

# THE SPIRE

Volume 67 • No. 16 • November 20, 2020



## HANDS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS

First Baptist Church, Rome

NOVEMBER 22:  
SIGN-UPS BEGIN TO PROVIDE GIFTS

DECEMBER 13:  
ALL GIFTS DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

### FROM OUR PASTOR

Most evenings when our family gathers around the table to eat supper, we share a time that we call “mad, sad, glad.” Everyone goes around and shares at least 3 things—something that might have made them mad, or something that might have made them sad, or something that might have made them glad. Sometimes we might not stay exactly within the categories, but that’s not the point. The point is to share with each other about our days. I have been recently reminded of how important that is in these days where the anxiety is a little more and the chaos is a little higher.

When we do feel like we want to turn inward from the harsh reality of the world around us, one of the ways that we can push back against that feeling is to share with others. We might share our time with others by volunteering at the church or with a community partner. We might share our resources or our skills in ways that help our neighbor. We might give some of our

money to support the mission and ministry of the church and the needs that are met through it. What might you give and share that might also serve to help you feel hopeful about our future?

There are two ways that you can participate in giving right now at FBC. The first is to commit to partnering with our church family through our stewardship campaign for the coming year. Return your pledge card and help us make an impact in our world through sharing of our tithes and offerings with the church. The second is to participate in our Hands of Christ Christmas effort this year. We are committed to deepening our support of those we are already in relationship with this year, and if you aren’t sure how you can be a part of it, let’s talk about it!

With deep gratitude,



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### TAKE HOME "ADVENTURE KITS"

Take Home ADVENTure Kits will be available beginning November 22nd for pick-up. Make sure to grab this resource so that you can celebrate Advent at home as a family!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT UPDATE

With the input of the COVID-19 task force, the decision was made for November 18th to be our final Wednesday night for 2020. See email newsletter or Facebook post for more information. We plan to resume Wednesday night activities on January 13th, but will need some new volunteers to do this. Contact Kristen if you might be willing to serve for the spring semester of January-May.

### WORSHIP SIGN UP

Be sure to sign your family up for worship! Due to our suspending Wednesday night activities in December, the age range for children's worship will be extended to include kindergarten-4th grade. Preschool and infant care will continue to be offered.

### BLESSING BAGS

The Davies Shelter has provided a list of items to make 'Blessing Bags' for the holiday season for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. This list will be provided in your ADVENTure Kits, as well as a gallon ziploc bag to collect items. You will be invited to turn in your Blessing Bags in a drive-by fashion on Wednesday December 9th & pick up a special holiday treat!

### CHRISTMAS BINGO

Since we won't be meeting in-person, on Wednesday December 2nd we will have Christmas bingo via Zoom! There will be fun holiday prizes, and your Christmas bingo cards will be in your ADVENTure kits as well.

## YOUTH NEWS

### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

FBC Youth Ministry will journey through Advent together. Printed booklets have been mailed to homes this week. We encourage your family to share this resource and make the journey together.



## MUSIC MINISTRY

### CHRISTMAS AT FIRST BAPTIST

"Christmas at First Baptist" Concert Every Week. We will not be able to offer a live concert this year. During the four Sundays of Advent, at 4:00 p.m. each Sunday, we will broadcast recordings of "Christmas at First Baptist" concerts from the last 20 years. These can be accessed on our website and will be broadcast over Comcast 44, as well. It will be fun to see how the concert (and the choir) has changed over the years. Be sure to promote this with friends and neighbors (and even family out of town!)

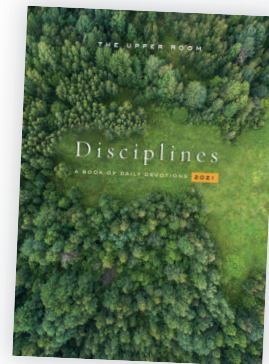
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES

One of the ways we intentionally grow our faith, is by investing time each day to read the Bible and pray.

The church is again providing copies of the Upper Room *Disciplines* devotional guide. These have arrived and will be available to be picked up beginning on Wednesday, December 2. Copies will be in the Narthex on Sundays, in the Curbside pickup area on Wednesdays, and in the lobby of the office at other times during the week.

If you need assistance, please contact Tamara and she will arrange to leave a copy in the "newspaper box".



### PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS

Since mid-March, the ministers have provided a daily reflection online as a way to keep us all connected. These are now being provided *only* on Mondays. Ministers will rotate providing the weekly reflection. Your response to these reflections has been very positive and the ministers hope that you will continue to be blessed and challenged by these weekly thoughts.

### ADVENT WORSHIP

Our Advent worship theme this year is "He Comes to Us" and will address each week how hope, peace, joy and love are needed even more during this crazy time in the world. "Christ, Be Our Light" will be our theme song.



### FIRST CHOICE CURBSIDE DINNERS

CONTINUE ON WEDNESDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 9TH

PICKUP TIMES ARE BETWEEN 4:45-6:00 P.M.

Even though we are unable to sit around tables in the Fellowship Hall, we ARE able to enjoy the yummy mid-week meals prepared by Chef Greg. Each bag includes two adult servings of Salad, Entrée, and dessert and packaged in microwavable containers. Total cost is \$12.00.

Make a reservation each week (by noon on Tuesday) or request a "standing reservation" by calling the church office or emailing Debbye Akins [dakins@fbcrome.org](mailto:dakins@fbcrome.org).

**Note: Those with a standing reservation need only advise if you do not plan to pick up that particular week.**



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROME

100 East 4th Avenue Rome, GA 30161 706.291.6850 [www.fbcrome.org](http://www.fbcrome.org)

## WELCOME TO THE CHURCH FAMILY



PLEASE WELCOME:  
Steve and Ginger Smith

## MISSIONS MINISTRY

### HANDS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS

Thank you so much for the family submissions we have received thus far! We are excited about the ways in which we will partner with you to support families from our community at Christmas and throughout the coming year. Beginning on November 22, you will have the opportunity to sign up to provide gifts for those individuals who have been identified. A link will be provided to you via email and also the church's Facebook page. Gifts will be due to the church office no later than Sunday, December 13. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Barron, Jennifer Uldrick, Amy Cox, or John Uldrick.

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY MONDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

Join us on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel, which allows space for distancing. Please enter through the Community Room door to check in. If you have questions, please contact Tamara Smathers.

## SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, November 22, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Eula and John Kirkland and David Kirkland by John and Mary Kirkland.

## GIVING TO GOD

### Year-to-Date:

Ministry Support Needed	\$218,166.72
Support Received	\$220,017.59

2020-2021 Total Budget Commitments to Date	\$458,083.48
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November 21 - December 4

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Saturday, November 21

Minister on Call

Keith Reaves 706.292.9620

### Sunday, November 22

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)	9:00 am
Bible Study (Adults), Zoom	9:45 am
Worship - Comcast Channel 44	11:00 am
Worship also available on FBC Website / Facebook Live	11:00 am

### Monday, November 23

FBC Serves Community Kitchen	8:00 am
Women's Bible Study, Chapel	10:00 am

### Wednesday, November 25

FBC Serves Community Kitchen	8:00 am
Church Office Closes at 12:00 p.m.	

### Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)

Church Office Closed

### Friday, November 27

FBC Serves Community Kitchen	8:00 am
Church Office Closed	

### Saturday, November 28

Minister on Call

Matt DuVall 706.254.1323

### Sunday, November 29 (First Sunday in Advent)

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)	9:00 am
Bible Study (Adults), Zoom	9:45 am
Worship - Comcast Channel 44	11:00 am
Worship also available on FBC Website / Facebook Live	11:00 am
Christmas at First Baptist - First Advent Concert	4:00 pm
Comcast Channel 44 or FBC Website	

### Monday, November 30

Women's Bible Study, Chapel	10:00 am
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### Wednesday, December 2

First Choice Curbside Meals ( <i>Reservation Only</i> )	4:45-6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Chapel/Zoom	6:00-6:15 pm
Adult Bible Study, Chapel/Zoom	6:20-7:00 pm

### Thursday, December 3

Women's Small Group, Zoom	5:45 pm
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### GINGER ALEXANDER'S LIFE VERSE:

"Direct my footsteps according to your word;  
let no sin rule over me."

Psalms 119:133

seeking His heart | Being His hands



## THIS WEEK: NOVEMBER 22

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERMON: "Wilderness Gratitude"

PREACHER: Rev. Greg Pope

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 8:7-18

SPECIAL MUSIC: Mary Donahue

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:

<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

NO FIRST CHOICE CURBSIDE MEALS SERVED  
ON NOVEMBER 25

MINISTER ON CALL:

Keith Reaves 706.292.9620

# THE SPIRE

## SUNDAY SERVICES

BROADCAST LIVE ON  
COMCAST CHANNEL 44 AND  
VIA [WWW.FBCROME.ORG](http://WWW.FBCROME.ORG)



## Christmas Eve

### S E R V I C E

Christmas Eve worship will be different this year! The service will be at 5:00 p.m. outside in front of the Sanctuary. Plans are to take over Fourth Avenue, with everyone bringing their own chairs. It will be a condensed service, but we still plan to have Frank Murphy, candles, and "Silent Night!" Plans are for the service to be live-streamed and to be shown over Comcast. It will be a meaningful and memorable time for our church family and the community. Watch for more details.

## NEXT WEEK: NOVEMBER 29

### FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT: HOPE

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERMON: "He Comes to Us...with Hope"

PREACHER: Rev. Matt DuVall

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

ANTHEM: Christ Be Our Light...arr. Joel Randy

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:

<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

FIRST CHOICE CURBSIDE MEALS  
(RESERVATIONS BY NOON ON TUESDAY)

### DECEMBER 2

Mixed Green Salad

Baked Ham with Pineapple

Macaroni & Cheese

Peas & Carrots

Carrot Cake

MINISTER ON CALL:

Matt DuVall 706.254.1323

Please visit us for more information:  
[www.fbcrome.org](http://www.fbcrome.org)

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