

# FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY THEME: JOY KILLERS—WHAT IS STEALING YOUR JOY?

### February Fighter Verse — Nehemiah 8:10

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

### OUR WORSHIP

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

**LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM**  
**Www.centralbaptistnyc.org**  
**Adult Sunday School 9:45AM via Zoom**  
**Dial in phone number: 646-558-8656**

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### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

LaJuana Smith	Feb 02	Cliff Jean-Michel	Feb 13
Charrisse Worley	Feb 03	Stephanie Cunningham	Feb 14
Tracey Knuckles-White	Feb 05	Brielle Johnson	Feb 14
Helene Jean-Michel	Feb 05	Meaghan Selch	Feb 15
Christopher Henderson	Feb 06	Colliertine Walker	Feb 17
Elizabeth Almanzar-Wright	Feb 07	Willie Ray Gibson, Jr	Feb 17
Sarah Clark	Feb 07	Late Lawson-Drackey	Feb 18
Deborah Gorham	Feb 11	Troy Carver	Feb 21
Debra James	Feb 13	Helen Dunn	Feb 26



### CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

**7:00pm**

All members are invited to join us.

**Agenda includes:**

#### VOTE FOR DEACON NOMINEES

#### Continuing for a second term

V. AnnDenise Brown

#### Deacon/Trustee Candidate

Yulando E. McMullen

#### Deacon Candidates

Sharrata M. Hunt

Joyce N. Powell

Sherry Reid

•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.

## PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL



### 1 Samuel 15:34 - 35

*Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup>Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.*

**1 Samuel 16:1**—*The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."*



**A**t the end of 1 Samuel 15, after God rejected Saul for his partial obedience, we find Samuel mourning the rejection of Saul. And when we meet Samuel again in 1 Sam. 16:1 we find Samuel in the same place where we left him, mourning for Saul. We don't know how long Samuel was in that place, but however long it was it was too long for God. God's question to Samuel at the opening of verse 1, suggests that Samuel had been mourning the loss of Saul for a considerable time. So much so that Samuel's mourning had become a pattern of behavior.

The word for mourning in verse 16:1 doesn't just speak of the emotional state of grieve, it refers to the observation of mourning rites. In ancient Israel when someone suffered a loss usually associated with a death, they would put on mourning clothes and cover their faces with dust, as an indication to the people around them that they were in a state of mourning. That is what Samuel had done for Saul. Samuel had returned home put on sackcloth, covered his face in ashes, and would spend all day crying over Saul.

But even when mourning the death of a loved one, there was an expected period for observing these mourning rites. And the fact that God asks Samuel "how long will you mourn for Saul," suggests that this

period had long since passed. Samuel is mourning Saul longer alive than he would have had Saul died. That's how painful it can feel when we have to separate from some people, it can feel just like or worse than if they had died.

Miss Havisham is a wonderful character in Charles Dickens' novel, "Great Expectations." I personally think her one of the greatest characters in all of literature. Miss Havisham was born to a wealthy family and after her father died when she was only a teenager, she inherited his great wealth. As an adult she fell in love with a man named Copeyson. Copeyson proposed and Miss Havisham accepted but on her wedding day, while she was still dressing, at twenty minutes to nine, she learned that her fiancé had left her at the altar. Miss Havisham had all the clocks in her mansion stopped at that exact point in which she learned of her betrayal. She never moved on; she never let go.

When Miss Havisham is introduced, Dickens describes her wearing a stained yellow dress, the wedding gown she never took off since the day of her supposed wedding. She only wears one shoe because she was in the process of getting dressed and there is a rotten molded wedding cake left uneaten on the table. She was still a teenager when she was left at the altar, Dickens never says how old she is and in the book, but she is described as a skeleton with moving eyes. That's how paralyzing and painful the experience of a relationship ending can be, it can hurt just as much as having that loved one pass away. And because of his pain, Samuel is on the verge of becoming an ancient version of Miss Havisham.

But when God comes to Samuel in his state of mourning, God doesn't come to comfort Samuel. He comes instead to confront Samuel. 1 Samuel chapter 16:1 is God's challenge to Samuel to take off his grieving clothes, wash his face, go from his place of mourning and move into a new place of service to God. Because God has rejected Saul, the relationship between the two men is ended. God's expectation for Samuel is he must move on. And God carries that same expectation for us. We may not openly mourn the loss of a friend or partner the way Samuel did, but we can hold on to their memory to such an extent that we remain stuck and unwilling to

move on from our place of inactivity. It is inappropriate for God to reject someone in our life, for God to say no, and for us to continue to mourn that relationship without moving on.

I know. I have been there where I have established a relationship with someone, grown to care about someone, and for reasons known to him alone and sometimes for reasons known to both of us, God has removed that person from my life. God has said no to any continued relationship between me and that person. Leaving me at times empty and angry because I gave of my time, my resources, my energies, and of myself to that relationship that did not turn out like I wanted. And when that does happen, the thing to do is not continuously grieve the loss but to move on. Because if God is sovereign over your life, he also has to be sovereign over all your relationships as well. You may have wanted the relationship to go another way, you may have wanted a different outcome, and God may have said yes for a season in your life, but when God says no to someone, get your cry on, grieve, and mourn, if you have to, but then move on.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



**L**ike Miss Havisham, are you holding on to a relationship that has ended. Have you been grieving the loss of that relationship for a long time? Don't allow the loss to kill your joy anymore. Let God, in His sovereignty, give you peace; and purpose in your heart to "wash your face, go from your place of mourning and move into a new place of service to God."

Miss Havisham, in art by Harry Furniss from the library edition of Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*. Source: <https://blog.oup.com/2016/12/playlists-for-dickens-characters/>



## Bible in a Year Reading Calendar February, 2022

Date	OT Reading	NT Reading
1/31/22	Joshua 16 - 18	Luke 5:1-16
2/1/22	Joshua 19 - 22	Luke 5:17 - 6:26
2/2/22	Catch Up & Reflect	
2/3/22	Joshua 23 - 24	Luke 6:27-49
2/4/22	Judges 1 - 2	Luke 7:1-30
2/5/22	Judges 3 - 5	Luke 7:31-50
2/6/22	Judges 6 - 7	Luke 8:1-21
2/7/22	Judges 8 - 9	Luke 8:22-56
2/8/22	Judges 10 - 14	Luke 9
2/9/22	Catch Up & Reflect	
2/10/22	Judges 15 - 17	Luke 10:1-24
2/11/22	Judges 18 - 19	Luke 10:25-42
2/12/22	Judges 20 - 21	Luke 11:1-28
2/13/22	Ruth 1 - 4	Luke 11:29-54
2/14/22	1 Samuel 1 - 3	Luke 12:1-34
2/15/22	1 Samuel 4 - 9	Luke 12:35 - 13:21
2/16/22	Catch Up & Reflect	
2/17/22	1 Samuel 10 - 12	Luke 13:22-35
2/18/22	1 Samuel 13 - 14	Luke 14:1-24
2/19/22	1 Samuel 15 - 16	Luke 14:25-35
2/20/22	1 Samuel 17 - 18	Luke 15:1-10
2/21/22	1 Samuel 19 - 21	Luke 15:11-32
2/22/22	1 Samuel 22 - 25	Luke 16
2/23/22	Catch Up & Reflect	
2/24/22	1 Samuel 26 - 28	Luke 17:1-19
2/25/22	1 Samuel 29 - 31	Luke 17:20-37
2/26/22	2 Samuel 1 - 3	Luke 18:1-17
2/27/22	2 Samuel 4 - 6	Luke 18:18-43
2/28/22	2 Samuel 7 - 9	Luke 19:1-28





### **CBC Senior Ministry**

*Getaway Luncheon and Theater Experience*

### **DAVID**

Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Saturday, July 16, 2022

Cost: 185.00 per person—35.00 deposit due to secure a seat

**All inquiries and payments are to be given to**

**Otis Coleman 212-567-7479**

**NOTE: CDC virus protection guideline will be followed**

## **Bible Study, Prayer Meetings & Announcements**

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

**Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656 & YouTube  
7:00 PM**

**Prayer Meetings by Phone  
Conference Call  
Connection**

**(712) 770-4711**

**Access Code: 667293#**

### **Sick and Shut-In:**

Monday & Thursday  
6-6:30 AM

### **Men's Ministry**

Tuesday and Thursday  
6:45-7:30 AM

**Mid-Week Prayer:  
Wednesday**

12:00-1:00 PM

**Join Zoom Prayer Meetings  
by Phone: 646-558-8656.**

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

### **"POWER HOUR" MEETING**

**Sunday, February 20 @ 12:30PM**

Join by phone at **646-558-8656**

*"Prayer is our most powerful weapon!"*

### **EVENING PRAYER**

Evening Prayer will meet via Zoom

**FEBRUARY 25, 2022**

Dial into the Zoom Meeting using your phone to:  
**646-558-8656**

**All Senior Ministry Activities that take place at  
the church are cancelled until further notice.**

## **MISSIONS**

### **Pray For Our Missionaries**

#### **Our missionaries who serve with 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  
Luis and Azucena Matute, Panama & Costa Rica  
Vincent and Maryam Morgan, Brooklyn, NY,  
and the Middle East  
Ray and Valerie Ramos, Brooklyn, NY  
Marvin and Denise Robinson, Rochester, NY

#### **Our missionaries who serve with World Venture:**

Barry and Peggy Owen, Asia

#### **Our missionaries who serve with United World Mission:**

Matt and Nicole Paschall, Hungary

#### **Our missionary who serves with Urban Life Source Connection:**

Dale Belli, New York City

#### **Our missionaries who serve with COMINAD (Cooperative Mission Network of the African Dispersion)**

Brian and Ruth Johnson,  
Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean

Central Baptist Church  
166 West 92nd Street  
New York, NY 10025  
(212) 724-4004  
Office Hours:  
Monday — Thursday  
10:00AM — 6:00PM

**Newsletter Staff**  
Pastor Robert Casteline  
Sharrata Hunt  
Paulette Igharo

Special Thanks to Tanya Green