



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





CHRISTMAS

an inclusive
community
of faith

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Welcome to Greenwood Forest!

We are so glad you've chosen to join us this week. Greenwood Forest Baptist Church is an inclusive community of faith, which means we welcome, affirm, and include all God's people in their diversity of genders, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We are each beloved by God and we are happy to welcome you to our church this morning exactly as you are.



Order of Worship

First Sunday of Christmas

Prelude

Ave Maria

arr. Schubert

Piano: Teri Edwards; Flute: Helen Bishop

Chiming of the Hour

Gathering Hymn

The First Nowell

(see page 3)

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Lauren Efrid

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (Psalm 148)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: Praise God from the heavens!

People: Praise God in the heights!

Leader: Praise God, all you angels;

People: Praise God, all you host!

Leader: Praise God, sun and moon;

People: Praise God, all you shining stars!

Leader: Praise God, you highest heavens,

People: And you waters above the heavens!

Leader: Let them praise the name of God,

People: For God commanded and they were created.

Leader: God established them forever and ever;

People: God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Leader: Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters, and all deeps,

People: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind

fulfilling God's command!

Leader: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

People: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things, and flying birds!

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples,

People: Princes and all rulers of the earth!

Leader: Young men and women alike,

continued —>

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1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say, was to cer - tain poor
 2. For all to see there was a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star the wise men
 4. Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es



shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing their
 east, be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave great
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their in -
 to our heav - en - ly Lord who hath made heaven and earth of



sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night. Now - ell, Now -
 tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 naught, and with His blood hu - man - kind hath bought.



ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, born is the King of Is - ra - el.



People: Old and young together!

Leader: Let them praise the name of God, for God's name alone is exalted;

People: God's glory is above earth and heaven.

Leader: God has raised up a horn for the people,

People: Praise for all God's faithful, who draw close.

All: Praise the Lord!

Invocation

Rev. Spears-Newsome

Hymn

Go Tell it on the Mountain

(see page 5)

Offertory Prayer

Greg Upchurch

Presentation of the Offering

CRANHAM

As our offering is presented back to God, we will sing the following doxology:

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him; give him my heart.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Luke Perrin

We affirm each prayer with the following response:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

We conclude the Prayers of the People with the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

Rev. Efird

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery-where;

Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Fine

D.C. al Fine

Anthem

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
performed by the Sanctuary Choir

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be
of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Sermon

Christmas Consolation

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

*(see page 7)***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Stacks

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo

arr. Martha Sherrill Kelsey

Today's hymns come from Celebrating Grace (Celebrating Grace, Inc.). Copyrighted music use is covered by CCLI License #1243530 and OneLicense #A-721397.

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Unison

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin, full of grace,
 3. O ye heights of heaven a - dore Him; an - gel hosts, His prais - es sing;
 4. Christ, to Thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to Thee,

He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the end - ing He,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
 powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him, and ex - tol our God and King;
 hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un - wea - ried prais - es be:

of the things that are, that have been,
 and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion,

and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 first re - vealed His sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 ev - ery voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Prayer List*

Emma Aeppli
Jim Allen
Nell Allen
The Allgood Family
at the death of Peggy Allgood
Peter Barboriak
(Valerie Brooks' friend)
Don Beal
Gilles Bikindou
Kitty Blanton
Louise Faulkner
James Mark Frazier
(Sue Hughes' brother)
Annette King
Doris Martin
at the death of her sister-in-law, Wilma Sprinkle
Janet Merriman
(Roz Slawson's friend)
Sylvia Morgan
Frances Parker
(Felice Parent's mother)
Barry Patchett
Sara McMillan Perkinson
(Leon and Sue Perkinson's daughter-in-law)
Roz Slawson
at the death of her sister, Miriam Rodriguez
The Suddarth Family
at the death of Dick Suddarth
Carol Wells
Gladys Wells
Alison Zieglmeier
Our partner church,
Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

Pray

Prayer for this Week

We encourage you to take some time to pray over these words this week.

*Now, master, let your servant go in peace,
according to your word,
because my eyes have seen your salvation.
You prepared this salvation
in the presence of all peoples.
It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and a glory for your people Israel.*

—Simeon (Luke 2:29-32, CEB)

Simeon's prayer is a canticle in many Christian traditions known as the Nunc dimittis. Search for sung versions on your favorite music service this week and give it a listen.

**To add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names rotate off and can be re-added upon request.*



2020: Year in Review

Without question, 2020 has been a very difficult year. Despite it all, Greenwood Forest's community has tried to make it a meaningful year. Here's a recap of many of the things we did together in 2020!



January

We launched the Together We Build campaign to retire the church's debt and lean into an inclusive vision of who Greenwood Forest could become. \$608,635.73 have been pledged already!



February

High school seniors went on a Senior Retreat to commemorate their time in the youth group and look toward the future.

March

Greenwood Forest hosts a Discipleship Retreat featuring Rev. Maria Swearingen on "Lenten Lies."



April

In a hotly-contested competition, Greenwood Forest's first annual Hymn Madness Tournament sees "It Is Well" take the title.

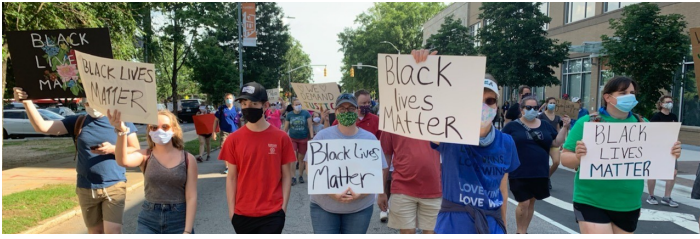


May

Greenwood Forest hosted a Blood Drive, meeting a dire need in the midst of a pandemic.

June

We graduated High School Seniors.



Inspired by protests around the country after the death of George Floyd, Greenwood Forest engaged in marches and started anti-racist reading groups that are still ongoing.

July



Over the summer, we participated in a book drive when the libraries closed and a school supply drive in advance of a strange school year.

August

September

We ordained new deacons (including Anthony Warren as a first-time deacon) and welcomed a new ministerial intern (Luke Perrin, Duke Divinity School).



Greenwood Forest held a socially-distant outdoor worship service at the close of summer.

October



After over three years of work, Greenwood Forest helped launch ONE Wake, a broad-based community organized dedicated to improving the lives in Wake County.

November

We began a discernment process about how best to use our property to further the mission of the church.



December

For the holidays, we donated Christmas gifts for our neighbors, held celebrations for all ages, had virtual services and gatherings, created a church cookbook, sung Lessons and Carols, and worshipped at all our Christmas Eve services.



2020: Year in Review

In addition to all of these unique events and efforts, even during a pandemic, Greenwood Forest continued these important ongoing efforts:

Sunday Morning Worship

We acted early and decisively when news reached us of community spread of the coronavirus. Greenwood Forest shifted to a brand-new livestream model of worship new to everyone involved. As the year went on, we improved and fine-tuned our livestream, which is available every week at gfbccary.org/live.

Faith Formation Opportunities

Many of our Faith Formation classes and Small Groups have continued to meet virtually (or even sometimes outdoors!) during the pandemic. We've also hosted special teaching series available to everyone.

Backpack Buddies

An already vital ministry became even more important during the pandemic as food insecurity rates skyrocketed. We continue to deliver bags of food to families in need with members shopping, packing, and delivering these backpacks.

Family Promise

Greenwood Forest hosted the last in-person Family Promise week before the Wake County organization moved families into isolated transitional housing because of the pandemic. We also participated in a modified Family Promise week that involved delivering important supplies and groceries to families in the housing program.

Youth and Children's Activities

Our children and youth have continued to meet during the pandemic, children on designated weeks during Faith Formation and youth weekly at their normal time for Alpha & Omega, a two-hour weekly discipleship event.

Music Ministry

Our music ministry has continued to make beautiful music for worship through creative remote rehearsals and performances.



From the Finance Ministry: As we look toward the end of 2020, we are writing to ask you to consider a year-end gift to your church community. We know this year has been filled with a lot of uncertainty, and this has had an impact on our finances. With one month of giving left in this calendar year, we have received about \$100,000 less than we did in 2019. If you are able, we ask you to consider an additional year-end gift to the church.

November Finance Update

	Nov. 2020	Year-to-Date
Congregational Giving	\$50,417	\$147,837
Congregational Giving Target	\$67,030	\$174,278
Congregational Giving Under/Over	(\$16,613)	(\$26,441)
Other Receipts	\$2,710	\$4,043
Total Giving and Receipts	\$53,127	\$151,880
Total Disbursements	\$54,116	\$183,219
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$989)	(\$31,339)
Together We Build Giving	\$14,208	\$29,599



How to Support Greenwood Forest during the Pandemic

In the midst of the pandemic, there is something simple that we can all do for the church that will make a huge difference: set up online giving. Every Sunday that we are not at church, we experience a decline in giving. Even though we are not physically together, the church still has to pay its bills, our wonderful staff, and make sure that our church is prepared to help the most vulnerable—especially during this pandemic.

Ways to Tithe

1. Set up an automatic payment through your bank using the “Bill Pay” function. This will result in your bank mailing a check to the church on a weekly or monthly basis.
2. Give online through the church website. Simply go to gfbccary.org/give to access the online giving module.
3. Set up an automated bank draft by filling out the form on the next page of this bulletin, attaching a voided check, and mailing it to the church office at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, 110 SE Maynard Road, Cary, NC 27511.





Greenwood Forest Baptist Church
 110 SE Maynard Road
 Cary, NC 27511
 (919) 467-0481
 info@gfbccary.org

- New Draft
- Replace Existing Draft
- Cancel Draft

Effective Date: _____

Authorization Agreement for Automated Bank Draft

Automated Payment Authorization

I (we) hereby authorize Greenwood Forest Baptist Church to initiate debit entries to my (our) account designated below at the depository financial institution named below and to debit same account. I authorize credit entries, if necessary, for any debit entries that are determined to be in error. I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until Greenwood Forest Baptist Church has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination that is to be received at least five (5) business days prior to the proposed effective date of the termination of the authorization.

Financial Institution Information

Financial Institution Name: _____

Routing Number: _____ (9 digits on bottom left corner of check)

Account Number: _____ Type: Checking Savings

Account Information

Account Holder Name(s): _____

Full Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Debit Account Every: Month Twice a Month Week

- If weekly, what day of the week: _____ (If on a holiday, debit occurs day before)
- If non-weekly, what date(s) of the month: _____

Amount of Each Debit: \$ _____

- Stewardship Giving Portion: \$ _____
- Designated Giving to: _____ Portion: \$ _____
- Designated Giving to: _____ Portion: \$ _____
- Designated Giving to: _____ Portion: \$ _____


Please attach a voided check to this document.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Connect

 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

 919-467-0481

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 gfbccary.org

  @gfbccary

 @greenwoodforestcary

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

Helen Bishop, Organist

All Who Serve This Church

