

TUE 12-16-25

The Challenge

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

THIS SUNDAY

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

SERMON

Rev. Matt Sapp
"Surprised by God's Salvation"

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-21
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

8:45 am

Worship Service
Special Music
The Birthday of a King
Chance McCoy

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:55 am

Worship Service
Special Music
Glory to God
The Chancel Choir

Nursery

Available for children
birth-three years

Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed **December 24-26** for the Christmas holidays and on **January 1** for the New Year holiday.

The Challenge will not be published the weeks of **December 23 & 30**.

Publication will resume **January 6, 2025**.



Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 pm

Christmas carols carry joyful refrains over the airwaves, reminding us of "a beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walking in a winter wonderland." But Christmas isn't always the most wonderful time of the year for everyone. In our Blue Christmas service, we'll recognize that the holidays can be a challenging season for some, we'll acknowledge grief as a part of life and faith, and we'll remember that the light of Christmas is specifically sent to people who walk in darkness.

If celebrating this season is sometimes difficult, or if you just want to be here to support those who need a place to remember that God is with them, join us for our Blue Christmas service in the sanctuary. Our thirty-minute service will feature music from Alyssa Ryan, Ronnie Oliver, and Henry Lee as we light candles, recite litanies, and remember that sometimes it takes deep darkness to see a great light.

Christmas at Central

Fourth Sunday of Advent *Sunday, December 21*

8:45 am and 10:55 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
5:00 pm Vestibule Series
Christmas Jazz with Rick & Friends

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
(childcare provided)
11:00 pm Festival of Lessons and Carols
Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra

Sunday, December 28

10:00 am Worship

Pastor's Pen

January Sabbatical

Most of you know that this has been a sabbatical year for me and my family. As a church, you are generous and gracious enough to have granted me some extended time away during my eighth year of service as your pastor. My family and I enjoyed a nearly perfect sabbatical experience in June and July. It was a welcome break that allowed me to recharge spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually—and a break that I hope left me better equipped to serve as your pastor as we move into a next season of ministry together.

I am taking my final month of sabbatical in January. After Christmas I'll be away from the office and out of the pulpit until February 2. We have great preachers lined up to fill the pulpit in my absence including Rev. Katie Faison and Rev. Annie Westbrook. And Dr. Ronnie Oliver will be leading Wednesday night Bible studies in January. I get to work alongside extraordinary ministers at Central. Their partnership in ministry is one of my greatest joys in serving as your pastor. As Annie, Katie, and Ronnie prepare to serve our congregation by filling ministry roles I normally fill, I find myself becoming even more grateful for the excellence they each bring to their roles every day.

During January, I plan to find space to read, exercise, and rest in ways that I hope will bring me back to Central refreshed and restored. The chance to focus on my mental, physical, and spiritual health in June and July proved more meaningful than I had anticipated. I'm looking forward to extending that experience in January.

Before all that, though, we've got a great last few weeks of December, including the last Sunday before Christmas and two extraordinary Christmas Eve services. It's been a great Christmas season so far, and it only gets better from here.

See you Sunday,

Matt

In Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to Gavin Porter in the death of his father, Ben Porter, who passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2025.

Music Ministry

The musicians who gather here at Central Baptist Church continue to offer music that deepens our worship and lifts our spirits. This past Sunday was filled with rich, worshipful musical moments—from the Handbell Choir, to the Chancel Choir with Becky and Bethany, to Henry and Yen Yu in our morning worship. Thank you all for your faithful leadership.

On Sunday afternoon, the Newnan Community Youth Choir shared a beautiful concert centered on being a light in our families, schools, workplaces, and community. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this meaningful event such a success—Steve, Josh, Lilith, Anne Marie, Sherri, Annie, Yen Yu, and Henry—and, of course, the SINGERS!

Looking ahead, this Sunday, December 21, we invite you to join us for "Christmas Jazz with Rick & Friends" as part of our Vestibule Series. Bring your friends and come celebrate the season with us at 5:00 pm. Childcare will be available from 4:45 pm–7:30 pm.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the health and well-being of our musicians during this busy and joyful season.

Gratefully,

Ronnie



Women's Ministry



Ladies Coffee Hour

Thursday, December 18, 9:00 am

Join us every first and third Thursday of the month at Leaf and Bean. No need to make a reservation; just show up and enjoy the fellowship of your peers.

Senior Adult Ministry

Senior Adult Breakfast at Town & Country

Resumes Wednesday, January 14, 9:00 am



We will resume our regular schedule on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.



Church Wide Event Wednesday, January 7

All volunteers register [Here!](#)

Additionally, please fill out [THIS](#) form if you if you are volunteering during either of our dinner shifts and would like a Chick-fil-A meal.

Youth Ministry



Youth Ski Trip

Join us for fun and fellowship at Beech Mountain Ski Resort during Winter Break, February 16-19, 2026. This is a great time to get away and grow as a youth group, so make plans now to join us! Register [here!](#)

2025 Contributions and Stock Gifts

Please remember that mailed checks must be postmarked by **Wednesday, December 31, 2025**. If you plan to stop by the office with a check or cash, please do so by noon on **Wednesday, December 31, 2025**. You may also make your contribution in church on **Sunday, December 28, 2025**. Stock gifts must be transferred in 2025 for a tax deduction. [Email](#) or call Debbie (770-683-6585) for stock gift instructions.

Debbie needs to have the stock name and gift intention when transferring your stocks to the church. This information is not shared by the financial brokerage holding the stock.

2026 Flower Calendar

The 2026 sanctuary flower calendar is now available. Dates are available to place flowers for worship services in memory or in honor of loved ones, or to celebrate a special occasion. If you are interested, please [email](#) or call Courtney in the church office. We greatly appreciate your help!

January 11, 25	July 5, 12, 19, 26
February 20	August 16, 23, 30
March 22, 29	September 6, 13
April 5, 12	October 4, 11
May 10, 31	November 8
June 7, 14, 21	

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**CENTRAL
BAPTIST CHURCH**
NEWNAN, GEORGIA

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Matt Sapp Pastor
Rev. Katie Faison Associate Pastor for Congregational Life
Rev. Dr. Ronnie Oliver, Jr. Associate Pastor of Music & Worship
Rev. Annie Westbrook Associate Pastor to Youth and Families
Mrs. Amanda Willoughby Children's Ministry Director
Mr. Henry Lee Organist

Mrs. Yen Yu Chen Pianist
Mrs. Debbie Porrello Financial Manager
Mrs. Courtney Haynes Sr. Administrative Assistant
Mr. Randy Boswell Facilities Maintenance Manager
Mr. German Lopez-Figueroa Custodian

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LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, December 21

8:45 am Worship Service

9:45 am Sunday School

10:55 am Worship Service

5:00 pm Vestibule Series-Christmas Jazz
with Rick & Friends

Wednesday, December 24

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

11:00 pm Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 24-December 26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, December 28

10:00 am Worship Service

Stewardship Update Sunday, December 14, 2025

Weekly Budget Needs	\$32,486.92
Budget Offering	\$60,126.64
YTD Budget Needs	\$1,624,345.98
YTD Budget Offering	\$1,507,540.20