

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Children ages four through fourth 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.

STEWARDSHIP

There are several ways to financially support the ministries of First Baptist Church. You may place your offering in the offering plates during worship, mail in your contribution or give online through the church website or by using this QR code.



David Brooks *Pastor*

Keith Reaves *Senior Associate/Minister of Worship*

Tamara Smathers *Minister of Education/Administration*

Kristen Mathis *Minister of Faith Development*

Gwen Stephens *Minister to Extended Family*

Nick Georgian *Minister to Students and Missions*

Joan Hill, *Organist* Beverly Harris, *Pianist*

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The church office will be closed on Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4.

WHERE IS JESUS?

This summer, whether you are in Rome or traveling afar, remember to take your "Where Is Jesus?" star with you. As you roam, look for Jesus around you—in people you meet, in the beauty of God's creation, in acts of loving kindness, in quiet moments of peace or rest, in unexpected ways. Then, take a picture with your star and post it on the First Baptist Rome Facebook page or send your photos to Kris Wilder (kwilder@fbcrome.org) in our church office so that she can post them.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH THIS SUMMER

As you plan vacations and summer travel, please remember the option of setting up your church contributions as "automatic drafts" through your bank or through "Online Giving" on the church's website. If you need help learning how to do this, please feel free to contact the church office or your financial institution.

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

Our fifth Getting Ahead cohort has launched! The success of Bridges depends on volunteers to provide childcare, meals and transportation on Thursday evenings. If you are interested, use the QR code to sign up. Contact Keith Phillips with questions.



WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, JULY 2

9:45 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:15 p.m. Senior Adult Canada Trip Meeting - Choir Suite

MONDAY, JULY 3

Church Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day

TUESDAY, JULY 4

Church Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day

THURSDAY, JULY 6

11:30 a.m. Student & Collide Middlers Mystery Lunch
2:00 p.m. Children's Ministry visits Froggy's
6:00 p.m. Bridges Out of Poverty Class - Fellowship Hall & Community Room

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

The flowers in the Narthex today are given to the glory of God, through the Jo Huffman Flower Fund.

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of David Bosworth, Reagan Coker and John Ransom by Bess and George Bosworth.

BAPTIST FREEDOMS

A Worship Series

June 11: Bible Freedom

June 18: Soul Freedom

June 25: Church Freedom

Today: Religious Freedom

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROME, GEORGIA**

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



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ROME, GEORGIA

JULY 2, 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 "The Church's One Foundation"...arr. Michael Burkhardt

CALL TO WORSHIP Kristen Mathis

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. We gather this morning
appreciating our freedom to worship God.

May God continue to bless the church.

We seek to live in harmony and peace together with all peoples on the earth.

May God continue to establish peace on earth and help us
understand that it begins in our hearts.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 62 "God of Our Fathers"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Great God, eternal Lord, show us there is no law or liberty apart from You;

Let us serve You whole-heartedly, as Your devoted followers,
through Christ our Lord.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: For freedom, Christ has set us free. People: Thanks be to God!

READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE Matthew 22:15-22

Tamara Tillman Smathers, reader

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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 RELIGIOUS LIBERTY (Nettleton) "Christ, Our Liberty"

Once a people came together bound by faith and vision new;
With the wonder of the gospel came God's gift of freedom true.
Freed to follow Christ in service, with the dream they dared to dream;
Conscience guided by God's Spirit, God their sole authority.

Having suffered persecution, they now fought for freedom's cause,
That our faith be freely chosen, not defined by human laws.
We their children are entrusted with the dream they dared to dream;
Each one free to seek God's leading, in our Lord, our unity.

In our freedom God commands us that we share God's gift of grace;
For the sake of God's creation, we seek vision for this day.
Like our fathers and our mothers, may we always faithful be;
In our dying find our living, bound to Christ, our liberty.

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MORNING PRAYER (with the Lord's Prayer) David Brooks

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

"America the Beautiful"...arr. Benjamin Harlan
(The text to this anthem may be found in Hymn 702.)

SERMON Rev. Brooks

"Baptist Freedoms: Religious Freedom"

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 584 "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"

PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP Nick Georgian

PIANO OFFERTORY "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"...arr. Brenda Dillon

Meditation Text:

"It is the consistent and insistent contention of our Baptist people, always and everywhere, that religion must be forever voluntary and uncoerced. It is not the prerogative of any power, whether civil or ecclesiastical, to compel anyone to conform to any religious creed of worship. God wants free worshippers and no other kind. Every man must give an account of himself to God, and therefore every man ought to be at liberty to serve God in that way that he can best reconcile to his conscience . . . It would be sinful for a man to surrender that to man which is to be kept sacred for God."

— George W. Truett, *delivered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol May 16, 1920*

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH Nick Georgian

AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

PASTORAL BLESSING

PASSING OF THE PEACE

COMMISSIONING HYMN NO 701 (Stanza Four)

Our sovereign God, to Thee, Author of liberty, to Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light.
Protect us, by Thy might, great God, our King!

ORGAN POSTLUDE "To God Be the Glory"...arr. Kenneth Varner

WELCOME!

We are honored you are with us today!
Please fill out this form if you are a guest or in need of prayer support and place it in the offering plate or hand it to a minister. We promise to use it only to contact you about our church.

First visit to First Baptist Church

Returning guest

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.

Please have a minister contact me.

I am interested in becoming a
member of First Baptist Church.

Add me to the newsletter email list.

I am a guest of:

Please pray for:
