody ever would rise from the grave the way Jesus rose from the grave. The virgin birth is just one of the many examples as to why there has never been anyone ever quite like Jesus.



Yes
by Jen Norton

And to show that God could make a virgin birth possible, Gabriel makes this statement in verse 37, "nothing is impossible with God." The angel Gabriel makes this statement as a word of assurance to say that God can do whatever he wants to do. But Gabriel's statement in verse 37 is not simply a word given to Mary, it is a word for believers everywhere who are living through difficult circumstances and doubt God's ability to intervene: "nothing is impossible for God." when we don't know in life how we are going to rise up above our circumstances, the birth of Jesus reminds us that nothing is impossible for God.

[Angel Gabriel] "And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. For nothing will be impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's slave," said Mary. "May it be done to according to your word." Then the angel left her.
Luke 1:36-38 (HCSB)

December Birthdays



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May God always guide you and be with you throughout your journey in life.

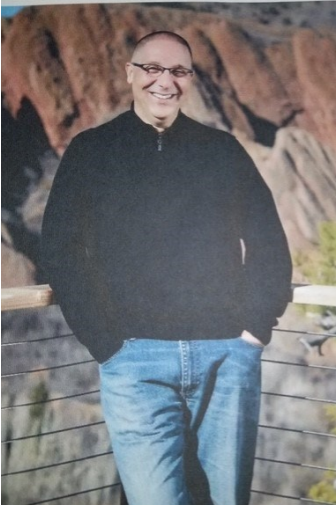
Happy Birthday

All God's Blessings to you and Merry Christmas!

Aaron Foster	12/1
Chima Joseph	21/1
Cometia Banfield	12/2
Theresa Richardson	12/3
Ketty Pierre	12/5
Emperor Van Buren	12/7
Preston Gordon	12/10
Christopher White	12/11
Elijah Winn	12/12
Gwendolyn Myles-Chisholm	12/12
Tyerra Dickerson-Porter	12/13
Lorraine Davis	12/14
Theadora Brown	12/14
Lydia Endale	12/16
Paul Levell	12/19
Edwina Chambers	12/20
Maria Negron	12/20
Toni Barton	12/20
Tara Dickerson-Parker	12/22
Vincent Clark	12/22
Vincent Gerardi	12/22
Dana Wright	12/23
Andrew White	12/26
Sharrata Hunt	12/26
Patresse Phillips	12/28
Zaria Dickerson-Parker	12/29
Guilene Eloi	12/30
Herbert Moore	12/31

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Joaquin Vargas
Mission Board: Global One80



For 31 years, Joaquin Vargas served at Missions Door in various leadership and Vice President roles. In 2016, Joaquin and a team of leaders founded Global One80 as a ministry organization and mission agency to empower leaders in the United States and other countries. Their call was to transform lives and communities with the gospel of Jesus, one life at a time.

There are now over 60 missionaries serving in 28 countries.

Joaquin is very thankful for the Latino Mobilizer program. Forty three leaders are going to other cultures to share the gospel.

Joaquin is married to Oneida and they have three adult children, Mariel, Abraham and Laura.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for wisdom as they continue to partner with a few Latin American Missions who are sending missionaries to very dangerous countries.
- Pray for donations to the Operation Fund -They are \$12,000 short of the goal of \$60,000 for 2022.
- Pray for Joaquin's health, he has kidney stones and has been diagnosed with Diabetes.
- They are requesting Christmas gifts for the children in Mexico.

You can contact Joaquin Vargas at joaquin@globalone80.org

10% of your tithes and offerings go toward the support of our missionaries.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Watchnight



Saturday, December 24
 7PM in the Sanctuary



Saturday, December 31
 8PM — Movie
 10PM — Fellowship Meal
 11PM — Worship Service

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

Mid-Week Prayer:

Wednesday

12:00-1:00 PM

**Join Zoom Prayer
Meetings**

**by Phone:
646-558-8656**

Prayer Meetings by Phone

Conference Call

(712) 770-4711

Access Code:

667293#

Monday & Thursday

6-6:30 AM

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

"POWER HOUR"

Sunday,

December 18

@ 12:30PM

Join by phone at

646-558-8656

EVENING PRAYER

Friday, December 30 @

7:00PM

Dial into the Zoom

Meeting phone

number:

646-558-8656

**SENIOR MONTHLY LUNCHEON MEETING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022 @ 2:00PM**

Celebrating Christmas

All seniors 55 and older are invited to join us.

Location: The Parlor

Capital Campaign

WHAT: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN—Raise \$100,000.00

WHY: To offset the \$500,000 overall cost of exterior facade repairs

WHO IS INVOLVED: Members and Friends of Central Baptist Church who open their hearts, minds and treasure.

HOW MUCH: A monthly donation total from each CBC Member: \$78 dollars a month for 8 months; totaling \$624 from each Central Baptist member. This is additional giving beyond tithes and offerings.

WHEN: Commenced on October 16th, 2022 through June 16th, 2023 a total of 8 months. The progress of the campaign will be published in the newsletter when the numbers become available.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS are still needed to assist for **one hour** on Saturday, December 10th in the following categories: setup, cleanup, ushers, coatroom, miscellaneous. Please email us at centralbaptist180anniversary@gmail.com if you can spare an hour.

SAVE THE DATE



Dear Central Baptist Church Members and Friends,

The 180th Anniversary Committee is pleased to invite you to join us on Saturday, December 10th to celebrate 180 years of service in New York City.

Please use this link to RSVP for the **PROGRAM** in the sanctuary which will begin promptly at 3:00 pm. Doors open at 2:30 pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/central-baptist-church-180th-anniversary-program-tickets-471506698227>

Please use this link to RSVP for the **DINNER** in the lower gym which will begin promptly at 5:00 pm.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/central-baptist-church-180th-anniversary-dinner-tickets-448702058937>

Please note that there is limited seating for dinner and only those who have RSVPd **AND** received their ticket will be seated.

Tickets will be distributed to the guests who have RSVPd between 2:30 and 3:00 before the program begins and then between 4:30 and 5:00 pm once the program concludes.

COVID Protocols

Please take a COVID test within 24-48 hours of the DINNER whether you have symptoms or not to avoid inadvertently getting others sick. No one with a temperature of 100° will be admitted.



The site of Central Baptist Church in 1861 on West 42nd Street.

Please email us at CentralBaptist180Anniversary@gmail.com with any questions.
Looking forward to seeing you soon!

The Central Baptist 180th Anniversary Committee



The site of Central Baptist Church today on West 92nd St & Amsterdam Ave.