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Finding the Light in Darkness

Life can often feel like a journey through a dark tunnel. Whether it's the loss of a loved one, fear about the future, anxiety, or the weight of personal struggle, darkness has a way of making us feel lost and alone. It's easy to feel abandoned by God, wondering where His light is when everything seems so bleak. But as Christians, we are never without hope, because we know the One who is the light. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). This isn't just a poetic image; it's a promise. Jesus doesn't just offer us light in our struggles—He is the light. And His light is powerful enough to illuminate even the deepest darkness.

The Nature of God's Light

God's light is unlike anything we experience on earth. It isn't like the fleeting glow of a flashlight or the fading light of a candle. His light is eternal, unshakable, and transformative. In Psalm 18:28, the psalmist writes, "You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light." Even when we can't see the way forward, His light is at work in us, gradually transforming our hearts and our circumstances.

The light of Christ doesn't always come in a dramatic, instantaneous flash. Often, it arrives gently—like the dawn breaking over the horizon. But even in those quiet moments, God's light is doing something profound. His presence offers comfort, strength, and the steady assurance that we are not alone. He promises that in every dark moment, He will provide the guidance and strength we need to keep moving forward.

The Church as a Reflection of Light

As followers of Christ, we're not meant to keep His light to ourselves. We are called to reflect that light to those around us. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 5:14–16, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

When we're walking in God's light, we reflect that light to others, especially in times of need. The church is called to be a community of hope, offering support and encouragement when darkness threatens to overwhelm. If you're in a season of struggle, don't hesitate to reach out to your faith community. Whether through prayer, a simple conversation, or acts of kindness, the church has the power to shine Christ's light in ways that can bring hope and healing.

Embracing the Light

If you're in a dark season, remember this: darkness is not permanent. The same God who defeated the darkness of sin and death through Jesus' resurrection is with you now. As John 1:5 says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Christ's light cannot be extinguished, no matter how heavy the darkness may seem.

Take heart in the fact that even when you can't see the way forward, God's light is at work. It's present in the quiet moments of prayer, in the truth of Scripture, and in the love of those around you. Hold on to the promise that this light will guide you through the darkness, leading you toward the eternal hope that Christ offers.

Politics



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) – Summary

Overview

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act is a sweeping legislative package introduced by House Republicans and signed by President Trump on July 4, 2025. It covers tax policy, healthcare, border security, agriculture, defense, and energy. While supporters say it will boost growth and help workers and farmers, critics warn of healthcare losses and rising debt.

Key Provisions

1. Tax Cuts

- Permanently extends most of the 2017 Trump tax cuts
- New deductions for overtime, tipped workers, small businesses, and seniors
- Raises the standard deduction
- Expands the SALT (state and local tax) cap
- Removes federal taxes on most Social Security income for those 65+

Estimated cost: \$3–4 trillion over 10 years

2. Healthcare & Medicaid Reforms

- Over \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts over a decade
- Work requirements (80 hours/month) for adults 19–64
- Reduced coverage for non-citizens and recent green card holders
- Ends enhanced ACA subsidies and shortens enrollment windows
- CBO estimates 10–17 million people could lose coverage by 2034

3. Border & Defense Spending

- \$150 billion for border security and immigration enforcement
- \$150 billion in new defense funding
- \$25 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard, including Arctic icebreakers
- \$85 million to begin relocating Space Shuttle Discovery to Texas

One Big Beautiful Bill Act

4. Industry, Agriculture & Energy

- Restores FCC spectrum auction authority, expecting \$88 billion in revenue
- Cuts clean energy tax credits
- Boosts farm tax exemptions, insurance, and liability protections

Impact & Reaction

- Supporters claim it will grow GDP by 3–5% and create over 4 million jobs
- Critics warn of a \$3 trillion debt increase, reduced healthcare access, and harm to seniors, low-income families, and rural hospitals
- Major hospital associations and economists have voiced strong opposition



Bottom Line

The bill delivers major tax relief and shifts federal priorities toward defense and border security while making deep cuts to healthcare programs. It's being praised by conservative lawmakers and industries, but sharply criticized by healthcare advocates and fiscal watchdogs.

ANNOUNCEMENT: OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AS A CONGRESSIONAL PAGE FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Are you a Maryland high school student interested in government, public service, or politics? If so, the Congressional Page Program provides a unique opportunity to gain firsthand experience in the legislative process. Students may apply to serve as pages at either the United States Senate or in the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis.

I. U.S. SENATE PAGE PROGRAM

Sponsored by:

Senator Angela Alsobrooks

Senator Chris Van Hollen

The U.S. Senate Page Program gives high school juniors the opportunity to live, work, and study in Washington, D.C. while assisting in the day-to-day operations of the Senate. Pages attend school in the early morning and perform official duties during the day.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a high school junior at the time of appointment
- Must be 16 or 17 years old by the appointment date
- Must be a U.S. citizen and Maryland resident
- Strong academic record (generally a minimum 3.0 GPA)
- Must receive nomination from Senator Alsobrooks or Senator Van Hollen

Program Highlights:

- Serve during the fall, spring, or summer sessions
- Attend classes at the U.S. Senate Page School
- Reside in the Daniel Webster Senate Page Residence
- Participate in the legislative process and assist with official duties on the Senate floor

Application Materials May Include:

- Application form (requested from the Senator's office)
- Transcript and resume
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal essay

To Apply or Learn More:

- Senator Angela Alsobrooks: www.alsobrooks.senate.gov
- Senator Chris Van Hollen: www.vanhollen.senate.gov



What Happens After Graduation: Making the Most of Your Career Choices

Graduation marks both an ending and a beginning. After years of studying, exams, and personal growth, stepping off the stage with diploma in hand often leads to one lingering question: What now? The choices you make next can shape your personal and professional life, but there is no single path that fits everyone. Whether you're entering the workforce, going to graduate school, starting a business, or taking time to travel or volunteer, each option brings its own set of opportunities and challenges.

For some, the clear choice is to dive right into a job in their field of study. Others may feel unsure about their direction and take time to explore different roles before committing to a long-term path. There are also those who decide to continue their education, specializing in an area that may open up more doors. And then there are people who take a less conventional path—launching startups, joining service programs, or pursuing creative work.

Regardless of your path, the most important thing is to be intentional. Ask yourself what matters most: Is it stability? Purpose? Growth? Flexibility? Knowing your values will help you make decisions that align with your goals. Talk to people in different industries, seek mentors, and don't be afraid to try new things—even if they're outside your comfort zone.

Your first job doesn't have to define your whole career. What matters most is how you respond to new experiences, learn from your mistakes, and keep moving forward. Life after graduation isn't about having all the answers. It's about staying open, working hard, and building a future you can be proud of.



Why Many Graduates Choose the Military: Paths, Purpose, and Benefits



Each year, thousands of high school and college graduates make the decision to join the United States military. While the reasons vary, the choice often comes down to a mix of opportunity, structure, service, and long-term benefits. For some, it's a clear calling. For others, it's a practical and powerful first step into adulthood and a career.

High school graduates may choose the military to gain direction, job training, and financial stability. The military offers a structured environment with clear expectations, discipline, and the chance to travel and grow. For students unsure about college or unable to afford it, the military offers education benefits like the GI Bill, which can pay for college after service. Others are drawn to the idea of being part of something bigger than themselves, serving their country while building a strong foundation for the future.

College graduates often enter the military as officers, bringing leadership and specialized skills to the table. Some are motivated by patriotism, while others are looking to expand their careers through military experience in areas like engineering, intelligence, healthcare, aviation, or logistics. The military values higher education, and officer programs allow college grads to lead, train, and grow in ways that translate well into civilian careers.

The benefits of joining the military go beyond a steady paycheck. Service members receive housing allowances, healthcare, and access to advanced training and certifications. They develop skills that employers value: leadership, teamwork, discipline, and resilience. The military also builds strong bonds and networks that last a lifetime.

For many, the military is not just a job - it's a launchpad. Whether someone serves for four years or makes it a career, the experience can shape who they are, open new doors, and provide a deep sense of purpose.



Coping with the Loss of a Loved One: Finding Comfort in God's Purpose

Losing someone you love is one of the hardest experiences in life. It shakes the heart, changes daily routines, and often leaves behind deep sadness and unanswered questions. Grief can come in waves, sometimes without warning, and even the strongest people struggle to make sense of it. But in the midst of pain, many turn to God for comfort, strength, and understanding.

Scripture reminds us that life is a gift and that every soul has a purpose. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 says, “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die.” Though it’s hard to accept, death is a part of life’s journey. God does not cause pain for the sake of suffering, but He does use our moments of loss to draw us closer to Him and remind us of what matters most—love, faith, and the promise of eternal life.

Jesus himself grieved. In John 11:35, we read that “Jesus wept” at the death of His friend Lazarus. This shows that sorrow is not a sign of weak faith. It’s a sign of deep love. God doesn’t ask us to ignore our pain; He asks us to bring it to Him. In Matthew 5:4, Jesus says, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” That comfort may come through prayer, scripture, supportive people, or quiet moments where peace finds you again.

Accepting death as part of God’s plan doesn’t mean we stop missing the person we lost. It means we begin to find peace in knowing they fulfilled their purpose here. We may not understand it fully, and that’s okay. Faith means trusting even when we can’t see the full picture.

Over time, God can restore joy. Psalm 30:5 says, “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” While we carry the memory of our loved ones, we can also carry forward their legacy—living fully, loving deeply, and walking with faith. That’s how we honor them, and how we begin to heal.

"He who has gone, so we but cherish his memory, abides with us more potent - nay, more present - than the living man." -Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



National Harbor Tickets — Tickets On Sale Today Until August 10th And Selling Fast... Secure Your Seats Now. USA Tickets 2025

**READING ENRICHMENT
SUMMER DAY CAMP**





STEM
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

August 4th – 8th
8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.
Before and Aftercare Available
for an additional fee

**Reading Enrichment
SUMMER DAY CAMP
2025**



- STEM activities
- Arts & Crafts
- Reading
- Recreation (martial arts/basketball)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
acdcoutreach@gmail.com



LOCATION: Curtis B. Latimore Multipurpose Center
9107 Pine View Lane | Clinton, MD 20735

OPEN TO: Ages: 7-9* years

COST: \$150 (Includes breakfast, snacks & water)





REGISTRATION: <https://forms.office.com/r/8g0grLfvim>
Starting: July 7, 2025

DONATING SCHOOL SUPPLIES: BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



for the
**“Boys to Young Men”
Back to School Rally**

Donation Box
Located in the
Walk Through Area



- MOST NEEDED SUPPLIES**

 - #2 Pencils
 - Pens (Black or Blue)
 - Highlighters
 - Composition Books
 - Spiral Notebooks
 - 2-Pocket Folders
 - Loose Leaf Paper

By August 11th

RECIPES

Copycat Red Lobster Seafood Boil

Serves: 4 Prep Time: 20 minutes Cook Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

Seafood & Add-ins:

- 1 pound large shrimp (shell-on, deveined)
- 2 lobster tails, split in half
- 1 pound snow crab legs (or king crab)
- 1 pound smoked sausage (Andouille or kielbasa), cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 ½ pounds small red potatoes
- 4 ears corn, cut into thirds
- 1 lemon, quartered

Boil Broth:

- 6 quarts water
- 2 cans light beer (optional, replace with water if preferred)
- 1/2 cup Old Bay seasoning
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 large onion, quartered
- 2–3 bay leaves

Garlic Butter Sauce (Signature Red Lobster Style):

- 1 stick (1/2 cup) unsalted butter
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning
- Juice of half a lemon
- 1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley (optional)

Instructions:

1. Make the Boil Broth:
2. In a large stockpot, add water, beer (if using), Old Bay, salt, garlic powder, onion, bay leaves, and lemon wedges. Bring it to a boil over medium-high heat.
3. Cook Potatoes and Sausage:
4. Add potatoes to the boiling broth. Cook for 10–12 minutes until nearly fork-tender. Add sausage and cook for 5 minutes more.
5. Add Corn and Crab Legs:
6. Toss in corn and crab legs. Cook for another 5–6 minutes.
7. Add Lobster and Shrimp:
8. Add lobster tails and shrimp. Boil for about 4–5 minutes, or just until the shrimp are pink and the lobster tails are opaque. Avoid overcooking.
9. Make Garlic Butter Sauce:
10. While the boil finishes, melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add minced garlic and cook for 2–3 minutes until fragrant but not browned. Stir in paprika, Old Bay, lemon juice, and parsley. Remove from heat.
11. Drain and Serve:
12. Drain the boil or use a slotted spoon to transfer everything to a large serving platter or newspaper-lined tray. Drizzle generously with garlic butter sauce.
13. Garnish and Serve:
14. Serve with lemon wedges, cocktail sauce, hot sauce, and extra garlic butter on the side. Add crusty bread for dipping if you like.



What to Watch Out For:

Sodium: Seasonings like Old Bay and boiling mixes can be very high in salt. Too much sodium can raise blood pressure or worsen heart conditions.

Butter and sauces: Many boils are served with melted butter or garlic butter, which can add a lot of saturated fat and calories.

Garlic Lemon Shrimp Pasta Salad

Ingredients (Serves 4):

- 8 oz whole wheat or regular rotini (or any short pasta)
- 1 lb shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup cucumber, chopped
- ½ small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1½ cups arugula or baby spinach
- ¼ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Optional Add-Ins:

- ¼ cup feta cheese, crumbled
- 1 tablespoon capers or olives

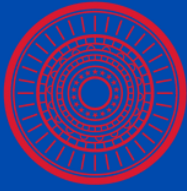
For the Dressing:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- ½ teaspoon honey or maple syrup
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

1. Cook Pasta
2. Cook pasta in salted water according to package directions. Drain and rinse with cold water. Set aside.
3. Cook Shrimp
4. In a skillet, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic and cook for 30 seconds. Add shrimp, lemon zest, and a pinch of salt and pepper. Cook 2–3 minutes per side until shrimp are pink and cooked through. Remove from heat and let cool slightly.
5. Make Dressing
6. In a small bowl or jar, whisk together lemon juice, olive oil, mustard, honey, salt, and pepper.
7. Assemble Salad
8. In a large bowl, combine cooked pasta, shrimp, tomatoes, cucumber, red onion, greens, and parsley. Drizzle with dressing and toss to coat.
9. Chill or Serve
10. Chill for 30 minutes if you want it cold, or serve immediately at room temp. Top with feta or olives if using.





Congressional
Black Caucus
Foundation

**Lifting Up,
Leading Forward**

**September 24 - September 28
Annual Legislative Conference 54**

The Annual Legislative Conference is the leading public policy convening focused on issues impacting African Americans and the global Black community.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 54th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) will be held from Wednesday, September 24, 2025, through Sunday, September 28, 2025, in Washington, D.C. We invite you to join us at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center for five days of exceptional programming and signature events, including the Day of Healing Prayer Breakfast, the National Town Hall, the Phoenix Awards, and renowned Black Party.

For additional information: <https://www.cbcfinc.org>

ABCOC Zumba (Every Other Saturday)

Please check schedule!

Dance our way to Fairness

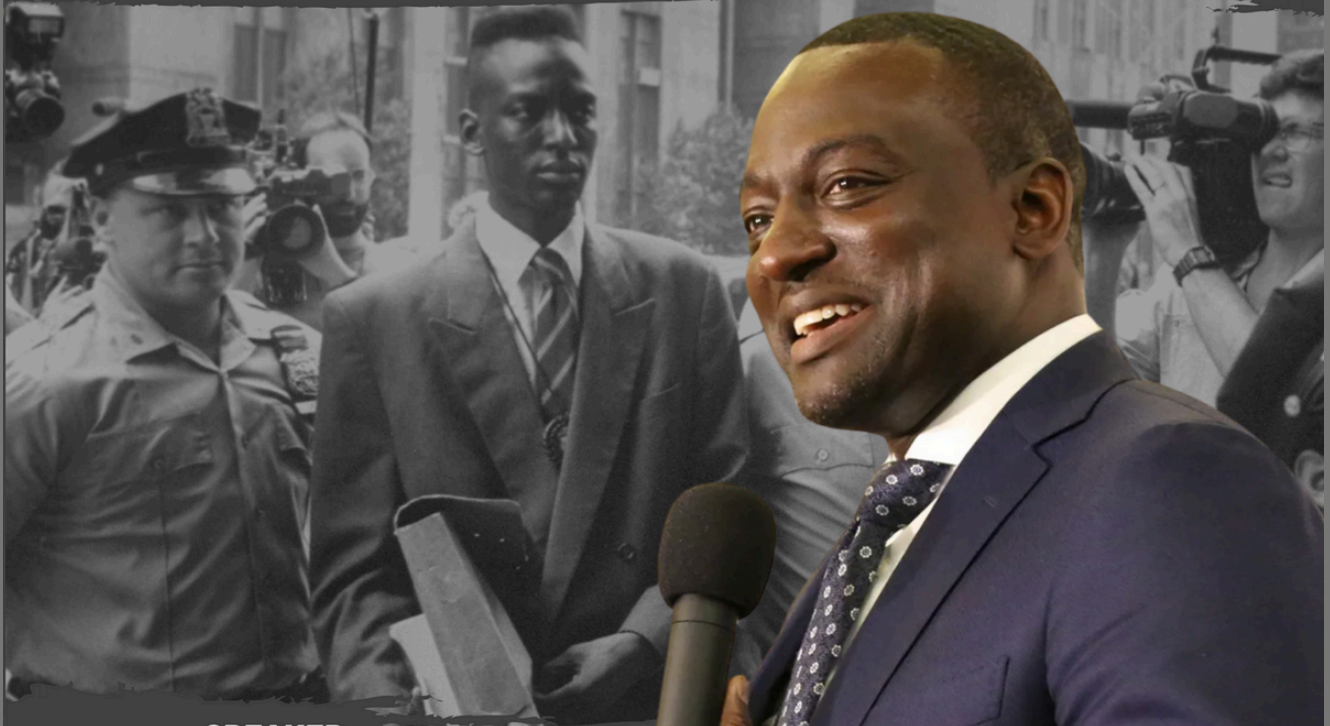
**Fun
High-Energy
Burn Calories
Boost Your Mood
Improve Cardiovascular Health**



PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC, SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA CHAPTER, FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH, AND
TAYLOR MORSE & BROWN FOUNDATION PRESENTS

THE JOHN LEWIS BELOVED COMMUNITY DAY

FROM INJUSTICE TO IMPACT



SPEAKER:

DR. YUSEF SALAAM

N.Y. CITY COUNCILMAN (9TH COUNCIL DISTRICT)
EXONERATED CENTRAL PARK FIVE MEMBER

**RECIPIENT OF THE
JOHN LEWIS SERVICE FOR HUMANITY AWARD**

FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH
14500 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20904

FREE EVENT

SATURDAY | AUGUST 30 | 2025

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ADMISSION: FREE

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/jlbcd2025>

SCAN QR CODE



EVENT SPONSORS



First Alliance Church
Know God · Love Life · Serve Others



**TAYLOR
MORSE
BROWN**
FOUNDATION

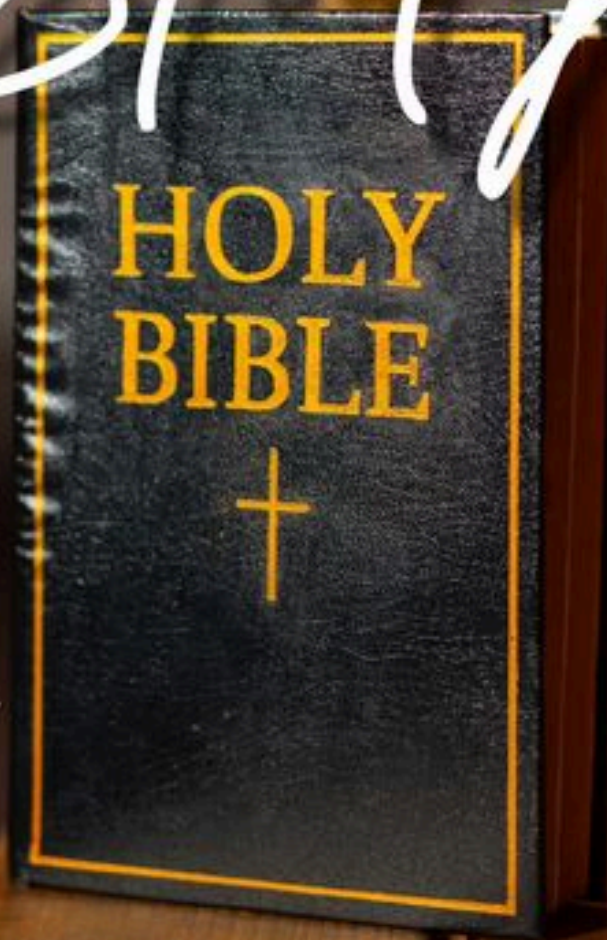


BIBLE

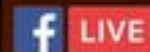
Study

EVERY
TUESDAY

with: Pastor
James W. Jones Jr.



7:30PM -
8:30PM



www.abcocmd.org

WOMEN WALKING WORTHY

Women's Prayer Meeting Conference Call

Women Walking Worthy

Ephesians 4:1

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,
beseech you that ye walk worthy of the
vocation wherewith ye are called

**Hosted by Deaconess Jacqueline Williams
Antioch Baptist Church of Clinton
Every First Wednesday of the Month at 7 pm.**

Contact: Deaconess Jacqueline Williams at 410-507-3891 or jwill1@yahoo.com

to receive the ZOOM information



Antioch Baptist Church of Clinton (ABCOC) is a, fundamental, Bible believing Church. We seek to be identified with those who love God's work and strive to practice it. We not only believe the fundamentals of the faith, but we take our stand against all things which discredit and try to destroy the authority of the Bible.

Plan Your Visit

Antioch Baptist Church of Clinton has several opportunities for group study and worship. Start your week with Sunday School, Sunday Worship Service and Children's Church. Come back out to join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays for bible study.

When you come to ABCOC, you will be welcomed into a friendly, positive environment by people who are happy to see you. Antioch Baptist Church has several opportunities for group study and worship.



Newsletter Schedule:

- 1st Quarter - Due by January 15th
- 2nd Quarter - Due by April 15th
- 3rd Quarter - Due by July- 15th
- 4th Quarter - Due by October 15th

Sunday School
8:30 AM

Join via Zoom
Call Number: (301) 715-8592
Passcode: 145961268#

YouTube Live @ ABC Clinton MD or
Facebook Live @ ABCOC
10 AM Sunday Morning

Bible Study
Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Prayer Line
Wednesday, 7:00 AM (Weekly)
Prayer Line

Noon Day Bible Study
Thursday

Thursday, 12:00 PM (Weekly)
To Join the prayer line
Call 607-374-1189 |
Access Code: 934479

ABCOC Website:
<https://abcocmd.org>

Pastor:
Reverend James W. Jones Jr.

Please feel free to send your submissions to gomab02@gmail.com any time during the quarter. Please do not wait until the last minute. Newsletter will be ready for publication by the 20th day of the new quarter.

ABCOC Communications Committee: Jennifer Williams, Deborah Amis, Chuck Coleman, Khadijah Givs Martin and Jacob Gillison.

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