

**JOIN US FOR
BLUEGRASS SUNDAY
AUGUST 3, 2025
11 A.M. DURING MORNING WORSHIP**

The Bluegrass Band, "Tried And True" is back to lead the congregation in another Bluegrass Sunday. The trio will be featured during the entire hour to sing & play traditional bluegrass hymns on a variety of instruments and let us sing along on a few!

FROM OUR PASTOR

Unreasonable Hospitality

Throughout the book, *The Big Relief: The Urgency of Grace for a Worn-Out World*, author David Zahl provides numerous reflections on the nature of God's grace for us, how we can receive such grace, and how we can give grace to others. In one example, Zahl points to the title of a book by Will Guidara: *Unreasonable Hospitality*. Guidara is a restaurant owner and chef in New York, and his book is actually referenced in the very popular TV show *The Bear*. "Unreasonable Hospitality" is Guidara's philosophy for how to best serve customers. "How we serve is as important as what we serve," says Guidara.

A key part of Guidara's unreasonable hospitality is to "make the charitable assumption." When we make the charitable assumption, we "assume the best of people, even (or perhaps especially when) they weren't behaving particularly well.... When someone is being difficult, it's human nature to decide they no longer deserve your best service. But another approach is to think, 'Maybe the person is being dismissive because their spouse asked for a divorce or because a loved one is ill. Maybe this person needs more love and more hospitality than anyone else in the room'" (Will Guidara,

Unreasonable Hospitality, 29).

I can see you rolling your eyes right now. I had the same reaction. Why should we excuse bad behavior and put up with rude people in our lives? The answer can come to us when we pause to consider how God treats us when we are at our most toxic moments: with unreasonable hospitality. God always makes the charitable assumption about us, even and especially when we are hateful, selfish, and ugly. God looks upon us with favor. In David Zahl's words, "God doesn't just refuse to push us away or to cut us off; he brings us closer. The main difference is that no money changes hands. In fact, if there's a bill involved, the manager foots it" (Zahl, 57).

Unreasonable hospitality. Let that be a new definition of grace in your life. Give thanks that God offers it to you, and do your best to make the charitable assumption about other people, giving grace in the same measure by which you have received it from God.

Your pastor and friend,

David

CHILDREN'S CORNER

CHILDREN'S PAJAMA PARTY

FBC kids, put on your favorite pajamas and join us for a pajama party at the Mathis home on July 30 from 5 – 7 p.m. The registration deadline is Friday, July 25. Please reach out to Kristen to RSVP.

COLLIDE MIDLERS SIX FLAGS TRIP

Collide students are headed to Six Flags on July 23. Contact Kristen to sign-up!

COLLIDE & CRUMBL

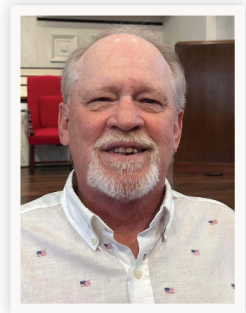
Collide Middlers are invited to Collide & Crumbl with a Crumbl cookie party at Ben and Kristen's home on August 6 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

We'd like to thank everyone who has generously donated money toward a new playground for our kids. We currently have raised \$168,471 of our overall goal of \$244,395! If you'd like to donate, please reach out to Kristen Mathis.

NEW MEMBER

Alan Patterson joined the church by Profession of Faith on June 29.
Life Verses:
Romans 8:37-39



SERVICE & SPECIAL PROJECTS

REMINDER FROM THE SERVICE & SPECIAL PROJECTS TEAM

The Service and Special Projects Deacon-Led Ministry Team is here to help you with (almost) any project you may need! If you need assistance with service projects please email a request to John Wilson at john.s.wilson@verizon.net or Troy Fitzpatrick at troymfzpatrick@gmail.com. Examples are, but not limited to, yard work, minor home repairs, moving furniture, and transportation assistance.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

save-the-date

FAMILY NIGHT KICKOFF

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 13

Dinner served from 5pm-6pm
Family activities following dinner
Choir practice begins at 6:45pm

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSING AT 3PM ON FRIDAYS

Church offices now close at 3 p.m. on Fridays. If you have any business to take care of in the office on Fridays, please make sure to call or visit within the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SUMMER PREACHING SERIES

This summer our Worship Series is entitled, "Questions from God." Pastor David Brooks will spend each week looking at a specific question God asks us in Scripture.

July 20: "What Are You Doing Here?" 1 Kings 19:1-13

July 27: "Who Do You Say That I Am?" Mark 8:27-30

August 3: **Bluegrass Sunday**

August 10: "What Are You Looking For?" John 1:35-39

August 17: "Do You Want to Get Well?" John 5:1-9

August 24: "Do You Understand What I Have Done for You?" John 13:12-17

August 31: "Why Are You Crying?" John 20:11-16

DEAN'S LIST AND CHAPEL CLASSES HOSTING ALAIN AND KATHERINE NILES

On Sunday, July 27 at 9:45 a.m. in the Chapel, the Dean's List and Chapel Classes will host Alain and Katherine Niles for an update on their mission work in Togo. All members of the church are invited to hear them speak during the Bible Study hour. Then, Alain and Katherine will bring greetings to FBC Rome and a brief update before they offer the Prayer of Stewardship in our morning worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE-THE-DATES

The Fall season is quickly approaching. Make sure to add these dates to your calendar now!

August 2: Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room at 11 a.m.

August 17: Back to Bible Study Sunday (Promotion Sunday)

September 7: Deacon Ordination

September 28: Churchwide Fall Picnic

CHOIRS RESUME REHEARSALS

All of our music ensembles will resume rehearsals soon.

See info below and contact Keith Reaves if you are interested in joining us or have questions.

Sanctuary Choir

Wednesday, August 6 @ 5:30 p.m. Choir Potluck and Rehearsal

Wednesday, August 13 regular rehearsals resume @ 6:45 p.m.

All Children's Choirs

Wednesday, August 20 @ 5:45 p.m.

Youth Choir

Sunday, September 7 following worship

First Baptist Ringers

Monday, August 25 @ 5:15 p.m.

ARE YOU RECYCLING?

Did you know that FBC Rome RECYCLES? Look for the green and blue bins around the church for your cans, plastic bottles, or paper. Regular trash can go in any other trash receptacle. Thank you for helping us care for God's creation by recycling. Your efforts matter!

SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Narthex for Sunday, July 20, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jay Grimes by J.C. and Jimmie Grimes.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, July 20, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sybil Mann Harrison by Lindsey Sybil Mann Field and Ashley Harrison Mann Pittman.

The flowers in the Narthex for Sunday, July 27, are given to the glory of God and provided by the Jo Huffman Flower Fund.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, July 27, are given to the glory of God and in honor of Earl Rolan for his birthday by Mary Rolan and family.

July 18 - July 31

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, July 20

Adult Faith Formation Committee, 8:30 am
Conf. Rm.

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ AM 1410) 9:00 am

Bible Study 9:45 am

Worship 11:00 am

Available on: FBC Website

YouTube Channel

Comcast Channel 44 (*delayed by one week*)

Monday, July 21

Women of the Church Book Group, D.R. 1:00 pm

Personnel Committee, Conf. Rm. 5:30 pm

Wednesday, July 23

Collide Six Flags Trip

Thursday, July 24

Bridges Out of Poverty Class, 6:00 pm
Comm. Rm. & F.H.

Sunday, July 27

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ AM 1410) 9:00 am

Bible Study 9:45 am

Worship/World Hunger Offering 11:00 am

Available on: FBC Website

YouTube Channel

Comcast Channel 44 (*delayed by one week*)

Wednesday, July 30 - Friday, August 1

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

Wednesday, July 30

Children's & Collide PJ Party, 5:00 pm
Mathis home

Thursday, July 31

Bridges Out of Poverty Class, 6:00 pm
Comm. Rm. & F.H.

THIS WEEK: JULY 20

SUNDAY WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERIES: "Questions from God"

SERMON: "What Are You Doing Here?"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: 1 KINGS 19:1-13

ANTHEM: His Eye Is On the Sparrow...
arr. Benjamin Harlan

SPECIAL MUSIC: Jackson Pruett

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

WEEKEND MINISTER ON CALL (JULY 18 - 20):
Kristen Mathis 502.693.5644

THE SPIRE

SUNDAY SERVICES

BROADCAST LIVE ON
COMCAST CHANNEL 44 AND
VIA WWW.FBCROME.ORG

DONATE TO TEXAS FLOOD RELIEF



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

First Baptist Church of Rome, in partnership with CBF, is receiving donations for flood relief efforts in Texas. To donate, you can either click on the "Disaster Response" drop down option through the ShelbyNext app and note the donation is for "Texas Flood Relief," bring your offering by the church office, or place your offering in the offering plate and designate it as "Texas Flood Relief." We appreciate your continuous generosity in times of need across our world.

Please visit us for more information:
www.fbcrome.org

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NEXT WEEK: JULY 27

SUNDAY WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERIES: "Questions from God"

SERMON: "Who Do You Say That I Am?"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: MARK 8:27-30

ANTHEM: The Majesty and Glory of Your Name...
arr. Tom Fettke

SPECIAL MUSIC: Diane Lumpkin

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

WEEKEND MINISTER ON CALL (JULY 25 - 27):
Gwen Stephens 706.766.5074