



# Your Choice!

⊕ February is African American History Month

2026: A Year of Resilience!

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

⊕ 3rd Sunday in African American History Month

⊕ Blessing of Relationships

❖ Lunar New Year celebrated!/Nirvana Day

❖ Happy Birthday Raoul Reyes, Rev. David Williams, and Meesha Hayes!

⊕ Lay Preacher Shawn Wilson debuts!

(Sir. 15: 15-20 & Mt. 5: 17-37)

10:00 am Choir Rehearsal for 11am

11:00 am **Celebration Liturgy** Live-streamed!

9:00 pm Sylvia's Place Youth Shelter

**Monday, February 16: Office Closed**

❖ Presidents Day

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

**Tuesday, February 17**

❖ Happy Birthday Rev. Gayle!

1:00 pm Lunch Distribution (until 3pm)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

**Wednesday, February 18**

⊕ Ash Wednesday/Lent begins

1:00 pm Lunch Distribution (until 3pm)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

6:00 pm Q Clinic (3rd floor)

7:00 pm **Ash Wednesday Service**  
Deacon Les LaRue, preaching

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

**Thursday, February 19**

⊕ Anniversary of Sylvia Rivera (2002)

9:00 am Food Pantry

1:00 pm Lunch Distribution (until 3pm)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

6:00 pm Covenanted Bible/Theology Study w/Rev. Reg via Zoom

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

**Friday, February 20**

⊕ World Service Justice Day

12:15 pm Taize Prayer w/Rev. Brett (Facebook)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

**Saturday, February 21**

⊕ Global Day of Prayer to End Famine

⊕ Anniversary of Malcolm X (1965)

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

⊕ 4th Sunday in African American History Month

⊕ 1st Sunday of Lent

⊕ Anniversary of Rev. Gayle's Ordination (2009)

❖ Happy Anniversary Corrine Bertram & Rev. Miller!

⊕ The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner, preaching

(Gen. 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7 & Mt. 4: 1-11)

9:00 am Lay Preachers Class

10:00 am Choir Rehearsal for 11am

11:00 am **Celebration Liturgy** Live-streamed!

9:00 pm Sylvia's Place Youth Shelter

**\* 11am CELEBRATION LIVE-STREAMED EVERY SUNDAY!**

\* Pantry and shelter remain open. ⊕ For pastoral calls: 332-400-7488

Please make sure the Church has your cell phone number and email address!

Send to: [RvPatMCCNY@aol.com](mailto:RvPatMCCNY@aol.com)

February 15, 2026

+ 3rd Sunday in African American History Month

MCC globally celebrates "57 Years of Offering Our Light to the World"

54th Anniversary Year at MCCNY: A Year of Resilience!

The Community at Worship 11am

ASL Interpreter (First, second, and third Sundays of the month and special celebrations)

Pat Dash

## PRELUDE

John Fischer, Music Director  
Carolyn Traore, Song Leader  
Heidi Siegell, Soloist

## PROCESSION

"Lift Every Voice and Sing!"

Printed

*Please stand as able*

## WELCOME

The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner

Metropolitan Community Church of New York

+ Celebration of the Lunar New Year

+ The Sign of Peace

## THE LESSON

La Lección Primera

The First Lesson

Si quieres, puedes cumplir lo que Dios manda, y puedes ser fiel haciendo lo que le gusta a Dios. Delante de ti tienes fuego y agua; escoge lo que quieras. Delante de cada uno están la vida y la muerte, y cada uno recibirá lo que elija. La sabiduría de Dios es muy grande; Dios es muy poderoso y Dios lo ve todo. Dios ve a todos los seres que creó, y Dios se da cuenta de todo lo que cada persona hace. Dios a nadie ha ordenado pecar, ni deja sin castigo a los mentirosos.

Eclesiástico 15:15-20

Ecclesiasticus 15: 15-20

+ Esta es la Palabra de Dios  
TE ALABAMOS, O DIOS

If you choose, you can keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of your choice. God has placed before you fire and water; stretch out your hand for whichever you choose. Before each person are life and death, and whichever one chooses will be given. For great is the wisdom of God; God is mighty in power and sees everything; the eyes of God are on those who revere God, and God knows every human action. God has not commanded anyone to be ungodly, and God has not given anyone permission to sin.

+ This is the Word of God  
THANKS BE TO GOD

## MUSICAL RESPONSE

MCCNY Choir

La Lección Segunda

The Second Lesson

Jesús dijo, "No crean ustedes que yo he venido a suprimir la ley o los profetas; no he venido a ponerles fin, sino a darles su pleno valor. Pues les aseguro que mientras existan el cielo y la tierra, no se le quitará a la ley ni un punto ni una letra, hasta que todo llegue a su cumplimiento. Por eso, la persona que no obedece uno de los mandatos de la ley, aunque sea el más pequeño, ni enseña a la gente a obedecerlo, será considerado el más pequeño en el reino de los cielos. Pero la persona que los obedece y enseña a otros a hacer lo mismo, será considerado grande en el reino de los cielos. Porque les digo a ustedes que, si no superan a los maestros de la ley y a los fariseos en hacer lo que es justo ante Dios, nunca entrarán en el reino de los cielos. Ustedes han oído que a sus antepasados se les dijo: 'No mates, pues la persona que mate será condenado.' Pero yo les digo que cualquiera que se enoje con un hermano o una hermana, será condenado. La persona que insulte a un hermano o una hermana, lo juzgará la Junta Suprema; y la persona que injurie gravemente a un hermano a una hermana, se hará merecedor del fuego del infierno. Así que, si al llevar tu ofrenda al altar te acuerdas de que tu hermano o tu hermana tiene algo contra ti, deja tu ofrenda allí mismo delante del altar y ve primero a ponerte en paz con tu hermano o tu hermana. Entonces podrás volver al altar y presentar tu ofrenda. Si alguien te lleva a juicio, ponte de acuerdo con él mientras todavía estés a tiempo, para que no te entregue al juez; porque si no, el juez te entregará a los guardias y te meterán en la cárcel. Te aseguro que no saldrás de allí hasta que pagues el último centavo. Ustedes han oído que se dijo: 'No cometas adulterio.' Pero yo les digo que cualquiera que mira con deseo a una persona, ya cometió adulterio con la persona en su corazón. Así pues, si tu ojo derecho te hace caer en pecado, sácatelo y échalo lejos de ti; es mejor que pierdas una sola parte de tu cuerpo, y no que todo tu cuerpo sea arrojado al infierno. Y si tu mano derecha te hace caer en pecado, córtatela y échala lejos de ti; es mejor que pierdas una sola parte de tu cuerpo, y no que todo tu cuerpo vaya a parar al infierno. También se dijo: 'Cualquiera que se divorcia de su esposa, debe darle un certificado de divorcio.' Pero yo les digo que si una persona se divorcia de su esposa, a no ser en el caso de una unión ilegal, la pone en peligro de cometer adulterio. Y la persona que se casa con una divorciada, comete adulterio. También han oído ustedes que se dijo a los antepasados: 'No dejes de cumplir lo que hayas ofrecido a Dios bajo juramento.' Pero yo les digo: simplemente, no juren. No juren por el cielo, porque es el trono de Dios; ni por la tierra, porque es el estrado de los pies de Dios; ni por Jerusalén, porque es la ciudad del gran Gobernante. Ni juren ustedes tampoco por su propia cabeza, porque no pueden hacer blanco o negro ni un solo cabello. Baste con decir claramente 'sí' o 'no'. Pues lo que se aparta de esto, es malo."

+ Esta es la Palabra de Dios  
TE ALABAMOS, O DIOS

Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the reign of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the reign of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the reign of heaven. You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with them, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at someone with lust has already committed adultery in their heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. It was also said, 'Whoever divorces, let them give a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes their spouse to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced person commits adultery. "Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to God.' But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of God, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great Ruler. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

+ This is the Word of God

THANKS BE TO GOD

## SELECTION

## SERMON

**Shawn Wilson. Lay Preacher**

Metropolitan Community Church of New York

+ *The Blessing of Relationships*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### THE OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

+ Please consider an extra gift to the Global Justice Institute!

~ Please prayerfully consider direct donations through your bank or credit card giving.

**Offering Call**

### THE CELEBRATION AND SHARING OF COMMUNION

**Deacon Len Richardson**  
**The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner**

God is with you  
**AND ALSO WITH YOU**

Let us open our hearts  
**WE OPEN THEM TO GOD**

Let us give God thanks and praise  
**IT IS A GOOD AND JOYFUL THING TO DO**

MCCNY celebrates an **OPEN COMMUNION**. Everyone is welcome to share in the Gifts of God for the People of God. (Grape juice is used so that all may freely share in this meal. For those with health concerns, distributors sanitize their hands immediately before the service. Communion wafers for those with wheat or gluten allergies are available upon request. Please let your server know if you need this service.) A prayer of blessing will be offered, unless you request the sacrament only.

**PLEASE OBSERVE THE SACREDNESS OF THIS SACRAMENT** by praying silently or by joining in the singing of hymns.

### HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

"Caridad y Comprensión"

#34/Hymnal

"Blest be the Tie"

#26/Hymnal

"Oh, Freedom"

#152/Hymnal

## CLOSING SONG

### "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn me 'Round"

*Please stand as able*

1) Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round, turn me round, turn me round,

*Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round*

*I'm gonna keep on a-walking, keep on a-talkin, marching up to freedom land.*

2) Ain't gonna let racism turn me round... 3) Ain't gonna let injustice turn me round...

## BENEDICTION



*Everyone is welcome to a reception following the service!*

**OVER** →

# PROGRAMMING at MCCNY

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PROGRAM:** Spiritual Direction is a process in which a mentor accompanies one person - the directee - for an extended period of time. Through conversation, prayer, and spiritual exercises, the mentor helps the directee clarify spiritual issues so that s/he can move toward a deeper experience with the Divine. To seek Direction, contact Bishop Reg at 332-400-7488.

**LIVE-STREAMING at MCCNY:** All worship celebrations (9am Traditional and 11am Celebration) are now live-streamed. Go to [facebook.com/mccny](https://facebook.com/mccny) and celebrate with your family of faith!

**BIBLE STUDY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** The Queer Life & Faith religious education program is led by Bishop Reg Richburg every Thursday at 5 pm. Our discussions connect the Scriptures, our faith, and queer Life. We use educational materials and methodologies that will help look at life from different perspectives: art, videos, and dialogue, among others. Come to one session, some sessions, or all sessions on Zoom.  
Contact: lambseeker@hotmail.com

**MCCNY E-Prayer Ministry:** If you would like to participate in the prayer ministry or send prayer requests, please contact [prayers@mccny.org](mailto:prayers@mccny.org). You will receive a weekly list of prayer concerns about members and friends of our congregation, the wider MCC community, and social justice issues.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** to list the Church and our phone number among those to be contacted in case of illness or an emergency. Church Pastors will contact and visit you.

**MCCNY has a new phone number! 332-400-7488**

*Join in a Lenten Bible Series,*  
**“Tell Me The Stories of Jesus  
I Love to Hear”** ♫♪♫  
*with author Amy Levine and Bp. Reg*  
**Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom**  
**February 25th – March 25th**

Zoom link: <http://bit.ly/4tgX83D>

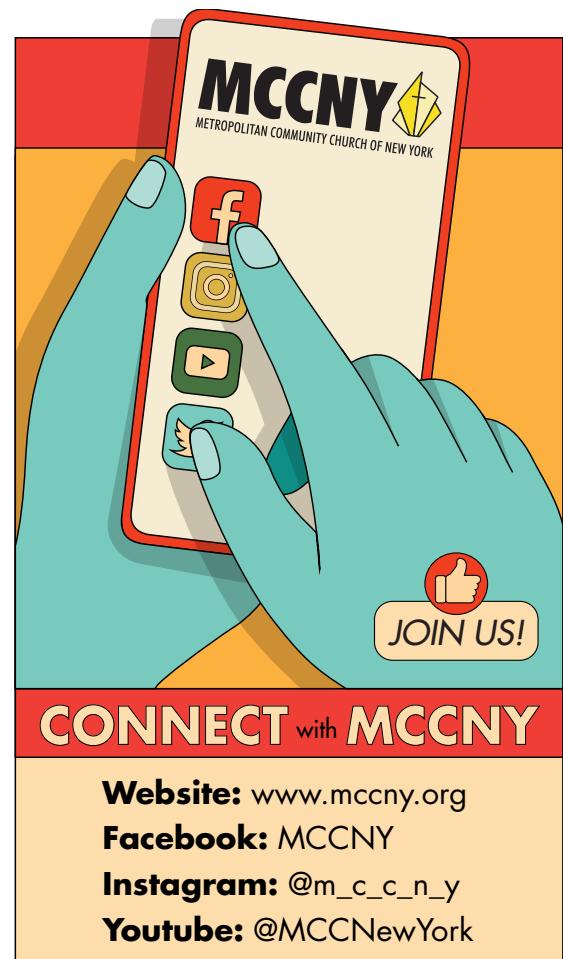
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**TRANSGENDER  
SUICIDE HOTLINE  
(Trans Lifeline):  
877-565-8860**

**GIVE TO  
GJI** →



**GIVE TO  
MCCNY** →



FEBRUARY is

# AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

2026 National Theme: "A Century of Black History Commemoration"

2026 marks the 100th anniversary since Dr. Carter G. Woodson established the first commemoration of "Negro History Week." This year we celebrate the resilience, achievements, and influence of African Americans on American History.

In 2025, Americans, as well as people around the globe, mourned the deaths of several influential African American figures in the fields of music, politics, acting, and activism.



**Charles B. Rangel** was a politician who served as a U.S. Representative from New York for 46 years. He was the 1st African American to chair the influential House Ways and Means Committee, and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.



LT. COL. HARRY STEWART  
COMBAT PILOT, TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

**Lt. Col. Harry Stewart, Jr.** was an officer in the U.S. Army Air Forces and a distinguished Flying Cross Recipient. He served as part of the African American Tuskegee Airmen. Nicknamed "Red Tails" for the markings on their airplanes, 1,000 pilots and 13,000 support staff shattered racial barriers in the armed services during World War II.



MCCNY  
ANNUAL



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!

To be rescheduled due to snowstorm.  
Watch for upcoming details.

## PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner . . . . .	Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Brett Degoldi . . . . .	Staff Clergy
The Rev. Reg Richburg . . . . .	Staff Clergy
The Rev. Dr. Jim Merritt . . . . .	Staff Clergy
John Fischer . . . . .	Director of Music
Carolyn Traore . . . . .	Music Ministry
Heidi Siegell . . . . .	Music Ministry

### MCCNY Charities

LaDedra Brown . . . . .	HYS Program Manager
Kailiah Hayes . . . . .	Food Pantry Manager

## LAY DELEGATES

Deacon Brenton Buchannan	Deacon Jen Heyward
John Fischer	Mary Jane Gibney, alternate

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bp. Pat Bumgardner . . . . .	Moderator
Lyndsey Jones-McAdams . . . . .	Special Events
Rob Franek . . . . .	Public Relations/Outreach
Sam Davis . . . . .	Scribe
Montel Cherry-Holmes . . . . .	Member at Large

## BOARD OF DEACONS

Deacon Brenton Buchannan	Deacon Philip Pares
Deacon Tressie Carter	Deacon Len Richardson
Deacon Jen Heyward	Deacon Frances Wood
Deacon Les LaRue	

## PROGRAMMING

### Religious Education/Membership

Bishop Reg Richburg . . . . .	Facilitator
Deacon Tressie Carter . . . . .	Membership

### Newsletter/Bulletin

Deacon Frances Wood . . . . .	<i>The Query</i> Editor
Deacon Les LaRue . . . . .	<i>The Query/Bulletin</i> Design

### Audio & Virtual Ministries

Live-streaming . . . . .	Bob Ferrara
Virtual Worship Leader . . . . .	Margot Wagner

### Web Sites

Facilitator . . . . .	Rev. Jim Merritt
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### ASL Interpreter

Facilitator . . . . .	Pat Dash
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### Instagram and Facebook

### Christians of African Descent

Deacon Brenton Buchannan . . . . .	Facilitator
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### E-Prayer Group

Deacon Jen Heyward . . . . .	Facilitator
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### Hospitality

Deacon Brenton Buchannan . . . . .	
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