

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, January 2

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

9:45 a.m. All Sunday Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, January 3

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 5

4:45 p.m. First Choice Curbside meals (*Reservation Only*)

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Zoom

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God and provided by the Jo Huffman Flower Fund.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Willie and Mary Sue Barron by their Family.

Because of the recent surge of the COVID-19 virus among many church members and in our community, the "Next Is Here" emphasis is postponed.

Also, please note the following:

1. SUNDAYS: For now, Sunday Bible Study and worship will continue. **Masks continue to be encouraged for everyone, especially during this latest surge that is impacting church members and our community.**

2. WEDNESDAYS: No Wednesday activities are scheduled in the building for at least January 5 and 12. Dinner will be available curbside for as long as there are no in-person meals on Wednesdays. **Reservations are required by noon on Tuesday.** Prayer Meeting will be offered by Zoom at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays until in-person meetings resume.

Please watch for emails from the church and for information in the Spire and church Facebook page for more updates. The staff asks for your continued prayers as they try to find the best ways to minister and to keep everyone safe.

UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES

Disciplines is a daily devotional book is an excellent tool for those wishing to begin or deepen a devotional practice. Each day includes a Scripture to read, a short meditation, and prayer. Free copies may be picked up near the elevator and office doors and in the Narthex.



A Service of Christian Worship
January 2, 2022



First Baptist Church

Rome, Georgia

January 2, 2022

11:00 a.m.

To help maintain a spirit of worship, please silence electronic devices. We welcome a larger congregation through Comcast Channel 44 and through livestreams over the church website and YouTube.

Masks are encouraged in the building, especially as we deal with a new surge that is impacting church members and our community.

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude Joan Hill
“How Brightly Shines The Morning Star”...arr. Marsha Medley

Invocation. Tamara Tillman Smathers

* Hymn of Praise No. 119 LASST UNS ERFREUEN
“His Name Is Called Emmanuel”

* Reading of Holy Scripture. John 1:1-18
(The text may be found on page 1049 in the Bibles in the pew racks.)
Tamara Tillman Smathers, reader
Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

* Gloria Patri (Hymn 704)
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.

Hymn of Light No. 156 SHINE
“Shine, Jesus, Shine”
(Children ages four through third grade may depart for Children’s Worship.)

Morning Prayer. Keith A. Reaves
Let us pray to God, who alone makes us dwell in safety:
For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, graciously hear our prayers.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions:
Lord, graciously hear our prayers.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health:
Lord, graciously hear our prayers.

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace:
Lord, graciously hear our prayers.

For a new year, with all of its promises and possibilities:
Lord, graciously hear our prayers.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. Merciful Father,
accept these prayers in the name of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Musical Offering Sanctuary Choir
“Footsteps of Jesus”...arr. Benjamin Harlan
(The text to this anthem may be found in Hymn 496.)

Sermon. Dr. Bert Vaughn
“You Are a Witness to the Light”

* Hymn of Response No. 96 HOUSTON
“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Prayer of Stewardship. John Uldrick

Offertory Beverly Harris
“I Wonder as I Wander”...arr. Jason Tontoli

Meditation Text:
Come to the light, ’tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the light has dawned upon me;
Once I was blind, but now I can see:
The Light of the world is Jesus!
—P. P. Bliss

The Work of the Church Rev. Uldrick

* Pastoral Blessing and Passing of the Peace

Commissioning Song No. 156 (Refrain)
Shine, Jesus, shine, fill the land with the Father’s glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Postlude Joan Hill, organ
“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”... arr. Jerry Westenkuehler

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.

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.)

- 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*