

Joyful Word!

Real Love

WRITTEN BY: ALETHIA DAVIS

Every year on February 14th, 30 countries around the world celebrate Valentine's Day. Although the true origin of the holiday remains unknown, it is said to date back as far as the third century. A day filled with flowers, red hearts, and chocolate has become an annual day to show love and affection to family, friends, and, more commonly, romantic partners.

Although people often associate Valentine's Day with love, the purest and truest example of love is shown in the life of Jesus Christ. Blameless and without sin, Jesus demonstrated real love when He died on the cross for every one of us and rose again three days later. Resurrection Sunday, also known as Easter Sunday, celebrates this sacrificial, unconditional love, and serves as a sweet reminder that no greater love exists, than the love that Jesus has for us. As we approach this Easter season, let us remember that our Lord and Savior went to the cross for us, knowing that we would betray Him and turn our backs on Him; yet He still went. What kind of love is this?

THIS is real love.

Daily Prayer

PROVIDED BY: *REV. CHARAS EBRON*

Dear Lord, thank you for another beautiful sunrise. Every breath I take is a gift from You.

Thank you, Lord, for no matter what I face today, with Your help, I will be able to endure, overcome and prevail. I thank you in advance for Your strength and energy that will sustain my day. Your wisdom that will guide me and Your peace that will fill me. May this day Lord be filled with so many blessings, miracles and answered prayers. In JESUS Name, Amen!

Thank you!

The Joyful Word Staff would like to thank you for supporting and reading this Church of God -East New York newsletter over the past three years. We ask that you pray for us as we dig deeper and continue to seek God's guidance in its delivery. Thank you to

Pastor McDowell, who has allowed us to develop this sharing ministry. We hope that you will enjoy this publication as much as the others.

Cultural Celebrations at COGENY

WRITTEN BY: *DAVID CUNNINGHAM*

At Church of God of East New York, Sunday radiated culture as worshipers donned vibrant attire, delicious food and flags of various countries honoring heritage through fashion, faith, unity, and joyful spiritual celebration. This all out of culture continued our spirited and meaningful Black History celebration at the Church of God of East New York. Black history is a legacy of strength, culture, and resilience. The congregation of COGENY and its visitors fashioned an array of vibrant African prints, bold colors, and elegant headwraps/hats, proudly highlighting our heritage. These outfits were more than fashion; they were a tribute to ancestors, a celebration of identity, and a reminder of the beauty and power in our shared history.



What is Measles?

WRITTEN BY: CAMILLE CUNNINGHAM

Measles is a highly contagious viral infection that can affect people of all ages, including adults. Measles spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can survive in the air for up to two hours. It can cause fever, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash that spreads over the body. "Some people think of measles as just a little rash and fever that clears up in a few days. But measles can cause serious health complications, especially in children younger than 5 years old" (the CDC's website).

While most adults are protected against measles through vaccination, those who are unvaccinated or have received only one dose of the vaccine are at risk. The best way to prevent getting sick is to be immunized against the virus. Two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine are highly effective at preventing measles.

The measles, mumps and rubella vaccine which is considered safe and highly effective at preventing infection and severe cases is recommended for unvaccinated adults and for children between 12 and 15 months old for the first shot, with the second coming between 4 and 6 years old.

KEY POINTS:

- * Measles is very contagious and can be serious for adults and children alike.
- * Two doses of MMR vaccine provide the best protection against measles.
- * Call the Department of Health Helpline on 1-833-796-8773 with questions about Measles and Vac

Signs and Symptoms of Measles



- ▶▶ High fever (may spike at more than 104°)
- ▶▶ Cough
- ▶▶ Runny nose
- ▶▶ Red, watery eyes
- ▶▶ Tiny white spots that may appear in the mouth 2-3 days after symptoms begin
- ▶▶ Measles rash that appears 3-5 days after symptoms begin; usually appears on the face and spreads downward

The One Another's

WRITTEN BY: YOLANDA MITCHELL

The Church of God of East New York marks the month of January as a time of renewal and recommitment. January- the beginning of a new year and new opportunities; it is a month dedicated to consecration, a time of focused prayer, fasting and seeking God. The Congregation met virtually at 12 noon for a time of exhortation and prayer as well as committing to 25 days of fasting.

The exhortations emphasized the "One Another's" as taught in scripture. Some of the exhortations involved Loving one another, Forgiving one another, and Bearing the burdens of one another. This theme emphasized mutual love and support in Christian relationships that help us to grow in our faith. We were also challenged and cautioned to Accept one another, Be kind to one another and to Live in peace with one another.

The One Another's were inspiring and intentional in letting us know that we are to work with and for one another- not against one another! In essence, the exhortations were instrumental in highlighting the COGENY 2025 theme of being purposely connected to one another! Our intentions are to maintain Christian unity as we remain attached in love, and respect towards one another.

Upcoming Events!

April 8th - "Leaders Around the Table"

April 13th - Baptism

April 18th & 19th - 'His Last Days' play

May 15th - 17th - Usher's Convention

May 30th - June 1st - State Convention

Annual Women's Day

WRITTEN BY: GABRIELLE HUGGINS

Women's Day at Church of God of East New York is observed annually on the 4th Sunday in February. It is a special service where we honor the women within the congregation and the numerous roles they play. Sis. Roseann Williams led us with a powerful prayer welcoming the Holy Ghost to come in and move in ways only He can move. Sis. Tiffany McKenzie gave the annual welcome, giving thanks to all the women in our congregation who wear many, many hats! Sis. Monica Davis gave a compelling speech that reflected on the challenges women face and encouraged them to continue growing spiritually and actively taking part in the Lord's work.

I speak for the whole congregation when I say each of our dynamic speakers gave a 10-minute sermon and blessed our hearts with a word from their respective themes: Lady Deborah McDowell "Life Through Connections," Minister Yolanda Mitchell "Connected Through Community," Reverend Yvonne Atkinson "Connecting to the Church," and Minister Pamela Gilkes "Connecting to Family."

Being a woman of faith, refers to a woman who holds strong beliefs in God and actively lives out those beliefs in her everyday life. A woman who seeks connections to her sisters when they are low and gives encouragement when they need it. A woman of faith seeks to show compassion, kindness, and moral integrity. A woman who relies on her beliefs to guide her through life's many challenges. Women of faith often take on leadership roles, engage in prayer, and serve their communities, all while striving to maintain a strong connection to God. Being a woman of faith means different things to different people. It is about living with intention, purpose, and a deep commitment to spiritual growth. Seeking God's face and displaying His love in everything you do.