

THE SPIRE

Volume 71 • No. 1 • January 12, 2024

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

The season of Lent starts early this year—February 14. So, it's not too soon to be thinking about how you plan to walk with Jesus more closely as a Lenten discipline. We will begin Lent a little differently this year:



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

- February 13, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

- In the fellowship hall
- Mardi Gras themed

Interactive Ash Wednesday Service – February 14

- Come at any time between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Several stations in the sanctuary will prepare you for Lent and introduce you to our Lenten worship series, “*Wandering Heart*.”
- New labyrinth to walk in our activity center.



THE MORE YOU KNOW...ABOUT FBC

For four Wednesday evenings this winter, let's join together in the fellowship hall at 6:00 pm to learn some new things—or to be refreshed on some familiar things—about First Baptist Church of Rome. This will be a fun and interactive time to dive deeper into our identity, to ask questions, and to grow in our understanding of who we are and why we do what we do as a church.

January 17 *A Fascinating Story: History & Heritage of FBC Rome*

January 24 *Good Stewards: FBC Foundation & How We Function Financially*

January 31 *Holy, Holy, Holy: Why & How We Worship as We Do*

February 7 *Walking with Jesus: Labyrinths & Other Lenten Disciplines*

FROM OUR PASTOR

WALKING WITH JESUS

Walking. It is something we do every day. We don't start out walking, of course. We are taught to walk by our families and friends. And when we take those first steps, everyone celebrates and cheers! It is quite an amazing feat of our feet! Before long, we are walking everywhere, and we take it for granted. We don't even think twice about putting one foot in front of the other to get us where we want to go.

For various reasons, not everyone is able to walk. Life conditions, injuries, age, and other factors can keep us from moving our legs and feet. We need help to get where we need to go, and we wonder why so many people do not realize that the ability to walk is a real gift that should never be taken for granted.

Whoever we are, regardless of our ability or inability to walk, we can all appreciate “walking” as a metaphor for following Jesus. The disciples were called by Jesus to follow him, and they literally walked

with him—learning from him, serving with him, growing to be like him. In a similar way, we are called by Jesus to “walk” with him every day. That means we do not just talk about Jesus or read about him or think about him. We take action. We learn from his teachings and put them into practice. We put one foot in front of the other and we follow Jesus. And when we follow someone, we become like that person.

Throughout 2024, this will be our theme as a church: **Walking with Jesus**. This is an intentional invitation for all of us to follow Jesus more closely and to know that wherever we go and whatever we do, we are not alone. We walk *with* Jesus, wherever he may lead.

Your pastor and friend,

David



WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2024-2025

Registration for 2024-2025 will begin on January 23 for those currently enrolled. For all others, registration will begin on February 6. Our Weekday Preschool is for children 15 months of age by September 1, 2024, through Pre K 4/5 years old. For more information contact us at mwood@fbcrome.org or 706.295.1150. Check us out at fbcrome.org under Weekday Preschool. We would love to have your child join us!

CHILDREN'S CORNER

WINTER RETREAT

Please pray for our 24 kids & 3 adults who will head to Rock Eagle 4-H Center at the end of the month for a winter retreat. We are looking forward to a wonderful weekend of fellowship growing in our faith as we learn what it means to the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

FAMILY STRENGTHS CAMP

Make sure you have signed up for the Family Strengths Camp happening on February 10 from 9 a.m. – 2p.m. See the church website or Facebook page for a brochure to learn what it's all about!

STUDENT NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17 - Student Activities Resume

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21- Youth Choir and Small Groups Resume | Parent Meeting, 5:30 pm in the Dining Room

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24- Student Gathering

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28- Youth Choir and Small Groups TOGETHER - Andrew Peterson at Berry in the College Chapel

If you have not received your Student Spring Schedule, please make sure to pick one up in the Student Room or stop by the church office and see Nick!

BBQ FUNDRAISER

The Student Ministry Annual BBQ Fundraiser is underway and you have a chance to purchase some of the best barbecue in Rome NOW through Monday, January 29! For ALL BBQ orders, please see a member of the student ministry to purchase your BBQ Ticket. If you have any questions and/or need assistance placing your order, contact the church office at 706-291-6850 or reach out to Nick Georgian.

In addition, if you would like to make a BBQ donation to the Davies Men's and Women's Shelter or the Community Kitchen Shelter please mark "donation" on your ticket. Thank you in advance for your support of our local ministry partners!

ALL orders will be ready for pick up from FBC Rome parking lot between 3 - 5 pm on Saturday, February 3.

Thank you for your ongoing love and support to the FBC Rome Student Ministry.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALKING WITH JESUS, A GALLERY EXHIBIT

You will be hearing about our congregation's focus in 2024—Walking with Jesus. The FBC Gallery will reflect this theme in its first exhibit this year. We invite you to participate by sharing framed drawings, paintings, photography, and even three-dimensional art that can be displayed in a glass case. Some questions that might encourage your creative expression: On what paths have you journeyed? What supported you on those paths? How have you sensed the presence of Jesus on life's journey? Art should be labeled and delivered to the church office by February 6 and will be on display through Easter. Contact Tamara Smathers if you have questions.

TAI CHI CLASS COMING SOON FOR FREE!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROME AND NORTHWEST GEORGIA

AAA PRESENT: Tai Chi Class

WHEN: Thursdays 10-11 a.m. for 8 weeks, Beginning January 18

WHERE: Community Room at FBC Rome

Email Sharon Baker at baker8483@comcast.net with questions.

HEALTH: GROWING WHOLE: NOT OLD

There will be a health workshop, Growing Whole: NOT Old, on Saturday, January 20, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This workshop is sponsored by the Health Ministry Committee of FBC Rome and will feature presentations by health professionals from many specialties. Local health agencies will be present to showcase their products and services. This informative program is designed to address the needs of senior adults including screenings, vaccines, and tools to maximize healthy aging. The cost is \$20 per person, which will include programming, lunch, workbook and community resources. Pre-Registration is required by Thursday, January 18. To register call First Baptist Church of Rome at 706-291-6850. If you have questions contact Sharon Baker or Nick Georgian.

FAMILY STRENGTHS CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

FEATURING MAIKA LEIBBRANDT

AN EVENT YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS! FEB. 9-10, 2024

In this interactive workshop, you'll learn there is no universal best way to parent. What works instead, is releasing the need to do parenting "right" in favor of loving and leading in a ways that are natural to us.

Maika Leibbrandt will be joined by JurLene Mosley, who are both long-time educators and specialists in Strengths-Based Parenting. Together will provide sessions for parents, teenagers, and children.

FRIDAY, FEB. 9, 5:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M. JUST FOR TEENAGERS

SATURDAY, FEB. 10, 9:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M. INCLUDING LUNCH.

Registration is required by February 1. Family Strengths Camp is sponsored by the Gary and Hannah Tillman Fund of the FBC Foundation.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROME

100 East 4th Avenue Rome, GA 30161 706.291.6850 www.fbcrome.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SING TOGETHER! A HYMN FESTIVAL

Sing along with the combined choirs from First Baptist, North Broad Baptist, Garden Lakes Baptist and Second Avenue Baptist for a hymn festival in the FBC Sanctuary on Sunday, February 4 at 4 p.m. Bring a friend to sing along on some of our favorite timeless hymns.

MISSIONS

BRIDGES RELAUNCH

On February 24 we will relaunch the Bridges Out of Poverty Community Initiative. The Bridges Steering Committee and Task Force are busy planning the details of this event. The Bridges Community Initiative is focused on bringing all community sectors together to make a positive impact on poverty in our community. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, February 24, 2024. If you have questions or would like to know how you can be involved, contact Nick Georgian or Keith Phillips.

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY TO IMMOKALEE, FL

This missions committee is offering a chance to work with CBF field personnel, Rick & Ellen Burnette, in Immokalee, FL, March 5-9.

The Burnettes founded Cultivate Abundance in 2017 which is a growing faith-based organization addressing food insecurity and other livelihood challenges in low-income, migrant farmworker communities of Southwest Florida and beyond. Mission work will include a project at a church that will benefit the area when aid workers are needed in natural disasters; helping with the weekly distribution of food to migrant workers; and brain-storming with Rick and Ellen about ways FBC Rome can partner with Cultivate Abundance in the future. This opportunity is open to any church member. There will be a mission planning meeting on January 21. If you have any questions or would like to learn more information, you can contact Julie McCormick or Nick Georgian. To learn more about Cultivate Abundance please visit: <https://www.cultivateabundance.org/>

SENIOR ADULT NEWS

SENIOR ADULTS TO TUSCANY An information meeting for our 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.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, January 14, are given to the glory of God and in honor of the church staff by a grateful member.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, January 21, are given to the glory of God and in honor of Bill Weidemann on the occasion of his birthday by Jana Weidemann.

January 13 - January 26

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, January 13

Minister on Call

Kristen Mathis 502.693.5644

Sunday, January 14

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)

9:00 am

Bible Study

9:45 am

Worship - Comcast Channel 44

11:00 am

Worship also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel

Monday, January 15

Church Office Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Women's Bible Study, D.R.

10:00 am

Tuesday, January 16

Bridges Out of Poverty

Steering Committee, Conf. Rm..

5:30 pm

Wednesday, January 17

Senior Adult Tuscany Trip Information Meeting, D.R.

3:00 pm

Family Night Dinner Served, F.H.

5:00 pm

Children's Choirs

5:45 pm

Prayer Time and Bible Study, F.H.

6:00 pm

Children's and Collide Missions

6:30 pm

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite

6:45 pm

Student Discipleship, Prayer and Hangout,

Student. Rm.

7:00 pm

Thursday, January 18

Tai Chi, Comm. Rm.

11:00 am

Bridges Out of Poverty, F.H. and Comm. Rm.

6:00 pm

Saturday, January 20

Minister on Call

David Brooks 252.916.7174

Growing Old or Growing Whole Workshop, F.H.

8:30 am

Sunday, January 21

Adult Faith Formation Committee, Conf. Rm.

8:30 am

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)

9:00 am

Bible Study

9:45 am

Worship - Comcast Channel 44

11:00 am

Worship also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel

Florida Mission Trip planning meeting, FH

12:00 pm

Youth Choir

12:00 pm

Youth Parent Meeting, F.H.

5:30 pm

Youth Small Groups resume, FH

6:00 pm

Monday, January 22

Women's Bible Study, D.R.

10:00 am

Stephen Ministry, 3rd Floor

1:00 pm

First Baptist Ringers

5:15 pm

Wednesday, January 24-Friday, January 26

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

Wednesday, January 24

Weekday Preschool Pajama Day

9:00 am

Family Night Dinner Served, F.H.

5:00 pm

Children's Choirs

5:45 p.m

Prayer Time and Bible Study, F.H.

6:00 pm

Children's and Collide Missions

6:30 pm

Sanctuary Choir, Choir Suite

6:45 pm

Student Discipleship, Prayer and Hangout,

Student. Rm.

7:00 pm

Thursday, January 25

Bridges Out of Poverty, F.H. and Comm. Rm.

6:00 pm

Friday, January 26-Sunday, January 28

CBF Children's Ministry Retreat, Rock Eagle, Eatonton

THIS WEEK: JANUARY 14

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERMON: "Walking with Jesus: Seeing and Being Seen"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: John 1:43-51

ANTHEM: The Majesty and Glory of Your Name...
Tom Fettke/Linda Johnson

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

FAMILY NIGHT MENU

JANUARY 17

Ambrosia Salad

Breakfast Casserole

Sausage Patties/Bacon

Hash Browns

Danish Pastries

CHILDREN'S OPTION:

Breakfast Casserole

Applesauce

Danish Pastries

MINISTER ON CALL:

Kristen Mathis 502.693.5644

NEXT WEEK: JANUARY 21

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERMON: "Walking with Jesus: Saying Yes"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:14-20

ANTHEM: Holy Is He...David Clydesdale

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

FAMILY NIGHT MENU

JANUARY 24

Caesar Salad

Chicken Parmesan

Penne Pasta

Fried Zucchini

Tiramisu

CHILDREN'S OPTION:

Fried Chicken Fingers with Marinara Sauce

Spaghetti

Fruit Cocktail

Chocolate Pudding

MINISTER ON CALL:

David Brooks 252.916.7174

THE SPIRE

THANK YOU

I was overwhelmed by your recognition of my twenty-five years as your pianist. Thank you so much for your monetary gift. I can honestly say that I'm the one who's been blessed being at FBC and working with Joan and Keith. I once read "I consider my playing piano to be impromptu conversations I am having with God." I pray that I've helped you, too, talk with God. With love, Beverly Harris

Thank you so much for the wonderful surprise and the most generous gift! It is truly a pleasure to make music with Keith and Beverly and the wonderful people at First Baptist Church for these many years. Love, Joan Hill

WELCOME, KIM TUNNELL!

The Music Ministry is excited to welcome Kim Tunnell as our new part-time Music Ministry Associate. Kim and her family have been members at FBC for many years and she returns after serving for five years at a sister church in Rome. Kim is the Director of Fine Arts at Darlington School and has decades of church music experience. Her primary responsibilities will include being our Children's Choirs Coordinator, directing the oldest Children's Choir, working with Keith Reaves with the Youth Choir and serving for Keith, Joan Hill or Beverly Harris when they are away. Kim's husband is Mark, who also works at Darlington. They have three children. She is also the daughter of Joan Hill. Please welcome Kim back home to FBC!



Please visit us for more information:
www.fbcrome.com

The Spire (U.S.P.S. 613-160) is published bi-weekly.
First Baptist Church of Rome
100 East 4th Ave., Rome, GA 30161-3120
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Spire
P.O. Box 1189, Rome, GA 30162

