

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:

December 29, 2024

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

WORLD HUNGER OFFERING

Please contribute to the monthly hunger offering received on the last Sunday of every month. Mark an offering envelope with "WORLD HUNGER" and place it in the offering plate or give at the exits as you depart worship. Our gifts support CBF Global Missions Hunger Relief.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

Any offerings you would like to claim in 2024 for tax purposes must be postmarked or in the office by December 31. Offering envelopes are available across from the elevator on the ground floor.

UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES AVAILABLE

This daily devotional book is an excellent tool for those wishing to begin or deepen a devotional practice. Each day includes a Scripture, a short meditation and prayer. Copies may be picked up on the welcome desk near the elevator and outside the church office.

WEDNESDAY DINNER AND CHURCH CONFERENCE | January 8

Dinner served from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. will be followed by prayer time and our quarterly church conference. The Sanctuary Choir will also resume rehearsals at 6:45 p.m. Children, Collide and Youth will also resume their regular Wednesday activities.

SENIOR ADULT TRIP MEETING

After a memorable time in Italy, the Senior Adult Committee has planned a trip to discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria October 22-31, 2025. A meeting to learn more and to register for the trip is Wednesday, January 15 at 3 p.m. in the Dining Room. We will spend four days in Bern with day trips each day and then four days in Innsbruck with day trips each day, so that there will be little packing and unpacking. Highlights will include, Bern, Lucerne, Salzburg, Mirabell Gardens, Mount Pilatus, Linderhof Palace, Lichtenstein and much more. An extension to Vienna will also be offered.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS | Sunday, February 2 | 5 p.m. | (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Dinner with Friends is a great way to meet and get to know other members in our church. Each household will host the rest of their team once, either at their home or their favorite restaurant. Scan the QR code to register.



WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 29

9:45 a.m. Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, January 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, January 2

6:00 p.m. Bridges Out of Poverty Class - Community Room

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Beverly Harris on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, by Bob Harris.





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

December 29, 2024
11:00 a.m.

As a courtesy to others, please silence electronic devices.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ORGAN CALL TO WORSHIP

“Noel”...Iris Ackenhusen

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Gwen Stephens

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,
God is there.

When Jesus is presented at the temple,
God is there.

When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,
God is there.

This very morning,
God is here.

In the future we cannot see,
God is there. Let us worship the newborn King!

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 126

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

CALL TO CONFESSION

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, hear us as we humbly pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Miriam Hester Smith, soloist
“My Lord Has Come”...Will Todd

READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:25-35

Bill Davies, lay reader

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

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.

CAROL NO. 143

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

MORNING PRAYER (with the Lord’s Prayer)

Kristen Mathis

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

“What Child Is This”...arr. Benjamin Harlan

SERMON

Rev. Mathis

“Nunc Dimittis: Simeon’s Song”

CAROL OF RESPONSE NO. 119

“His Name Is Called Emmanuel”

PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP

Heather Shores

Holy God, we are grateful You have brought us through another year.

As we look forward to the new year, help us trust that You will continue to guide us.

Let our gifts and offerings be pleasing in Your sight,
for this we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

PIANO OFFERTORY

“Christmas Tidings”...arr. C. E. Walz

Meditation Text:

C. S. Lewis said, “Jesus Christ did not say, ‘Go into all the world and tell the world that it is quite right.’ He makes another important point about our quest as Christians to share God’s word. As we move further past New Year’s Day, don’t hesitate to stop and consider the importance of helping others recognize their need for Christ. - Billy Hallowell

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Heather Shores

AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

PASTORAL BLESSING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

ORGAN POSTLUDE

“Caroling, Caroling”...arr. Diane Bish

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FAMILY WORSHIP

Today is the last Sunday of the month. These days are designated as “Family Worship” days and all children sit with their families. Nursery care is available for children four and younger. Children’s Worship will return next Sunday.

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*

Kristen Mathis *Minister of Faith Development*

Gwen Stephens *Minister to Extended Family*

Heather Shores, *Interim Minister to Students*

Joan Hill, *Organist* Beverly Harris, *Pianist*