

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

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.

☐ 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:

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

PRAYING WITH JESUS

For centuries Christians have walked circular paths called labyrinths. This tradition allows us to calm and center ourselves. As we walk, we release into God’s hands, and then receive God’s gifts in prayer. FBC Rome has a new labyrinth painted on canvas, a version of one in France’s Chartres Cathedral. It will be in the gym Wednesdays and Thursdays after 2 p.m. and Fridays and Sundays when the church is open. Prayer guides are available. Socks and shoe covers will be provided, if needed.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

6 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

During Lent, our Bible Study will discover ways we experience Jesus. David Brooks will lead this study, based on *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass. This week’s study is “Jesus as Friend,” based on John 15:12-17.

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY RELAUNCH EVENT

February 24, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Please plan to join us for this important event. To learn more, contact Keith Phillips or Nick Georgian.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, February 18	
9:45 a.m.	Bible Study
11:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday, February 19	
10:00 a.m.	Women’s Bible Study - Dining Room
1:00 p.m.	Women of the Church Book Group - Dining Room
1:30 p.m.	Stephens Ministry - Conference Room
5:15 p.m.	First Baptist Ringers - Choir Suite
Wednesday, February 21	
5:00 p.m.	Family Night Dinner
5:45 p.m.	Children’s Choirs
6:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study - Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m.	Children’s & Collide Missions
6:45 p.m.	Prayer Meeting - Fellowship Hall
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m.	Student Discipleship, Prayer & Hangout - Student Room
Thursday, February 22	
6:00 p.m.	Bridges Out of Poverty Class - Fellowship Hall & Community Room
Friday, February 23	
12:00 p.m.	Bridges Community Leadership Forum - Fellowship Hall
Saturday, February 24	
8:30 a.m.	Bridges Relaunch - Fellowship Hall

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ted A. Owens, by Joanne Owens and family.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Josephine and Hubert Lowe, by Dick and Pat Johnston.



First Baptist Church Rome, Georgia

February 18, 2024 The First Sunday in Lent

We welcome a larger congregation through Comcast Channel 44, and YouTube.

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

Chiming of the Hour

Worship Series Introduction/ Theme Song Keith A. Reaves

“Wandering Hearts”...Keith A. Reaves

In the qui - et cham - bers of our wan - der - ing hearts, Where

doubts and sha - dows play their sub - tle parts, A jour - ney un - folds a quest to find The

stead - fast love in Christ that binds. In mo - ments of de - spair and strife, We seek

the Source, the well of life. For in our wan - der - ing we can see The

grace that flows to you and to me. Our wan - der - ing hearts on a

quest to find The stead - fast faith in Christ that binds.

Call to Worship

Christ is here!

God never stops seeking us, though we are prone to wander.

We have been found.

Let us find God in return.

Tune our wandering hearts to sing Your praise!

Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 295 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Call to Confession Kristen Mathis, leader
Loving God, You call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of
life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow You, and yet, more often
than we’d like to admit, we are like Peter.

Again and again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to
find You in our midst.
Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward You,
For You are the Lord our God, and it is in Your name that
we pray. Amen.

A Time for Silent Confession
Assurance of Forgiveness First Baptist Ringers/Stefanie Cash, flute
“What Wondrous Love Is This” ...arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Reading of Holy Scripture Luke 5:1-11
David Brooks, reader
Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the
crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats
there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and
were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging
to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he
sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished
speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down
your nets for a catch.” ⁵Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all
night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the
nets.” ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets
were beginning to burst. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat
to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they
began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees,
saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” ⁹For he and all
who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had
taken, ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were
partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from
now on you will be catching people.” ¹¹When they had brought their boats
to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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 Devotion No. 186 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
(Children through fourth grade are invited to leave for Children’s Worship.)

Morning Prayer (with the Lord’s Prayer) Tamara Tillman Smathers
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.

Sermon Rev. Brooks
“Wandering Heart: Jesus Sought Me”


Anthem of Preparation Sanctuary Choir
“Feed Me, Lord” ...arr. Patrick Liebergen
Kim Tunnell, Music Ministry Associate, piano
Stefanie Cash, flute

Feed me, Lord, feed me, Lord, give me peace restored.
Cleanse my soul, make me whole, Lamb of God adored.
Broken bread, sacred cup, these I share today.
Take my life, heal my strife, Lord, show me the way.
Amazing grace come down to me, a gift from God above.
The living bread now sets me free with God’s eternal love.
Amazing grace removes my pain; the cup I long to share.
O Lord, Your spirit shall remain. I live within Your care.

Ordinance of the Lord’s Supper
*As we observe the ordinance 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.*

Hymn of Response No. 494 “Take My Life, Lead Me, Lord”

Prayer of Stewardship Bunk Gee, Deacon

Handbell Offertory “Be Thou My Vision”... arr. Paul McKlveen
 Jesus instructs Peter to cast his nets after an unsuccessful day of fishing,
and he catches an absurd abundance of fish. Peter doesn’t feel worthy of
this gift, but Jesus calls him to be a fisher of people all the same. The fish
represents God’s abundant provision of sustenance and grace, as well as
Peter’s shift in vocation and calling—from fisher of fish to fisher of
people. Jesus came to Peter, seeking him out. How does it feel to imagine
Jesus seeking you out? What comfort does that provide?

The Work of the Church Rev. Reaves

Affirmation of Public Decisions

Pastoral Blessing and Passing of the Peace

Commissioning Hymn “Wandering Hearts”
(Lyrics and music are printed on the front of the order of worship.)

Organ Postlude “Trumpet Voluntary”...John Stanley

WHAT IS LENT?
For centuries, Lent has been observed as a
special time of self-examination and penitence.
The name “Lent” comes from the Old English
lencten (*springtime, spring*) and from West
Germanic langitinaz (*long-days* or *lengthening of
the day*.) The word “Alleluia” is not used in the
words of the readings or hymns to mark this
season of renewal as a special time. A custom
during Lent is to give up things or take on
others. Both can serve to mark the season as a
time of preparation. The season is 40 days plus
the six Sundays and concludes on Easter.
Purple is the liturgical color of the season and
is reflected on the cross in the baptistery and
the stoles for the ministers and choir.

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.

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
Joan Hill, Organist Beverly Harris, Pianist