

Welcome to First Baptist Church!

Welcome to First Baptist Church, where we celebrate God’s love and Christ’s salvation, engage in ministry near and far, and empower each person to be the good news of Jesus Christ in Vero Beach. Please see an usher for any concerns, and fill out a Connection Card for the offering plate.

We welcome children in our worship services: The presence of children is a gift, and we celebrate their wiggles, cries, and play as we teach them how to “play” and be the church! We hope that you feel the warm embrace of the First Baptist family and grow deeper in the Lord. Nursery is provided for infants and preschool children in both services.

This Week’s Opportunities

Sunday, January 11, 2026

7:45 AM Worship Team Warmup
8:30 AM Worship Service
9:15 AM The Gathering
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Choir Warmup
10:30 AM Worship Service
12:00 PM Comm. Reorganization Luncheon

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:00 PM Risk Takers for Christ
6:30 PM Men’s Bible Study
7:00 PM TCC Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

7:30 AM Men’s Prayer
7:00 PM Deacons Meeting
(Please note the time change for this meeting)
NO Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

3:45 PM Clothing Room Opens
5:00 PM Wednesday Friends
5:00 PM Fellowship Dinner
5:45 PM Prayer & Bible Study
7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 15, 2026

6:30 PM Youth Group

Birthday Wishes - January Nonagenarians (90-99)

We would like to say **Happy Birthday** to our nonagenarian members:
Myrtle Holman - January 7 (94)
Lowell Mowry - January 26 (98)

Resolution One:

I will live for God.

Resolution Two:

If no one else does,
I STILL WILL.

Fellowship Dinner - 5:00 PM

Baked tilapia/scrod, rice pilaf, coleslaw, roll/butter & dessert

Deacon of the Week

Cristina McClure

Men’s Bible Studies * Mondays at

6:30 PM and Tuesdays at 7:30 AM

Get into God’s word and join in accountability as “iron sharpens iron” in several small groups that meet in the Executive Library. Tuesday group goes to breakfast after Bible devotion and prayer.

Youth Fellowship

Thursdays 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Middle and High School youth are invited to the gym with the Youth Team for a time of fellowship, devotional, and fun. Email Kristina LaGuardia for more details at familyminister@fbcvero.org

Little Birthday Angels

Little Debbie Birthday Cakes are being collected for our ministry partner, Little Birthday Angels. Drop off areas for the cakes are: Sanctuary Narthex and Church Office.



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News and Notes

Committee Reorganization Luncheon * Today at 12:00 PM

All committee members will be meeting with committees today during lunch. Agendas, officers, when and how often you will meet, and goals for the New year will be the center of discussion. This meeting follows worship and features a light luncheon in the Family Life Center.

Sign Up Today for Our New Photo Directory * February 19 - 21, 2026

We are putting together a new photo directory with Universal Church Directories, and we need everyone to sign up for a sitting! There are three opportunities to sit with your family to get your photo taken from Feb. 19—21. **Please sign up online:**

- Visit www.ucdir.com
- Click “Photography Session Sign-Up”
- **Church Code:** FL1098
- **Password:** photos

Sr. Adult St. Simons Island Retreat Informational Meeting *

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Join us for our annual Senior Adult retreat! General interest and orientation meeting will be held during dinner on January 28, 2026 in the FLC RM 103B. The retreat is scheduled for May 3 - 6, 2026. See Pastor Joe for more details.

New Wednesday Bible Study Series * at 5:45 PM

This season we will launch our new missions theme on "Arise!" for our entire church, encouraging everyone to think intentionally about growing our church and God's kingdom. Wednesday Bible studies will provide the blueprint for growth and discipleship as we "ARISE and build!"

Pastor Sabbatical Update

The Personnel Committee and Sabbatical Team are excited to present to the congregation Rev. Kevin Kroitor as the Sabbatical Interim Pastor while Pastor Joe is away from July 13 - Sept. 6, 2026. Rev. Kroitor, who currently serves as Director for Youth for Christ here on campus and as pastor in Belle Glade, will be preaching in both services on **Sunday, February 1, 2026** so you can get to meet him. He will also join us on a Wednesday night in the spring so you can spend more time with him.

Sunday Prayer Ministry *

Prayer Chapel after Worship, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Anyone who needs prayer may join our prayer warriors in the Prayer Chapel every Sunday after worship. Our prayer warriors are Sheryl Farrington, Chris and Carla Rumas, and Dr. Cristina McClure (playground).

Welcome New Deacons!

We thank our newest deacons for answering the call to serve our church. Welcome Bruce Carley, Diane Dees, Sandy Jinorio, Paul Schlicht, Audrey Sexton, Rick Vavak, Charlie Winters, and Laura Attwood. Deacon ordination and commissioning will be held in late January.

Clothes Closet Needs

The clothing closet is in need of men's winter clothes (sweaters, sweat shirts, and jackets). All sizes are accepted (but medium, large and extra-large are in high demand). Thank you in advance!



“ARISE AND BUILD” * NEHEMIAH 2: 18

The Worship of God

Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 11, 2026

In baptism, God has called each of us by name,

Claimed each of us as God’s own,

*And given each of us honor and glory
through Christ.*

*With such radical love washing over us
and through us,*

*We are transformed and strengthened to go out
and transform the world.*

Let us arise and build!

8:30 AM Worship Service

Opening Praise - We Want to See Jesus Lifted High

Prayer & Welcome - Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:13-17 (NT p. 2) - Dr. Cristina McClure

Worship Songs - What the Lord Has Done / Down to the River to Pray / Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Pastoral Prayer - Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia

An Affirmation - Wade in the Water

Message - Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia - “Microwaved Gospel”
Nehemiah 1; 2:17-18 (OT p. 336)

Time of Response - Rise Up, O Church of God

Offertory Prayer - Dr. Cristina McClure / Offertory - Judy Carter, piano

Ministry Opportunities / Benediction - Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia

Closing Song - May the Peace of God

First Baptist Church follows the Christian Calendar, which proclaims God’s Great Story of Redemption and helps mark the seasons of our life together. Today is the First Sunday after the Epiphany, which celebrates the Baptism of our Lord. The word “epiphany” means manifestation. Following the Incarnation of Christ, He was made known and shown to the world. One of these ways was through His baptism. John baptized Him “so that He might be manifested to Israel” (John 1:31). God also recognized Him at His baptism as God’s “beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased” (Matthew 3:17). May this day remind us of our own baptism, when we courageously declared to the world that we have heard the call of Christ to follow Him! The color for this Sunday is white, which is symbolic of the purity of Christ, the Light of the World.

Pastoral Ministry Team

Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia, Rev. Dr. Michael Carter,
Dr. Ray Adams and Rev. Kristina LaGuardia

Ministry Assistants

Millie Portante,
Pat Smith and Roy Strickland

Worship Team

Dr. Ray Adams, Judy Carter, Lance Lunceford, Richie Mola,
Joey Rumberger, Hunter Scoville, and Billy Smith

Technical Support Team

Jim Aldendorf, Roger Butler, Abigail Gast,
Hayden LaGuardia, Philip Smith, and Stephen Smith

First Baptist Church Preschool

René LaRosa and Leeanne Parrish

FBC Kids Staff

Kim Piscitelli, Zoe Gordon, Sam Guymon and Shyanna Nowell

Youth Volunteers

Willow Brown, Ali Crawford, Teagan Davis,
Dylan Johnson and Myla Wortham

10:30 AM Worship Service

Music Upon Gathering

(1st time—choir; 2nd time—all)

Wade in the water. Wade in the water, children.

Wade in the water. God’s gonna trouble the water.

(all) Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;

With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;

Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Welcome and Invocation

Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:13-17 (NT p. 2)

Dr. Cristina McClure

Leader: Here ends the Gospel Lesson

Worship Sentences

Leader: Spirit of righteousness, God of power and might, help us be a
light to the nations and a reflection of your glorious salvation.

People: Work in our lives and in our ministries, that the world might
know the power of your love and grace.

Leader: As you alighted upon Jesus at his baptism, descend upon us this
day, that we may be a people of hope and possibility.

People: Wash us clean and renew our spirits that we may grow each
day to be more like Jesus!

*Hymn of Worship (# 362)

BUNESSAN

Baptized in Water

Choral Affirmation

Sanctuary Choir

Build Thee More Stately Mansions

(Gordon Young)

*Hymn of Affirmation (# 489)

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Tithes and Offerings of a Grateful, Generous People

*Offertory Prayer

Dr. Cristina McClure

Offertory

Judy Carter, piano

*Doxology (# 253)

OLD 100TH

Children’s Sermon

Patti Carter

Call to Prayer

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ole way

And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.

Oh, sinners let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down.

Oh, sinners let’s go down, down to the river to pray. (repeat)

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia

An Affirmation

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me home;

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, comin’ for to carry me home?

A band of angels comin’ after me, comin’ for to carry me home.

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me home;

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me home.

The brightest day that I can say, comin’ for to carry me home;

When Jesus washed my sins away, comin’ for to carry me home.

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me home;

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me home.

Sermon - Nehemiah 1; 2:17-18 (OT p. 336)

Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia

“Microwaved Gospel”

*Time of Invitation

ST. THOMAS

1) Rise up, O Church of God! Have done with lesser things; give heart
and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings!

2) Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have trod; as
foll’wers of the Son of Man, rise up, O Church of God!

Ministry Opportunities and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia

*Closing Affirmation (# 462)

MALOTTE

Our Father, which art in heaven...

*Music upon Departure

Joey Rumberger, organ

Songs and words used with permission.

CCLI # 1219241

*All who are able, please stand.

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A Word of Gratitude

Dr. Joe and Kristina LaGuardia and the staff of First Baptist Church would like to thank all who participated in the Epiphany and ordination service last Sunday. We are grateful to our community partners, Ordination Council, friends, and congregation. We are especially grateful for Adriana Trautman and her family for providing the food for the reception and the Kitchen Committee for their gracious hospitality and support. We also thank Dr. Michael and Patti Carter for their leadership through this process as well as the Worship Team, Sanctuary Choir, Joey Rumberger, Judy Carter, and the Brass Ensemble for sharing their gifts with our community.

Our Mission

To worship God and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through word and action with our local community and around the world.