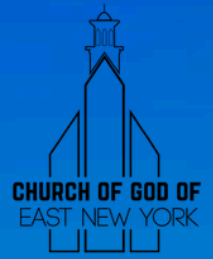


# Joyful Word!



## Your Voice and Vote Matters!

WRITTEN BY: ALETHIA DAVIS

The right to vote for Black Americans has been hard fought. In 1870, the 15th Amendment was ratified, granting Black men the right to vote. In 1920, the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote. However, Black Americans continued to face barriers to the ballot. States used poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses to keep them from voting during the Jim Crow era. It was not until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that many of these discriminatory practices were prohibited.

Although significant progress was made, the struggle for equal access to the ballot did not end. Racial gerrymandering, the manipulation of voting district lines to weaken the political power of a racial group, has remained a concern. More recently, in April 2026, the Supreme Court's decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* significantly weakened parts of the Voting Rights Act, making some voting rights challenges more difficult.

Because of this history, voting is more than a civic duty. It honors the sacrifices of those who came before us. Too many people have fought, and are still fighting, to make sure our voices are not silenced. Our communities are counting on us to create change and ensure our voices are heard. Vote. Your voice matters.

New York's Primary Election is June 23, 2026. Visit [vote.nyc/elections](https://vote.nyc/elections) for more information.

## Prayer

PROVIDED BY: REV. CHARAS EBRON

Heavenly Father, I come before You today with a grateful heart, feeling blessed because of my faith in You. Lord, Your Word reminds me that the preparations of my heart and the words I speak are from You. I acknowledge that I cannot rely solely on my understanding; I need Your guidance in all my ways.

Please help me to trust You completely, even when some things are unclear or difficult to grasp. Teach me to lean not on my own limited wisdom, but to acknowledge You in every decision, in every moment of my life. I want to rest in Your perfect plan and trust that You will direct my steps.

Thank You for the many ways You have blessed me-my health, my family, and the love we share. I ask for Your continued presence to strengthen my faith and to lead me along the paths You have prepared. Fill me with peace and confidence that You are always working for my good. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

# Hantavirus & Ebola Alert: Stay Informed, Stay Safe

WRITTEN BY: CAMILLE CUNNINGHAM

Recent reports of Hantavirus and Ebola outbreaks have reminded communities to stay alert and practice good health habits. Hantavirus is usually spread through contact with infected rodents, especially their urine, droppings, or saliva. Symptoms may begin with fever, fatigue, muscle aches, headaches, dizziness, and chills, and can then progress to coughing and difficulty breathing. Ebola spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids of an infected person. Symptoms include fever, severe headache, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, and sometimes unexplained bleeding.

Prevention is very important. Avoid contact with rodents and keep homes and storage areas clean and sealed. Wear gloves and masks when cleaning rodent - infected areas. For Ebola prevention, wash hands frequently, avoid contact with infected individuals or bodily fluids, and follow public health guidelines when traveling. Early medical attention can help reduce complications and protect others. Staying informed and practicing good hygiene are key steps in keeping families and communities safe.

## STAYING SAFE AGAINST HANTAVIRUS & EBOLA

Simple steps can protect you, your family, and your community.

### HANTAVIRUS

Hantavirus is spread mainly through contact with infected rodent droppings, urine, or saliva.

#### PREVENTION

- KEEP HOMES & AREAS CLEAN**  
Keep your home, garage, attic, and sheds clean and clutter-free. Seal cracks and holes.
- REMOVE FOOD SOURCES**  
Store food in sealed containers and keep garbage in covered bins. Clean up spills and crumbs.
- PROTECT YOURSELF**  
Wear gloves and a mask when cleaning areas that may have rodent droppings. Use a disinfectant or 10% bleach solution.
- AVOID RODENTS**  
Do not touch or sweep up rodent droppings. Set traps and seal entry points to keep rodents out.

#### SYMPTOMS

Fever, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, dizziness, chills, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Seek medical care early if symptoms develop.

### EBOLA

Ebola spreads through direct contact with the body fluids of an infected person or contaminated objects.

#### PREVENTION

- WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN**  
Use soap and clean water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- AVOID DIRECT CONTACT**  
Avoid contact with people who are sick, especially with their blood, vomit, stool, urine, or other body fluids.
- USE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**  
Wear gloves, masks, and protective clothing when caring for sick people.
- FOLLOW HEALTH GUIDELINES**  
Follow public health advice, avoid risky behaviors, and ensure safe burial practices.

#### SYMPTOMS

Fever, severe headache, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, and unexplained bleeding.

Seek medical care immediately if symptoms appear.

**PREVENT PROTECT STAY SAFE**

**STAY INFORMED**  
Follow trusted sources and health updates.

**PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY**  
Your actions today can save lives tomorrow.

**CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER**  
Be kind, support one another, and keep everyone safe.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN STOP THE SPREAD.**

# Hope Day Recap!

Thank you to the incredible Hope Day coordinators and volunteers who helped make *Hope Day* a successful community event!



## Kid's Corner

PROVIDED BY: NICOLE  
THOMAS



Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid, don't be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Have you ever had to move to a new neighborhood, start at a new school, or join a new team? Were you afraid? Did you feel uncertain about what would happen? Maybe you were scared that you wouldn't make new friends.

God understands that we'll have those feelings sometimes. But he also wants us to know that even when we do feel that way we can be brave and strong. Why? Because He PROMISED to be with us wherever we go, and God never breaks a promise. Next time you feel afraid or uncertain, say this prayer,;

God, you promised to be with me wherever I go. I trust you because you never break your promises. Help me to be brave.  
Amen.

## Ongoing/Upcoming Events

Prayer call 7:10-7:45pm every  
Tuesday

June 28<sup>th</sup> - Children's Day

July 12<sup>th</sup> - Men's Day

July 27<sup>th</sup> - August 1<sup>st</sup> - West  
Middlesex

September 27<sup>th</sup> - Seniors' Day

# LOL!

PROVIDED BY: DAVID CUNNINGHAM

A little boy ran home from Sunday School telling his Mom excitedly, " I learned God's name today! She asked, " Oh, what is it ? " He responded, " Andy! " His Mom asked , " How did you learn that? The little boy replied "From the song - Andy walks with me. Andy talks with me. Andy tells me I am His own. 😊