

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 19

- 8:30 a.m. Adult Faith Development Committee
- 9:00 a.m. Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)
- 9:45 a.m. Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Silent Lord's Supper - Sanctuary

Monday, December 20

- 1:00 p.m. Women of the Church Book Group - Dining Room

Friday, December 24

- Church Office Closed - Christmas Eve
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

DISASTER RELIEF - KENTUCKY

The news coverage and stories coming out of Kentucky in the aftermath of this past weekend's tornadoes have been hard to hear. First Baptist Church will partner with CBF and CBFGA in our disaster response efforts. There are two easy ways you can help:

- Send money to FBC Rome and we will make sure CBF and CBFGA get those funds to the places most needed. Write checks to FBC Rome and mark Disaster Relief - KY or give through the website by choosing Missions Fund and Disaster Relief sub-fund.
- Make Disaster Response buckets - Go to any Lowes, Home Depot, Ace Hardware, etc., and get 5-gallon buckets with lids. Fill the buckets with necessary supplies. These supplies can help folks start putting things back together as they clean up their lives and possessions. CBF Georgia has made a great list available by visiting their website at <https://cbf.net/dr-volunteer>.

"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. The Gallery is on the Third Floor of the Education Building just as you exit the elevator.

HANDS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS

"Thank you" isn't a sufficient response to the ways this congregation supported the Hands of Christ Christmas effort in 2021. We are so grateful for the ways you signed up and provided gifts. Some gifts will be unwrapped by amazed children. Some gifts will keep a roof over a family's head. Some gifts will keep lights and heat on during these cold months. We are continually grateful for the ways you continue to show this community what "serving as the hands of Christ" looks like.

WOMEN'S EPIPHANY RETREAT - "CREATING HOLY SPACE"

Open yourself to receive God's gift of rest, relaxation and restoration. January 7-8 in Rome. Starting Friday at 6:00 p.m. and ending Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Worship, yoga, pottery and candle making. \$75 per person. Please contact Tamara Tillman Smathers for more information.

ANGELS AMONG US



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



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

DECEMBER 19, 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 Beverly Harris/Joan Hill
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. Mark Hayes/Marvin Gaspard

Invocation Dr. Ron Murray

"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 Love • Jack, Ashley, Mary Jack, Katy and Morgan Smith

Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,
alight within us Your flame of love this day.

Grant us openness to hear Your message.

**Grant us courage to be Your messengers in the world,
creating more love 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 Praise No. 143 GO TELL IT
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Musical Offering First Baptist Ringers
"Angels from the Realms of Glory" arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

*Reading of Holy Scripture. Luke 2:8-18
(The text may be found on page 1014 in the Bibles in the pew racks.)

Bobby Jones, 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. 123 CHRISTMAS
"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"
(Children ages four through third grade may depart of Children's Worship.)

Morning Prayer (with the Lord's Prayer) Kristen Pope

Musical Offering Sanctuary Choir
"The Shepherd's Lamb" Susan Boersma/Dan Forrest

A stable bare, a starlit sky, and under Heaven's watchful eye
a miracle in manger lay, the Lamb of God upon a bed of hay.

The first news of this glorious birth was told to those of little worth,
who left their flocks, as angels said, to find the Lamb of God in manger bed.

The shepherds paused at stable door, looked on the Lamb and in Him saw
their own good Shepherd, born a Lamb,
themselves the flock within the Shepherd's hand.

With shepherds gaze in wonder on the mystery of Heaven's plan;
The Shepherd, born to live with us,
is born to die for us, the shepherds' Lamb.

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Sermon. Dr. Murray
"This Will Be a Sign"

*Carol of Response No. 136 SAMFORD
"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

Prayer of Stewardship. Tamara Tillman Smathers

Offertory. First Baptist Ringers/Beverly Harris
"In A Manger" arr. Joel Raney

Meditation Text:
Where there is hatred, let me sow love. —Francis of Assisi

The Work of the Church Rev. Smathers

*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
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing: arr. Diane Bish

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.)

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- 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*