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
Namo
Name
Spouse's Name
AddressState
City State
Zip Code
E-mail
Marital Status
MarriedSingleWidow(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:

January 7, 2024

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY TO IMMOKALEE, FL

Information Meeting today following worship | Fellowship Hall

The Missions Committee is offering a chance to work with CBF field personnel Rick & Ellen Burnette, in Immokalee, FL, March 5 - 9. The Burnettes operate a growing faith-based organization addressing food insecurity and other challenges in low-income, migrant farmworker communities of Southwest Florida. We will be joining in their efforts and we hope you will prayerfully consider being a part of it! Two weeks from today, January 21, participants will have a mission planning meeting. If you would like more information come to the meeting today or contact Julie McCormick or Nick Georgian.

STUDENT MINISTRY ANNUAL BBQ FUNDRAISER

The Student Ministry Annual BBQ Fundraiser is underway NOW through Monday, January 29! Please see a member of the student ministry to purchase your ticket. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Nick Georgian. Orders will be ready for pick up from FBC Rome parking lot between 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. February 3. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Student Ministry.

TUSCANY TRIP MEETING

Wednesday, January 17 at 3:00 p.m. | Dining Room

An information meeting on the Senior Adult Ministry trip to Tuscany October 30-November 7 will be Wednesday, January 17 at 3 p.m. in the Dining Room. The only way to register for the trip is online through Collette Vacations. Registration will open following this info session. If you cannot be at the meeting and would like a link with more information about signing up contact Keith Reaves and a link will be emailed to you following the meeting.

GROWING WHOLE NOT OLD

Workshop Sponsored by FBC Health Committee | Saturday, January 20, 8:30 -3:30 p.m.

This workshop in the Fellowship Hall will feature presentations by health professionals from many specialties. Local health agencies will be present to showcase their products and services. The cost of \$20 per person includes programming, lunch, workbook and community resources. Pre-Registration is required by Thursday, January 18, 2024. To register you may call the church office at 706-291-6850 or scan the QR Code. If you would like to learn more, please contact Sharon Baker or Nick Georgian.

WEEK AT A GLANCE -

Sunday, January 7

9:45 a.m. Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Mission Trip Information Meeting - Fellowship Hall

4:00 p.m. Children's Committee - Conference Room

Monday, January 8

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Dining Room

11:30 a.m. Ruble-Whitworth Mission Group - Dining Room

2:00 p.m. Finance Committee - Conference Room

6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting - Fellowship Hall (No Dinner)

Tuesday, January 9

5:30 p.m. Bridges Steering Committee Meeting - Conference Room

Wednesday, January 10

5:00 p.m. Family Night Dinner

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting | Church Conference

6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 12

7:00 p.m. Bridges Out of Poverty Class - Fellowship Hall & Community Room

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Willie and Sue Barron by the Family.

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



WALKING WITH JESUS

First Baptist Church Rome, Georgia

January 7, 2024

1:00 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

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"...arr. Paul Manz

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Kristen Mathis

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 576

"I Stand Amazed in the Presence"

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 Brewer and Kendall Brewer, candidates (The congregation will please respond with "Amen" after the baptism.)

READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:4-11

Dr. Coleman Fannin, lay reader ⁴ So John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ^{8}I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹ And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you 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 ETERNAL LIFE NO. 561

"Shall We Gather at the River" (Children through fourth grade are invited to depart for Children's Worship.)

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

"Footsteps of Jesus"...arr. John Carter (The text to this anthem may be found in Hymn 496.)

SERMON Rev. Brooks

"Walking with Jesus: Starting Well"

HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 455

"Here, at Your Table, Lord"

ORDINANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

As we observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper the bread (all of the bread is gluten-free) will be passed to the entire congregation and we will eat it together when the pastor indicates. *Next*, the cup will be taken in the same way.

The table set before us is not the property of our church; it is the Lord's table. We invite all who call Jesus "Lord" to join us.

THE BREAD THE CUP

HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 466

"Jesus, at Your Holy Table"

PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP

Tamara Tillman Smathers

PIANO OFFERTORY

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"...arr. Jeff Bennett

Meditation Text:

Blessed are we, turning our eyes ahead toward a new path not yet mapped. God, give us courage to take this next step, and enough for the one after that, too. Remind us that you have gone before, and behind, and around, and are with us now. -Kate Bowler

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Smathers

AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

PASTORAL BLESSING

PASSING OF THE PEACE

COMMISSIONING HYMN No. 496 (Stanza 1) "Footsteps of Jesus"

Sweetly, Lord, have we heard Thee calling, "Come, follow Me!"

And we see where Thy footprints falling, lead us to Thee.

Footprints of Jesus that make the pathway glow;

We will follow the steps of Jesus where're they go.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

"The Kingsfold Trumpet"...Alfred V. Fedak

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.

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 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