

WELCOME!

We are honored you have joined us in worship. 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:

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

IT'S BBQ TIME!

You have the chance to purchase some of the best barbecue in Rome through January 29. You can place your order in several ways: Visit the church website and click on the "It's BBQ Time!" slider or look for one of the BBQ signs around the church to scan the QR Code. If you are having difficulty please call the church office so that Nick or Karen can assist you.

RECEPTION FOR NICK & AUBREY GEORGIAN & FAMILY

A reception to officially welcome Nick as our new Minister to Students/Missions will be today from 4:00 until 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to write a note to the Georgians as they begin their full-time ministry with us.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMMING RESUMES

Our regular Wednesday programming resumes this week. See the schedule below.

UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES

The 2023 Disciplines 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 and a short meditation, and a prayer. Copies may be picked up near the ground floor elevator and office doors, as well as in the Narthex.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 8

9:45 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Getting Ready Class - Room 210
4:00 p.m. Reception for Nick and Aubrey Georgian and Family - Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 9

11:30 a.m. Ruble-Whitworth Mission Group - Dining Room
12:00 p.m. Finance Committee - Conference Room
5:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 10

6:00 p.m. Churns Bible Study

Wednesday, January 11

5:00 p.m. Family Night Dinner
5:45 p.m. Children's Choirs
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Church Conference
Student Life and Discipleship
6:30 p.m. Kids J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)
6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 12

7:00 p.m. Student Ministry, The Edge - Georgian Home

For information on these and other activities see www.fbcrome.org or The Spire.

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God and in honor of Nick and Aubrey Georgian and Family by First Baptist Church.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Beverly Harris on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by Bob Harris.

First Baptist Church, 100 East Fourth Avenue, Rome, GA 30161
Phone: 706.291.6850 Website: www.fbcrome.org

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROME, GEORGIA

JANUARY 8, 2023

11:00 A.M.

We welcome a larger congregation through Comcast Channel 44 and YouTube.
As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ORGAN PRELUDE

"Praise and Thanksgiving"...arr. Paul Manz

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Keith A. Reaves

HYMN OF ADORATION NO. 159

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

THE COVENANT OF CHURCH MEMBERS

David Brooks, leader

Led by the Spirit of God to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and having entered into the fellowship of the Spirit through His Church,

we, the members of the Church, prayerfully make this covenant with one another and with our Heavenly Father.

We respect all faith traditions, but we shall cherish our heritage as Baptist Christians.

We shall hold dear the principles of soul competency, the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local Church, and the Bible as our trusted and authoritative guide in matters of faith and practice.

As a group of gathered believers, we understand ourselves to be a part of a family of faith.

Therefore, we shall love, forgive, admonish, encourage, serve, and pray for one another—always in the spirit of being sisters and brothers in Christ.

Jesus Christ shall be our model for living.

We recognize that none of us shall ever attain His perfection; yet, we shall always strive to grow in the likeness of Him. His heart shall be our guide for the way we minister, organize ourselves, conduct our business, and treat others.

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ on earth; therefore, we are the hands of Christ.

Knowing this about ourselves, we shall be satisfied with nothing less than being leaders in Christian service. We can only accomplish this goal by serving more.

Our Master is our example. We know that we serve Christ Himself when we minister to the least, the last, the lost, and the overlooked.

We believe that, on our own, we are not strong enough, wise enough, nor good enough to accomplish our mission as a Church. Therefore, we trust in God's strength, God's wisdom, and God's righteousness to empower us. Only through prayer do we accomplish our mission as a Church.

--Adopted by the First Baptist Church of Rome, October 19, 2003

ORDINANCE OF BELIEVERS' BAPTISM

Ben Sanker, Clara Taylor, candidates

(The congregation will please respond with "Amen" after the baptism.)

HYMN OF ETERNAL LIFE NO. 556

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:13-17

Gary Barton, Deacon, reader

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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 BAPTISM

"Down By the Jordan"

LOBE DEN HERREN

(Children through third grade are invited to depart for Children's Worship.)

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!
Surely God's new day is rising!"

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I
Judges and offers salvation."

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"
Let's take the good news and share it!

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MORNING PRAYER (with the Lord's Prayer)

Nick Georgian

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

"Shall We Gather at the River?"...arr. John Carter

(The text to this anthem may be found in Hymn 561.)

SERMON

Rev. Brooks

"Living Into Our Baptism"

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 431

"Jesus Is Lord of All"

PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP

Cora Fannin, lay leader

God, our heavenly Father, you welcome us as sons and daughters through baptism in Christ.

Just as Jesus turned to You in prayer, help us to seek Your will continually.

May our offerings support the work of this church, lifting up Your hope and new life in our community.

We dedicate ourselves to serving You through Your beloved Son, Jesus. Amen.

PIANO OFFERTORY

"By the Gentle Waters"...arr. Cindy Berry

Meditation Text:

For all Christians, baptism embodies release from yesterday's sin and receipt of tomorrow's promise: going under the water, the old self is buried in the death of Christ; rising from the water the self is new, joined to the resurrected Christ. -Dorothy Bass

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

PASTORAL BLESSING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

COMMISSIONING HYMN

ST. DENIO

We're baptized! Your Spirit gives new work to do,
That we, through our serving, may glorify You.
Each person's vocation, each calling, has worth
As you send us out to bring Christ's love on earth.

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ORGAN POSTLUDE

"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"...Dietrich Buxtehude

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.

SAFETY

Safe zones for severe weather are in preschool hallways for children and the Fellowship Hall for others. If there is a need to evacuate, parents should pick up children at the bus parking lot on the far side of First Presbyterian Church.

David Brooks

Pastor

Keith A. Reaves

Senior Associate/Minister of Worship

Tamara Tillman Smathers

Minister of Education/Administration

Kristen Mathis

Minister of Faith Development

Gwen Stephens

Minister to Extended Family

Nick Georgian

Minister to Students and Missions

Beverly Harris, *Pianist*

Joan Hill, *Organist*