

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### 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.

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*

Joan Hill, *Organist*

## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

### WEDNESDAY SEMINARS

September 6 through October 11

- "The Kingdom of Heaven is Like ..." Jesus' Parables in Matthew 13  
Led by David Brooks
- *Living Your Strengths in Discipleship*  
Led by Tamara Smathers

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Resuming Monday, September 11

Join us at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room as we gather and discover God's living word. This group is open to any woman. It's a lively group that aims to take the Bible seriously, while cutting ourselves a bit of slack. Tamara Smathers leads this group.

### STUDENT SMALL GROUP SUPPER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Sundays at 6:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

Volunteers are needed to provide meals for our students and group leaders by either preparing a meal, or making a financial contribution toward purchasing one. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Nick Georgian, ngeorgian@fbcrome.org. Use the QR Code to sign up.



## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

9:45 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 a.m. Worship

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Labor Day | Church Office Closed

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

5:00 p.m. Family Night Dinner Served - Fellowship Hall  
5:45 p.m. Children's Choirs (preschool through 5th grade)  
Collide (6th through 7th grades) - The Rock  
6:00 p.m. Prayer Time - Fellowship Hall  
6:15 p.m. Adult Seminars  
6:30 p.m. Children's Missions  
Collide (5th through 7th grades) - The Rock  
6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Suite  
7:00 p.m. Student Discipleship - Student Room

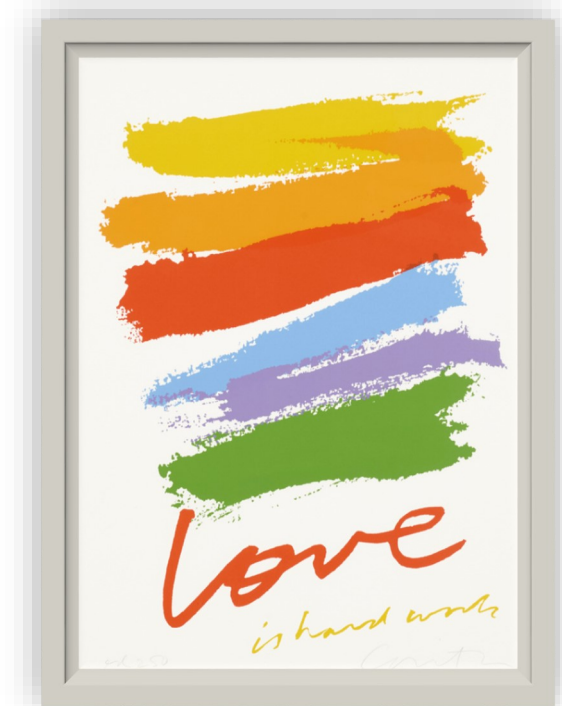
### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

6:00 p.m. Bridges Out of Poverty Class - Fellowship Hall & Community Room

For information on these and other activities see [www.fbcrome.org](http://www.fbcrome.org) or The Spire.

The flowers in the Narthex today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Miller and Cornelia Milford on the occasion of their wedding anniversary and in honor of Bob Harris by Beverly Harris and Family.

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Gaynelle Grizzard on the occasion of her birthday by Jim and Linda Owens.





# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

SEPTEMBER 3, 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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

“By Our Love”...arr. Christy Nockles

Sanctuary Choir

The time is now. Come, church, arise! Love with His hands. See with His eyes.  
Bind it around you, let it never leave you. And they will know us by our love.

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Kristen Mathis

## HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 271

“Christian People, Sing Together”

## CALL TO CONFESSION NO. 693

### A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS NO. 618

“Love Lifted Me”

## READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:9-21

Gwen Stephens, reader

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; <sup>17</sup> do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup> Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

“What Is Love”...arr. Phillip Keveren

Emma Allen, Music Ministry Intern

## 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

“By Our Love”...Christy Nockles

Sanctuary Choir

Brothers, let us come together, walking in the Spirit, there's much to be done.  
We will come reaching out from our comforts and they will know us by our love.

Sisters, we were made for kindness. We can pierce the darkness as He shines through us.  
We will come reaching with a song of healing, and they will know us by our love!

*The time is now. Come, church, arise! Love with His hands. See with His eyes.*

*Bind it around you, let it never leave you. And they will know us by our love.*

Children, you are hope for justice, stand firm in the Truth now, set your hearts above.

You will be reaching long after we're gone, and they will know us by our love!

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## SERMON

“Love Is Hard Work”

Tamara Tillman Smathers

## HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 267

“Blest Be the Tie”

## CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

Anne Walker Ellington, lay leader

Why do we give each week?

We give because we have received so much from God.

We give to practice the gratitude for all that God has done for us.

We give because we trust that God can do more with what we have than we can do alone.

So let us practice our gratitude this morning through the giving of our gifts.

## ORGAN OFFERTORY

“This Is My Father's World”...arr. Diane Bish

Meditation Text:

Love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up. If we love each other enough, we will bear with each other's faults and burdens. If we love enough, we are going to light that fire in the hearts of others. And it is love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that sadden us. It is love that will make us want to do great things for each other. No sacrifice and no suffering will then seem like too much. —Dorothy Day, *House of Hospitality*

## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

## AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

## PASTORAL BLESSING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

## HYMN OF COMMISSIONING



The time is now. Come, church, a- rise! Love with His hands, see with His



eyes. Bind it a-round you, let it nev-er leave you, and they will know us by our



love.

And they will know us by our love.

## ORGAN POSTLUDE

“The God of Abraham Praise”...arr. John Innes

## 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_