

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

What is Advent?
The observance of Advent began in about the sixth century. Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas Day and the inclusive weekdays. The word, ADVENT, consists of two Latin words: ad-venie, “to come to.” Therefore, the message of Advent is that God in Christ is coming to the world. One of the most beautiful traditions of Advent is the lighting of the Advent wreath. The wreath is circular in shape to represent the eternity of God, without beginning or end. Evergreens are used to symbolize God’s gift of life and growth and life to come. The candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, symbolize God’s Son as the light of the world. Individual attributes (hope, faith, joy, love) are linked with the individual candles. Three of the candles are purple, representing royalty. One candle is rose-colored and is lit on the third Sunday and symbolizes joy. The fifth candle is white and larger and is placed in the center of the wreath to represent Christ and is therefore called the Christ Candle. We light this candle on Christmas Eve. The flame reminds us that Christ is the light of the world, the light which dispels all darkness.

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.

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 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* Beverly Harris, *Pianist*

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

SILENT LORD’S SUPPER

Today starting at 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.
Communion will be served continuously 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.

UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES

The 2024 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 may be picked up on the welcome desk near the elevator and in the church office.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday, December 24 at 5 p.m. - Sanctuary
The service included the reading of the Christmas story, carols, special music and a meditation from David Brooks. The service will be live-streamed on the church YouTube Channel and broadcast on Comcast Channel 44.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

As we near the conclusion of 2023, remember that financial contributions to our church received or postmarked by December 31, 2023, will receive tax deduction for this year. You can contribute online at www.fbcrome.com, by mail, or in person. The church office will be open until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 29, to receive contributions. If you have questions about your gift or pledge contribution, contact Janet Hall in our church office at finance@fbcrome.org or 706.291.6850.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
9:45 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Silent Lord’s Supper - Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Cool Yule
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18
10:00 a.m. Women’s Bible Study - Dining Room
1:00 p.m. Women of the Church Book Group - Dining Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21
6:00 p.m. Bridges Out of Poverty Class - Dining Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22
Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
No Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26
Church Office Closed

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

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



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROME, GEORGIA
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023 11:00 A.M.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP Sanctuary Choir
“What Are We Waiting For?...Keith A. Reaves
The shepherds hear the angel’s song,
Proclaiming joy the whole night long,
“Immanuel, God with us,” we praise,
“Joy to the word on this holy day.”
What are we waiting for in this silent night?
A Savior’s birth, a guiding light.
Let us find our hope, let us make our peace,
Let us share the joy, let love increase.

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INVOCATION Kristen Mathis

CAROL OF JOY NO. 102 “Joy to the World”

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY
Robert, Genise, Anna Jane and Katie Sturdivant

The light from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.
“May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.” *(Psalm 126:5-6)*

The pink candle is lit.

