

TUE 12-19-23

# The Challenge

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## THIS SUNDAY

View our 10:55 am  
worship service each  
Sunday live on our  
website or directly from  
YouTube.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 24, 2023

#### SERMON

Rev. Matt Sapp  
"Finding Favor With God"

#### SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38  
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

#### 9:00 am

Sunday School

#### 10:00 am

Worship Service  
Special Music  
*Coventry Carol*  
The Chancel Choir

#### Nursery

Available for children  
birth - three years

### Holiday Hours

The church office will be  
closed **December 22-26** for  
the Christmas holidays and  
on **January 1** for the New  
Year holiday.

*The Challenge* will not be  
printed the weeks of  
December 25 & January 1.

Publication will resume on  
January 9, 2023.



## Wednesday, December 20, 6:00 pm

Invite a friend and join us in the Sanctuary for this meaningful service as we light candles and remember God's promise that "the people walking in darkness have seen a great light."

## Thank You

A lot of hard work has happened at the Georgia Baptist Children's Home. All of the bedrooms, hall, closets, and living room have been painted. The following people have worked hard to accomplish this project:

Jimmy Beavers, Katie Brady, Scott and Teresa Clements, Dawn Dennis, Chris Dennis, Lori Drake, Greg Erath, Sunday Griffith, Anne Harrison, Lynn Mathis, Elizabeth Williams, John Wagstaff and Barb Walls. After the new year we will find out what else they would like us to do at the cottage.

## Annual Winter Preaching Series

January 20-21, 2023

Special Guest, Chuck Poole

### Saturday, January 20, 4:30 pm

Welcome Reception at Newnan Presbyterian  
Appetizers and Introductory Remarks

### Sunday, January 21, 8:30 am

Worship at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### Sunday, January 21, 10:55 am

Worship at Central Baptist Church  
Lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the  
10:55 am worship service.

**\*more details to come**

## Pastor's Pen

### Christmas Is Here

All that we've been waiting and preparing for is quickly approaching. I hope you've enjoyed the Advent season as much as I have because we only have a few days of Advent left now. Most of us have been celebrating Christmas at church for our whole lives, so we think we know what the season means, we're sure we know what all the merry-making is for. But it never hurts to be reminded.

The God who created the entire universe, the source of all light and energy, the source of all matter and life, the creative force and the inspiring mind behind all that ever has been and all that ever will be, chose to be present on earth in the form of a human being. God chose to present in a scaled down, limited, frail, vulnerable shape and form that we could get our arms around and relate to and understand, even choosing to enter the world as an infant, a baby, in the person of Jesus Christ, son of Mary.

And that God, the all-powerful God of all creation, chose to be present here with us in that way because God desires an individual, personal relationship with you. So God chose to be present in a way that allows you to know God more fully and to understand God's love for you more completely. Even more than that, God chose Christ as a vehicle to demonstrate God's love for you in a way that allows you to be saved and made whole from all the limitations and shortcomings that mar God's original intent for you in creation. All you need to do is accept that gift of love and allow it to work in you in what will be an ultimately and eternally transformative way.

At Christmas God comes to be with us to demonstrate God's love for us and to save us.

As Linus says in the "Charlie Brown Christmas Special," that's what Christmas is all about. And it's almost here.

Merry Christmas! And I'll see you Sunday,

Matt

## Music Ministry

The third Sunday of Advent certainly was one of JOY! Thank you to Anne, Rick, the Choir, the Scarbrough Scholars and Misty for your fantastic music in our worship services. What a joy it is to be at Central!

We also were amazed at Edd Brashier's solo handbell concert for our Vestibule Series on Sunday. WOW! It's wonderful to experience God's gifting and to receive so much joy from those gifts.

We have three (!) opportunities for worship this Sunday, Christmas Eve...

- At the 10:00 am service, the Choir will be singing Bach's "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" and the beautiful "Coventry Carol." Raleigh Cothran will be singing "This Holy Christmas Night," and Anne Cronin and David Kinrade will be sharing their talents with us from the piano and organ.
- For the 6:00 pm service, Blaire Morgan, Tim Whitehead, Virginia Jackson, and Lucy Springfield will be singing, with Clay Williams on guitar and Rick Massengale on piano.
- Then, the 11:00 pm Lessons & Carols service will feature our Chancel Choir, joined by Chamber Orchestra, Anne Cronin on piano, and David Kinrade on organ.

I'll say it again – what a joy it is to be at Central!

Gratefully,

Ronnie

## 2023 Contributions and Stock Gifts

Please remember that mailed checks must be postmarked by **Saturday, December 30, 2023**. If you plan to stop by the office with a check or cash, please do so by noon on **Thursday, December 28, 2023**. You may also make your contribution in church on **Sunday, December 31, 2023**. Stock gifts must be transferred in 2023 for a tax deduction. Contact Debbie for stock gift instructions: 770-683-6585 or email her at: [dporrello@centralbaptistnewnan.org](mailto:dporrello@centralbaptistnewnan.org)

## Missions



Wednesday,  
January 10

This event will take place  
in lieu of WNS and

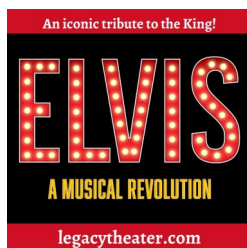
children, youth, and adult activities. We will provide Chick-fil-a for dinner for all who are signed up to participate. We do ask that you pay regular Wednesday night prices for your dinner that evening. We will have childcare provided for nursery age children that night. Please note, if you sign up for a session you do not have to stay for the entire time. Also, feel free to sign up for more than one session.

Sign up [HERE!](#)

## Senior Adult Ministry

Friday, February 16

Join us for dinner and a festive show at the Legacy Theatre. Tickets are \$35 or less, depending on how many people attend. Call or email the church office if you are interested. Please RSVP by **Wednesday, January 17** so we know how many spots to reserve. Please also let us know if you would like to ride the bus. We will leave the church at 4:30 pm. Dinner will be at 5:00 pm and the show will begin at 7:00 pm.



## European Christmas Market River Cruise

**When:** December 10, 2024-December 19, 2024

**Where:** Prague, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Melk/Vienna

**Cost:** Double Occupancy \$7,259/person  
Single Occupancy \$11,077/person

Please contact Katie or stop by the church office for the registration form if you are interested in traveling with us next year!

Register [HERE!](#) Or scan this QR code.



## Youth Ministry



## Winter Ski Retreat

Join us for fun and fellowship at Beech Mountain Ski Resort during Winter Break, February 19-22, 2024. This is a great time to get away and grow as a youth group, so make plans now to join us! Sign up [HERE!](#)

## Merry Christmas!

Central Youth celebrated together with friends from Iglesia Bautista el Buen Pastor this past Sunday during our Christmas Party and were reminded of the joy God's presence offers at Christmas.



I'm also extremely grateful for all those embodying Emmanuel—God with us—to our Youth on Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays and during the year on trips: Lynn Blackburn, Nancy Cothran, Katie and John Faison, Beth Headley and Luke Headley, Clay Hudson, Jamey Keith, Jessica Kuhr, Carrie and Matt Markham, Leigh Reynolds, Becca and Rex Springfield, Christy and David Van Drew, John Wagstaff, Jess Wilbanks, and Elizabeth Williams. Merry Christmas!

## Birth

**Banks Lee Blackburn**

December 8, 2023

Son of **Brittany and Matt Blackburn**

Paternal Grandparents: **Jenni and Bob Blackburn**



The Challenge (USPS# 908-920). Published weekly, except for the two weeks after Christmas, by Central Baptist Church, 14 W. Broad St., Newnan GA 30263. Periodicals paid at Newnan GA.  
**POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Challenge, 14 W. Broad St., Newnan GA 30263.



**CENTRAL**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
NEWNAN, GEORGIA

### CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Matt Sapp** Pastor

**Rev. Katie Faison** Associate Pastor to Children, Women, & Senior Adults

**Dr. Steve Cothran** Associate Pastor to Youth & Families

**Dr. Ronnie Oliver, Jr.** Associate Pastor of Music & Worship

**Mrs. Julia Huster** Organist

**Mrs. Debbie Porrello** Financial Manager

**Mrs. Courtney Haynes** Senior Administrative Assistant

**Mr. Randy Boswell** Facilities Maintenance Manager

**Mr. German Lopez-Figueroa** Custodian

14 West Broad Street (Just off Court  
Square), Newnan, GA 30263

[www.centralbaptistnewnan.org](http://www.centralbaptistnewnan.org)  
Phone 770-683-0610 Fax 770-683-0333

[chaynes@centralbaptistnewnan.org](mailto:chaynes@centralbaptistnewnan.org)

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Sunday, December 24

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship Service

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service

11:00 pm Festival of Lessons and Carols

### Monday, December 25

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

### Tuesday, December 26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

### Sunday, December 31

10:00 am Worship Service

### Monday, January 1

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

### Stewardship Update Sunday, December 17, 2023

Weekly Budget Needs	\$26,950.33
Budget Offering	\$52,863.00
YTD Budget Needs	\$1,374,466.67
YTD Budget Offering	\$1,352,248.66