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 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:

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.

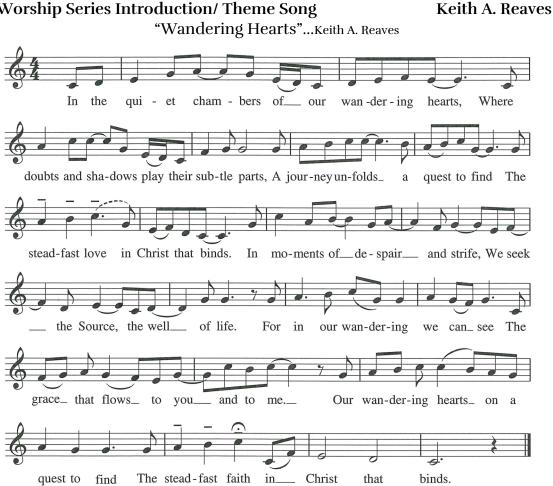
The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Josephine and Hubert Lowe, by Dick and Pat Johnston.



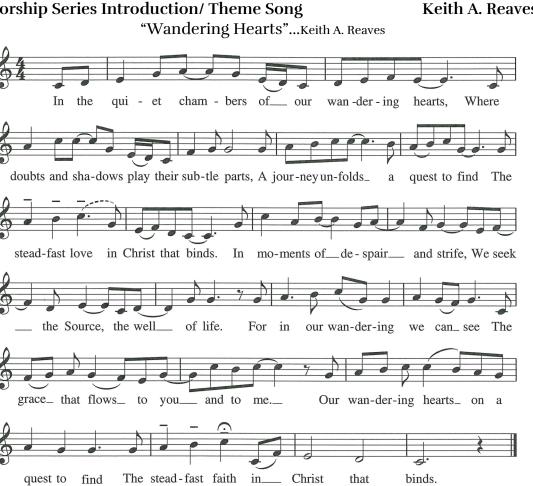
First Baptist Church February 18, 2024

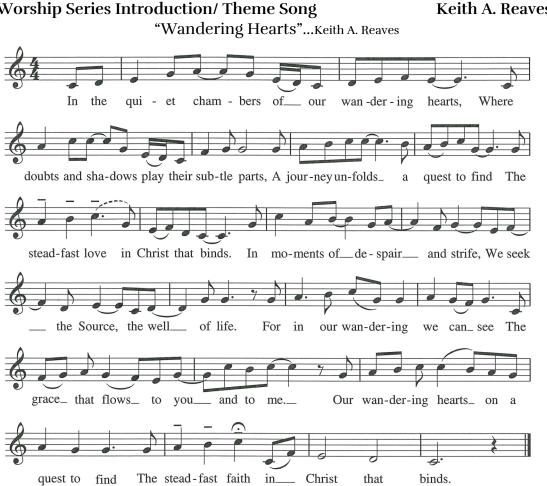
We welcome a larger congregation through Comcast Channel 44, and YouTube. As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

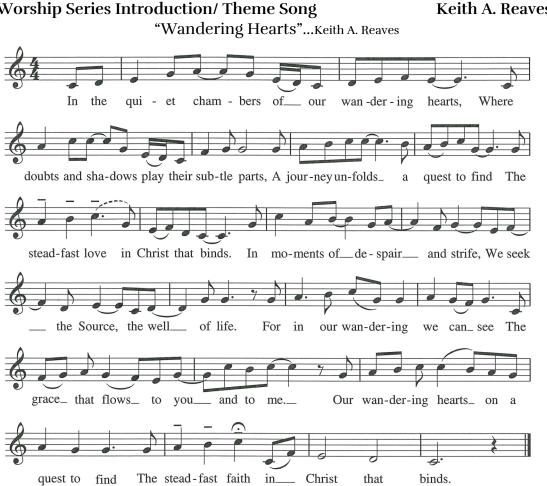
Chiming of the Hour













Call to Worship

Christ is here!

God never stops seeking us, though we are prone to wander. We have been found.

Amen.

Tune our wandering hearts to sing Your praise!

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



Rome, Georgia The First Sunday in Lent

Let us find God in return.

Hymn of Praise No. 295

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Kristen Mathis, leader

Call to Confession

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. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and 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." "When 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.)

Tamara Tillman Smathers Morning Prayer (with the Lord's Prayer) 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

"Wandering Heart: Jesus Sought Me"

Anthem of Preparation

Sanctuary Choir

Rev. Brooks

"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. ©MCMXCIX Alfred Publishing CCLI1416589

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