

# THE SPIRE

Volume 68 • No. 1 • January 1, 2021



## FROM OUR PASTOR

I remember the first time I went to an eye doctor to get my eyes checked. I didn't know what to expect and I was a little nervous to have someone so close to my face, but at the end of the appointment I was told that I had 20/20 vision. That did not mean that I had perfect vision, but it did mean that I could see what the normal person could see at the normal distance.

As we have made our way through 2020, many of us who would consider ourselves "normal" have been able to see a lot of changes and impact to our lives because of what has happened across the globe. I imagine you have spent time reflecting on what you have been through and maybe what you have lost or how the events of these months have impacted you and your loved ones. What are you able to see with renewed clarity as being important and essential for your health and well-being, both spiritual and physical and otherwise? As you look toward 2021, what do you want to carry forward into the new year with intentionality that might lead toward a better life for you and those around you?

I want to invite you to make a renewed commitment to growing in your faith in the year ahead. With all that we have experienced and with much of what has been impacted, it will be more essential than ever that we make intentional choices to engage our hearts and our minds. There are opportunities for Bible studies for adults and for youth and children. There are still places and ways we can serve God and serve others. What will you choose to do this New Year? I hope you will commit to grow as God's church in this place, and I look forward to the journey through a much better year.

Grace and peace,

### WELCOME 2021! START-UP DATES

#### JANUARY 6

First Choice Curbside Meals – 4:45-5:45 p.m.  
Prayer Time followed by Church Conference, Zoom – 6:00 p.m.

#### JANUARY 10

Youth BBQ Ticket Sale Begins

#### JANUARY 13

Churns Bible Study, Zoom – 6:00 p.m.  
Prayer Time, Chapel/Zoom – 6:00 p.m.  
Adult Bible Study, Chapel/Zoom – 6:20 p.m.  
"Setting Goals For Your Personal Discipleship" Seminar – 6:20 p.m.

#### JANUARY 14

Women's Small Group, Zoom – 5:45 p.m.

#### JANUARY 20

FBC Kids Connect – 6:00-7:15 p.m.  
Wednesday's Connection – 6:00-7:15 p.m.

#### JANUARY 25

Women's Bible Study, Chapel – 10:00 a.m.



## WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

### JANUARY OPENINGS AVAILABLE

Ready to send your child to preschool in January? Email [mwood@fbcrome.org](mailto: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 HELP NEEDED

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.

### NEW YEAR'S SCAVENGER HUNT

Look out for a New Year's Scavenger Hunt that will go out in the beginning of January! Winners of the Scavenger Hunt will receive pizza from their favorite place & hot chocolate bombs for the whole family!

### 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.

### CALEB AMERMAN'S LIFE VERSE:

"Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge."

Psalm 16:1

## YOUTH NEWS

### YOUTH BBQ SALE 2021

GMC Value Mart will help us prepare the BBQ this year. Tickets go on sale Sunday, January 10th. Pickup will be Saturday, February 6th. More details to come!

### WEDNESDAY'S CONNECTION

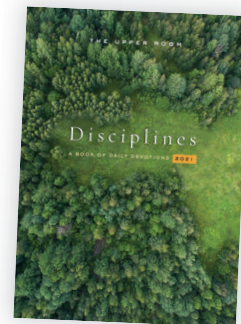
Make plans to gather in-person again starting Wednesday, January 20th from 6:00 - 7:15 pm. We'll kick off the semester with a fun night and then begin digging into scripture! Join us!

## 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".



### 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

RESUMES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

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

Back by popular demand, beginning January 6, we continue to connect midweek through this ministry. We may not be able to gather together around tables for fellowship, however, we ARE able to gather around the same meal and then join together for prayer time over Zoom.

Here's how: make a reservation, come to the Community Room parking lot at your designated pick up time, pay either by check, cash or card. Your meal will be handed to you through a window or placed in the backseat of your car.

Each bagged dinner is packaged with two adult servings of an entrée, side dish, salad, and dessert. The cost for each bag is \$12.

Please verify any changes to your standing reservation, or make weekly reservations (cut-off Tuesday at noon) by contacting Debbye Akins at [dakins@fbcrome.org](mailto:dakins@fbcrome.org), or by calling the church office. Menus are posted on the church website for each week.

Please note: Pick up times begin at 4:45 and end at 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.

### SETTING GOALS FOR YOUR PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 13, 20, AND 27

We often find ourselves this time of year setting goals for ourselves.

These may be related to our personal wellness or our vocation. What consideration might we give to making goals for our growth as a follower of Jesus?

Join Tamara Smathers on Wednesday evenings at 6:20 to develop a plan, or add to a plan that you have already begun.

There will be an option for Zoom attendees as well as those who wish to join in person.



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:  
John & Lee Ann Head  
and  
Ruth Reynolds  
(not pictured)

### CINDY CHILDS'S LIFE VERSE:

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and  
not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."  
Isaiah 40:31

### AVA HALL'S LIFE VERSE:

"The Lord will keep you from all harm-  
he will watch over your life;  
the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore."  
Psalm 120:7-8

## SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, January 3, are given to the glory of God and in loving of Willie and Mary Sue Barron by the Family.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, January 10, are given to the glory of God and in honor of Beverly Harris on the occasion of our wedding anniversary by Bob Harris.

## GIVING TO GOD

### Year-to-Date:

Ministry Support Needed	\$514,276.92
Support Received	\$563,233.35

World Vision, Meals & More and CBF World Hunger Relief	\$1,283.00
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2020-2021 Total Budget Commitments to Date	\$1,125,010.48
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seeking His heart | Being His hands

January 2 - January 15

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Saturday, January 2

Minister on Call

Matt DuVall 706.254.1323

### Sunday, January 3 (Epiphany 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	

### Wednesday, January 6

First Choice Curbside Meals ( <i>Reservation Only</i> )	4:45-5:45 pm
Prayer Time, Chapel/Zoom	6:00 pm
Church Conference, Zoom	6:15 pm

### Friday, January 8

Finance Committee Mtg., Zoom	12:00 pm
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### Saturday, January 9

Minister on Call	Tamara Tillman Smathers 706.266.7141
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### Sunday, January 10

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	
Youth BBQ Ticket Sale Begins	

### Monday, January 11

Deacons' Meeting via Zoom:	
Executive Committee Meeting	6:00 pm
General Meeting	6:30 pm

### Wednesday, January 13

First Choice Curbside Meals ( <i>Reservation Only</i> )	4:45-5:45 pm
Churns Bible Study, Zoom	6:00 pm
Prayer Time, Chapel/Zoom	6:00 pm
Adult Bible Study, Chapel/Zoom	6:20 pm
Setting Goals for your Personal Discipleship Seminar, Zoom	6:20 pm

### Thursday, January 14

Women's Small Group, Zoom	5:45 pm
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### KELLY SANKER'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 tran-  
scends all understanding, will guard your hearts and  
your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

## THIS WEEK: JANUARY 3

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

#### EPIPHANY SUNDAY

SERMON: "Giving Witness To The Light"

PREACHER: Rev. Matt DuVall

SCRIPTURE: John 1:(1-9), 10-18

ANTHEM: Beautiful Star of Bethlehem...  
arr. Keith Christopher

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

### FIRST CHOICE CURBSIDE MEALS (RESERVATIONS BY NOON ON TUESDAY)

#### JANUARY 6

Mixed Green Salad  
Homemade Chili Con Carne  
Cornbread  
Baked Potatoes  
Lemon Meringue Pie

MINISTER ON CALL:  
Matt DuVall 706.254.1323

## NEXT WEEK: JANUARY 10

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERMON: "You Are The Beloved"

PREACHER: Rev. Matt DuVall

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:4-11

ANTHEM: Who at My Door is Standing?...  
arr. K. Lee Scott

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

### FIRST CHOICE CURBSIDE MEALS (RESERVATIONS BY NOON ON TUESDAY)

#### JANUARY 13

Ambrosia Salad  
Breakfast Casserole  
Cheese Grits  
Danish Pastries

MINISTER ON CALL:  
Tamara Tillman Smathers 706.266.7141

# THE SPIRE

## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

### WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

On January 14, 2021, the Thursday evening Women's Small Group will be starting a new Bible study: *Forgiving What You Can't Forget* by Lysa Terkeurst. We invite you to join us for this 7-week Bible Study Zoom meeting (5:45-7:00 pm). This study requires purchase of the book and the study guide. Contact Gwen Stephens or Mary Donahue if you are interested!



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

The Spire (U.S.P.S. 613-160) is published bi-weekly.  
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100 East 4th Ave., Rome, GA 30161-3120  
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P.O. Box 1189, Rome, GA 30162

