

**TUE 12-2-25**

## **THIS SUNDAY**

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

**Second Sunday of  
Advent  
December 7, 2025**

### **SERMON**

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

### **SCRIPTURE**

Romans 15:4-13  
Isaiah 11:1-10

### **8:45 am**

Worship Service  
Special Music  
*Joy of Every Longing Heart*  
Marcus Smith, trombone

### **9:45 am**

Sunday School

### **10:55 am**

Worship Service  
Special Music  
*There Shall A Star*  
The Chancel Choir

### **Nursery**

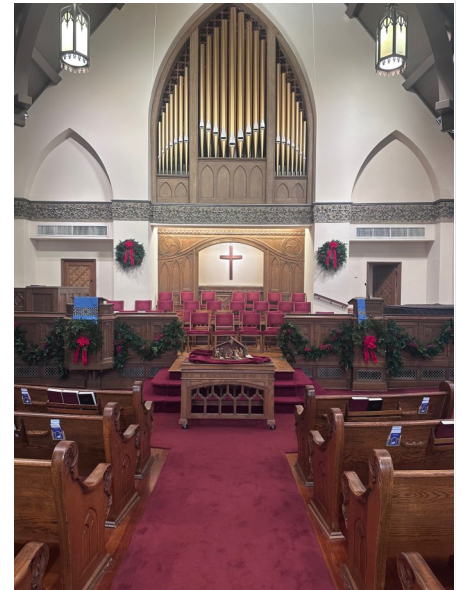
Available for children  
birth-three years

# *The Challenge*

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## **Thank You**

Sincere thanks to all who helped with the lovely decorations in our church this season: Sherri O'Mahoney, chair, Kay Cawthon, Grayson Parker, Mike Van Amberg, Annie Van Amberg, Sarah Van Amberg, Beth Duncan, Beth Wagstaff, John Wagstaff, Trina Respress, Brandon Respress, Joel Hammond, Maggie Chase Morrison, Frank Farmer, Charlie Farmer, Miller Farmer, Garrett Jones, Kirby Arnall, Matt Craddock, Susan Conlan, Pam Lee, Julie Sapp, Amanda Willoughby, Henry Willoughby, Anna Leigh Willoughby, Sara O'Mahoney, Ryan O'Mahoney, and Katie Brady.

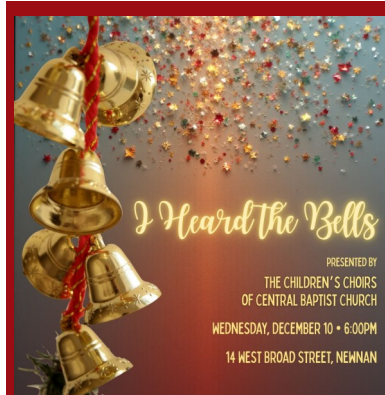


**OFFERING FOR  
GLOBAL MISSIONS**

BECAUSE **PRESENCE** MATTERS

**Sunday, December 7**

*8:45 am & 10:55 am Worship*



**Wednesday, December 10**

5:15 pm Bring-A-Dish Christmas Dinner  
(The church will supply meat; please bring a side or dessert.)

6:00 pm Children's Choirs present "I Heard the Bells"

## Pastor's Pen

### The Surprise of Christmas

Our worship theme for Advent is "Surprise." Christmas came as a surprise to all who encountered it that first year in Bethlehem, and Christmas still surprises us today. While the actual events (baby in a manger, angels and shepherds, etc.) have grown familiar to us over the years, the meaning behind the events continues to have the power to shake us up a little.

Last Sunday we talked about the surprise of God's nearness. At Christmas, God comes close to us in ways we aren't expecting. And, as time sneaks up on us, God's arrival both at Christmas and at the second coming is nearer to us than we might ordinarily imagine. For the next three weeks of Advent, we'll talk about the surprise of God's welcome, the surprise of God's subversiveness, and the surprise of God's salvation.

God's welcome at Christmas included more people than the first believers were expecting, and God's welcome includes more people than we are likely to include if we're not careful. The gospels go to great lengths to demonstrate God's universal intent in the birth of Christ. The circle of God's welcome at the manger starts big and just keeps getting bigger as God's story in Jesus Christ unfolds. We'll talk about that this Sunday.

Two Sundays from now we'll look at the Magnificat, Mary's song of praise and acceptance upon learning that she would be the mother of the Son of God. There's a big surprise for us in Mary's understanding of what will be accomplished through her; it's shockingly subversive! Mary sees that the birth of Christ will turn everything upside down and upend social hierarchies and power structures. It's a good message, but it's a surprising message, and not always an easy one to digest.

On the last Sunday before Christmas, we'll talk about the surprise of God's salvation. When God speaks to Joseph through an angel to tell him about the birth of Jesus, the message of the angel to Joseph is one of the most positive, encouraging, affirming, uplifting messages anyone could have ever received. We'll remember that God speaks to us the same way this Christmas. The fullness of the meaning of God's salvation FOR US continues to surprise.

Christmas really is the most wonderful time of the year at Central. We've got great worship services planned throughout the month of December. Join us each week and invite a friend.

See you Sunday,

Matt

## Music Ministry

What a meaningful time of worship we shared on the first Sunday of Advent! The anticipation and joy of the season were felt in every part of the service—from the beautiful decorations and thoughtful Advent readings to Matt's inspiring message and the music that lifted our hearts. Thank you to Alyssa, the Choir, Yen Yu, and Henry for leading us so graciously.

Please keep our Christmas Schedule handy so you don't miss out on any opportunity to share the good news of Christ's incarnation.

This week we have the Christmas Communion on Wednesday, December 3, at 6:00 pm. Then on Friday, December 5, the Newnan Community Youth Choir will be part of the Masterworks Chorale concert at the Nixon Centre.

The concert starts at 7:30 pm—come and support our youth and enjoy some great Christmas music. Tickets are available [here](#).

And, please continue to pray for good health for our musicians during this exciting time!

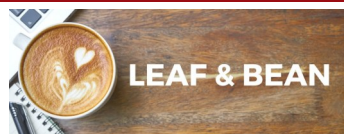
Gratefully,

Ronnie



## Women's Ministry

### Ladies Coffee Hour



Thursday, Dec. 4,  
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.



### Want to Learn to play Mahjong?

We are gauging interest in offering a class to learn how to play

Mahjong. There are 16 spots available for the class and the cost is \$52. These are the dates available: January 10 (anytime) January 12 (6:00 pm) January 17 (anytime) January 26 (6:00 pm).

If you are interested please call or email the church office and tell us what date(s) work best for you.

## Children's Ministry



### Santa at Central

Sunday, December 7  
2:00 pm-5:00 pm

Santa is bringing his favorite photographer again this year! Kinsey Young Photography is back to take the sweetest pictures of your kids and/or family with Santa! We will have crafts, cookie decorating and hot chocolate. Please sign up [here](#) for your photo time slot!

## Senior Adult Ministry

### Senior Adult Breakfast at Town & Country

Wednesday, December 10, 9:00 am



Our last breakfast for the year will be Wednesday, December 10. We will resume our regular schedule on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

## Youth Ministry



### Youth Christmas Party Sunday, December 7

Join us on December 7 from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm in the Youth Loft for a *Not A Christmas Party* Party!

Everyone, come dressed for a holiday party—but make sure you're not dressed for Christmas! Pick any holiday other than Christmas and come decked out to have a great time. More details and an RSVP [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.\*

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Sunday, December 7

8:45 am Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
10:55 am Worship Service  
2:00 pm Santa @ Central  
4:00 pm NCYC Rehearsal  
5:30 pm Youth Christmas Party

### Monday, December 8

7:15 am Youth Prayer Breakfast

### Tuesday, December 9

7:00 am Men's Bible Study  
10:00 am Feeding Our Friends

### Wednesday, December 10

9:00 am Senior Adult Breakfast at  
Town & Country  
5:15 pm Christmas Bring-A-Dish  
6:00 pm Children's Christmas Program  
6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Stewardship Update Sunday, November 30, 2025

Weekly Budget Needs	\$32,486.92
Budget Offering	\$22,535.61
YTD Budget Needs	\$1,559,372.14
YTD Budget Offering	\$1,419,369.02