

PASSPORTkidsSM

Join us in prayer for the following children and chaperones attending Passport Kids Camp July 12- 15 at Rock Eagle in Eatonton, GA:

CHAPERONES

Ben Mathis, Kristen Mathis, Emily Richie

STUDENTS

Naomi Basu	Tripp Losh-Jones
Sarah Barbieri	Ansley Loy
Thomas Jackson	Archer Marion
Pace Knight	Emma Moon
Zaniel Lawrence	Emily Moon
Zander Larence	Katie Mae Nichols
Zayden Larence	



Join us in prayer for the following students and chaperones attending M28 Camp July 11- 14 in Lake Junaleska, NC:

CHAPERONES

John Bishop, April Lucas, Sam Ratcliffe, Gwen Stephens

STUDENTS

Anna Grace Barbieri	Henry Lewis
Eston Collins	Macy Lewis
Ava Hall	Katy Smith
Katelyn Hood	Mary Jack Smith
Callie Hunt	Barrett Woods
Sarah Kate Hunt	

FROM OUR PASTOR

Let (Religious) Freedom Ring!

Happy Independence Day! As you know, July 4 marks a very special occasion this year in our nation's history: 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The United States has existed for a quarter of a millennium, and this significant anniversary is an occasion for us to truly celebrate, but also to reflect on the freedoms that we have, and which have shaped us as a nation.

Chief among all the freedoms that we need to value and promote is the freedom of religion. As Baptists, we have a particular reason to value this freedom. Long before religious liberty became a cornerstone of American life, Baptists advocated for the right of every person to worship according to conscience, free from government coercion or interference. Our Baptist forebears — like Roger Williams and John Leland — understood that faith is most authentic when it is freely chosen rather than required by the government.

That conviction led many Baptists to champion what we often call the separation of church and state. Contrary to what we might think, the

separation of church and state does not mean separating faith from public life. Instead, it recognizes that both the church and the government are healthiest when neither seeks to control the other. Our government should not dictate matters of faith. Our government should never promote Christianity as the religion of America. By the same token, the church should never depend upon governmental power or endorsement to accomplish its mission.

As we look toward America's 250th birthday, may we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy. Let us pray for our nation. And let us recommit ourselves to preserving religious freedom that allows people of every faith — and those of no faith — to live together in peace. Such freedom is a true hallmark of being Baptist, and it remains one of America's most important and enduring gifts to our world.

Your pastor and friend,

David

CHILDREN'S CORNER

BIG THANK YOU FROM US TO YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS such a success! From those who donated materials, helped build the stage and decorate the preschool hall, or showed up the week of ready to teach, lead, and love, each of you was an invaluable part of this special week. I am so grateful to be in a church that sees the importance of children and these experiences for them! Special thanks to Karen Foss and Bob Harris for their leadership this year and so many years prior in building sets and creating a world for the kids to walk into.

BIG KIDS TO BIG AIR TRAMPOLINE PARK

Kids entering 3rd – 5th grades are invited to join Kristen for a trip to Big Air Trampoline Park on Wednesday, July 8. Stay tuned for more information!

FROYO AND FELLOWSHIP

Join us at Sweet Frogs on Thursday, July 9, at 3 p.m. for FroYo and Fellowship! Parents, please make sure you are available to stay with your children the entire time. We hope to see you there!

STUDENT NEWS

MYSTERY MUNCH MONDAY

Join us for our next Mystery Munch! We will meet in the Community Room on Monday, July 6, at 1 p.m. Students and leaders will walk down to a mystery location. This event is for all students just finishing 5th – 12th grades.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Students finishing 5th – 7th grades will gather Sunday, July 19, for Summer Bible Study in the Youth Room from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Light snacks will be provided, but please eat dinner beforehand!

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH FAMILY

Mallory Saville
joined
June 21
by
Profession of
Faith.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SUMMER REMINDER

Summer is here! Many of us are enjoying vacations, family gatherings, and a change of pace. These times of rest are gifts from God. Yet even as our schedules shift, the ministry of the church continues every week. We had a wonderful Vacation Bible School. Students are gathering for fellowship and growth. Missions and ministries continue serving our community. Worship, pastoral care, and outreach do not take a summer break.

We encourage you to remain faithful in your support of First Baptist Church throughout the summer months. Your prayers, presence, service, and financial generosity make it possible for our congregation to continue Seeking the heart of Christ and Being the Hands of Christ in our community.

Whether you are in Rome or traveling elsewhere, stay connected to your church family and remember that your ongoing financial support helps sustain the ministry we share together.

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity. Together, we continue growing and bearing the fruit of the Spirit for the glory of God and the good of our neighbors.

Ways You Can Give

- Cash or Check through the Offering Plate or Church Office
- Bank Draft or BillPay
- Stocks or Mutual Funds
- Through our website: www.fbcrome.org
- ShelbyNext APP – Call the Church Office for details

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESCHOOL

It's not too late to register your child for preschool! We have limited spaces available in our Three Year class. Children need to be three years old by September 1, 2026. They do not have to be potty trained, we just ask that you are actively working on it at home. Come join the fun! Contact us at mwood@fbcrome.org for more information.

SUMMER OF THE GOSPELS

By the time you read these words, we will be more than 1/3 of the way through our Summer of reading the Gospels. I hope you are finding this experience to be meaningful in ways you may have never expected. Have you learned something new in your reading? Have you seen a characteristic of Jesus you never experienced before? What questions are you asking as you read? If you haven't yet jumped on board in reading the Gospels, it's not too late. Check out the schedule or pick up one of the Gospel reading brochures. There's still two months left to give it a try. Also, if you'd like to join in a conversation about what reading the Gospels has been like for you, mark your calendars for our end of the Summer conversation on August 23 at 5:30 p.m.



MISSIONS

SUMMER MISSION CHALLENGE

For the month of July, we don't have a specific mission partner highlight, but rather, we as a church family have the opportunity to live missionally in our neighborhoods, in our community, and even while we are on vacation. This Summer we are focusing on the fruits of the Spirit in worship each week. How can you and your family live out the fruits of the Spirit every day, everywhere you go? Where can you show love to others? How can you demonstrate kindness in our community? Are there some relationships that might require you to express more patience or more gentleness? Ask God to remind you and reveal to you those places where God desires to grow you and grow you spirit into a deeper relationship with God's Spirit so you might live out the fruits of the Spirit more fully.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

- KRIS WILDER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – 4 years on July 11

We celebrate her and give thanks for all she does in service to God and our congregation.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Narthex for Sunday, July 5 are given to the glory of God and provided by the Jo Huffman Flower Fund.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, July 5, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of David Bosworth, Reagan Coker and John Ransom by George and Bess Bosworth.

The flowers in the Narthex for Sunday, July 12, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Kerestes by Sally Kerestes and family.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, July 12, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of James Langley on the occasion of his birthday by Jimmie Langley and family.

Volunteer Opportunity!

We need new and additional volunteers to help in the Church Office.

Call 706.291.6850 to sign up.

July 4 - July 17

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, July 5

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 6

Student Mystery Lunch 12:00 pm
Minister of Worship Search Committee, Conf. Rm. 5:15 pm
FBC Moms Walk & Talk, 7:00 pm
Main Post Office Trailhead

Tuesday, July 7

Prayer Shawl Ministry, Donna Griffin's home 1:00 pm

Wednesday, July 8

Children's Ministry, Big Air Trampoline Park, Hiram
Properties Committee, Conf. Rm. 12:00 pm

Thursday, July 9

Children's Ministry, FroYo & Fellowship, 3:00 pm
Sweet Frog

Sunday, July 12

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 13

Finance Committee, Conf. Rm. 12:00 pm

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



THIS WEEK: JULY 5

SUNDAY WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERIES: *Bearing Fruit*

SERMON: "Those Who Sow in Peace"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 11:1-9; JAMES 3:13-18

ANTHEM: "I Must Tell Jesus"

FRIDAY/SATURDAY MINISTER ON CALL (JULY 3 - 4):

Gwen Stephens 706.509.2003

NEXT WEEK: JULY 12

SUNDAY WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERIES: *Bearing Fruit*

SERMON: "Bearing With One Another in Love"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: LAMENTATIONS 3:22-33;

EPHESIANS 4:1-6

ANTHEM: "Draw Me Near"

FRIDAY/SATURDAY MINISTER ON CALL (JULY 10 - 11):

Suzanne Reece 706.509.2003

THE SPIRE

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

===== ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ =====
**HAPPY
4TH OF JULY**

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL
AND SAFE HOLIDAY!

===== ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ =====

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

The Spire (U.S.P.S. 613-160) is published bi-weekly.
First Baptist Church of Rome
100 East 4th Ave., Rome, GA 30161-3120
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Spire
P.O. Box 1189, Rome, GA 30162

