

## 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 4, 2026

9:15 AM The Gathering  
9:15 AM Worship Team Warmup  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
9:30 AM Choir & Brass Warmup  
10:30 AM Worship Service

#### Monday, January 5, 2026

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

#### Tuesday, January 6, 2026

7:30 AM Men's Prayer  
6:30 PM Ladies Devotions  
NO G.R.O.W. Meeting

#### Wednesday, January 7, 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 8, 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)

#### 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!

#### Fellowship Dinner -

#### Wednesday, January 7, 2026

#### 5:00PM

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, Peach Cobbler

#### Deacon of the Week

Jonnie Hill

#### 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](mailto: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:

**First Baptist**  
*Vero Beach*

2206 16th Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
772.567.4341  
[www.fbcvero.org](http://www.fbcvero.org)

## News and Notes

#### Celebrating God's Call! \* Today!

The Ordination Council for Kristina LaGuardia's ordination as Minister of Children, Youth, and Families has unanimously endorsed Kristina's ordination to the Gospel Ministry. We thank the Ordination Council for their prayers and discernment in this process: Amy (chair), David, and Dylan Johnson; Casey Lunceford (secretary); Adam, Dr. Kristy, Ali and Ella Crawford; Jerry and Connie Johnson; Chris and Carla Rumas; Rev. Dr. Michael and Patti Carter. Community members include Rev. Dr. Karen Hardaway, Rev. Tammy Snyder, and Rev. Dr. Leo George.

#### Ladies Devotions \* Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 6:30 PM

All ladies are invited to come for fellowship. Bring a friend, a snack and a devotion to share. Ladies devotions will take place in the Small Social Hall in the Family Life Center.

#### New Wednesday Series \* Beginning January 7, 2026 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!"

#### Committee Reorganization Luncheon \*

#### Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 12:00 PM

New committee members will be meeting with committees. Agendas, officers, when and how often you will meet, and goals for the New year will be the center of discussion. This meeting, which follows worship and features a light luncheon, will be held at 12:00 PM.

#### 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.

#### Coming Soon! New Photo Directory!

We will begin to sign up families and individuals for our new photo directory starting January 11, 2026. Photo sessions will take place February 19 - 21 2026. Information on how to sign up for a time slot will be forthcoming!



**ARISE! 2026 \* NEHEMIAH 2: 18**

## The Worship of God

### Epiphany Sunday

### Ordination of Kristina LaGuardia

**January 4, 2026 at 10:30AM**

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

*Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gifts. Christ appointed some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers. Christ did this to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, and for serving a broken world.*

10:30 AM Worship Service

Music Upon Gathering	Worship Team
Shine, Jesus, Shine / I Saw the Light / Shine on Us	
Epiphany Gospel Reading	Adam, Dr. Kristy, Ali and Ella Crawford
Matthew 2:1-12 (NT p. 1)	
*Hymns of Worship	
(# 113)	We Three Kings (1,5) KINGS OF ORIENT
(# 117)	As with Gladness Men of Old (1,2,3) DIX
Welcome and Theme Interpretation	Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia
Isaiah 60:1-5 (OT p. 535)	
Choral Invitation	Sanctuary Choir & Festival Brass
Arise, Arise and Shine (Mary McDonald)	
Arise, arise and shine! The light of the Lord is with you. Arise, arise and shine! For the glory of the Lord is with you. Star of wonder so bright, lead us to the light where the Child, with Mary lay. We will travel far by the wondrous star to see this Child! Arise, arise and shine! The light of the Lord is with you. Arise, arise and shine! For the glory of the Lord, the glory of the Lord is with you. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King! Born a Child in Bethlehem, Son of God and Son of Man; Holy Child, in love He came. Born a Savior, born a Son; Heaven’s Light to earth has come. Glory in the highest! Glory in the highest! Light to all has come! Arise, arise and shine...!	
Worship Sentences (based on Ephesians 4:1-3)	Teagan Davis
Leader: I beg you, as a servant of God, to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.	
People: With humility, patience, and gentleness, we will bear up one another with love.	
Leader: Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit,	
People: For there is only one body and one Spirit,	
Leader: Just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,	
All: We worship You, O Lord, and arise as servants of Christ, Amen!	
*Hymn of Affirmation (# 83)	FESTAL SONG
Arise, Your Light Is Come	
Pastoral Prayer	Rev. Nikki Hardeman
*Song of Affirmation	This Little Light of Mine Spiritual
Tithes and Offerings of a Grateful, Generous People	
*Offertory Prayer	Jonnie and Beverly Hill
Offertory	Festival Brass
Overture (From the Royal Fireworks Music) (G.F. Handel)	
*Doxology (# 253)	Ralph Vaughan Williams

Children’s Sermon	Patti Carter
Choral Affirmation	Sanctuary Choir & Festival Brass
Arise, Your Light Has Come (David Danner)	
Awake, my spirit, awake, lute and harp; I will awake at the dawn of day. I will confess You, O Lord, among the nations. I will raise a psalm to You, for Your love, Your love is wide as the heavens, and Your truth reaches to the skies! Wake, awake for night is flying, the watchmen on the heights are crying; Awake, Jerusalem at last. Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices: “Come forth, you maidens! Night is past. The Bridegroom comes, awake; your lamps with gladness take!” Alleluia! Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord, whose light has stirred the waiting guard. Now let all the heav’ns adore You, and saints and angels sing before You. The harps and cymbals all unite. Of one pearl each shining portal, where, dwelling with the choir immortal we gather round Your dazzling light. No eye has seen, nor ear has yet been trained to hear. What is ours! Crescendos rise; your halls resound; hosannas blend in cosmic sound. Arise, O Jerusalem! Arise clothed in light! Your light has come, and the glory of God upon your hearts will shine. Alleluia!	
Homily - 2 Timothy 1:3-14 (NT p. 165)	Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia
“Memory and Gift”	
Statement of the Purpose of Ordination	Rev. Dr. Michael Carter
Charge to the Candidate	
Ephesians 4:4-7	David, Amy, and Dylan Johnson
Kristina, you have shared your testimony of faith in Christ with the Ordination Council and with our church. As a child, you came to know Jesus, confessed your sins, and invited Him into your heart. You were baptized at the First Baptist Church of Tequesta, Florida. Do you affirm this commitment and promise to share the gift of God’s salvation to all people?	
I do, and I will carry the light of Christ to give as a gift to others.	
Ephesians 4:11-13	Jerry Johnson
Tommy and Dominica Anderson	
Recognizing your call to ministry, will you faithfully obey Jesus as you proclaim the living Word of God. Will you lead God’s people in ministry and worship, building up the Body of Christ. And will you maintain the integrity of your ordination by relying not on your own understanding, but by acknowledging God in all your ways?	
I will, and, with the Lord’s help, I will faithfully live by the power of the Holy Spirit.	
Charge to the Congregation	Rev. Tammy Snyder
Casey Lunceford	
First Baptist Church family, do you promise to be co-workers with Kristina, serving as a great cloud of witnesses who will build her up as she serves you and serves our Lord Jesus Christ?	
Congregation: We do.	

Do you promise to pray for her, encourage her, challenge her, and strive to live in unity as one Body and, through the power of one Spirit, remember your own salvation in Christ, calling, baptism, and the Great Commission?	
Congregation: We do.	
Blessing from the Community	Rabbi Rose Durbin
Blessing from the Children	Jaxon McCormick
Blessing of the Robe and the Stole	Abigail Gast
The Laying on of Hands	Congregation
All are invited to come and provide a brief blessing to Kristina	
Presentation of Robe	The Ellis, Gowens, and LaGuardia Families
Presentation of Stole	The Children’s Ministry
(The robe and stole are humbly gifted by Kristina’s parents, Jim and Jean Ellis)	
Commission	Willow Brown, Eathan Landon
Haleigh LaGuardia, Wayne Haines	
Response	Kristina LaGuardia
Presentation of Certificate	Chris Rumas
Blessing of the Newly Ordained	Carla Rumas
*Hymn of Invitation	LIGHT OF THE WORLD
The Light of the World is Jesus	
Ministry Opportunities	Rev. Dr. Joe LaGuardia
Benediction	Rev. Kristina LaGuardia
*Closing Affirmation (# 462)	Our Father... MALOTTE
*Music upon Departure	Festival Brass & organ
Allegretto (From Water Music) (G.F. Handel)	
Songs and words used with permission. CCLI # 1219241	
*All who are able, please stand. Streaming License #20363780	
Welcome to the Festival Brass: Scott Apelgren, trumpet; David Ewing, trumpet; Laurie Broadway, trombone; Ron Youmans, trombone. Also, greetings and thanks to Judy Carter, piano; Richie Mola, percussion; Joey Rumberger, organ; Billy Smith, bass.	
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 Epiphany Sunday, which celebrates the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world. The wise men followed the light of the star, which led them to Jesus. They then began to spread the good news to their corner of the world. The color for Epiphany is white, which is used on occasions that magnify the person and work of Christ Jesus. Since we are also celebrating the ordination of Kristina LaGuardia, we include the color red, which symbolizes the fiery work of the Holy Spirit. Arise!	