

We are honored you have chosen to join us in worship. There is a time in our service when we will welcome guests; we will not, however, ask you to stand, raise your hand or do anything that makes you feel awkward. We would like to know you were here, however. Please fill out the information request below and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or minister. We promise to use it only to contact you about our church.

This is my (our)...

First visit to First Baptist Church

Second (+) visit

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Marital Status

Married Single Widow(er)

Telephone _____

Children at Home (Name/Age/Grade)

I am new to Rome.

I am interested in knowing more about First Baptist Church.

I would like to talk with a minister.

I would like to know how to become a Christian.

I am interested in becoming a member of First Baptist Church.

I am a guest of:

Sunday, December 12

9:00 a.m. Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)

9:45 a.m. Sunday Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Worship

3:00 p.m. Cool Yule (Children's Ministry)

Monday, December 13

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Elaine Lanier's Home

11:30 a.m. Ruble-Whitworth Mission Group - Zoom

5:15 p.m. First Baptist Ringers - Choir Suite

Tuesday, December 14

5:30 p.m. Pastor Search Committee

Wednesday, December 15

5:00 p.m. Deadline to Return Hands of Christ Christmas Gifts

Saturday, December 18

12:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Kay Bratton, on the occasion of our wedding anniversary, by Randy Bratton.

"ANGELS AMONG US" ART GALLERY EXHIBIT

The First Baptist Church Gallery has installed an art exhibit to enhance our Advent worship theme. Pieces on display include needlework, marble sculptures, watercolor, oil paintings, as well as vintage window displays from Rome's Ransom Florist. Take time to appreciate the artwork shared by many of our members. In addition, Elaine Lanier has invited us to appreciate her collection of angels, which are in the glass cases. The Gallery is on the Third Floor of the Education Building just as you exit the elevator.

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 continue to partner with you to support families in our community at Christmas and throughout the coming year. Beginning on November 28, 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, on our website, and also the church's Facebook page. Gifts will be due to the church office no later than Wednesday, December 15. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Barron, Jennifer Uldrick, Amy Cox, or John Uldrick.

SILENT LORDS SUPPER

Sunday, December 19. Communion will be served continuously from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Please enter through the front doors of the sanctuary and come and go as you please.

CHRISTMAS AT FIRST BAPTIST RECORDING

Our "Christmas at First Baptist" recording from a few years ago is still available two ways. You may purchase a CD in the church office for \$10 or you may download the recordings on Amazon. The album has more than a dozen Christmas carols by the Sanctuary Choir, special music by Joan Hill, Beverly Harris, Frank Murphy and Keith Reaves and closes with "Immanuel" featuring the Sanctuary Choir, Youth Choir and Children's Choir.

ANGELS AMONG US



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROME, GEORGIA
ADVENT 2021
DO NOT BE AFRAID



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

DECEMBER 12, 2021 11:00 A.M.

To help maintain a spirit of worship, please silence phones. We welcome a larger congregation through Comcast Channel 44 and through livestreams over the church website and YouTube. Masks are not required but are encouraged, especially when social distancing is not possible.

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude Joan Hill
"Lo, How A Rose"...arr. Gilbert Martin

Invocation Kristen Pope

"Angels Among Us" Threshold Moment

All night, all day, an-gels watch in' o-ver me, my Lord. All night, all day, an-gels watch in' o-ver me.

Lighting the Candle of Joy. Jeff, Tiffany, Alex and Ollin Martin

Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,
alight within us Your flame of joy this day.
Grant us openness to hear Your message.
**Grant us courage to be Your messengers in the world,
creating more joy in the midst of fear.**

Do not be a-fraid. Do not be a-fraid. Do not be a-fraid. Do not be a-fraid. An-gels watch-in' o-ver me.

*Carol of Joy No. 102 ANTIOCH
"Joy to the World"

Anthem of Joy. Sanctuary Choir
"Ding Dong! Merrily on High"...arr. Larry Shackley

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing.
Ding dong! Verily the sky is filled with angels singing.
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

All God's people here below are filled with joy and gladness,
For Messiah now we know has banished fear and sadness.

'Tis the long-awaited time; the Son of God is given!
And the ringing of the chime lifts all our hearts to heaven.

*Reading of Holy Scripture. Matthew 1:18-25
(The text may be found on page 955 in the Bibles in the pew racks.)

Bobby Keith, Pastor Search Committee, reader
Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

*Christmas Doxology
Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow, in every generation.
Praise Him, all creatures here below, Who gives to us salvation.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

Carol of Christmas No. 115. KINGSFOLD
"The Hands That First Held Mary's Child"
(Children ages four through third grade may depart of Children's Worship.)

Morning Prayer (with the Lord's Prayer) Dr. Ron Murray
Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Musical Offering. Daniel Fincher
"Joseph's Song"...Michael Card

Sermon. Dr. Murray
"Do Not Be Afraid"

*Carol of Response No. 122 IN DULCI JUBILO
"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Prayer of Stewardship John Uldrick

Offertory Emalee Collins, piano
"Bell Carol"...arr. Jerry Ray

Meditation Text:
Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, it only saps today of its joy.
—Leo Buscaglia

The Work of the Church Rev. Uldrick

*Pastoral Blessing and Passing of the Peace

Commissioning Song
Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Angels watchin' over me.

Postlude. Joan Hill, organ
"From Heaven Above...Johann Pachelbel

What is Advent?

The observance of Advent began in about the sixth century. Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas Day and the inclusive weekdays. The word, ADVENT, consists of two Latin words: ad-venie, "to come to." Therefore, the message of Advent is that God in Christ is coming to the world. One of the most beautiful traditions of Advent is the lighting of the Advent wreath. The wreath is circular in shape to represent the eternity of God, without beginning or end. Evergreens are used to symbolize God's gift of life and growth and life to come. The candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, symbolize God's Son as the light of the world. Individual attributes (hope, faith, joy, love) are linked with the individual candles. Three of the candles are purple, representing royalty. One candle is pink and is lit on the third Sunday and symbolizes joy. The fifth candle is white and larger and is in the center of the wreath to represent Christ and is therefore called the Christ Candle. We light this candle on Christmas Eve. The flame reminds us that Christ is the light of the world, the light which dispels all darkness and fear.

Children's Worship

Children ages four through third grade are invited to Children's Worship on the second floor of the Education Building. The children return to the sanctuary following worship.

Prayer Concerns

(Please place in offering plate or hand to a minister.)

Dr. Ron Murray
Interim Pastor

Keith A. Reaves
Senior Associate / Minister of Worship

Tamara Tillman Smathers
Minister of Education / Administration

John H. Uldrick
Minister to Students and Missions

Kristen Pope
Minister of Faith Development

Gwen Stephens
Minister to Extended Family

Joan Hill, Organist Beverly Harris, Pianist