

TUE 3-17-26

The Challenge

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

THIS SUNDAY

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

The Fifth Sunday of Lent March 22, 2026

SERMON

Rev. Matt Sapp
"To Live Again"

SCRIPTURE

John 11:1-45
Ezekiel 37:1-14

8:45 am

Worship Service
Special Music
Candler Hobbs

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:55 am

Worship Service
Special Music
The Chancel Choir

Nursery

Available for children
birth-three years



COMMUNITY
Lenten Services

Ecumenical Lenten Worship & Luncheon Schedule

The thirty-minute Lenten service will begin at 12:00 pm with a meal immediately following each service; the cost of the meal is \$5.

March 18 Newnan First United Methodist Church
Rev. Matt Sapp preaching

March 25 Newnan Presbyterian Church
Rev. Andrew Chappell preaching

Cybersecurity & Fraud Awareness Seminar

- Financial Exploitation
- Scams
- Fraud Prevention

Date: Thursday, March 19

Time: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Location: 14 West Broad Street

Please contact Brittney Walls at brittney@bullstrategicwealth.com if you plan to attend.

The Flowering of Easter

We invite our members to contribute a \$10 donation as a special Easter remembrance. The names of those being remembered and/or honored will be included in the Easter Sunday worship folder. The money received this year will fund the flowering of the cross and a remembrance rose to take after Easter services. We encourage all of our families to bring cut flowers to decorate the outside cross. Order forms are available [here](#) or in the church office. Please send your order form and payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate at any service. **The deadline is Friday, March 27.**



Westbrook Baby Shower

March 22, 5:30 pm-7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Let's celebrate with the Westbrooks as they prepare to welcome Miriam James to their family. Check out Miriam's birthday wish list [here!](#)

This event will be hosted by our youth but our entire church family is invited to attend. Light hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

Pastor's Pen

The Scandal of Simplicity

Sometimes the simplest answers are the hardest ones to believe. When a blind man is healed and the whole town wants to know how it happened, the man's answer is simple and straightforward, "A man named Jesus healed me." The only problem in the story in John 9 is that nobody wants to believe him; nobody wants the answer to the question to be that simple.

Some people in the story just don't believe that a miracle like that is possible (the neighbors). Some people are afraid of what others will think about them if they give such a straightforward testimony (the man's parents). Others don't want to believe that a true miracle of God could be achieved through someone who doesn't fit their mold of what a prophet should look like (the Pharisees).

This leads to the same question being asked five times, "How can this blind man now see?" The answer each time is the same, "A man named Jesus." Just like in John 9, we also find reasons to avoid the simplicity of that answer. We don't believe everything Jesus claims to offer us is possible. We worry what others will think about us. Or we wish we could form Jesus more into the image of what we want him to look like.

Even more than that, though, we recognize that what Jesus teaches us to value (humility, forgiveness, peacemaking, putting the need of others first, love in all things—things we talked about in worship Sunday) is simply at odds with what most of the world values.

There really is a scandal to simplicity when the simple answer, "Jesus teaches..." creates such a sharp contrast with what we hear in other venues. A simple faith is a more powerful faith, and it presents a greater challenge to the world.

As we approach Holy Week (it's less than two weeks away), we remember that it is exactly this contrast and exactly this challenge that led the Jerusalem crowds to shout, "Crucify him!" I sometimes wonder which side we would all be on in that Jerusalem square.

When the contrast is so clear, there's nowhere to hide. That's the scandal of simplicity. It forces you to choose.

See you Sunday,

Matt

Music Ministry

We are entering the final stretch as we move toward Palm Sunday and Easter! Please continue to pray for the health and well-being of all those involved in our Music Ministry.

On Palm Sunday, our Handbells, Children's Choirs, and Chancel Choir will help lead us in worship. What a joy it is to bring these ensembles together as we celebrate the beginning of Holy Week.

On Easter Sunday, the Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra will lead in both services. We look forward to lifting our voices together in celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and continued support of the Music Ministry here at Central. Your encouragement and presence mean more than you know—you truly are the backbone of this ministry.

Gratefully,

Ronnie

Children's Ministry

VBS, June 1-4

8:45 am-12:00 pm daily
PreK-4 through 7th grade

Vacation Bible School Registration is now open! Register [here](#).



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amanda Willoughby [here](#).

EASTER EGG HUNT



Sunday, March 29, 4:00 pm

Home of Banks & Carol Glover

Women's Ministry

Ladies Coffee Hour

Thurs., March 19,
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.



Purses in the Pew

Monday, March 23, 11:00 am

Rev. Terri Byrd

Reservations are appreciated for name tags; reservations are required for lunch (\$8).

Please click the link [here](#) to sign up.

Missions

Adult Mission Trip Interest Meeting

Wednesday, March 18,
4:30 pm



Interest meeting in the sanctuary for potential adult mission trip to Immokalee Florida to work with Rick Burnett and Cultivate Abundance in February of 2027.

Senior Adult Ministry

Senior Adult Trip 2027 Interest Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 4:00 pm

We will have a brief discussion in the sanctuary about possible ideas and then we'll research them and present them in a few weeks.

Birth

Emma Jane Parker

March 10, 2026

Daughter of **Julie and Grayson Parker**

Paternal Grandparents: **Sandy and Jonathan Parker**

Youth Ministry

Graduate Recognition Sunday, April 26



We want to rejoice with all Central members who are graduating this year from high school or college. Please email a senior photo along with information about them to [Courtney](#) no later than Friday, April 17.

We will celebrate our high school seniors and their families with breakfast during the Sunday School hour on April 26. As part of that breakfast, we will need 6-8 of your senior's cutest photos from birth to present (please include a senior picture) that we will use in a video honoring them. We will finish the day by recognizing our graduates during the 10:55 am worship service.

Scholarships

Harold and Catherine Barron

Scholarship for undergraduate education, graduate studies for career advancement or educational programs for career change.

Jennie Fowler Cole

Scholarship for college students who are members of Central Baptist.

Sallie Pinson Steed

Scholarship for Shorter College students.

J.T. Haynes, Jr. Scholarship

Scholarship for Central Baptist Church high school seniors who have been members for five years or longer, are actively involved in the youth program and in school programs, missions and ministries.

The deadline to apply for these scholarships is **March 29**. Applications are in the church office or can be emailed upon request.



Fernraiser

Ferns will be available for pickup on Wednesday, March 25, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.

Mahjong Fellowship

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 am



Join us for a morning of fun as we gather to play Mahjong and connect on April 18 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Register [here](#).

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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, March 22

- 8:45 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:55 am Worship Service
- 4:00 pm NCYC Rehearsal
- 5:30 pm Westbrook Baby Shower
- 6:15 pm Finance Meeting
- 7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting

Monday, March 23

- 7:15 am Youth Prayer Breakfast
- 11:00 am Purses in the Pew
- 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

- 12:00 pm Lenten Worship/Luncheon at Newnan Presbyterian Church
- 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Supper-Hot Dogs & Baked Potato Bar
- 5:45 pm Grades 1-5 Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Youth Group
- 6:00 pm PK-K Choir Rehearsal/Activity
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study
- 6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal