

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 26

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

9:45 a.m. All Sunday Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Worship

#### Monday, December 27

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

7:00 a.m. Youth Depart for West Virginia Ski Trip

#### Tuesday, December 28

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

#### Wednesday, December 29

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

#### Thursday, December 30

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

#### Friday, December 31

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

#### NEXT IS HERE!

Throughout the pandemic, people have asked, "What's next?" and "When will we be back to normal?" Our special emphasis in January answers those questions: **NEXT IS HERE**. "Here" in this case refers to two things: the time has arrived to recommit to being at Bible Study, worship and a new Wednesday night format; it also means it is happening "here" at First Baptist Rome. Watch for more details in this week's Spire. You will find information on special events throughout the month to celebrate. Contact any minister for more details. **NEXT IS HERE!**

#### "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.

#### HUNGER OFFERING

Help meet the needs of the homeless and hungry by contributing to the monthly hunger offering. Please put this offering in an envelope and mark it "WORLD HUNGER" and place it in the offering plate during the offertory time of the service. We will not be able to receive offering at the doors, as we usually do. Our gifts support Meals and More, World Vision, and The CBF Global Missions Hunger Relief.

#### 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 Melinda Duke or Keith Reaves. For donations to count for this tax year they must either be in the office by close of business December 31 or postmarked by December 31. The church office closes at 4:30 on Fridays. Thank you for your generosity.

#### 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

You can pick up your 2022 offering envelopes in the Narthex and on the ground floor near the elevator.

# ANGELS AMONG US



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
ROME, GEORGIA  
DO NOT BE AFRAID



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

DECEMBER 26, 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/Beverly Harris  
“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” . . . . . arr. Anna Laura Page

Invocation . . . . . John Uldrick

“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.

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

Grant us openness to hear Your message.

**Grant us courage to be Your messengers in the world,  
creating more life 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. 126 . . . . . REGENT SQUARE  
“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

\*Reading of Holy Scripture. . . . . Matthew 2:1-13  
(The text may be found on page 956 in the Bibles in the pew racks.)

Gwen Stephens, 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. 124 . . . . . THE FIRST NOWELL  
“The First Nowell”

Morning Prayer (with the Lord’s Prayer). . . . . Tamara Tillman Smathers  
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 . . . . . Sanctuary Choir  
“What Child Is This” . . . . . arr. Sandy Wilkinson  
(The text to this anthem may be found in Hymn 148.)

Sermon . . . . . Rev. Smathers  
“Following the Star”

\*Carol of Response No. 150 . . . . . DIX  
“As with Gladness Men of Old”

Prayer of Stewardship. . . . . Kristen Pope

Offertory. . . . . Beverly Harris  
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear/O, How He Loves You and Me” . . . . . arr. Phillip Keveren

**Meditation Text:**  
Wise men, they came to look for wisdom,  
finding one wiser than they knew;  
rich men, they met with one yet richer  
King of the kings, they knelt to you:  
Jesus, our wisdom from above,  
wealth and redemption, life and love.  
—Christopher Idle

The Work of the Church . . . . . Rev. Pope

\*Pastoral Blessing and Passing of the Peace

Commissioning Song No. 127 (Stanza Three)  
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Postlude. . . . . Joan Hill, organ  
“Noel No. 10” . . . . . Louis Claude Daquin

**Family Worship**  
Today is the last Sunday of the month. These days are designated as “Family Worship” days and all children sit with their families. Nursery care is available for children four and younger. Children’s Worship will return next Sunday.

**Joining First Baptist**  
We receive new members in several ways. Those who have never publicly acknowledged Christ as Lord join by public profession of faith. Baptism is scheduled for a later date. Members of other Baptist congregations may transfer their membership to our congregation. We handle the details of contacting your current church. Members of other Christian faith traditions are invited to join by “statement of faith.” Because other traditions vary in belief and practice, those joining by statement of faith are invited to speak with a minister before joining so that they might answer questions.

**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*