

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:

March 17, 2024

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

NEXT SUNDAY
 The Youth and Children’s Choirs will sing for Palm Sunday worship next Sunday. Both choirs will rehearse at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary before Bible Study. Children will be taken from Bible Study to the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. to practice processing with palms. If your child will not be in Bible Study, but wants to process with palms in worship, please be in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. Children pre-K and younger will be taken to their worship care rooms after processing in worship. See Kristen Mathis with questions.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY | 6 p.m. - Fellowship Hall
 During Lent, our Wednesday Adult Bible Study will discover ways we experience Jesus. David Brooks leads this study, based on *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass. This week’s study is “Jesus as the Way,” based on John 14:6.

MAUNDY THURSDAY | March 28 at 7 p.m. - Sanctuary
 We will celebrate communion, hear the story of the last hours of Jesus and hear special music from the Sanctuary Choir. This is one of the most moving services of the year and helps prepare us for the joy of Easter.

COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK SERVICES | March 25-27 Noon to 1:00 p.m.
 Featuring pastors and musicians from across the community. A light lunch will follow each service. Hosted by Rome First United Methodist Church. David Brooks will preach Tuesday.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 17	
8:30 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation Committee - Conference Room
9:45 a.m.	Bible Study
11:00 a.m.	Worship
12:00 p.m.	Youth Choir
5:45 p.m.	Student Small Groups
Monday, March 18	
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.	Stephen Ministry - Conference Room
5:15 p.m.	First Baptist Ringers - Choir Suite
Tuesday, March 19	
7:00 p.m.	The Edge (High School Seniors) - Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, March 20	
5:00 p.m.	Family Night Dinner
5:45 p.m.	Children’s Choirs
6:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study - Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m.	Strengths Based Parenting Workshop - Room 300
6:30 p.m.	Children’s Egg Hunt
6:45 p.m.	Prayer Meeting - Fellowship Hall
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m.	Student Discipleship, Prayer & Hangout - Student Room
Thursday, March 21	
6:00 p.m.	Bridges Out of Poverty Class - Fellowship Hall & Community Room

The flowers in the Narthex and Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Adrena Delauder Losh given by Chelsea, Bobby and Tripp Losh-Jones.

CBF

Offering for

GLOBAL MISSIONS



FBC Goal: \$45,000
Given to Date: \$22,781.47

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



First Baptist Church **Rome, Georgia**
March 17, 2024 **The Fifth 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 Theme Song “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 Keith A. Reaves, leader
 Why are you here?
 I am seeking God with my whole heart.
 You’re in the right place! This is God’s house. The door is open to you.
 Why are you here?
 I am seeking God with my whole heart.

You're in the right place. This is God's house. The door is open to you.
Let us worship God.
Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen.

Hymn of Praise No. 349 "To God Be the Glory"

Prayer of Confession Tamara Tillman Smathers, leader
Holy God, We long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."
Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, "How many times should we forgive?"—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.
With hope and humility we pray . . .

A Time for Silent Confession
Assurance of Forgiveness First Baptist Ringers
"The Old Rugged Cross"...arr. Douglas Wagner

Reading of Holy Scripture Matthew 18:15-22
Kristen Mathis, reader
¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." ²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, 77 times.
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 Dedication "Christ Beside Me" (BUNESSAN)
(Children ages four through fourth grade may depart for Children's Worship.)

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me, in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

Morning Prayer (with the Lord's Prayer) David Brooks
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 "And Can It Be?"...arr. Dan Forrest
(The lyrics in this anthem appear in Hymn 605.)

Sermon Rev. Brooks
"Wandering Heart: Teach Me"

Hymn of Response No. 543 "Abide With Me"

Prayer of Stewardship Nick Georgian

Handbell Offertory "Jesus and His Love"...arr. Benjamin A. Tucker

 Today's icon represents an open book. Peter's posture toward Jesus is that of an open book. He is eager to learn from Jesus all he can glean. In this week's text, he wants to know all about the nature of forgiveness and grace. What questions would you like to ask God?

The Work of the Church Rev. Georgian

Affirmation of Public Decisions

Pastoral Blessing and Passing of the Peace

Hymn of Commissioning No. 514 "Christians, Let Us Go and Serve Him"

Organ Postlude "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"... arr. James Pethel

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