

Ash Wednesday Service

FEBRUARY 18 | 6:15 P.M. | SANCTUARY

FOLLOWING FAMILY NIGHT DINNER

Children & Students will join
the adults as we begin the
season of Lent.

Nursery care is provided for PreK and under.



FROM OUR PASTOR

Jesus Is the Answer

Life is full of questions — some practical, others deeply personal. We wonder how to face temptation, handle relationships, live with uncertainty, or find hope when life feels overwhelming. Beneath many of these struggles is the same longing: Where do we turn? Who can truly help?

During Lent this year, beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, we will explore a simple but life-changing truth: **Jesus is the answer**. That may sound familiar, even cliché — but it is a living reality that meets us right where we are.

On Ash Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary, we will gather to confess our sin, bring our questions before God, and receive strength for the journey that leads to Easter. Along the way, we will walk with Jesus through the wilderness and encounter some of the most memorable people in the gospel stories — searching, thirsty, grieving, and in need of hope. In each story, we will see how Jesus meets us in the real places of human need, sitting with us and guiding us through life's hardest questions.

Holy Week then draws us to the heart of our faith. We will remember that Jesus knows what it is to feel overwhelmed, alone, misunderstood, and betrayed. His love, poured out on the cross, shows us that no question or burden we carry is beyond his care.

And then comes Easter. When all seemed lost, God brought resurrection. The empty tomb declares that despair does not have the final word. In Christ, there is always hope, always new life, always a future held in God's hands.

This Lent, I invite you to bring your real life to worship — your questions, struggles, hopes, and fears. Together, we will rediscover the good news at the center of our faith: **Jesus is the answer**.

Your pastor and friend,

David

CHILDREN'S CORNER

LOVE BUG LUNCH

We have our second annual Valentines-themed lunch on Sunday, February 22, at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall following worship. This is for families with children pre-k age and younger as an opportunity to fellowship with others in a similar stage of life. RSVP required, childcare provided.

PLAYGROUND DEDICATION

The playground is complete, but BRRR it's been too cold to celebrate! We will have a playground dedication on Sunday, March 1, following worship. There will be a ribbon-cutting and cookies, so don't miss out!

MATERNITY LEAVE

Kristen is now scheduled to be on maternity leave March 24 - May 19, about a month earlier than originally planned. She is working on getting coverage in all areas, but could use some help as the earlier leave now encompasses Palm Sunday, Easter egg hunts and Easter Sunday. If you would be willing to help, please come talk to Kristen!

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Parents Night Out will be March 6, from 5:30 - 8 p.m. for kids of all ages. The cost is \$15 for the first child and \$5 more for each additional sibling. Sign-up will be available closer to time.

STUDENT NEWS

SAVE-THE-DATE FOR OUR YOUTH-LED SERVICE

This year's Youth-Led worship service will be Sunday, March 1, at 5 p.m. in the Chapel. Please add this date to your calendar and make plans to support our youth!

MISSIONS

FEBRUARY MISSION PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Habitat for Humanity

First Baptist Church is an active partner with Habitat for Humanity. Did you know there are Habitat homes being built right here in Rome? Just last fall a small team of folks from FBC helped paint the interior of a home a couple of miles from our church. There are countless ways to be involved with Habitat. One of those is by providing the funds to help build a home. We are currently only about \$25,000 short of being able to schedule our next FBC build. Imagine being the hands and feet of Jesus by building a home for a family who needs a safe place to call their own. What role can each of play in helping a family build their forever home?

HANDS OF CHRIST SERVE DAY

The 2026 HOC Serve Day will be Saturday, April 18. Please go ahead and add this date to your calendar. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOURNEY TO EASTER

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will begin a churchwide Journey to Easter experience through the season of Lent. This 6-week experience is an invitation to walk through the season of Lent as a time of preparing our hearts, minds, and souls for Easter. There will be two separate devotional guides — one for adults and one for parents/grandparents to use with children. In addition, the devotions lead to an interactive experience that offers the opportunity to set up a Lenten display in your home for this season. A bag of supplies will also be available for everyone — all ages. Devotional guides and supplies will be available beginning Sunday, February 15.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY NIGHT SEMINARS – BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25

- **“A Call to Endurance”** – A Bible study led by David Brooks focused on passages from the book of Hebrews. Meets in the Dining Room
- **“Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart”** – a continued discussion of relating to those who are suffering led by Gwen Stephens. Meets in the Conference Room.
- **“A Different Kind of Fast”** – a focus on fasting from those things that do not draw us closer to God so we might embrace the character and heart of God more intentionally. Led by Suzanne Reece and meets in the Community Room.
- **Young Men's Lenten Conversation Group** – led by Coleman Fannin and will provide the opportunity for young men to gather around the themes and scripture shared in the “Journey to the Cross” devotions for further exploration and conversation. Meets in room 302.

UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC

Mark your calendars as we welcome special music guests to worship in the next few months:

February 22: Indra Thomas, soprano

March 1: Tara Suswal, cello and Stefanie Cash, flute

March 15: Former FBC Intern and Grammy winner Jamie Barton

March 22: Former FBC Intern Flynn Allen and Paula Pasqua, violin and Tara Suswal, cello

March 29: Palm Sunday; String Quartet and James Douglas

April 5: Easter; Brass Ensemble

April 26: Keith's last Sunday; Full Orchestra with special music by the Sanctuary Choir, former music Interns Steve Rotz, Bethany Irby Okie, and Matthew and Sydney Godfrey-Becher
Watch for more information on other Sundays.

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

Registration is open for 2026-2027! Most of our classes are full, but we have some openings. Please contact Melissa Wood at mwood@fbcrome.org for more information. We would love for your child to join us for lots of worship, learning and FUN!



WELCOME TO THE CHURCH FAMILY

Danny and Tammi Price joined the church by profession of faith on January 11.



Justin, Hannah, Melody, and Cadence Price joined the church on January 11. Melody and Cadence will be baptized February 22.



Gary Batchelor joined the church by transfer of letter on January 18.



SUNDAY FLOWERS

Flowers in the Narthex for Sunday, February 15, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ted A. Owens by Joanne Owens and family.

Flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, February 15, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Hubert and Josephine Lowe by Dick and Pat Lowe Johnston.

Flowers in the Narthex for Sunday, February 22, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Larry Atwell by Joanna Atwell and family.

Flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, February 22, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nell Ansley Briley by Ansley and Dean Saville and family.

There are openings on the flower calendar in the months of March, April, and July. Please contact Karen Garrett in the church office if you are interested in providing a beautiful arrangement in the Narthex or Sanctuary.

February 14 - February 27

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, February 15

Adult Faith Formation Committee, Conf. Rm.	8:30 am
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)	
Youth Choir Rehearsal	12:00 pm
Youth Small Groups	5:30 pm

Monday, February 16

Weekday Preschool Closed	
Women's Bible Study, D.R.	10:00 am
Missions Committee, Conf. Rm.	12:00 pm
Personnel Committee, D.R.	12:00 pm
Women of the Church Book Group, Comm. Rm.	1:00 pm
First Baptist Ringers Rehearsal	5:15 pm

Wednesday, February 18

Weekday Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary	9:50 am
Family Night Dinner, F.H.	5:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary	6:15 pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	6:45 pm

Sunday, February 22

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ AM 1410)	9:00 am
Bible Study	9:45 am
Worship/World Hunger Offering/Baptism	11:00 am
Available on: FBC Website	
YouTube Channel	
Comcast Channel 44 (delayed by one week)	
Youth Choir Rehearsal	12:00 pm
Love Bug Lunch, F.H.	12:00 pm

Monday, February 23

Women's Bible Study, D.R.	10:00 am
First Baptist Ringers Rehearsal	5:15 pm

Tuesday, February 24

Weekday Preschool Sweetheart Ball, D.R.	12:00 pm
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Wednesday, February 25

Weekday Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary	9:50 am
Family Night Dinner, F.H.	5:00 pm
Children's Choirs Rehearsals	5:45 pm
Student Discipleship, Student Rm.	5:45 pm
Adult Seminars	6:00 pm
Children's and Collide Missions	6:30 pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	6:45 pm

Thursday, February 26

Safety and Security Committee	4:00 pm
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THIS WEEK: FEBRUARY 15

SUNDAY WORSHIP

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERIES: Rise and Shine

SERMON: "Shining Faces"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 24:12-14

ANTHEM: Psalm 23...arr. Heather Sorenson

SPECIAL MUSIC: Jackson Pruitt

FEBRUARY 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY

LENT WORSHIP SERIES: Jesus Is the Answer

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: Psalms 32 and 51

SERMON: When We Have Sinned...Jesus Is the Answer

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:

<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

FAMILY NIGHT MENU

FEBRUARY 18

Mixed Green Salad, Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes,

Mixed Vegetables, Key Lime Pie

Children's Option: Hamburgers, Tater Tots, Fruit

Cocktail, Key Lime Pie

WEEKEND MINISTER ON CALL (FEBRUARY 13 - 14):

David Brooks 252.916.7174

THE SPIRE

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

WELCOME OUR NEW MINISTER!

On Sunday, February 1, John Bishop was unanimously called to be our Minister to Students and Young Adults. John will begin his duties part-time beginning March 13, and then join us full-time on May 26. Welcome, John!



NEXT WEEK: FEBRUARY 22

SUNDAY WORSHIP

ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM

LENT WORSHIP SERIES: Jesus Is the Answer

SERMON: "When We Are Tempted...Jesus Is the Answer"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 4:1-11 AND ROMANS 6:1-4

ANTHEM: At Calvary...arr. Mary McDonald

SPECIAL MUSIC: Indra Thomas

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:

<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

FAMILY NIGHT MENU

FEBRUARY 25

Mixed Green Salad, Potato Salad, Fried Chicken,

Macaroni and Cheese, Fried Okra, Strawberry

Shortcake

Children's Option: Fried Chicken, Mandarin Oranges,

Strawberry Shortcake

WEEKEND MINISTER ON CALL (FEBRUARY 20 - 21):

Keith Reaves 706.506.9948

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

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