

Central Baptist Church of Westerly, 16 Elm Street, Westerly, RI 02891

# THE GOOD WORD

Carrying News of God's Work into the Community and World  
December 2025 Volume 18 Issue 12

**Worship With Us At  
Central Baptist**



**Sunday Worship Service  
10:30 AM**

Our services can be seen on  
Facebook Live or on YouTube.  
Access is always available  
through our church website:  
**[www.cbcwesterlyri.org](http://www.cbcwesterlyri.org)**

**NEED A RIDE  
TO CHURCH?**



Call 401-596-4929  
Call the church before  
noon on Saturday.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

**Church Office:** e-mail  
[centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com](mailto:centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com)

**Telephone :** [401] 596-4929

**Newsletter submissions:**  
**Suzanne Vanaman**  
e-mail: [suzyv64@verizon.net](mailto:suzyv64@verizon.net)

**Pastor Cal Lord:** e-mail  
[calstigers@gmail.com](mailto:calstigers@gmail.com)

**Assoc. Pastor Enrique Newman:**  
e-mail  
[pastorenriquenewman@gmail.com](mailto:pastorenriquenewman@gmail.com)

**Website:**  
<http://www.cbcwesterlyri.org>

**YouTube:**  
[www.youtube.com/@CalLord](http://www.youtube.com/@CalLord)

## Packing Shoeboxes with Love



We filled 114 boxes this year. We had help from 23 volunteers from church and a dozen members of Westerly High School's Fellowship of Christian Athletes.



**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Cal Lord, Jr., Pastor  
 Assoc. Pastor, Enrique Newman  
 Lynn Johnson, Music Director  
 Dorothy McClure, Administrator  
 Deb Peterson, Custodian  
 Sofia & Gianna Scarano

**Church Office Hours**  
**Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Dorothy McClure  
 Suzanne Vanaman  
 and  
 A host of other contributors

**Newsletter  
Deadline**

Articles for *The Good Word*,  
 are due the  
**15th of the month.**  
 Please submit articles  
 as a WORD document  
 if possible.

**e-mail all articles to:**  
**Suzanne Vanaman**

Suzyv64@verizon.net

**CHURCH MEETINGS**

**Church meeting following  
 Worship on December 7**

**December 8**  
 5:30PM Christian Ed. Board

**December 15**  
 4:30PM Trustee Board  
 6:30PM Deacon Board



December 13 - 8:00AM

Fellowship Hall

**All men invited**

**Annual Christmas Bazaar**

**Central Baptist Church**  
**16 Elm Street, Westerly**  
 (401) 596-4929

**Saturday, December 6th ~ 9am - 1pm**

**Come and browse through our:**

- **Delicious Home-Made Baked Goods**
- **Jams and Soups**
- **Hand-Made Items, Knitted, Crocheted and more**
- **Grandma's Attic**
- **Gently used Christmas Items**
- **Cemetery Baskets**
- **Vendors including books by our own authors,**
- **Gifts for children, jewelry, crafts and more!**

**Holiday Luncheon**

**11:30am - 1:00pm**  
**Stuffed Chicken Breast**

**Vegetable Medley, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy**

**Homemade Rolls, Dessert and Beverage**

**\$15 Adults**

**\*Tickets available through Friendship Circle members\***



## PASTOR CAL'S CORNER

### Great Speaking Programs: A Reason to Give Thanks at Central Baptist

Our Mission Board hosted Lauren and Heather from InterVarsity Campus Ministries at a Pot-Luck Supper in November.



Dear Friends,

The Christmas Season has always been one of my favorite times of the year. The hope and promise of Advent is here. The overwhelming joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus our Savior touches the heart. The special services and musical offerings are moving. The glow of being together with family and friends are the most wonderful things for me.

I hope you will join me at church this December as we embrace the season of Advent and Christmas. There is a lot going on as you will see in this newsletter. From the weekly worship services where I will focus on the gifts of Christmas, to the Christmas Cantata, the Youth Orchestra at the Armory and Christmas caroling to our shut-ins. Come join the fun!

On Christmas Eve we will have two services again. One at 7:00 pm and a second at 11:30 pm to greet the Christmas morn. Oh the joy of it all! Come join us.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Cal.



Our S.A.L.T. Luncheon team brought in Catherine Shotick, the Executive Director of the Museum of American Impressionism, in October and First Sargeant Dora Vasques-Hellner in November for a special Memorial Day Luncheon.



### **Bible Memory Verse for December**

“Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!”  
Luke 2:11

Our services can be seen on Facebook Live or on YouTube. Access is always available through our church website:  
**[www.cbccwesterlyri.org](http://www.cbccwesterlyri.org)**



## Faith & Life with Pastor Enrique



What is the BEST gift you have ever received?

Over the years, I have received many wonderful gifts from family and loved ones. The ones that stood out the most were the personalized gifts, the ones given with deep thought. The time invested in choosing them meant the world to me.

However, the more meaningful question should be this. What is the best gift YOU have ever GIVEN? There is something about giving that elevates the experience more than receiving. The thought and preparation that go into choosing a gift are fascinating. Followed by the act of giving the gift. Finally, there is the excitement and expectation of seeing the reaction of the one receiving it.

It takes a lot to be generous. A lot of love. A lot of selflessness. A lot of joy. To be truly generous is to reflect the very heart of who God is in us. Someone recently asked whether we need to have material wealth saved in order to be generous, arguing that generosity requires first accumulating wealth. The answer is no. We give because it is born from the heart. It's a heart that blesses and seeks to please. Generosity begins even before a physical gift is given. It is born out of love, not out of the overabundance of a bank account.

Generosity takes practice. It's a solemn act in which you give from the many blessings that God has given you. Well, you might argue, God has everything. What could I possibly give Him? Give Him everything. All of you, especially your finances.

**Application:** Our generosity needs to be vertical and horizontal. Vertical because we first recognize the one who has gifted us everything. Our first and best gifts should always go to God. Horizontal because in the same sense, we are to emulate God's kindness towards others. "A generous person will be enriched and the one who waters will himself be watered." Proverbs 11:25 (ESV)

**Question:** What will be your BEST gift to God this Christmas?

**Call to Action:** This winter, bless God with your best gift. Give generously to God through your church (vertical), then generously bless someone (horizontal) that God places on your heart.

Blessings,

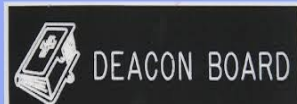
Pastor Enrique Newman, MDiv, MA

[pastorenriquenewman@gmail.com](mailto:pastorenriquenewman@gmail.com)

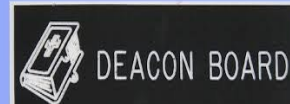


Our next meeting will be in January. This group, led by Pastor Enrique, has been very well received. It allows the men to talk about issues they face and how to deal with them by using Biblical insights. Look for announcements on the next topic and meeting time in the new year.





## Board of Deacons



### From the Board of Deacons:

The “*Sears Wish Book*” was a popular Christmas-themed catalog released annually by the department store chain Sears, Roebuck & Company. The catalog contained toys and other holiday-related merchandise. For decades children of all ages eagerly waited for “*The Wish Book*” to arrive in their mailboxes. As they carefully studied every page, they circled those gifts they hoped to find under the tree on Christmas morning. Gift giving is a universal expression of love, gratitude, and connection in all cultures. In **Genesis 4:4** we read, “*and Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering.*” This is one of the earliest records of gift-giving recorded in the Bible. Abel offered God the best he had, and it reveals His heart attitude and his desire to honor God. Centuries later God would give the world His best when Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. The Bible highlights various forms of giving and serving but one of the most memorable is found in **Luke 21:1-4**. “*And He (Jesus) looked up and saw the rich men casting their gifts in the treasury. And He saw also a certain widow casting in two mites.*” Jesus observes the wealthy making large offerings from their abundance, but it is the widow’s offering that catches His attention – two small coins of seemingly insignificant value. This act of giving, although modest, represented all she had. Her offering was a demonstration of trust, and a willingness to give not out of her surplus but out of her poverty. This story shifts the focus from the quantity of the gift to the quality of the giver’s heart. It is the sacrifice behind the gift that holds greater value than the gift itself. As you give gifts during this Christmas season, may every gift you give be a true reflection of what is in your heart.

Your CBC Deacons:

Scott Gail ~ Meredith Eckel ~ Don Plante ~ Karen Boeniger ~ Brian Gerbutavich ~ Rev. Dave Jordan

### Our Bible Memory Verses:

September - “In the morning Lord, you hear my voice. In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.” Psalm 5:3

October - “Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8

November - “I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.” Psalm 9:1

December - “Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!” Luke 2:11

Special  
Congregational  
Meeting



There will be a special church meeting following worship on Sunday, December 7th to vote on the recommendation of the Board of Deacons to accept four new members into the church family.

The names that are being submitted are Wayne & Prudy Williams, Don Kivela and Jane Silva.

We will also consider a vote to approve Pastor Enrique for pre-ordination licensing.

### Treasurer's Report

	October 2025 Actual	October Plan	Year-to-Date Actuals	Year-to-Date Plan	Annual Plan
Total Income	\$42,978.93	\$47,242.68	\$412,901.64	\$453,034.80	\$547,520.00
Total Expenses	\$44,624.63	\$48,894.79	\$443,790.01	\$461,713.81	\$556,309.00
Net Ordinary Income	(\$1,645.70)	(\$1,652.11)	(\$30,888.37)	(\$8,679.01)	(\$8,789.00)

The 2025 financial plan continues to be slightly behind planned amounts as of October 31, 2025. Comparing year-to-date revenues and expenditures to planned amounts, 75.4% of planned revenues have been received and 79.8% of planned expenditures have been executed. Regular giving year-to-date totals \$199,366.20 representing an increase of 2.9% when compared to the same time last year. Year-to-date expenditures are tracking less than this year's planned amounts.

As always, the generous donations and faithful support of Central Baptist members and friends allows the church to actively serve our community while also proactively maintaining our church properties. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much!

#### Here are some options for online giving:

- 1) Add CBC's address (16 Elm St., Westerly RI 02891) to your bank's Bill Payment site and schedule the bank to mail your check to the church. Add a memo if your gift is for a special cause.
- 2) Text Giving is now available. Message the word "GIVE" to 401-414-4940 from your cellphone and easily send a donation.
- 3) Another option is to visit [www.cbccwesterlyri.org](http://www.cbccwesterlyri.org), then click on Donations link at the top, or scan this code on your phone to access CBC's online giving app. The URL for the app is <https://app.easytithes.com/app/Giving/cbcw>. You can give either directly from your bank account or... (for a higher fee) use a debit/credit card. The app uses the same security as bank web sites, so your personal information is secure. Also, it allows you to schedule your donations in advance, so "once and it's done."



**Please look to see how online giving can make giving easier for you!**

#### Year End Giving Opportunities

If you are looking to make a year end gift after making your yearly contribution to the church, you can always make a gift to the following; The Avondale Chapel Fund, The Pavilion Fund, The Central Baptist College Scholarship Funds, The Deacon's Fellowship Fund, The Founders Fund of Central Nursery School, or a project of your choosing.



### The Floral Committee



We are taking orders for Christmas Poinsettias for our memorial display at Christmas. The cost is \$20 per plant. Order forms are in the church bulletins. If you would like to email the church office at [centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com](mailto:centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com)... please include your name, the name of the person(s) you are remembering and your phone number. Then bring or mail your check to church (16 Elm Street, Westerly) You can pick up your plants after worship on Christmas Sunday, or at one of the Christmas Eve Services.



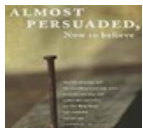


## Small Group Studies at Central this Fall



### Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am

Join Pastor David Jordan as he leads us in an exploration of the lives of key figures in the Bible. Their history and background are examined along with key events in their lives. The purpose is to find helpful lessons from their lives which we can apply to our lives today.



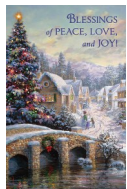
### Almost Persuaded - 4th Saturday each month at 10:00 am

Spend an hour with Pastor McClure and Scott Gail talking about the basic aspects of our faith. The study will be at 24 Fields View Road, Bradford, RI.

### Wednesday Night at 6:30 pm - A study of the "Hymns We Sing"

Each week we gather for a short devotion followed by a study of some of the most popular hymns that we sing along with a few which have very interesting backgrounds. We close out our time by singing God's praise and a time of prayer.

### Share Some Christmas Cheer!



Save stamps! There will be a box provided on the table in Fellowship Hall. If you have a Christmas Card for someone in the church family place it there. If you have any questions you can contact Carol Zwick at (203) 217-0171. You can also address one card to the congregation and place it on the Christmas Cheer board in the hall near the reception area.

### CPR Class at Watch Hill Fire

Join us for a CPR and basic First Aid Class at 6 pm on Wednesday, December 3rd at the Watch Hill Fire House, 222 Watch Hill Road.



This is a great training for those who work with our kids and in any adult ministry here at church. The skills you pick up could save a life. Special Thanks to Chief Dennis Reall and our own Firefighter Duane Maranda. Speak to Pastor Cal if you want to join the group.

## Persecuted Church



**Christmas 2025** ~ As we celebrate this special time of year with family get togethers, parties and gift giving we also keep our focus on the reason for the season, our savior Jesus Christ.



Let us keep in mind those in the Christian family whose devotion to their savior has resulted in the loss of all the family focused celebrations. I am referring to all those who are going to spend this Christmas in prison for the sake of the gospel. These days this is not an insignificant number. Although accurate numbers are impossible to obtain because of the lack of transparency from the governments concerned, the following are some examples of the size of this incarceration.

In Pakistan more than 700; in India more than 500; in Eritrea more than 350; in Iran more than 100; in North Korea multiple thousands in labor camps; in China an unknown number in the hundreds.

These are some of the countries imprisoning Christians for their faith. Many more are in other, mainly Muslim or communist countries.

Please remember to pray for these unnamed brothers and sisters in prison and their families on the outside who must survive, many times without their primary breadwinner, at this special time of year.

### **Scripture Memorization Changed My Life**

My life was dramatically transformed when, as a 17-year-old young man, I came to know Christ as my own personal Lord and Savior. It was several weeks after that crisis moment before I ever remember hearing the word *repentance*. But I know I repented on that cold January day as a senior in high school because I immediately, instantaneously, started hating what I used to love and loving what I used to hate.



Places I had formerly gone on Friday nights held zero attraction for me anymore. And things I never thought I would enjoy, like reading the Bible and spending time with other believers, is where I began to find my greatest joy. Even though I grew up in a moral home with wonderful and nurturing parents, we were not church people. I had never heard a prayer in my home or seen the Bible opened in my home before my conversion experience. In fact, I was just a few months away from attending the university and did not know that Matthew, Mark, Luke or John were books of the Bible.

On that first Sunday morning of my conversion experience, someone handed me a paper with 1 Cor. 10:13 written on it, saying something to the effect that I should memorize it because I was going to need it along the way of my new faith journey. To me it looked like some type of hieroglyphic symbolism.

The next day after school, I drove downtown where I had seen a Christian bookstore, and I purchased my first Bible. Back in my car I pulled out that piece of paper. I noted in the front of my new Bible a table of contents with abbreviations for the names of the books. My eyes fell on “Cor” and I quickly turned to the page number listed and discovered it stood for Corinthians. I figured out that the “10” represented the chapter and the “13” was obviously the verse.

And there it was, the first verse I ever read- “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (NKJV). Sitting there in my car, mesmerized by that truth, I memorized it on the spot and thus began a journey of Scripture memory that has buried multiplied hundreds of verses in my heart and mind and served me across all these decades since. Only the Lord knows how many times I have arrived at temptation’s corner, and that one verse initially hidden in my heart came out of my mouth and kept me on the right path before I made a wrong turn.

Scripture memorization has enabled me to take the Word of God with me anywhere and everywhere without always having my Bible with me. It has enabled me across all these decades to receive the Word into my heart, retain it in my mind and recite it with my mouth in all types of circumstances and situations.

This is exactly what the Lord Jesus did during those days of temptation in the wilderness of Judea as he burst forth from the obscurity of the carpenter’s shop and began His earthly ministry. With each temptation recorded in Matthew 4 that Satan brought the Lord’s way, Jesus answered saying, “It is written...” The Word of God received and retained in our own hearts and minds enables us, like our Lord Himself, to overcome our own temptations when the words are spoken from memory through our mouths.

For me personally, Scripture memorization has been a never-ending life discipline. When memorizing Scripture, I have found it helpful to write it out in my own handwriting, phrase by phrase, on a small note card. I then keep the card in my pocket throughout the next few days. Then, numerous times, whether at my desk, in my car at a stop light, or on other such occasions, I simply review it until the first phrase is memorized and then the next and so on. Finally, I often quote it to myself a hundred times until it becomes sealed forever in my heart.

To me it is a strange thing that many believers who once memorized Scripture now, for one reason or another, have not memorized a single verse in years. The discipline of Scripture memory should be a sustained, lifelong pursuit. Even now I sit at my desk and type these words, I see before me on a card a Scripture I am putting to memory; “Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense” (Proverbs 19:11, ESV). I feel certain this verse will surface in my mind in times to come when I am tempted to harbor resentment and hold offenses. Yes, as the psalmist of old once said, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11, NKJV).

If it only takes a spark to get a fire going, it only takes one verse memorized and hidden in your heart to get a journey of Scriptures memorization going. Scripture memory will change your life... forever!

Sincerely, O. S. Hawkins (taken from the October edition of Decision Magazine)





### Candles That Tell a Story

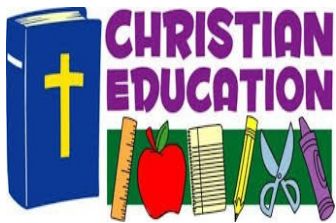
Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent. Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple candles:** in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The Pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The White candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior - "the light of the world."

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people - "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles-it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.



### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

We are thrilled to share that attendance at Kids' Church has been growing - what a joy to see so many children joining us! With this wonderful increase, we are always grateful for extra hands. If you feel called to help as a teacher or assistant, please speak with Pastor Enrique. Your support makes a big difference.

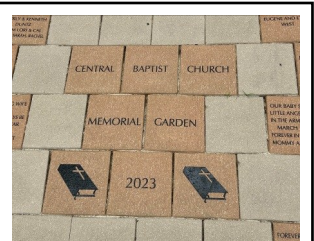
White Gift Sunday will be on December 14th, and the giving tree in the Fellowship Hall is up . You can start collecting tags and helping families in need during this season of giving.

We also invite all families to bring their children to participate in this year's Christmas pageant during the service. It's a beautiful opportunity for our young ones to share the story of Christ's birth with the congregation.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we help nurture the faith of our members!

### Memorial Garden Bricks

Memorial Bricks are an ongoing order that can be submitted at any time. When we have at least 5 orders it will be sent out. Order forms can be found in the church office. You can also contact Noreen Gerrish or Pat Anderson for forms or if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you!





## PARISH COMMITTEE

My thanks to everyone for donating cards for the table in Fellowship Hall. (On the far wall by the handicap lift.) Also, thank you to those who gave money so I could fill in where needed. The Parish committee's card ministry is possible because of your generosity *and* your participation in sending cards to let others know you are thinking of them.

Everyone is invited to use the cards. There is no charge. Take time to look through the many categories. You will find sympathy, birthday, friendship, thinking of you, get well, thank you, and blank note cards. Christmas cards are now available. There are so many pretty ones, you are sure to find ones that you love so bring your card list with you to church.

Central Baptist has a tradition of ministering to members who are no longer able to attend church due to illness, disability, or the aging process. The Parish Committee is made up of six teams of two. Each team makes one or two visits per month. Based on the rotating schedule that is provided, a team visits a different shut-in each month. Each team coordinates their visit to fit into their schedules and the availability of the person they are visiting. The ability to drive is essential to this ministry.

**If you are interested in serving on the Parish Committee or have questions, find me at church or use the contact information below. I'd love to tell you more about this vital ministry.**

Anita Greene

[akgreene@mac.com](mailto:akgreene@mac.com) or 401-596-8914

## MISSION BOARD

### White Gift Sunday - December 14, 2025

The Mission Board is pleased to announce that we will once again be putting up the Giving Tree this year with tags for toys, games, craft items, dolls, trucks, etc. The tree went up and is decorated with tags.



The Board will be working with the Westerly Police Department, Stonington Human Services, and RICAN (RI Center Assisting Those in Need) which is located in Charlestown. They are all accepting gifts, and parents will be able to pick out gifts for their children from the generous donations of the congregation.

You can also give a cash donation if you so choose or a check made out to Central Baptist Church with White Gift in the memo section. We prefer no gift cards.

As always, your gifts should be wrapped in white paper, white box, or white tissue paper with giving tree tag attached. Thank you for your grateful participation; sharing Christ's love with one another.

### Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

Originating in the mid-1930s as the Communion Fellowship Offering, it became known as the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering in 1977. The RMMO funds collected are distributed as thank you checks. Recipients include retired ordained ministers, and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA, as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion of the funds are also allocated for direct emergency assistance. This offering is taken at Christmas and 100% goes directly to this fund. Thank you for your support.





## Central Nursery School



Greetings from Central Nursery School, We ended the month of October by going over to The Elms and visiting the seniors at two memory care units. The children wore their costumes and received treats from the residents. Before they left, the children sang a few songs to brighten the residents' day. What a whirlwind the month of November has been, the themes for November were, "The Farm," "Farm Animals" and "Thanksgiving". The children did a lot of educational activities in group and one on one. We talked about the letters "E", "F" and "G." The older children did "E," is for envelopes and were able to write their names and addresses on their envelopes for the first time. We welcomed one of our parents into the classroom to teach a short lesson about the guitar. He then played some songs for the children and they happily sang along. We continue our partnership with the Westerly Library with two field trips there a month for books, songs and a craft. Also, we were visited by Denison Pequot and Zen's Creatures to learn about different animals. The children were able to interact with them by touching and holding them. Lastly, we had our Central Nursery School Thanksgiving Luncheon on the 26th.

Enjoy Your Families this Holiday Season.  
Miss Leslie and Miss Tia



**INVITE A  
FRIEND  
TO  
CHURCH  
THIS  
SUNDAY**

### **Share God's Love ~ Invite a Friend to Church**

We have post cards available in the Welcome Center if you'd like to invite a friend to church. Recent surveys say that most people would accept an invitation to attend church if invited by someone they trust. We also have bookmarkers Why not try?

**INVITE A  
FRIEND  
TO  
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Central Baptist  
Church

16 Elm Street  
Westerly, RI 02891  
401-596-4929  
[www.cbwwesterlyri.org](http://www.cbwwesterlyri.org)

Pastor  
Reverend Dr. Cal Lord  
Associate Pastor  
Enrique Newman

### **Reach out to Others**

If you're thinking about someone, don't let the moment pass. You don't even have to go out and buy a card. In Fellowship Hall Anita Greene has set up a card table. Choose a card, you can even enclose a CBC Bookmarker. You never know what someone is going through. It's always a blessing when someone knows they're thought about.

### **From Knowing to Becoming**

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

—Ned Erickson



### **Jonnycake Food Pantry Needs:**



### **Condiments ~ Canned Meats ~ Side Dishes**

Soup ~ Pasta ~ Crackers ~ Coffee ~ Tea

*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.  
Philippians 2:4 (NKJV)*



To the Members of Central Baptist Church,

Thank you on behalf of Margery Hill. Because she was no longer able to leave home to attend Sunday morning church services your gift of services on CD meant so much to her. She was able to "go to church," sing along and pray with you all. Thank you to Anita Greene and members of the CBC Parish Committee, for visits to her home and cards via US Postal Service. Your outreach was greatly appreciated.

From the family of Margery Hill.

**MIDWEEK**  
-WORSHIP SERVICE-

### **Midweek Worship Join Us 6:30 pm on Wednesday Evenings**

Join us for a time of worship and inspiration on Wednesday evenings this fall. We will begin with an introduction to the hymns we sing led by Nancy Balentine, followed by singing and a time of prayer. If you can't make it to worship on the weekend, come join us midweek and let's praise the Lord together.



## ALL BAKERS



If you would like to bake your favorite baked item for the Annual Church Christmas Bazaar, please bring your baked goods for the Bazaar to the Fellowship Hall on

Friday, December 5th between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. You can also bring them on Saturday, December 6th before 9:00am.



## HELP WANTED FOR KID'S CHURCH

We need volunteers to join us in leading Kid's Church. As our program grows, we are seeking team leaders and weekly helpers. It's a great opportunity for all ages to serve.



## Right Now Media is a free gift for you



Do you have RightNow Media? It is like the Netflix of Christian video and Bible studies. It is free to all of our members and friends. There are things for men, women, couples, and children. Great messages from popular Christian authors and speakers. Please email the church office ([centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com](mailto:centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com)) and we will send a link if you'd like to sign up!



## Donate to the Pavillion Fund



It's a terrific way to make a year end gift! For many years we have had a growing number of outdoor activities which has required hauling tables and chairs out into the parking lot.

A few years ago the idea of constructing a permanent pavilion to host these events came up. It will be expensive. The cost is \$100,000. Yet it will provide a great space for ministry and for the church family to use for other events. If you would like to give a gift in honor or memory of a special loved one, or you'd just like to make a donation, you can do so by making your check out to Central Baptist Church and putting "Pavillion Fund" in the memo line. It is 100% tax deductible.

## Choir Robes



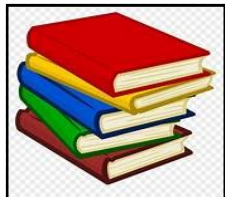
The choir would like to say "thank you" to everyone who donated to the choir robe fund. Your generous donations or memorial gifts have helped us reach our goal for new robes. Hopefully soon we will have them ordered so we can dedicate them to the Lord.

## Weekly Offering Envelopes

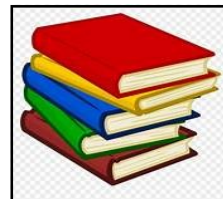
The weekly offering envelopes will be available at the end of December. If you have turned in a "faith giving estimate card" you will automatically receive a box of envelopes. If you are a regular giver, we have a box of envelopes for you.

If you need a faith giving estimate card, speak to one of the ushers and return it to the church by the end of the year.

### Library Corner & Library Room



The Library Corner bookcase is located in the back of Fellowship Hall.  
 New additions and suggested readings are available.  
 Please visit the complete Library Room down the Nursery School Hallway near Fellowship Hall.  
 There are many more titles and topics to catch your interest.  
 A sign-out sheet is available at both locations.  
 Why not read a library book over the Christmas holidays.



#### *Fiction*

##### **The Christmas List** by Richard Paul Evans

The author states that as he wrote this book, he had two objectives: First, I wanted to explore what could happen if someone read their obituary before they died and saw, firsthand, what the world really thought of them. Their legacy.

Second, I wanted to write a Christmas story of true redemption, a holiday tale to warm your season, your homes, and your hearts.

This is a heartwarming and inspirational Christmas novel of hope, love, and redemption.

#### *Biography*

##### **Flight to Heaven** by Dale Black

Flight To Heaven is an amazing account of life, death - and life again. In the early days of his flying career, Capt. Dale Black was a passenger in a horrific airplane crash which some have called the most ironic in aviation history. He was the only survivor. In the aftermath of the crash Dale experienced a life-changing journey to heaven. This transformed him forever, not only was Dale's life forever altered but his story has already changed the lives of tens of thousands.

To those who have lost loved ones, this book is a source of deep comfort. It also gives readers renewed purpose and glorious hope for the future.

#### *Christian Living*

##### **Come Before Winter and Share My Hope** by Charles Swindoll. A devotional

Every life has its seasons. In the warmth of summer sun, it's hard to believe that the cutting winds of winter will chill us to the bone. But hard times can be a time of spiritual growth and deepening faith. Come Before Winter and Share My Hope is a collection of devotionals to help you prepare for and endure life's inevitable difficulties and heartbreaks, and discover the faithfulness of the Lord who is a Companion and Friend through the storms of life. Come Before Winter and Share My Hope falls into three sections, each of which offers words of reassurance that we are not alone during the wintry days. If you are facing the bitter cold of winter in your soul, these 122 compact meditations from a popular devotional writer and church leader offer encouragement for the discouraging and difficult times of life.

*Don't forget your library has a collection of DVDs that can be borrowed*

##### **I Can Only Imagine**

The inspiring and unknown true story behind MercyMe's beloved, chart topping song that brings ultimate hope to so many is a gripping reminder of the power of true forgiveness.

### **What is the purpose of a Church Library?**

**The church library is a teaching tool, it is an important place to study for the individual and the congregation. The library supports the mission of the church as well as the growth of individual members' faith.**





**\* SEATS ARE GOING FAST \***

The **Central Baptist Travelers** will be traveling to Lancaster, Pennsylvania for a three-day trip, **June 18-20, 2026**. We will be going to the **Sight and Sound Theater** in Lancaster to see **"Joshua."** The cost per person is **\$560.00**. This includes, lodging, breakfast, three meals, theater tickets, transportation, fun and all gratuities.

For those who have never traveled with us and would like more information before making your decision please see Agnes Trebisacci in church. If you are interested in going, we ask that you please mail in a non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 each for you and your roommate. (The deposit will be returned if you cannot go and we fill your spot.) Checks should be made out and mailed to Central Baptist Church, 16 Elm Street, Westerly, RI 02891, or placed in the brown locked box outside of the church office with a notation on both check and envelope **"Joshua Trip."** This trip is filling up so get your deposits in soon. Once your deposit is made you can make periodic payments with last payment due by **May 18, 2026**.

For more information you can also contact our church office ([centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com](mailto:centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com)) or call our church office (401-596-4929) and speak to Dorothy.

Blessings,



"Travelling in the  
company of  
those we love is  
home in motion."



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Board of Trustees has prepared and presented the Spend Plan for 2026. We look forward to the congregation's approval at our January Church meeting. The Trustees will meet on December 15, as always. The BOT Meetings are open to members, please check the bulletins for dates and times changes.

We are working with the Steam Boiler Repair contractor to get the 2nd Floor Heat repairs done. They have the parts but are very busy this time of year.

We will be taking up the speed bumps for the snowplow season. We respectfully ask that when entering and leaving we all drive as if they are still in place.

Very Respectfully,  
Board of Trustees

**Help Wanted:** As we approach the new year we are asking members of Boards, Committees, Small Groups and church organizations to please make an effort to pick up and put away anything you bring in or use at your meetings. If you need to set up tables, please notify the office a few days ahead of time so we can enlist volunteers to help. This is our church home. Let's keep it looking great.



### From Our Tax Advisor

The legislation that was passed on July 4, 2025, creates a permanent, above-the-line, deduction for charitable donations of \$1,000 per single tax filer and \$2,000 per couple who file jointly.

This is for non-itemizers, taxpayers who use the standard deduction, and it starts in 2026. This provides tax benefits to a large number of taxpayers who donate but do not itemize, since about 90% of taxpayers take the standard deduction. A similar policy was temporarily available in 2020 – 2021 during the pandemic when non-itemizers had a \$300 deduction per filer (joint filers had a \$600 deduction for 2021).

The OBBBA is permanent. This new deduction means that if you don't itemize you have a way to reduce your tax bill. To illustrate, a non-itemizer single filer in the 12% marginal tax bracket will have a \$120 tax reduction for a \$1,000 cash donation and a couple will have a \$240 tax reduction for a \$2,000 cash donation. For those in the 22% marginal tax bracket, the non-itemizer single filer will see a \$220 tax reduction for a \$1,000 donation and a couple a \$440 tax reduction for a \$2,000 donation.

### Christmas Caroling



All are invited to join us as we go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 pm. We will visit some of our older members. We will meet at the church and travel across town. We will return to the church for hot chocolate and cookies afterwards. If you want to join us, please sign up at church or email the church office at [centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com](mailto:centralbaptistchurch16@gmail.com).

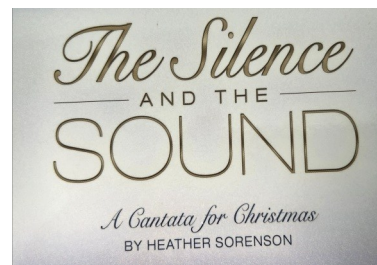
### **Our 2025 Christmas Cantata**

Mark your calendars and join us for one or all three performances of this year's special musical presentation. Enjoy the combined voices of several church choirs and a fantastic orchestral accompaniment.

Saturday, December 13th at Seventh Day Ashaway @ 3:00 pm

Saturday, December 13th at Seventh Day Westerly @ 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 14th at Central Baptist @ 5:00 pm





## **Celebrate the Lord's Birth with us During this Christmas Season**

### **December 6th**

**9:00am - Friendship Circle's  
Christmas Bazaar**

**11:30am - Bazaar Luncheon**

**3:00pm - Christmas Concert with  
Westminster Strings at the Armory**

### **December 13th**

**\*Christmas Cantata\***

**3:00pm - First Seventh Day Baptist,  
Ashaway**

**6:00pm - First Seventh Day Baptist, Westerly**

### **December 14th**

**10:30am - White Gift Sunday**

**\*Christmas Cantata\***

**5:00pm - Central Baptist Church**

### **December 21st**

**10:30am - Christmas Sunday**

**6:00 pm - Christmas Caroling**

### **December 24th**

**\*Christmas Eve Candlelight Services\***

**7:00pm - Family Service**

**11:30pm - Late Night Service**



## Central Baptist's Mission in North Carolina



Our team worked on two homes in Burnsville, North Carolina in October. Sixteen members and friends of CBC were members of the mission team. We did some painting, trim work, inserted door latches, reworked some electrical and built some stairs. It was a very good week. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.





## The One Year Bible December



- December 1 ~ Daniel 8:1-27, 1 John 2:1-17, Psalm 120:1-7, Proverbs 28:25-26
- December 2 ~ Daniel 9:1-11:1, 1 John 2:18-3:6, Psalm 121:1-8, Proverbs 28:27-28
- December 3 ~ Daniel 11:2-35, 1 John 3:7-24, Psalm 122:1-9, Proverbs 29:1
- December 4 ~ Daniel 11:36-12:13, 1 John 4:1-21, Psalm 123:1-4, Proverbs 29:2-4
- December 5 ~ Hosea 1:1-3:5, 1 John 5:1-21, Psalm 124:1-8, Proverbs 29:5-8
- December 6 ~ Hosea 4:1-5:15, 2 John 1:1-13, Psalm 125:1-5, Proverbs 29:9-11
- December 7 ~ Hosea 6:1-9:17, 3 John 1:1-14, Psalm 126:1-6, Proverbs 29:12-14
- December 8 ~ Hosea 10:1-14:9, Jude 1:1-25, Psalm 127:1-5, Proverbs 29:15-17
- December 9 ~ Joel 1:1-3:21, Revelations 1:1-20 1:1-10, Psalm 128:1-6, Proverbs 29:18
- December 10 ~ Amos 1:1-3:15, Revelations 2:1-17, Psalm 129:1-8, Proverbs 29:19-20
- December 11 ~ Amos 4:1-6:14, Revelations 2:18-3:6, Psalm 130:1-8, Proverbs 29:21-22
- December 12 ~ Amos 7:1-9:15, Revelations 3:7-22, Psalm 131:1-3, Proverbs 29:23
- December 13 ~ Obadiah 1:1-21, Revelations 4:1-11, Psalm 132:1-18, Proverbs 29:24-25
- December 14 ~ Jonah 1:1-4:11, Revelations 5:1-14, Psalm 133:1-3, Proverbs 29:26-27
- December 15 ~ Micah 1:1-4:13, Revelations 6:1-17, Psalm 134:1-3, Proverbs 30:1-4
- December 16 ~ Micah 5:1-7:20, Revelations 7:1-17, Psalm 135:1-21, Proverbs 30:5-6
- December 17 ~ Nahum 1:1-3:19, Revelations 8:1-13, Psalm 136:1-26, Proverbs 30:7-9
- December 18 ~ Habakkuk 1:1-3:19, Revelations 9:1-21, Psalm 137:1-9, Proverbs 30:10
- December 19 ~ Zephaniah 1:1-3:20, Revelations 10:1-11, Psalm 138:1-8, Proverbs 30:11-14
- December 20 ~ Haggai 1:1-2:23, Revelations 11:1-19, Psalm 139:1-24, Proverbs 30:15-16
- December 21 ~ Zechariah 1:1-21, Revelations 12:1-17, Psalm 140:1-13<sup>a</sup>, Proverbs 30:17
- December 22 ~ Zechariah 2:1-3:10, Revelations 13:1-18, Psalm 141:1-10, Proverbs 30:18-20
- December 23 ~ Zechariah 4:1-5:11, Revelations 14:1-20, Psalm 142:1-7<sup>a</sup>, Proverbs 30:21-23
- December 24 ~ Zechariah 6:1-7:14, Revelations 15:1-8, Psalm 143:1-12, Proverbs 30:24-28
- December 25 ~ Zechariah 8:1-23, Revelations 16:1-21, Psalm 144:1-15, Proverbs 30:29-31
- December 26 ~ Zechariah 9:1-17, Revelations 17:1-18, Psalm 145:1-21<sup>a</sup>, Proverbs 30:32
- December 27 ~ Zechariah 10:1-11:17, Revelations 18:1-24, Psalm 146:1-10, Proverbs 30:33
- December 28 ~ Zechariah 12:1-13:9, Revelations 19:1-21, Psalm 147:1-20, Proverbs 147:1-20
- December 29 ~ Zechariah 14:1-21, Revelations 20:1-15, Psalm 148:1-14, Proverbs 31:8-9
- December 30 ~ Malachi 1:1-2:17, Revelations 21:1-27, Psalm 149:1-9, Proverbs 31:10-24
- December 31 ~ Malachi 3:1-4:6, Revelations 22:1-21, Psalm 150:1-6, Proverbs 31:25-31





## Just For Kids



# Puzzle!

## The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) NEAGLO \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) NRMEDAG \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) ODEKSNY \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) AMGYR \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) OHESJIP \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) EFJSUS \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) ITEENMSW \_\_\_\_\_
- (9) SPHDSREEO \_\_\_\_\_
- (10) EMCFAL \_\_\_\_\_
- (11) TLSRA \_\_\_\_\_
- (12) CSSNUEO \_\_\_\_\_
- (13) HEVSPE \_\_\_\_\_
- (14) ENIN \_\_\_\_\_



1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8

9    10    11    12    13    14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E), God's Gift of Love



## SMILES AND SO FORTH

Humor, Wisdom, Poetry, Quizzes, and So Forth

### The Angels' Song in Three Words

On the very first Christmas Eve, frightened shepherds were suddenly surrounded by light and music. A choir of angels filled the night sky, singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Kingsley reflected on how those three simple words - glory, peace, and good will - still capture the meaning of Jesus' birth and the hope it brings.

**Glory.** God's glory isn't shown in dazzling displays of power but in humility and mercy. The baby in the manger revealed God's greatness by stooping low, forgiving, and showing love.

**Peace.** True peace is more than the absence of conflict. It comes when we follow God's example of selflessness, giving up pride and selfish ambition to live in harmony with one another.

**Good will.** God's good will toward us is a gift that transforms our lives. Through Jesus, God invites us out of selfishness and sin into a life marked by love, kindness, and community.

The angels' song wasn't meant only for shepherds long ago. It still sings to us today, calling each of us to live in glory, peace, and good will.

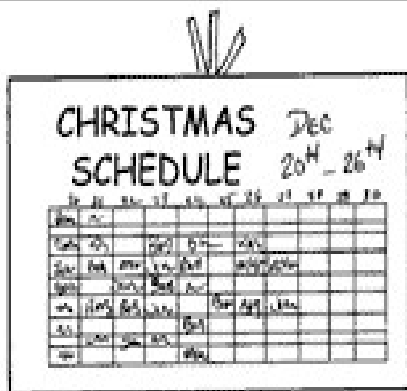
### Bible Quiz

Who told Mary that her child would be called "the Son of the Most High"?



- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph

Answer: B (See Luke 1:26-32.)



"Those of you who claim to not know Christ should have no problem working on His birthday."

**Prayer List**

Arthur Burton  
Joan Cushman  
Marcia Erskine  
Mark Faiola



Katie Feinstein  
Arline Fitzhugh  
Connie Gavitt



Judy Grady  
John Healy  
Harry Higgins  
Vicky Keane

Dan & Valerie LaPointe  
Jason Lautzenheiser

Lori Lord  
Gary Lowe

Lin Lowe's brother, Bobbie  
Ann Mason

Rev. Joshua McClure  
John Millett  
Brian Moore

Barbara Neugent

Dr. Newman, Mission Honduras  
Regina Pendleton

Kay Perrone

Terri & Bill Plumley

Dolores Sais

Karen Stellmaker

Ruth Ann & Jim Stewart

Ron Taddie

Skip Terwilliger

Jackie Turner

Elizabeth Webster

Bruce Williams

Unsaved

Victims of Fires

Victims of Hurricanes

World Peace

If you would like to be added to  
our text prayer chain, please  
email the church office and we  
will add you.

**Those in the Military:**

Sargent Jordan Payne, Camp Lejeune, NC  
Cpt. Evan Caval, Ft. Campbell, KY  
Lieutenant Colonel Brian Gavitt  
Lance Corporal Christian Smith  
Sargent David Aiello, US Marines



All of those who serve in our armed forces.



Mabel & John Payne Jr. - 7th  
Casey & John Payne - 14th  
Diane & Bob Johnson - 18th

***A Christmas Prayer***

*Dear God, thank you for letting me have  
family and friends to celebrate with at  
Christmas time. I pray that those people  
who don't have anyone can still have a  
Merry Christmas. Make me a worker for  
You, so I can help someone who isn't  
feeling happy this Christmas. In Your  
name, I pray. Amen.*

The beauty of  
*Christmas*  
is not in the  
presents but in  
*His presence.*  
Matthew 1:23

**Our Shut in Members at Home**

Judy Grady, Ann Mason & Rev. Joshua McClure

**Royal Nursing Home**

Kay Perrone  
79 Beach St, Westerly 02891

**The Elms**

Joan Cushman  
Tom Beaudoin  
Peggy Hewett  
Ron Taddy  
22 Elm Street, Westerly, RI 02891

**Benchmark Plymouth Crossing**

Winnie Hamilton, 157 South Street - Apt 218,  
Plymouth, MA 02360

**Pendleton Rehabilitation and Nursing Center**

Elizabeth Webster, 44 Maritime Drive  
Mystic, CT 06355

***Sick & Shut-in***



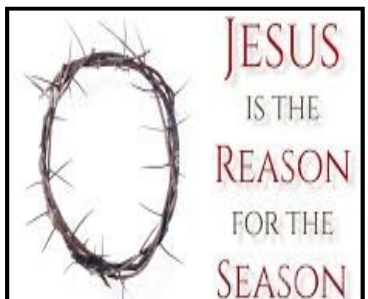
1 David Caswell  
6 Geri Maloney  
8 Cindy Capizzano  
10 Jonathan Gibson  
11 Judy Grady  
14 Beth Calabro  
15 Jim Servidio  
16 Carol Potter  
18 Bob Johnson  
19 Elizabeth Johnson  
21 Richard DeBernard  
21 Mary Evans  
28 Cheryl Murray  
29 Linda Behringer  
29 Nancy Gibson  
30 Doris Caswell  
31 Agnes Trebisacci



1 Eva Payne  
1 Geon Dowding  
4 Kelsi Crockford  
5 Jodi Savage  
5 Christine West  
7 Georgette DeBernardo  
7 Issac Payne  
8 Quinn Burnside  
8 Kent Greene  
8 Navellah Njie  
8 Maraya Terwilliger  
12 Chelsea Gerrish  
13 Iris Giorno  
14 Lynn Johnson

**Happy  
Birthday!**

May God bless you on your  
birthday, and always.





# DECEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00PM Cantata Rehearsal 6:30PM ManUp	2 6:30PM Mission Board	3 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00PM CPR Class 6:30PM Mid-Week Worship 7:00PM Friendship Circle Weight Watchers	4	5 2:30PM Set-up CNS rooms 5:00PM Tables 2B set-up 7:30 Intro to Worship with Band Scott Gail	6 9:00AM Bazaar 3:00PM Westminster Christmas Concert
7 Communion Sunday 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship	8 5:30PM Christian Ed Board	9 7:00PM Sisters in Christ	10 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Mid-Week Worship Weight Watchers	11	12	13 8:00AM Men's Breakfast Cantata @ 7th Day 3:00PM in Ashway 6:00PM in Westerly
14 White Gift Sunday 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship 5:00PM Cantata @ Central	15 4:30PM Trustee Board 6:30PM Deacon Board Newsletter Deadline	16	17 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Mid-Week Worship Weight Watchers	18	19 1:30PM CNS Family Engagement 7:30 Intro to Worship with Band Scott Gail	20
21 Christmas Sunday 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship 6:00PM Christmas Caroling	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00PM & 11:30PM Candlelight Service WARM Meal-Deacons <b>Christmas Eve</b>	25 Christmas Day  closed Christmas Day!	26  <b>Office Closed</b>	27 10:00AM Almost Persuaded
28 9:00AM Adult Sun School 10:30AM Worship	29	30	31  <b>NEW YEAR'S BLESSINGS!</b>			



**Central Baptist Church**

16 Elm Street  
Westerly, RI 02891  
Phone [401] 596-4929

centralbaptist@cbcwesterly.org

**Return Service Requested**

*We join together to nurture  
Christ-centered faith, foster  
Christ-like maturity, and share  
Christ's ministry within our  
family, community and world.*

Monthly Newsletter



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