



## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

BY BISHOP CARL PIERCE, SR.

Grace and peace, and greetings to you in the name of our Lord,

I greet you with Jesus joy; excited to be alive and to be counted amongst those that are sanctified. We serve a Mighty God, and how marvelous is His favor to those who love and obey Him.

God has been so gracious as to escort us into this second month of the new year, and as we have embarked upon this season, I encourage you to be keen in your expectancy and anticipation of a greater manifestation and move of God in your life.

God has declared 2021 to be the Year of Revival, which is not necessarily being in our corporate place of worship in a church service, but rather the availing of ourselves for God to reboot us in Him wherever we are. God's desire amidst this tumultuous season is to renew and restore us as only He can. Thus, this is indeed our time of refreshing and a season of recovery. Prior experiences have left many weakened, discouraged, and oppressed by the cares of life, but God has declared to us victory; even a rebuilding of ourselves through revival while still incarcerated amidst our present-day context.

The qualities of true revival are found throughout scripture, with the root word for revival stemming from the word revive. The prefix *re-* meaning "again" and *vive*, which is derived from the Old French word *vivere*, means "to live." So, the word "revive" literally means "to live again," to which I say, "Thanks be to God that we can, in and through Him, live again." I exhort you, as you seek the heart of God in this season, to avail yourself to be revived, and grow in the grace and the knowledge of God, so you can indeed live again.

Don't settle for merely His hand when His desire is for you to seek His heart as He restores, renews and refreshes you in Him. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33)." Seek the Kingdom of God above all else and live righteously, and He will give you everything that you need.



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## HEAD TO TOE PRAYER SERIES - A HEART OF LOVE

BY EVANG. KAY N. HARDING



Jesus said, "... men ought always to pray, and not to faint...(Luke 18:1)." Kevin LaVar penned a song titled A Heart that Forgives with the lyrics "I want a heart that forgives, a heart full of love, ... I want a heart that loves everybody, even my enemies..."

In this series, we will focus our attention on examining our heart to determine if we have a heart of love and forgiveness. As we take this journey, let's consider the following scriptures to help us

focus our reflections and prayers:

**Loving Others:** *(Matthew 5:44) - "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (John 13:34-35) - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

**Forgiving Others:** *(Ephesians 4:32) - "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." (Matthew 6:14-15) - "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions." (Mark 11:35) - "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions." (Luke 17:3) - "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."*

Dear Father, I thank you for Jesus' love for me. God I ask you to help me to love the way Jesus loves. Help me to forgive those that have intentionally or unintentionally hurt me. Help me to love and pray for my enemies. Help me to demonstrate my love for others by being patient, kind, compassionate, polite, and longsuffering. Help me to not hold grudges. Help me to not hold iniquity in my heart, but create in me a clean heart. Lord, help me to forgive so that I can be forgiven.

This month, you are encouraged to continue to find additional scriptures on love, memorize and pray those scriptures over yourself, family, and others. Further, do a deep examination of your heart and make sure that you do not have any unforgiveness in your heart, realizing that if we harbor unforgiveness, God will not forgive us or answer your prayers. Next month, we will focus on another part of the body in our journey through the Head to Toe Prayer Series.

WELCOME TO  
CARTER MEMORIAL  
CHURCH  
OF BALTIMORE  
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST



"A heart that  
forgives... a  
heart full of  
love.."

KEVIN LEVAR



## HOPE FOR THE BROKENHEARTED

BY MIN. RODNEY MARTIN

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed Psalm 34:18 NLT." I think we can agree that this season has been a little difficult for some of us to navigate through. Most if not all of us have experienced loss in some way, shape or form. From our biological families to our Carter family, we have had to say a lot of goodbyes as of late. Although we are fully aware of the answer to this question, our human emotions often struggle with aligning with the will of God, especially when his sovereignty is in direct conflict with our humanity.

We as humans have physiological responses to loss, grief, and hurtful situations and emotional pain can be felt in a very real way in the body, the mind, and the heart. However, this scripture comforts us by reminding us that even in our brokenness, the Lord is near. He's not just present, he is NEAR.. he is tangible. He has neither abandoned nor forsaken us. God is not intimidated by our questions or our humanity. He is fully aware of every emotion that his children feels. As a matter of fact, Hebrews 4:15 reminds us that, "we have not a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities." Not only is he close, but he invites us to cast our cares on Him because he cares for us. We have hope today.

Even in our pain, God offers to us the promise of his presence. That is a reason to rejoice. After the psalmist' statement in Psalm 34:18, he follows up in the next verse by reminding us that MANY are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord shall deliver us out of them all. He is near, he is a present help, and he is a mighty deliverer!

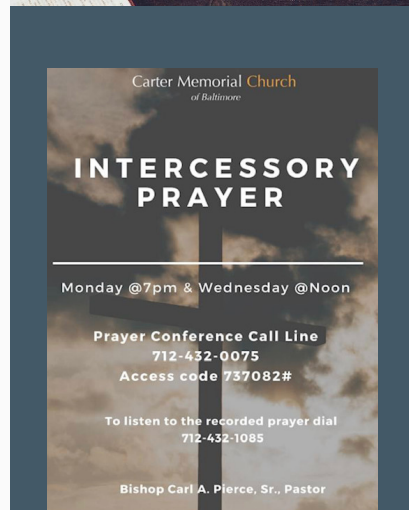
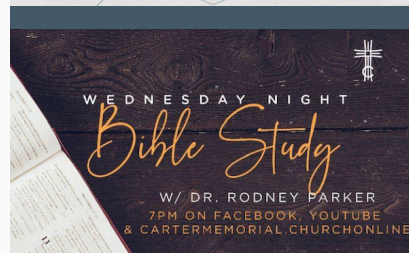
## THE POWER OF LOVE IN DISCIPLESHIP

BY SIS. ALVERA GUNN

How many times has God forgiven us when we did not deserve it? Jesus Christ, with arms stretched wide and thorns pressed deep into His flesh, six-inch corroded iron nails in His hands and feet, and a vicious crowd spewing vile taunts, lifted His head and peered beyond the reach of natural vision declaring, "Father forgive them.." Jesus' response became the greatest act of love towards mankind, modeling the most critical element of discipleship that demands, "...love your neighbor as yourself..(Matthew 22:39)."

Discipleship is genuinely caring for the brokenhearted, the sick, the orphan, the homeless; not for works, but to love them towards Christ. An unforgiving heart can cause a distortion in how you see others, similar to peering out of a dirty window with your vision hindered. The power of forgiveness is like wiping the window clean, allowing you to see possibilities and potential.

AGAPE Love heals, restores, inspires, uplifts, never seeks to destroy or wound for the fulfillment of selfish desires, and does not keep score of offenses. This love causes one to see beyond fault lines, allowing the hand of God to move through the earth healing hearts and minds. Through loving kindness, mankind is drawn back to his intended purpose.





## MAKING HEART HEALTHY DECISIONS IN 2021

DR. CHARLETTE PACE, DNP, APRN



Almost one year ago, our daily lives and routines came to a screeching halt. COVID-19 cases spiked exponentially closing jobs, schools, doctors' offices, gyms, restaurants and churches. At the beginning of every year, we normally create vision boards and set goals for the new year, but many of those 2020 plans were derailed because of this deadly virus.

The disruption to our daily routines and habits have caused some to put on "Pandemic Pounds" or the "Quarantine 19" as a result of the stay-at-home orders coupled with some stress & anxiety surrounding what we did not know about the virus and when things would return to normal.

Every February, we usually come together on the 2nd or 3rd Sunday in our beautiful Red Dresses to raise awareness for Heart disease. While we have been distracted by the numbers related to COVID deaths, heart disease is still the most common and preventative causes of death in women. Obviously, this year we will not be together for the first time, but that does not mean that we should not take a moment to talk about making heart healthy decisions in 2021 as we possibly navigate another year of sheltering in place.

### Small changes we can make:

- **Get moving:** Aerobic activity gets the heart pumping which burn calories. Our goal should be 30 minutes per day which do not have to be all at one time. Our dear Sis. Timmons shares her brisk walks and encouragement via Facebook and has now also shared another aerobic activity of hula hooping to get moving.
- **Eat healthy foods:** Unhealthy eating habits eventually affect our arteries, blood pressure, glucose levels and other parts of your heart health. The blessing in the pandemic, is there is plenty of time to try out some new, delicious heart healthy recipes (Try searching for low carb recipes by downloading Pinterest or Weight Watchers for calorie monitoring ... they're free).
- **Aim for a healthy weight:** Reaching for and staying at a healthy weight will lower your risk of heart disease and stroke. Talk to your doctor about how much weight you should lose and the best ways to do it.



"A cheerful heart is good medicine..."

PROVERBS 17:22





## THE BENEFITS OF LOVING, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

BY NICOLE LAW



During this time of love and healing, it is important to address love's impact on one's health. WebMD posits the health benefits of love can include fewer colds, lower blood pressure, less anxiety, and better stress management. According to Harry Reis, Ph.D., feeling connected to others and having a sense of belonging is crucial to experiencing love's positive impact on an individual's health and wellness. Tips for having a loving relationship include increasing effective communication and conflict management skills and completing daily engaging activities with your loved ones.

Having effective communication skills will:

- Increase relationships and engagement
- Provide clarity and direction
- Build trust
- Deter and settle problems

Having effective conflict management skills will help to navigate conflict in a practical manner. To hone individual conflict management skills, you should utilize the following attributes:

- Active listening
- Comprehending your feelings
- Communicating assertively
- Working towards a resolution
- Knowing when to seek professional help

Actively communicating and interacting with loved ones helps increase social interactions, which positively increases mental health and a sense of belonging. It can also influence long-term health and increase longevity in ways similar to following a good diet and getting proper sleep.

As for our spiritual health, building a strong, personal relationship with Jesus Christ is crucial to strengthening our spiritual relationship. We must trust Jesus and his will for our lives and allow him to guide us. Accepting him as Lord and Savior is just the beginning. Focusing on him, reading scripture, and obeying his commandments are key to developing a strong personal relationship.

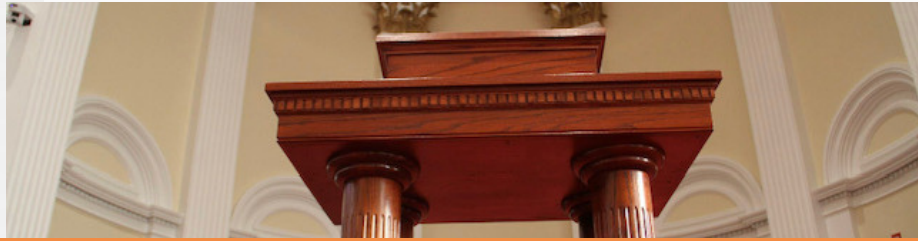
During this time of love and healing, building positive relationships with Jesus, significant others, friends, and family is just the answer to developing a happy and healthy life.



"Love is patient,  
love is kind...do  
everything in  
love..."

1 PETER 5:8





## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT - BALTIMORE GIFT ECONOMY

BY SHARON LAW

“Our mission is to build talent and capacity in the best interest of long-term community growth.” Ulysses and Chrysalinn Archie, founders of Baltimore Gift Economy (BGiftE) are fulfilling their mission by working to provide resources and services to communities that will help uplift, empower and fill the needs of its members. Bishop Pierce and I met with Ulysses in February of 2019. As a young boy, he recalled visiting his grandfather’s farm on the Eastern Shore and learning the value of sowing good seed and reaping a bountiful harvest of fruits, vegetables and grains.

He spoke candidly about how the lessons learned on the farm fueled his compelling drive to connect with people on every level. “We seek to show people, inclusive love, to teach people how to share even in the midst of challenge, to make them aware of the abundance that surrounds them, and to help them realize their gifts and talents and see the value they bring by sharing those gifts with others. We believe that by treating others with dignity regardless of circumstance, and by helping them understand their gifts and how to use them, communities can be strengthened and rebuilt from the inside out. All our services are for community members, and without their support, help and input we would not get very far in fulfilling our mission.”

### BGiftE Programs include:

**One Seed Project “15 Day Challenge”** - encourages participants to build a strong sense of self-awareness through the practice of growing seeds. The engaging act of growing seeds builds emotional intelligence, self-reflection, and connective relationships through compassionate action.

**Gathering of the Commons** - creates a safe community space for community members, associations, organizers and professionals to share ideas, exam challenges and reshape interactions within the commons.

**Five Shares Market** - a community-supported market with the goal of building a community around healthy food. Residents have access to locally sourced mostly organic food and non-food items. Items are assigned a 0-3 point value. Members are invited to purchase \$5 shares which allow them up to 10 points worth of food. A “Pay it Forward” option is available to donate shares to others.

**Food Sharing Table** - located in Peace Park, 500 Collins Avenue, 21229 offers a weekly variety of donated food. Items such as sweet and savory baked goods, organic foods, including plant based, veggie soup, milk, yogurt and more are available to anyone.

For more information about the Baltimore Gift Economy programs or to donate, visit their Facebook page @BaltimoreGiftEconomy.



**"Give and it shall be given unto you..."**

LUKE 6:38





## CARTER MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S CHURCH

BY SIS. LANETTE HENDERSON



### THE COURAGE TO LEAD SERIES



Children's Church is a Sunday worship experience that meets the needs and interests of Kingdom youth. The worship experience is vibrant, inclusive, engaging and relevant to youth. For more information, text CCZOOM to (855) 508-7521.

The Children's Church Department began its new series, "The Courage to Lead," in January with an introduction to Leadership (**Exodus 3; Joshua 1; Matthew 16:24**). Please join us on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 1:00pm as our young people recreate the examples of strength and courage, not only in the Bible, but throughout the history of Black Americans.

**How can we be courageous?**

Write down **3 ways** that you can be a courageous leader this week!



\* **FEBRUARY** - "The Courage to Lead in Black History" (Exodus 5:1; Joshua 1:9)

\* **MARCH** - "The Courage to Lead: Women in the Bible" (Judges 4-5; Matthew 26:7-13; John 11:2)



**YOUTH PASTOR**  
Elder Devin Roberts



Don't let anyone think less of you  
**BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG.**  
Be an example to all believers **IN WHAT YOU SAY,**  
**IN THE WAY YOU LIVE,**  
**IN YOUR LOVE,** **YOUR FAITH,**  
**AND YOUR PURITY.**

**LEADERSHIP**



**COURAGEOUS**



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

BY SIS. LANETTE HENDERSON

Autumn is a very intuitive young lady with a caring spirit and an eagerness to learn more about God and His Word! Autumn is very involved in her community and is a member of Young Educated Girls (YEG), a group based on empowering young girls and providing them with the tools in the area of leadership, sisterhood, conflict resolution, and African American culture.

In addition, Autumn is currently a student in the Peabody Program for Piano. In her free time, she enjoys reading books and painting. The Children's Church Department is blessed to have Autumn as a part of our ministry!

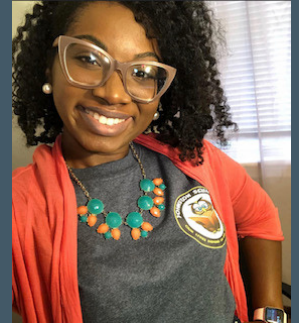
### AUTUMN



### YOUTH PASTOR Elder Devin Roberts



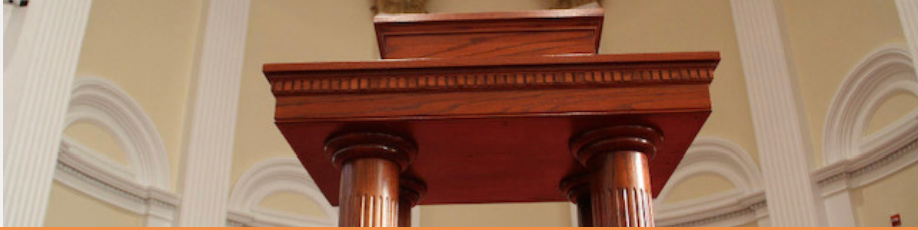
### CHILDREN'S CHURCH Sis. Lanette Henderson



### YWE COORDINATOR Sis. Cherise Roberts







## IT'S TIME TO BE EXTREME IN LOVE

BY EVANG. KENDRA BROWN AND SIS. RACHEL MANN

It is officially February...in what is already feeling like the second-longest year in history! While we could easily dust off and repurpose the usual platitudes of Black History Month and Valentine's Day, our current environment inspired us to approach these celebrations with additional intentionality and awareness. Today, through the lens of Black History Month and Valentine's day, let us reflect on how we as Christians should walk in the midst of a hurting world.

The approach is quite simple, actually. We should walk in extreme love. It's the same love that Jesus showed to the woman at the well. The same love that Zacchaeus received when Jesus called him down from the tree. The same love that our Savior showed while dying on the cross when He said according to Luke 23:24 "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," as soldiers gambled over his clothes.



We are referring to the extreme love that embodies the true and living gospel of Jesus Christ. A love that God showed us, through the sacrifice of His only son, to restore us back to Him. The true unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ is about extreme love and the Word of God is a blazing sword against sin, oppression, hate, and hypocrisy. (Hebrews 4:12)

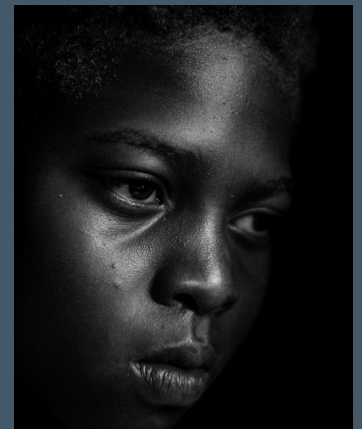
*Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Sadly, hate, oppression, sin and hypocrisy are deeply embedded in the foundations of our country and have been fortified by false interpretations of the gospel that were used to justify centuries of slavery, racism, classism, sexism and the like. Enslaved Africans experienced it when reading (if they could read) altered bibles distributed exclusively to slaves in the early 1800's, that removed all scriptures that spoke of freedom and liberation, by the very people who placed whips on their backs and prayed in church the next day.



"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do..."

LUKE 23:24





## IT'S TIME TO BE EXTREME IN LOVE

BY EVANG. KENDRA BROWN AND SIS. RACHEL MANN

Our ancestors experienced hatred when they awoke in the dark of night to see crosses burning in their yards, lit by hooded riders that claimed they were ordained by God to be the supreme race. We even saw it this year, as violent insurgents stormed the nation's capital with banners that read "Jesus Saves," while bearing assault rifles to hurt or threaten anyone that disagreed with them, and yelling racist epithets.

Hypocrisy and hate are extreme and Matthew 7:1-5 warns against it. Even an inkling of such offenses in the heart is an affront to the loving God we profess to represent. We must guard our hearts against sin, especially in this season when it is easy to be influenced by what we see around us and justify holding resentment in our hearts. Hate and hypocrisy have brought a critical eye upon the church and many who profess to be Christian. Forcing the world to ask "How can someone profess to be a Christian and be nothing like Christ?"

As we walk and serve in our communities, always err on the side of extreme love. Speak love, cultivate love, protect love, and teach love by both sharing and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2). THIS is what we are charged to do by God...and nothing less. Even during the celebration of the Inauguration of our nation's leaders, Amanda Gorman, the first national youth poet laureate, phrased where we are situated as a nation and our forward-looking hope so well: "For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

If we profess to be believers and followers of Jesus Christ, our love, our faith and our light must be extreme. This doesn't mean we tolerate all things. Romans 6:1-2 says "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Instead, in love, we must raise the standard, live the example and speak the Gospel. Contrary to popular belief, our options and dogma do not matter for the Gospel of Christ stands strong on its own. May we find the confidence we need as Christians to stand upright on the Word of God, rightly dividing the word of truth and living it boldly so that others see God's light and feel God's love through us.



"For there is  
always light...if  
only we're  
brave enough  
to be it."

AMANDA GORMAN





## CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY

### AMERICAN HISTORY - THE UNSUNG HEROS

**1919** - Dr. Reatha Dora Herndon and her twin sister Leatha, founded Timmons Temple Church of God In Christ (COGIC) in Springfield, MO. Timmons Temple was the first of 75 churches founded to the credit of these trailblazers in the Church of God in Christ.

**1940** - Bishop C. H. Mason commissioned Bishop Riley F. Williams to build Mason Temple (COGIC) in Memphis, TN with a budget of less than \$3000.

**1945** - At the completion of Mason Temple (COGIC Headquarters), it was the largest African American owned and operated church in the United States. (Bishop C. H. Mason & Bishop E. M. Paige below)



**1948** - Paul Robeson held a freedom rally at Mason Temple for a "Get Out and Vote" rally.

**1968** - Dr. Martin Luther King spoke at Mason Temple COGIC in support of the Memphis sanitation workers' strike.

**1968** - Bishop G. E. Patterson was a member of the nine-person strategy team that began the Black Sanitation Workers Strike.

**1993** - The movie, "Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit" debuted based on the life of former President of the COGIC International Music Department, Dr. Iris Stevenson-McCullough.



### AMERICAN INVENTORS AND TRAILBLAZERS

**1773** - Phillis Wheatly became the first slave to have a book of poems published.

**1791** - Inventor/Surveyor Benjamin Banneker designed the blueprints for the layout of Washington, DC

**1850** - Lucy Stanton became the first black woman to earn a four-year college degree from Oberlin College.

**1908** - Allensworth was the first township founded by black Americans with intentions on becoming self-sufficient.

**1926** - Carter G. Woodson initiated the celebration of Black History month

**1952** - Christina Jenkins invented the sew-in weave and was granted a patent for her invention. The patent was later overturned in 1965.

**1985** - Pearl Bailey earned a bachelor's degree in Theology from Georgetown University.

**1995** - Lisa Gelobter created Shockwave technology. This technology is used in all GIF's used on social media.



## FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS



### BISHOP'S PRAYER CALL

Join Bishop Carl Pierce, Sr., for a refreshing start to your day with prayer:

**WHEN:** Every Monday

**TIME:** 6:00 am EST

**DIAL:** (717) 401-9985 Access Code: 5905#

### REVIVAL & RENEWAL PRAYER

21-Day Period of Consecration prayer. Join us each day at 12 Noon by dialing:

(712) 432-0075 Access Code: 737082#

(712) 432-1085 (Recorded Prayer)

### 21-DAY CONSECRATION



A 21-Day period of Consecration begins Monday, February 1st and continues daily through Sunday, February 21st. To download a copy of the Consecration Planner, click [cartermemorial](http://cartermemorial) to visit our website.

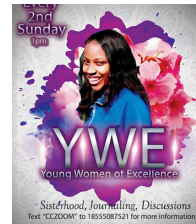
### FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS



"Women's Fireside Chat," a time for the Women's Ministry to connect every 4th Thursday @ 7:00 pm.



"Men's Locker Room" conversations inspire and challenge men for Kingdom assignments. Join the Men's Ministry every 4th Thursday @ 7:00 pm.



YWE - Sisterhood, Journaling, Discussions and more. Text CCZOOM to 855-508-7521



Children's Church Series, "The Courage to Lead," meets every Sunday @ 1:00 pm. To register, Text "CCZOOM" to 855-508-7521.



CrossFit Young Adult Bible Study series, "SHIFT" takes off every Friday @ 7:30 pm. To register, text "Crossfit" to 855-508-7521.



Teen Church Series, "I Am Not a Zombie" meets every Sunday @ 1:00 pm. To register, Text "CCZOOM" to 855-508-7521.