

10:00am

DECEMBER 2022

DECEMBER 4 Isaiah 11:1-10
DECEMBER 11 Isaiah 35:1-10
DECEMBER 18 Isaiah 7:10-16

DECEMBER 24 Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

DECEMBER 25 John 1:1-14



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES
11:00am | 4:00pm | 11:00pm
CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00am
NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Dear Newnan FUMC,

Recently, I found myself sitting in a waiting room with a TV. As you can probably imagine at this time of year, the TV was playing some Christmas rom-com. It seemed to be a fish-out-of-water story about a city girl who gets stranded in the middle of the country around Christmastime. She meets a handsome stranger from this small town and by the end, they fall in love!

In all honesty, I didn't watch much of the movie. I knew the ending simply because it was a Christmas movie on the Hallmark channel. For those of you who may not be caught up, the Hallmark Christmas movie industry has grown substantially. The demand for holiday heart-warmers is very high. In an article for Forbes, Toni Fitzgerald analyzes the reasoning behind these familiar tales. She says, "Hallmark movies' familiar structure and predictable outcomes are a strength at this time. While you can't control what's happening around you, you can predict that the heroine will wind up with the hero at the end." Human beings love familiar structures. In the day-to-day of life, we have gradually come to need some aspect that we can count on. For some, it is a Hallmark movie.

Christmas is not unlike a Hallmark movie in its predictability. Christmas and Advent occur each year. There are always Christmas pageants, carol concerts, and Christmas Eve candlelight worship services. But in that ritual, there is deep meaning. We need the Christian calendar to mark our days, to know what to expect, and to remind us of the miraculous narrative of God in the world.

On Christmas Eve, we will read the story from Luke 2. We read it every year. Joseph and Mary will travel to Bethlehem like they always do. There won't be any room in the inn, just like last year. Jesus will be born and placed in a manger. And the angels will notify the shepherds. You've heard this story before. But there is a big difference this year. **YOU are different.** Your life has changed. Things are not the same as when you heard this story on December 24, 2021.

How is God going to affect you this year? How is God going to use this magnificent story and moment in history to impact your life this December? I hope that you let God in this season. I hope you allow the incarnation of God to take hold. And I pray that the birth of God-as-human will guide you to a great joy and hope that you've not yet known.

I also would like to welcome our new members from November: Susan Miller, Karen Moseley, Chuck and Terri Anderson, Jennifer Tolbert, Anna Jean Gaissert, John and Emily Evans with Rachel and Matthew, Boyd and Pat McBurnett. May they find a unique and gracious home here at Newnan FUMC.



Grace and Peace, Andrew

Andrew Chappell | Senior Pastor achappell@newnanfumc.org 770.253.7400 (x202)

NEWNAN FIRST UMC MISSIONS & MINISTRY

NEWNANFUMC.ORG/MISSIONS

JOY TREE

You are invited to be a part of Joy Tree this year! Each November-December, NFUMC collects a list of names of foster children in the community, detailing a Christmas list of toys and clothing needs. These needs are placed on tags, and members of our congregation are invited to shop for these items as a way to help provide a blessing for these children during the Christmas season.

Tags can be taken from the tree in the Narthex of the sanctuary:

Drop-off for items will be in the Annex hall on the following dates:

Sunday, Dec 4th, 9:30-12:30pm Friday, December 9th, 4:00-6:00pm Saturday, December 10, 10:00-12:00pm Sunday, December 11, 9:30-12:30pm





Our Early Response Team (ERT) from the church served during the week of November 14th-18th to assist in relief efforts following the damage from Hurricane Ian. Wonderful men and women from our congregation and a few others joined together to caravan down to Port Orange, Florida, where they stayed at a local church and traveled each day to worksites to assist homeowners in need. The work crews were divided into two teams, and their work ranged from mucking out homes damaged by flooding, removing damaged sheetrock and hardwood floors, removing debris and felled trees from yards, and so much more. More information and photos are on page 4.

We are so grateful for these servants taking up our call to be the hands and feet of Christ to those affected by this natural disaster. Our prayers are with those impacted by Hurricane Ian who still has many needs unmet. If you are interested in being a part of our ERT team and joining in the work that they do, sign up on our website at

https://www.newnanfumc.org/missions



Grace and Peace, Connor
Connor Bell | Associate Pastor
cbell@newnanfumc.org
770.253.7400 (x208)



MISSION SUNDAY CLOTHING DRIVE

We had a TON of coats and warm clothing donated for our coat drive! MJ Ginn and Pastor Connor delivered them in two mid-sized SUVs' packed completely to the brim. Here is a picture with Willie from OneRoof during delivery.



2023 Missions Trip to Peru

Mission Trip to Peru- sign up if you are interested!

Newnan First UMC is taking a mission group to Peru in early 2023! For years, our congregation has partnered financially with Global Partners in Life, an organization dedicated to meeting the humanitarian, educational, and medical needs of children, youth, young adults, and widows globally.

Details for the trip will be forthcoming, but we need to make sure that we have the interest for the trip to be viable. If you are interested in learning more about

serving with us in Peru in the Spring, please sign up using the QR code or you can email Connor Bell your name, cell phone number so that we can add you to our interest list! Connor Bell: cbell@newnanfumc.org

ADVENT BAGS FOR SHUT-INS

Advent Bag packing was held on November 16th in which we wrapped and packed gifts for our shut-ins. Thank you to everyone who came to support and deliver these gifts for this important mission.



















ERT Trip to Port Orange, Florida

On Monday, November 14th, our Early Response Team (ERT) traveled to Port Orange, Florida where they were dispatched to assist in Hurricane Ian and Nicole clean-up. Covenant UMC hosted our team while they were there to assist local homeowners with various projects. The team was able to assist with yard/debris clean-up, removing a hardwood floor and carpeting that had been damaged and remove sheetrock that had been compromised by the flood waters. Our team members were Ted Burnett, Greg Oothoudt, Donald and Terri Sprayberry, Ron and Charlene Hall, Jeri Burnette, Larry Lewis, Carter West, Bill Pound, Wes Cato, Eric Harlan and Dianne Glenn. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and support while we have been fulfilling our mission of being the hands and feet of Christ.

















IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

Loving one another through life's ups and downs.

NEW MEMBERS



Susan Miller

Joined on November 6, 2022

Karen Moseley

Joined on November 13, 2022

Chuck & Terri Anderson

Joined on November 13, 2022

Jennifer Tolbert

Joined on November 13, 2022

Anna Jean Gaissert

Joined on November 20, 2022

John and Emily Evans, with Rachel and Matthew

Joined on November 20, 2022

Boyd and Pat McBurnett

Joined on November 27, 2022



Greg and Amber Merwitz with family for the baptism of their daughter, Saydee.

BAPTISM



Saydee Claire Merwitz

Daughter of Greg and Amber Merwitz Baptized on November 20, 2022

MEMORIAM Christian sympathy is extended to the family of the following member of Newnan First United Methodist church.



Francis "Fran" Younger

July 25, 1928 - November 1, 2022

SYMPATHIES Christian sympathy is extended to the following people for the death of a loved one.



Robin and Alice Miller on the loss of Robin's brother, Daniel Harrison Miller, on November 20. Stephen and Colleen Sprayberry on the loss of Colleen's mother, Martha Maddox, on November 21.

Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to honor a life event or family celebration i.e. birthday, anniversary, baptism, or wedding, you are invited to sign up for placing flowers in the sanctuary. This can also be in memory of loved ones who have passed away. Your "in honor of" or "in memoriam of" will be printed in the bulletin. The sign-up sheet & more information is on the closet door by the office workroom.



CONNECTING OPPORTUNITIES

NEWNANFUMC.ORG/SIGNUPS



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

S PRALE R

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY

8:30am
GATHERING ROOM
DECEMBER 6 & 20

Join us twice a month for breakfast and a variety of programming.





PLUGGED-IN DINNER December 7 | Parish Hall

5:00pm Dinner | 6:30pm Let's Talk

Come join us for our Plugged-In event. Dinner will be from 5:00pm to 6:15pm in the Parish Hall. After dinner, we will have Let's Talk with guest speaker Allen Bell, Church Council President, who will speak about 2023 Programming. Our menu will be Brisket, potato salad, rolls, salad bar, ice cream bar, and drinks. The cost is \$5.00 for children under 10, \$8.00 for adults, and \$9.00 for takeout. RSVP by Monday, Dec. 5th by 3pm. If you have any questions, please contact: Aileen at 770-253-7400 x 206 or aburnett@newnanfumc.org. newnanfumc.org/signups to RSVP

LET'S TALK A lively group discussion on various topics, including current events, from a Christian perspective.

6:30pm | Room 201

Dec. 7: Allen Bell, Council President, will speak about 2023 Programming for Newnan First UMC.



Special Christmas 5-Hour Event!

Parent's Day Out

Saturday, December 10, 2022 | 9:00am to 2:00pm

The kids will play, fellowship, and have the option of enjoying a family-friendly movie, while you enjoy a morning out on the town! Space is limited and payment is non-refundable. Registration ends Wednesday, December 7, 2022. Children will be checked in through KidCheck upon arrival that evening. To create an account, add a child to your account, or update allergy/medical/emergency contact information visit www.kidcheck.com Contact Danika Ford (nursery@newnanfumc.org) with any questions.

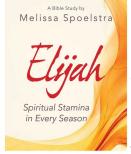


MARTHA CIRCLE

Monday, December 19 | 9:45am | Room 200

The Martha Circle will meet on December 19th at 9:45am in room 200. We will have our annual cookie swap and share. Please bring a batch of cookies, candy, etc. to swap and share with the church staff and others. Bring a Christmas memory or story to share with each other. All are welcome! If you are interested contact Beverly Watkins at bevwatkins40@charter.net or call the office for more detail.





NEW TIME, NEW STUDY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays | 10:00am | Annex Hall

January 11: We are beginning a new 6-week study on the prophet, Elijah. We will study through 1 & 2 Kings with the book *Elijah, Spiritual Stamina in Every Season* by Melissa Spoelstra. The book can be purchased online through Amazon.com or on Lifeway.com

Contact Shelley Casey at media@newnanfumc.org if you have any questions, need help or would like to join us or be added to our group email list! **ALL are welcome!**

LOOKING FOR CONNECTING OPPORTUNITIES

Aileen Burnett, Program Director | aburnett@newnanfumc.org | 770.253.7400 (x206)

Our Plugged-In dinner on November 16th celebrated our Newnan Police Department. We had a wonderful turnout to show our love and support for the officers who protect our community and church. After dinner, Let's Talk featured Adam Lofton who spoke on responding to disasters and disease outbreaks.











Fun n' Frolic traveled to the Exhibition Hub in Atlanta to see Monet: The Immersive Experience. We had 23 people attend this event which was a 360-degree digital art exhibition demonstrating the works of Claude Monet. After the exhibit, we had lunch at Bambinelli's in Tucker.





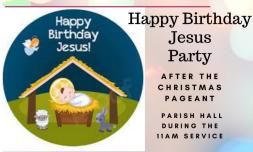
FIRST KIDS! 5TH GRADE AND UNDER

NEWNANFUMC.ORG/firstkids

Andrea Stuart, Director of Children's Ministries | astuart@newnanfumc.org | 770.253.7400 (x209)







MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 11 | 10:00am | Christmas Pageant

Sign-ups still going on until the end of this week! Reach out to Ms. Andrea or sign up online

December 11 | 11:00am | Happy Birthday Jesus Party.

Parents are welcome to join or drop their children in the Parish Hall.

December 11 | 6:00pm | ROOT 345 Christmas Party

This is the last ROOT 345 until 1/8/2023

Children's Sunday School is focusing on the Christmas Season. We will kick off the month of December learning about Isaiah's prophecy, Mary and Elizabeth's gift, and finally the birth of Jesus.

Children's Worship we will be praising God by discussing Jesus's story and praising Him by making ornaments and playing games!

We have fun things around the corner! Come see what is in store!

NEWNAN FUMC PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

NFUMCPRESCHOOL.ORG

Nancy Martin, Preschool Director | nmartin@newnanfumc.org | 770.253.7400 (x212)



On the Friday before Thanksgiving, our 4yr and Kindergarten classes presented a program called A Thanksgiving Celebration. We invited the parents and families of our students to celebrate with us!

During the Christmas Season, we focus on Jesus and His birth. Pastor Andrew visits our classes and reads The Christmas Story to our children. We have a birthday party for Jesus in our classes on our last day of school before Christmas break. Our Kindergarten class is going to Barnes and Noble to perform some Christmas songs during the Carnegie Library Book Fair hosted at Barnes and Noble. From all of us at the Preschool to all of you, we wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!! Blessings!

Nancy Martin

NEWNAN FUMC UTH | GRADES 6-12

NEWNANFUMC.ORG/UTH

Paul Mosley, Director of Youth Ministries | pmosley@newnanfumc.org | 770.253.7400 (x219)



Looking for a way to connect with us? We have a GroupMe and Instagram Account to keep you up-to-date. You can get all the details at newnanfumc.org/uth. If you aren't receiving this information from my newsletter in your email, please let me know! I will add you to the list.



UTH CHRISTMAS PARTY | DECEMBER 11 | 6:00pm

Our Seniors are going all out this year and will be planning our UTH Christmas this year! Join us on December 11 starting at 6:00pm for a festive time celebrating our savior coming to earth and the end of the year at youth. There will be tons of great activities (I've heard a rumor that Karaoke is making a popular return), so join alongside your fellow UTH and end the UTH year with an awesome celebration.

Dinner will be provided with tons of awesome goodies as well. More details will be out soon!

December

4: O Holy Night

7: Last Biscuit & Bible

11: UTH Christmas Party- Hosted by our Seniors!

January

8: Confirmation & UTH Start Back

13-16: UTH Ski Trip

22: Spring Parents' Meeting with Paul

Fall Retreat was a wonderful experience in breaking out of the regular busyness of life and retreating to find the Lord. We discussed each student's YOU Effect: the impact they have on the people and the world around them. During the weekend, each student learned that they have more of an effect than they think, that having a big effect starts with a small group, and that our lost influence doesn't have to stay lost. We are Christ's hands and feet to the world, and our job is to use our Influence in a way that leads others to Him and lifts one another up. Our students really connected with our guest speaker, Blake Shuler, and

the Bound Worship Team did a fabulous job leading us in worship each session. On top of all of this we also played lots of basketball, ziplined, ate great food, and became closer friends. We can't wait for the next trip with UTH at Newnan First UMC!









NEWNAN FIRST UMC MUSIC MINISTRY

Bonnie Krider, Interim Minister of Music | bonniekrider@gmail.com | 770.253.7400x205)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

December 11

Children's Pageant

9:45am

Sanctuary

O HOLY NIGHT

Presented by all the choirs and ensembles of Newnan First UMC, O Holy Night is a magical time in the life of our church. During this special program, each choir presents a couple of musical offerings for the Christmas season. The program ends with all our choirs singing "O Holy Night." It is the Newnan First UMC Choirs' gift to you. You do not want to miss this! Mark your calendars now for 3:00pm and 6:00pm on Sunday, December 4.

This year, our special mission offering collected during the O Holy Night Services will be donated to N.E.S.T., Newnan's Emergency Shelter. If you are interested in finding out more information on how to volunteer with NEST, please contact Pastor Connor at cbell@newnanfumc.org or click on the QR Code.





Christmas at The Nixon Centre
with the Masterworks Chorale
Sunday, December 11 | 2:30pm
www.thenixoncentre.net for Ticket Info

On December 12, we are hosting the Max Noah Singers from Georgia College. We will serve and share dinner with them at 6:00pm and host their concert at 7:00pm.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Carnegie Library Book Fair



The Carnegie Library Book Fair is Thursday, December 1 through Sunday, December 4 at the Barnes and Noble Book Store in Ashley Park. Visit the store during this time, make a purchase, and say "Carnegie Library" at the checkout register, and they will receive a portion of the sale.

Our own NFUMC Kindergarten class will be singing Christmas Carols at the store Friday, December 2 at 11:00am.



NEWNAN FUMC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS



NEW PLAYGROUND MURAL

Our playground is awesome, and the children are loving it, but one last thing needed to be done to complete the project. The mural on the wall adjacent to the playground (which is a part of the "Old Matrix" building) needed to be updated.

Owen Lambert, asked Kirby Arnall for permission on behalf of the church, to paint the wall. He graciously agreed, and we hired local artist, Amber Stidham, to design and paint a beautiful scenic mural. The Board of Trustees generously sponsored the

financing of the project. The mural is complete and is a beautiful addition to the playground area for our

children. Next time you walk by the playground, take a look. at our wall!

A BIG thank you to all of the above mentioned people for their support!

Children will enjoy the playground for years to come!











Each year, there is a team of amazing volunteers who prepare our church for the Advent Season by decorating the church. The photos here only reflect the sanctuary, however the end entire church is lovingly decorated for the season. We are grateful for all of our saints who work behind the scenes here at Newnan First! A special thank you to our youth for bringing out all of the many boxes that hold our holiday décor.

Charitable Contributions and Year End: What It Means for You and the Church.

Checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2022 will be deductible in 2022 though they are not received by the church until the first week of 2023. The deadline for contributions received in the mail postmarked by December 31, 2022, is January 7, 2023. Any contributions received after this date will be applied to 2023.

Year-end contribution statements will be mailed and postmarked no later than January 31, 2023. If you are donating stock, please allow at least three weeks for the funds to be transferred to the church by December 31st or you may miss all the above deadlines! If the deadlines are missed, your stock contribution will be applied to 2023.

The Church Finance Office

Owen Lambert | 770.253.7400 (x207) | olambert@newnanfumc.org

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

5:30pm JINGLE & MINGLE Women's Gala (PH)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

10:00am Duplicate Bridge (AH-2nd Floor)
11:00am Preschool Kindergarten singing
@ Barnes & Noble

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:00am Cherub OHN Rehearsal (S)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:30am Worship (S) 9:45am Sunday School

9:45am Chill & Chat Fellowship (GR)

11:00am Worship (S)

3:00pm O Holy Night Service (S) 6:00pm O Holy Night Service (S)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

4:30pm Joybells (BR) 5:45pm Inspirations (CR)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast (GR) 9:30am Swingin' Singin' Seniors (CR) 6:45pm Masterworks Ensemble (CR)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:00am UTH Bibles & Biscuits—Chick-fil-A 9:00am Polar Express for 4 & 5 yo preschoolers 4:30pm Bellissimo Handbell Choir (BR) 4:30pm Cherub & Wesley Choirs (CH/CR)

5:00pm PLUGGED-IN Dinner (PH)

5:30pm Carol Choir (CR)

6:30pm Let's Talk with Allen Bell (rm. 201)

6:45pm Chancel Choir (CR)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

5:30pm Fear This for Life Class (Ch)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Last Day of Preschool

10:00am Duplicate Bridge (AH-2nd Floor)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00am Parent's Day Out 6:00pm Newnan Christmas Parade

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:30am Worship (S) 9:45am Sunday School

9:45am Children's Pageant (S)

9:45am Chill & Chat Fellowship (GR)

11:00am Worship (S)

11:00am Children's Ministry

Happy Birthday, Jesus! party

4:30pm Youth Ensemble Choir (CR)

5:00pm Youth Choir (CR)

6:00pm Root 345 Christmas Party (CW) 6:00pm UTH Christmas Party (UL)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

4:30pm Joybells (BR) 5:45pmInspirations (CR)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast (GR)

9:30am Swingin' Singin' Seniors (CR)

2:30pm Parkinson's Support (AH)

6:45pm Masterworks Christmas Party (UL)

7:00pm Council Meeting (AH)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm Chancel Choir (CR)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:00am Duplicate Bridge (AH-2nd Floor)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00am Chancel Choir & Orchestra Practice (S)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:30am Worship (S)

9:45am Sunday School

9:45am Chill & Chat Fellowship (GR)

11:00am Worship (S)

NO Youth Choirs (CR)

NO Root 345 Dinner or UTH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:45am Martha Circle (rm. 200)

NO Joybells (BR)

5:45pm Inspirations (CR)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast (GR) 9:30am Swingin' Singin' Seniors (CR) NO Masterworks Ensemble (CR)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:45pm Chancel Choir (CR)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

10:00am Duplicate Bridge (AH-2nd Floor)

SATURDAY. DECEMBER 24

11:00am Christmas Eve Worship Service (S)

4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service (S)

11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service (S)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00am Christmas Worship Service (S)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:30am Swingin' Singin' Seniors (CR) 6:30pm Book Club—Agape SS NO Masterworks Ensemble (CR)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Inspiration Choir to Biltmore

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

Inspiration Choir perform at Biltmore

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00am Duplicate Bridge (AH-2nd Floor)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:00am Fear This For Life Class (CH)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00am New Year's Day Worship Service (S)

CALENDAR ABBREVIATIONS:

S: Sanctuary | PH: Parish Hall | PS: Preschool (lower level of PH) | CR: Choir Room | YL: Youth Lounge | A###: Annex Building

AC: Annex Conference Room (1st floor) | A3F: Annex 3rd Floor | AH: Annex Hall | AP: Annex Parking Lot | BR: Bell Room | CH: Chapel

1## or 2##: Main Building (1st or 2nd floors) | OL: Online | GR: Gathering Room | OS: Offsite

STAY CONNECTED WITH NEWNAN FIRST UMC!

Stay in touch with all the latest news and activities through our weekly emails, sent out each Tuesday. Subscribe by going online to newnanfumc.org/media and clicking on EMAIL LIST.

Need help subscribing? Email our Director of Communications, Shelley Casey at media@newnanfumc.org



WEEKLY EMAILS

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCES Week 48

To

Total Tithes/Income: \$ 1,194,423 Total Expenses: \$ 1,366,483 Over/(Under): \$ (172,061)

TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 1,615,162