

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### FAMILY WORSHIP

Today is the last Sunday of the month. These days are designated as “Family Worship” days and all children sit with their families. Nursery care is available for children four and younger. Children’s Worship will return next Sunday.

### 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*

Beverly Harris, *Pianist*

## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

### WORLD HUNGER OFFERING

Help meet the needs of the hungry by contributing to our monthly hunger offering. Please put this offering in an envelope and mark it “WORLD HUNGER” and place it in the offering plate or give it to one of our youth with a basket at the exits following worship.

### UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES AVAILABLE

This daily devotional book is an excellent tool for those wishing to begin or deepen a devotional practice. Each day includes a Scripture, a short meditation and prayer. Copies may be picked up on the welcome desk near the elevator and outside the church office.

### WEDNESDAY DINNER AND CHURCH CONFERENCE | JANUARY 10

Dinner served from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. will be followed by prayer time and our quarterly church conference. The Sanctuary Choir will also resume rehearsals at 6:45 p.m. January 10. Regular activities for children and youth will resume January 17.

### GROWING OLD OR GROWING WHOLE | A NEW LOOK AT AGING

Saturday, January 20 - Fellowship Hall, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The Health Committee is hosting a health workshop featuring local vendors and presentations by church members who are experts in the fields of health and wellbeing. Pre-registration is required. Watch for further details. Contact Sharon Baker or Nick Georgian with questions.

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:45 a.m. Faith Talks (All Adults and Youth) - Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Worship

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1

NEW YEAR’S DAY | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

12:00 p.m. Properties Committee Meeting - Conference Room

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

6:00 p.m. Bridges Out of Poverty Dinner & Class

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

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



## A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP DECEMBER 31, 2023

First Baptist Church, 100 East Fourth Avenue, Rome, GA 30161  
Phone: 706.291.6850 Website: [www.fbcrome.org](http://www.fbcrome.org)



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

DECEMBER 31, 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 CALL TO WORSHIP**      “Son of God, Eternal Savior”... arr. Michael Burkhardt

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**      Tamara Tillman Smathers  
Holy God, we marvel at Your love and faithfulness!

At the right time, your Son Jesus lived among us and invited us to call  
You our heavenly Father.

We are grateful You have brought us through challenging times in the past.

As we look forward to the new year, send Your Spirit to help us trust  
that You will continue to guide us. Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 126**      “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The scriptures promise that God will make all things new.

As God makes the year new, may we also be made new by God’s love  
and forgiveness in Jesus. Lord, hear our prayers.

## A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**      Sanctuary Choir  
“In This Very Room” ...arr. Ron Harris  
Gwen Stephens, conductor

In this very room there’s quite enough love for one like me,  
And in this very room there’s quite enough joy for one like me,  
And there’s quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,  
For Jesus, Lord Jesus ... is in this very room.

And in this very room there’s quite enough love for all of us,  
And in this very room there’s quite enough joy for all of us,  
And there’s quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,  
For Jesus, Lord Jesus ... is in this very room.

In this very room there’s quite enough love for all the world,  
And in this very room there’s quite enough joy for all the world,  
And there’s quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,  
For Jesus, Lord Jesus ... is in this very room

**READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**      2 Corinthians 5:16-20  
David Brooks, reader

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him

in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

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 FAITH NO. 584**      “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

**MORNING PRAYER**      Rev. Melvin Mosley, Harmony Baptist Church  
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**      Ashley Garner  
“Perfect Peace”...Laura Story

**SERMON**      Kristen Mathis  
“A To-Do List”

**HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 127**      “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP**      Nick Georgian

**ORGAN OFFERTORY**      “Open My Eyes that I May See” ....arr. A. R. Van Iderstine  
Meditation Text:  
The only way to get rid of your past is to make a future out of it. God will waste nothing. – Phillips Brooks

**THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**      Rev. Georgian

## AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

## PASTORAL BLESSING

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

**HYMN OF COMMISSIONING** (WEBB)  
Another year is dawning: Dear Father, let it be,  
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;  
Another year of progress, another year of praise,  
Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace.;

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**      “Now Thank We All Our God” ...arr. Diane Bish

## 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:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_