

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:

January 12, 2025

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

NEW ADULT FAITH FORMATION SEMINARS | Wednesdays | 6 p.m.

- **“The Screwtape Letters,”** by C.S. Lewis
Chris Barbieri will lead a study of the Christian classic in which C.S. Lewis imagines the correspondence between a greater and lesser demon as they strive to subvert and undermine the Christian faith of their “patient.” Participants are asked to purchase a copy of the book. Indicate your interest by emailing Chris at cbarbarian99@yahoo.com.
- **The Sermon on the Mount**
David Brooks will lead a study of The Sermon on the Mount, which contains some of Jesus’ most profound and memorable teachings. The primary resource for this study will be Amy-Jill Levine’s book, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner’s Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*.

SENIOR ADULT TRIP MEETING | Wednesday, January 15 at 3 p.m. in Dining Room

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.

HYMN FESTIVAL | January 29 at 4 p.m.

The congregations from First Baptist Church, North Broad Baptist Church, Garden Lakes Baptist Church, Second Avenue Baptist Church and Horizon Baptist Fellowship will join together for a hymn festival on Sunday, January 26 at 4 p.m. at North Broad Baptist Church. The choirs will lead this time of worship and the congregation will serve as our biggest choir. We had a great time together last year when FBC hosted this event.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS | Sunday, February 2 at 5 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Dinner with Friends is a great way to meet and get to know others 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. Today is the deadline to register.



WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 12

8:15 a.m. Finance Committee - Conference Room
9:45 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal - Choir Suite

Monday, January 13

10:00 a.m. Women’s Bible Study - Dining Room
11:30 a.m. Ruble Whitworth Missions Group - Dining Room
2:00 p.m. History Committee - Conference Room
5:30 p.m. Deacons’ Meeting - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 15

3:00 p.m. Sr. Adult 2025 Fall Trip Information Meeting - Dining Room
5:00 p.m. Family Night Dinner - Fellowship Hall
5:45 p.m. Children’s Choirs
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study Seminars - Dining Room & Community Room
Student Ministry Activities & Discipleship - Student Room
6:30 p.m. Children’s and Collide Missions
6:45 p.m. Prayer Time - Fellowship Hall
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Suite

Thursday, January 16

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

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God through the Jo Huffman Flower Fund.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Bob and Beverly Harris in honor of their children.



To help maintain a spirit of worship, please silence electronic devices.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ORGAN CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come, Thou Almighty King” ...arr. Albert Travis

(Please use this time to prepare your hearts for worship.)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Keith A. Reaves

As your rivers, O God, flow around us,

we come to be washed by Your grace.

Your voice calls us to the water,

and we immerse ourselves in Your love.

You speak to us: “You are my Beloved, my own, and I am so delighted in you.”

**By Your grace we receive Your blessing, we accept Your claim upon us,
and we worship You with awe and gratitude. Alleluia!**

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 295

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

THE COVENANT OF CHURCH MEMBERS

David Brooks, leader

Led by the Spirit of God to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and having entered into the fellowship of the Spirit through His Church,

we, the members of the Church, prayerfully make this covenant with one another and with our Heavenly Father.

We respect all faith traditions, but we shall cherish our heritage as Baptist Christians.

We shall hold dear the principles of soul competency, the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local Church, and the Bible as our trusted and authoritative guide in matters of faith and practice.

As a group of gathered believers, we understand ourselves to be a part of a family of faith.

Therefore, we shall love, forgive, admonish, encourage, serve, and pray for one another—always in the spirit of being sisters and brothers in Christ.

Jesus Christ shall be our model for living.

We recognize that none of us shall ever attain His perfection; yet, we shall always strive to grow in the likeness of Him. His heart shall be our guide for the way we minister, organize ourselves, conduct our business, and treat others.

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ on earth; therefore, we are the hands of Christ.

Knowing this about ourselves, we shall be satisfied with nothing less than being leaders in Christian service. We can only accomplish this goal by serving more.

Our Master is our example. We know that we serve Christ Himself when we minister to the least, the last, the lost, and the overlooked.

We believe that, on our own, we are not strong enough, wise enough, nor good enough to accomplish our mission as a Church. Therefore, we trust in God's strength, God's wisdom, and God's righteousness to empower us. Only through prayer do we accomplish our mission as a Church.

--Adopted by the First Baptist Church of Rome, October 19, 2003

ORDINANCE OF BELIEVERS' BAPTISM

Cooper Clotfelter, candidate

(The congregation will please respond with "Amen" after the baptism.)

READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:15-22

Gwen Stephens, reader

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

¹⁹But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done,

²⁰added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,

²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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 THE SPIRIT NO. 238

"Spirit, Now Live in Me"

(Children through fourth grade are invited to depart for Children's Worship.)

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

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"...arr. Sheldon Curry

(The congregation will please sing with the choir when prompted.)

I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land.

O, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.

SERMON

Rev. Brooks

"Baptized and Beloved"

ORDINANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

As we observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper 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. 466

"Jesus, at Your Holy Table"

PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP

Heather Shores, leader

Loving God, who guides us with Your everlasting presence, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts.

As Jesus stands with us in the waters of baptism, may these offerings stand as a testament to Your love and grace.

Use them to bring hope, healing, and transformation to our world.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

PIANO OFFERTORY "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"...arr. Ron Boud

Meditation Text:

Baptism reminds us that there's no ladder to holiness to climb, no self-improvement plan to follow. It's just death and resurrection, over and over again, day after day, as God reaches down into our deepest graves and with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead wrests us from our pride, our apathy, our fear, our prejudice, our anger, our hurt, and our despair.

-Rachel Held Evans

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Reaves

AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

PASTORAL BLESSING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

ORGAN POSTLUDE

"How Firm a Foundation"...arr. Anna Laura Page

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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.

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*