

# THE SPIRE

Volume 69 • No. 24 • December 2, 2022



## 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *Christmas at First Baptist* CONCERT



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 4 P.M.

Featuring the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra with the Youth Choir, Children's Choir and First Baptist Ringers

The concert will be live-streamed and broadcast live on Comcast Channel 44.

### FROM OUR PASTOR

"The journey is half the fun," we often say, or "Enjoyment is in the journey, not the destination." Tell that to children on December 1. See how they react. My guess is that you will get some big "eye rolls" and groans! When we are children, the time between Thanksgiving and December 25th seems like a year, and every day seems like a week. Can't we just fast forward to Christmas morning? The anticipation is agonizing and our patience is at its thinnest point of the year. Over time, though, we can learn the joys of anticipation, patience, and waiting that are characteristic of the season of Advent.

Like many Baptists, I did not grow up observing Advent. But ever since I was introduced to the season of Advent in my early twenties, I have approached Christmas differently. I am more intentional to focus on hope, peace, joy, and love as each week passes. I have learned to be more patient. I have prayed more often, "Lord, let your kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven." In short, Advent has become for me a very meaningful and fulfilling time of anticipation. Now that I am beyond the age of 50, I pray for time to slow down!

How about you? Would you like to fast forward to Christmas right now? Or perhaps you'd like to skip over Christmas completely because it is too stressful, too hyped, or even too painful. Wherever you find yourself today in your attitude about the coming of Christmas, let the Advent journey guide you. Walk slowly through each day; pray often; serve someone; listen intentionally for messages of God's hope, peace, joy, and love. And trust once more that in the waiting and in the walking of the Advent journey, God is with you.

*David*





## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### FINAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES ON DECEMBER 7

Make sure to attend our final Wednesday night of activities on December 7! We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and then hear our two youngest choirs sing Christmas songs they have been working hard on!

### COOL YULE CHRISTMAS PARTIES

On December 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., kids will have their Cool Yule Christmas parties at church while adult Sunday School classes enjoy their own Christmas parties.

### JANUARY RETREAT

3rd-6th graders are invited to join Mrs. Kristen on a weekend trip January 27 through 29 to Rock Eagle 4-H camp in Eatonton, GA for a retreat hosted by CBF of GA. Cost is \$150, which includes programming, transportation, four meals and a T-shirt. Please reach out to Kristen if you would like for your child to come along! Friends are welcome to come as well, the more the merrier.

## STUDENT NEWS

### STUDENT PROGRESSIVE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Our Progressive Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 11 from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. We will meet at FBC to hop on the trolley and progress our way to each home for appetizers, dinner, dessert and gift swapping!! We will end our time of celebrating at the church for cider and a Christmas movie!

### WINTER RETREAT "ELEVATE": DECEMBER 27-30

Winter Ski Retreat: *Elevate* will be December 27-30! The theme verse for *Elevate* comes from Paul's letter to the Ephesians 3:20, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." During our time together, we will ski the slopes and discover more in depth of who God is and learn some practical ways how we can *elevate* our faith in our daily lives.

### THE EDGE

The Edge is a monthly meeting that offers high school seniors practical discussions on their transition from HS to a new season of life! As we begin the New Year, we will have a meeting one weeknight each month. We will have our first gathering at Nick and Aubrey's house on Thursday, December 15 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their pledges for 2023! If you have not, please remember to make pledges by December 31.

**OH WHAT FUN!**

**JOURNEY CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

DEC 18 from 6-8 p.m.

**\$20 per couple | Moe's BBQ**  
Bring a wrapped closet treasure for the Dirty Santa Gift Swap!

@ Ben and Miranda Bagley's Home  
313 E. 4th Ave. | Rome, GA 30161

### SILENT LORD'S SUPPER – DECEMBER 18

Communion will be served by ministers continuously from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. with special instrumental music provided the entire hour. Please enter through the front doors of the sanctuary and come and go as you please. This is a perfect time to get away from the noise of the season.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The service begins at 5 p.m. and includes the reading of the Christmas story, carols, special music and a meditation from Rev. David Brooks. The service will be live-streamed and broadcast on Comcast Channel 44.

### NEW YEAR'S DAY BIBLE TRIVIA

JANUARY 1, 2023, IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

9:45 TO 10:40 A.M. DURING BIBLE STUDY

Gather your team (class) and show off your random Bible knowledge. John Head will serve as Host. Refreshments and prizes await!

## POINSETTIA HONORARIUM & MEMORIAL

Please help the Flower Committee beautify the sanctuary during Advent by purchasing a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one through Tuesday, December 20. Complete the form below and return it with your payment of \$10.00 per plant. Make check payable to the *FBC Flower Fund*. Plants may be picked up after the service on December 25. You may drop off your check or mail it to: First Baptist Church Flower Fund, P. O. Box 1189, Rome, GA 30162-1189

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

NUMBER OF PLANTS

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROME

100 East 4th Avenue Rome, GA 30161 706.291.6850 [www.fbcrome.org](http://www.fbcrome.org)



## MISSIONS

### HANDS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS

Thank you for volunteering to purchase a gift for one of our Hands of Christ Christmas families. If items can be gift-wrapped, please wrap them! Label each gift with the family's identifying letter, family member's gender, and age (ex. Family E, Boy Age 1). Please write this information on a small piece of paper and tape it to the underside of the gift. If your gift is unable to be wrapped due to size, a member of the Hands of Christ Christmas Committee will arrange a pickup or delivery time.

If your gift is a monetary donation to FBC, you can use our online giving at [fbcrome.com](http://fbcrome.com). Select Hands of Christ Fund, include the family letter in the optional comment, and enter the dollar amount. Also, you can bring donations to the church office.

All gifts are due to the church dining room by Sunday, December 11. Please use the QR code and consider how God is calling you to show the love of Jesus to a family in need! Please contact Nick Georgian, Amy Cox (770-826-5714) or Kate Barron (706-296-3453) if you have any questions.



## SENIOR ADULT NEWS

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon is Thursday, December 8 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Attendees are encouraged to bring a nativity set to display. The program will include special music from FBC Music Interns Sydney Godfrey and Matthew Becher and stories about the nativity sets. Cost of the lunch is \$10. Sign up by December 5 with Karen in the church office.

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

### WOMEN'S EPIPHANY RETREAT

One of our favorite traditions will resume this year, as women of all ages will gather for a retreat January 6-8. The sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama will welcome us into their home and retreat center.

We will pray, laugh, stretch, and enjoy the peaceful grounds of the monastery. Please reserve your space by contacting Kris Wilder, [kwilder@fbcrome.org](mailto:kwilder@fbcrome.org). Watch for more details.

Cost including all meals: Private room, \$215; Shared room, \$175

## SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, December 4, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Libby by Richard York.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, December 11, are given to the glory of God and in honor of Kay Bratton on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by Randy Bratton.

December 3 – December 16

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Saturday, December 3

Minister on Call

Nick Georgian 706.766.0032

### Sunday, December 4

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410) 9:00 am

Bible Study (all ages) 9:45 am

Worship - Comcast Channel 44 11:00 am

Worship also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel

24th Annual CAFB Concert, Sanctuary 4:00 pm

### Monday, December 5

Women's Bible Study, Dining Rm. 10:00 am

### Tuesday, December 6

Peterson Small Group Meeting, Fidelis Classroom 1:00 pm

### Wednesday, December 7

Family Night Dinner 5:00 pm

Student Room Opens 5:45 pm

Family Night Christmas Celebration, F.H. 6:00 pm

Student Life 6:00 pm

Student Discipleship 6:30 pm

### Thursday, December 8

Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon 12:00 pm

### Saturday, December 10

Minister on Call

Tamara Smathers 706.266.7141

### Sunday, December 11

Adult Faith Formation Committee, 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

Worship also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel

Student Christmas Progressive Dinner 4:00 pm

### Monday, December 12

Women's Bible Study Brunch,

Home of Tlitha Formby 10:30 am

Ruble-Whitworth Mission Group, Dining Rm. 11:30 am

Finance Committee Meeting, Conf. Rm. 12:00 pm

### Tuesday, December 13

Peterson Small Group Meeting, Fidelis Classroom 1:00 pm

### Wednesday, December 14

WDPS Baby Jesus Birthday Party

### Thursday, December 15

The Edge (H.S. Seniors), Georgians' home 7:00 pm

## THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 4

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (PEACE)

ADVENT THEME: *Waiting for the Light*

SERMON: "Walking in the Light: Be Penitent"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:1-12

ANTHEM: *Is He Worthy?...arr.* Dan Forrest  
Ashley Garner/Daniel Lynch, duet

SPECIAL MUSIC: *First Baptist Ringers*

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:  
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

CHRISTMAS AT FIRST BAPTIST  
AT 4:00 P.M.

### FINAL FAMILY NIGHT MENU FOR 2022

#### DECEMBER 7

Mixed Green Salad, Fried Chicken Tenders,  
Macaroni and Cheese, Sauteed Green Beans,  
Chocolate Cake

MINISTER ON CALL:  
Nick Georgian 706.766.0032

## NEXT WEEK: DECEMBER 11

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (JOY)

ADVENT THEME: *Waiting for the Light*

SERMON: "Walking in the Light: Be Patient"

PREACHER: Rev. Kristen Mathis

SCRIPTURE: James 5:7-10

ANTHEM: *Shepherd's Joy...arr.* Mark Hayes

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:  
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

NO FAMILY NIGHT EVENTS THIS WEEK.

MINISTER ON CALL:  
Tamara Smathers 706.266.7141

# THE SPIRE

## SUNDAY SERVICES

BROADCAST LIVE ON  
COMCAST CHANNEL 44 AND  
VIA [WWW.FBCROME.ORG](http://WWW.FBCROME.ORG)

## STUDENT NEWS (CONTINUED)

### STUDENT BBQ FUNDRAISER

Get ready for the best BBQ in Rome, GA by your very own FBC Student Ministry! Mark your calendars for the Student BBQ Fundraiser on February 11, 2023! The sale is Dec. 4 through Jan 29. Please scan the QR Code to reserve your BBQ! Pricing and details can be found on the sign up. If you are looking for Christmas gift ideas, stocking stuffer certificates will be available in the church office throughout the Christmas season! Contact Nick Georgian for more information or if you have any questions. Thank you for your ongoing support for the FBC Student Ministry!



## SENIOR ADULT NEWS (CONTINUED)

### CANADIAN MARITIMES IN 2023

The Senior Adult Ministry is hosting a trip to the Canadian Maritimes (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island) in July 2023. Please contact Keith Reaves for a brochure or for more information. A \$300 per person discount is offered if you register by January 6. The trip is about two-thirds filled already!

Please visit us for more information:  
[www.fbcrome.org](http://www.fbcrome.org)

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