



FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

CHRISTMAS AND RECONCILIATION

The Advent/Christmas season is very busy with cooking, shopping, wrapping, decorating, traveling, and socializing. With all of this activity, it is easy to lose your focus on the main purpose of the season: Christ's birth as the first stage in God's plan to reconcile sinful people to Him through their faith in Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Christ's crucifixion and resurrection are further essential stages in God's saving purpose through His only Son.

God has come to us through the Incarnation in the form of a flesh-and-blood person, in order to provide a satisfactory sacrifice for your sins and mine. The cross of Christ serves as the bridge between holy God and sinful people, and as the means of reconciliation by which the two are made one.

Reconciliation is the restoration of a broken relationship, a transition from enmity and fragmentation to harmony and fellowship. These Bible verses tell the good news about God's desire to love you and to be one with you: John 3:16; Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:20-22; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 1:3-10, 2:15-18.

During these days leading up to Christmas, meditate on the supreme blessing of being a reconciled child of God, and realize what your present and future would be like if He had not come to us in Christ His Son.

In 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, we see that God has given us the message and the ministry of reconciliation. He is saying that reconciled persons must be reconcilers. Which of your relationships need your reconciling ministry?

You are involved in many Christmas activities, but there is none as important as the mending of broken relationships through your gracious forgiveness and compassionate love.

The risen Christ is calling us to be a fellowship of reconciled people who are committed to our ministry of reconciliation.

Grace and Peace,

CHILDREN'S CORNER

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES RESUMES Wednesday night activities will resume on January 5th. Dinner will be served from 5-6:00 PM (there is always a kid-friendly option), and then children's activities will run from 6-7:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – NO CHILDCARE A reminder that there is no childcare for children of any age for the Christmas Eve service, but ALL children of every age are welcome and encouraged to attend this special night of worship. We welcome the sounds of little ones!

YOUTH NEWS

WINTER YOUTH SUMMIT

JANUARY 14-16, 2022 | HUNTSVILLE, AL

\$125 Per Participant | \$50 Deposit Due December 1

MARCH MISSION MADNESS

MARCH 18-20, 2022 | ATLANTA, GA

\$100 Per Participant | \$50 Deposit Due February 1

YOUTH SMALL GROUPS - SPRING 2022

Small group ministry is trying something different starting January 5, 2022. We are going to attempt to meet on Wednesday nights each week from 7:00-8:30 p.m. We hope you will engage our small group time and bring a friend. More details will be unveiled soon, but make plans to gather and attend the small group kickoff on Wednesday, January 5th from 7-8:30 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

CHURNS BIBLE STUDY

The CHURNS' Wednesday Night Women's Small Group will start a new study on January 12: *Life Lessons from 1, 2, 3, John and Jude: Living and Loving by Truth* by Max Lucado. The CHURNS meet each Wednesday at 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Builders' Bible Study room on the 3rd floor.

Anyone interested in joining our group for this study can contact Heather Shores or Gwen Stephens.

Creating Holy Space Epiphany Women's Retreat

Friday and Saturday
January 7-8, in Rome

Friday 6:00 p.m.-Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Worship, Yoga, Pottery, Candle making
\$75 per person.

*Open yourself to receive God's gifts of
light and grace.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"ANGELS AMONG US" ART GALLERY EXHIBIT The First Baptist Church Gallery has installed an art exhibit to enhance our Ad-

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.



SILENT LORD'S SUPPER

This tradition resumes this year on December 19. Communion will be served continuously from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please enter through the front doors of the sanctuary and come and go as you please.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve begins at 5 p.m. Candlelighters should meet Kristen at 4:15 p.m. and the choir will rehearse at 4:30 p.m. The service will be broadcast on Comcast Channel 44 and through our website and YouTube channel.

UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES

The 2022 Disciplines have arrived and are available. This 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.

Copies can be picked up near the elevator and office doors, as well as in the Narthex.

MAKE FBC YOUR FIRST CHOICE IN 2022

First Choice Dinners will return to the Fellowship Hall on January 5 with a full buffet and children's option. Join us for Prayer time in the Chapel at 4:30, Dinner between 5-6 p.m. and activities for all ages to follow.



NEXT IS HERE

Watch for details in the next Spire on this special emphasis for our church throughout the month of January.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROME

100 East 4th Avenue Rome, GA 30161 706.291.6850 www.fbcrome.org



MUSIC MINISTRY

MUSIC MINISTRY THANKS YOU!

It was wonderful to have so much support and encouragement before and after the 23rd Annual "Christmas at First Baptist" concert! Thanks to everyone to sang, prayed, played and attended. If you were unable to see the concert, you can watch a recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K34Bdqp5Dgk&t=1525s>



MISSIONS

HANDS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS

WOW! "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 and grandchildren. Some gifts will keep a roof over a family's head. Some gifts will keep lights and heat on during these cold months. We're continually grateful for the ways you continue to show this community what "serving as the hands of Christ" looks like.

GIVING TO GOD

Fiscal Year-to-Date:

Ministry Support Needed	\$338,547.00
Support Received	\$458,730.52

2021-2022 Total Budget Commitments to Date \$1,299,822.48

IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE: To insure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2021 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax deductible if you file before receiving a written acknowledgement. Year-end contributions must be received in the church office by 4:00 p.m., Friday, December 31 or postmarked by December 31. For contributions made with a bank credit card by December 31, 2020, you can claim the deduction for the tax year 2021 even though the credit card bill is paid in the next year. Contributions made with a retail store credit card are only tax deductible for the year you actually pay the credit card bill.

seeking His heart | Being His hands

December 18 - December 31

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, December 18

Minister on Call	John Uldrick 706.766.0430
Youth Progressive Christmas Lunch	12:00 pm

Sunday, December 19

(Fourth Sunday in Advent - Peace)

Adult Faith Dev. Committee Mtg., Conf. Rm.	8:30 am
Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)	9:00 am
Bible Study (all ages)	9:45 am
Worship - Comcast Channel 44	11:00 am
Special Music by First Baptist Ringers	
Worship also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel	
Silent Lord's Supper, Sanctuary	5:00-6:00 pm

Monday, December 20

Women of the Church Book Group Mtg., DR	1:00 pm
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Tuesday, December 21

Men's Small Group, Comm. Rm.	10:00 am
Pastor Search Committee Meeting, Rm. 302	5:30 pm

Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Church Office Closed

Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary	5:00-6:00 p.m.
(Comcast Channel 44)	
(Also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel)	

Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Minister on Call	Kristen Pope 502.693.5644
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Sunday, December 26

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)	9:00 am
Combined Adult Bible Study, Chapel	9:45 am
Led by John Uldrick	
NO Children nor Youth Bible Study	
Worship - Comcast Channel 44	11:00 am
Worship also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel	

Monday, December 27

Church Office Closed

FBC Serves Community Kitchen	8:30 am
Youth Depart for West Virginia Ski Trip	

Tuesday, December 28

FBC Serves Community Kitchen	8:30 am
Pastor Search Committee Mtg., Rm. 302	5:30 pm

Wednesday, December 29

FBC Serves Community Kitchen	8:30 am
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Thursday, December 30

FBC Serves Community Kitchen	8:30 am
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Friday, December 31

FBC Serves Community Kitchen	8:30 am
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THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 19

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT: LOVE SUNDAY WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERIES: **Angels Among Us**

SERMON TITLE: "This Will Be A Sign"

PREACHER: Dr. Ron Murray

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-20

ANTHEM: *The Shepherds Lamb*...arr. Dan Forrest

SPECIAL MUSIC: *First Baptist Ringers*

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:

<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

MINISTER ON CALL:

John Uldrick 706.766.0430

NEXT WEEK: DECEMBER 26

SUNDAY WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERIES: **Angels Among Us**

SERMON TITLE: "Following the Star"

PREACHER: Rev. Tamara Smathers

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-13

ANTHEM: *What Child Is This*...
arr. Sandy Wilkinson

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:

<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

MINISTER ON CALL:

Kristen Pope 502.693.5644

THE SPIRE

STEWARDSHIP

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

TIME

TALENT

TREASURE

PRAYER

we enjoy. As I look back, I am thankful for our progress in the "Together in Christ" Stewardship Campaign. We presently have 160 families who have pledged \$1,299,822.48 toward our goal of 250 families and \$1,837,432.91. These numbers represent 64% of our families goal and 71% of our budget goal. I am thankful for our progress.

We are now in the Advent season, a time when we look forward to the celebration of the greatest gift ever given, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Because God has blessed us with this wonderful gift, I pray that as we look forward to this celebration, we will remember that we are the hands and heart of Christ now. A wonderful response to this gift in the coming year would be to contribute to the varied ministries of our church. If you have not made your pledge to the budget, please prayerfully consider how you can help us reach our goals.

I am thankful for those who have already pledged their time, talents, treasure and prayer. I look forward to additional pledges from others who will help us reach our goals in order that the ministries of our church can accomplish our worldwide efforts to be "Together in Christ".

Bert Vaughn, Chairman Stewardship Committee

Please visit us for more information:
www.fbcrome.org

The Spire (U.S.P.S. 613-160) is published bi-weekly.
First Baptist Church of Rome
100 East 4th Ave., Rome, GA 30161-3120
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Spire
P.O. Box 1189, Rome, GA 30162



SUNDAY SERVICES

BROADCAST LIVE ON
COMCAST CHANNEL 44 AND
VIA WWW.FBCROME.ORG