



FROM OUR PASTOR

A few weeks ago I went to a store to do a little holiday shopping and one of the shop owners, who was close to the front door, greeted me and said, “Welcome! We are so glad you are here! Is there anything we can help you with?” Personal connection like that is one of the reasons I love to shop local, but that greeting has stayed with me for other reasons too.

One way of thinking about Advent is that it is a greeting. It is a welcome. We spend most of our time during Advent talking about ways that we can prepare our hearts and our lives to welcome in the birth of the Christ-child to this world, and while that is good and right for us to think about, it is only half of the story. In this moment of the God-self coming into the world, we are also being welcomed further into God’s story. We are being welcomed to participate in God’s redeeming work in this world. We are being welcomed further into the reality of God’s love for all the world. We are being welcomed further into God’s desire to draw humanity into the transforming power of God’s gift of self.

This Christmas, how might you further embrace God’s welcome that has already come to you? Does it inspire you into further service? Do you feel the call to draw the circle wider to bring more people into that gracious welcome? This has been a long and difficult year for many families for many different reasons, and maybe for you and for most of us, the truth of God-with-us has never been more important. God’s redeeming love has indeed come into this world. Thanks be to God for that incredible gift. May the gift of God’s love, come down at Christmas, be as real to hands as hands and feet and nearer than each breath, and may we gladly share that Good News!

Grace and peace,

Christmas Eve SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 AT 5:00 P.M.

We will gather in front of the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. The service will be about 30 minutes long. Masks are required.

All reservations have been filled, but the service will be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 44 and livestreamed over the church website and Facebook page. See inside for more information about rain plans and how you can participate even if you can’t come to the service.

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL - 2020-2021

Ready to send your child to preschool in January? Email mwood@fbcrome.org or call 706.295.1150 to ask about the policies and procedures we have in place to keep your child & family healthy. Even if you're not ready this year, we'll be registering for the 2021-2022 school year in February, so watch for that. We're having a great year at First Baptist Weekday Preschool and would love for your child to join us!



CHILDREN'S CORNER

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

As of right now, we plan to resume Wednesday Night children's activities on January 20th, but we need your help! If you would be willing to help teach Bible Study or Missions this coming semester, please reach out to Kristen. A huge thanks to those who have already reached out to volunteer.

EPIPHANY STARS

On Sunday, January 3rd, Epiphany stars will be available for families. Your family will receive an Epiphany star with a special word on it that will guide your family through the coming year. Distribution will be random, so you will not choose your word, but simply receive it. This will be a new annual tradition, so make sure to keep your star in a special place! There will be activities throughout the year around your star word to help it guide your family.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, FROM 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM
AT HOOD FARM

Join us as we decorate ornaments, eat dinner, and watch a Christmas movie!

MUSIC MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS AT FIRST BAPTIST

The final "Christmas at First Baptist" Concert will be Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 p.m. The fourth Sunday in Advent will feature our 2019 Concert and can be accessed on our website as well as broadcast over Comcast Channel 44. We have received so many favorable responses and agree it has been amazing 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!)

INTERIM PIANIST

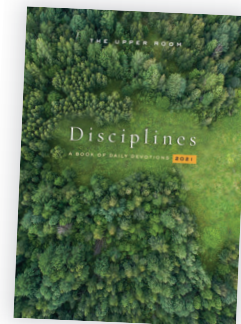
Beverly Harris has asked to take a leave of absence for a few months, beginning December 21. Gwen Stephens has agreed to serve as interim pianist. We are grateful for the gifts and commitment of these talented musicians.

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 are now available for pick up in the Narthex on Sundays 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

These are now being provided *only* on Mondays. The ministers 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

With uncertainty about the weather for Christmas Eve, a call will be made by noon on December 23 on whether the service will be held outside as planned. If the outside service is canceled the ministers will provide a live-streamed virtual service at 5:00 p.m. from the sanctuary. Unfortunately, only the ministers will be able to be inside for this service. If we have to cancel, or you are not able to attend the Christmas Eve service, the staff is offering opportunities for you to have a way to participate in our long-standing tradition of lighting candles at the end of the service. On Sunday, December 20, after worship until 12:45 p.m. and on Wednesday, December 23, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. the staff will be in front of the church on Fourth Avenue with candles and service programs for you and your family. We hope this will help you feel at least somewhat connected to your church during this crazy time.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the Sanctuary Narthex, Office Lobby, and the Community Room Lobby or can be mailed upon request.

FIRST CHOICE CURBSIDE DINNER IN 2021

RESUMES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

PICKUP TIMES ARE BETWEEN 4:45-5:45 P.M.

Resumes Wednesday, January 6. The response to this ministry of "table fellowship at a distance" has been greater than we ever imagined! If you would like to give it a try in the new year, we would certainly welcome your reservations by each Tuesday at noon. One change: Pickup times will be from 4:45-5:45 p.m.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021, 6:15 P.M.

This will be hosted through Zoom and a link will be provided ahead of time.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROME

100 East 4th Avenue Rome, GA 30161 706.291.6850 www.fbcrome.org

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH FAMILY



PLEASE WELCOME:
Linda C. Reid

GENA CONRAD'S LIFE VERSE:

"You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit."

Job 10:12

END OF YEAR GIVING

As you make plans to support various charities and organizations at the end of the year, please include your church in your plans. You can always make your gift by writing a check and mailing it to our office, or by using our secure giving page on our website before the end of the year. We can receive gifts of appreciated stock or other assets that you might give to support our daily mission and ministries, or this might be a good time for you to make a gift to our Foundation or to endow a fund in our FBC Foundation in honor or in memory of someone. If you have any questions about opportunities or about making a gift this year, please contact Linda Beard or Matt DuVall. Thank you for your generosity.

GIVING TO GOD

Year-to-Date:

Ministry Support Needed	\$395,774.82
Support Received	\$491,365.52

2020-2021 Total Budget Commitments to Date \$1,112,810.48

IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE: To insure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2020 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax deductible if you file before receiving a written acknowledgement. **Year-end contributions must be received in the church office by 4:00 p.m., Thursday, December 31 or postmarked by December 31.** For contributions made with a bank credit card by December 31, 2020, you can claim the deduction for the tax year 2020 even though the credit card bill is paid in the next year. Contributions made with a retail store credit card are only tax deductible for the year you actually pay the credit card bill.

seeking His heart | *Being His* hands

December 19 - January 1

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, December 19

Minister on Call

Kristen Pope 502.693.5644

Sunday, December 20 (Fourth Sunday in Advent - Love)

Covid Task Force Team Mtg., Zoom	8:00 am
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	
Christmas at First Baptist - 2019 Concert	4:00 pm
Comcast Channel 44 or FBC Website	
Youth Christmas Party, Hood Farm	4:30-8:00 pm

Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Church Office Closed

Christmas Eve Service

5:00 pm

Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 26

Minister on Call

Keith Reaves 706.292.9620

Sunday, December 27 (World Hunger Sunday)

Covid Task Force Team Mtg., Zoom	8:00 am
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, December 28

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

8:00 am

Wednesday, December 30

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

8:00 am

Friday, January 1 (New Years Day)

Church Office Closed

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

8:00 am

VICKI GEE'S LIFE VERSE:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 20

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT: LOVE SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERMON: "Declare Love"

PREACHER: Rev. Matt DuVall

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

ANTHEM: Go, Tell it on the Mountain...
arr. Benjamin Harlan

SPECIAL MUSIC: James Douglas

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

MINISTER ON CALL:

Kristen Pope 502.693.5644

NEXT WEEK: DECEMBER 27

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERMON: "What Holds You Captive?"

PREACHER: Rev. John Uldrick

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:4-7

ANTHEM: What Child Is This?...
arr. Sandy Wilkinson

SPECIAL MUSIC: Maggie Inman

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

MINISTER ON CALL:

Keith Reaves 706.292.9620

THE SPIRE

SUNDAY SERVICES

BROADCAST LIVE ON
COMCAST CHANNEL 44 AND
VIA WWW.FBCROME.ORG



HANDS OF CHRIST

CHRISTMAS

First Baptist Church, Rome



The Hands of Christ Christmas Committee is overwhelmed by the ways in which our church membership supported the effort in 2020. Your generosity exceeded all of our expectations, and each family was blown away at the ways you showed up and shopped!

With your support, we:

- Enriched already established connections with 31 families
- Provided over 480 gifts
- Raised over \$18,500 for the effort

We purchased gifts of clothing, toys, and household items. We offered counseling support, provided transportation, supplied clean, comfortable beds, and made home repairs. We made ADVENT worth waiting for. Christ is alive in the lives of these families, and Christ is more visible because of the ways you have helped us achieve this God-sized dream. Thank you isn't enough, but it's necessary all the same.

Merry Christmas!
HOCC Committee

Please visit us for more information:
www.fbcrome.org

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