



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





BAPTISM OF
OUR LORD

**an inclusive
community
of faith**

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gfbccary.org



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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

Baptism of our Lord

Prelude Baptized in Water BUNESSAN

Chiming of the Hour

Gathering Hymn Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
(see page 3)

Welcome to Worship Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (Psalm 29) Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

People: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name.

People: Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters.

People: The God of glory thunders over mighty waters.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful.

People: The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Leader: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars.

People: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

Leader: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness.

People: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl.

Leader: The voice of the Lord strips the forest bare.

People: In God's temple, all people say "glory!"

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood.

People: The Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

Leader: May the Lord give us strength!

People: May the Lord bless us with peace!

Invocation Rev. Dr. Stacks

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con -

sing Thy grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I'm come; and I hope by Thy good plea - sure
strained to be! Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,

call for songs of loud - est praise.
safe - ly to ar - rive at home. I am bound for the king - dom, will you
bind my wan - dering heart to Thee.

go to glo - ry with me? Hal - le - lu - jah, praise the Lord.

Hymn (vv. 1, 3, 4, and 6)

Take Me to the Water

(see page 5)

Offertory Prayer

Leta Huntsinger

Presentation of the Offering

GLORIA PATRI

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

Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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

Mark 1:9-11

Luke Perrin

Take Me to the Water

1. Take me to the wa - ter, 7
 2. None but the right - eous, 7
 3. I love Je - sus, 7
 4. In the name of Je - sus, 7
 5. I know I got re - lig - ion, I
 6. Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah, 7

Take me to the wa - ter, 7 Take me to the
 None but the right - eous, 7 None but the
 I love Je - sus, 7 I love
 In the name of Je - sus, 7 In the name of
 know I got re - lig - ion, I know I got re -
 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah, 7 Glo - ry, hal - le -

wa - ter to be bap - tized. optional
 right - eous shall see God.
 Je - sus. Yes, I do.
 Je - sus we shall be saved.
 lig - ion. Yes, I do.
 lu - jah, to be bap - tized. optional

Anthem

Deep River

arr. Moses Hogan

Deep river,
My home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.

Oh, don't you want to go,
To that gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace?

Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.

Sermon

What is Your Profession of Faith?

Rev. Efrid

Hymn

With Water Freely Flowing

*(see page 6)***Benediction**

Rev. Efrid

Postlude

I've Just Come from the Fountain

arr. Billingham

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

Water Freely Flowing

Unison

1. With wa - ter free - ly flow - ing we cel - e - brate new birth,
2. The Spir - it, swift - ly soar - ing, de - scend - ing as a dove,
3. By wa - ter and the Spir - it bap - tized in Christ, we rise

in sa - cred sign ex - press - ing God's love for all on earth.
con - veys the start - ling Pres - ence on all whose vow is love.
to walk new paths un - fold - ing be - fore our o - pened eyes.

The Well of Liv - ing Wa - ter springs up for us this day;
The Breath of God with - in us en - liv - ens and sus - tains,
We jour - ney from this mo - ment, faith's pil - grim - age em - brace.

en - gulfed by love's ac - cept - ance, our fears are washed a - way.
be - yond this rite of pas - sage with us al - ways re - mains.
By Spir - it and by wa - ter we feel and sense God's grace.

Antiracist Reading Groups

Our antiracist reading groups continue on their journey of discovery and transformation! On January 24 at 2pm, we will conclude our history unit with a Zoom call featuring author, pastor, and activist Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, after which we will begin a new unit on identity. Now is an excellent time to join the journey. Email Rev. Dr. Stacks if you are interested.



Jan. 24
2pm
Zoom



Update

Prayer List*

Emma Aepli
Jim Allen
Nell Allen
Peter Barboriak
(Valerie Brooks' friend)
Don Beal
Gilles Bikindou
Kitty Blanton
Ashley Brooks
Louise Faulkner
James Mark Frazier
(Sue Hughes' brother)
Rebecca Hester
(Valerie Brooks' friend)
Annette King
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)*
Carol Wells
Gladys Wells
Alison Zieglmeier
Our partner church,
Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

Prayer for this Week

This week, take some time to reflect on your baptism. What does your baptism require of you in how you live?

Pray this prayer and Psalm this week:

Lord, not only in the roar of a hard rain, but in the dousing, dipping, and drenching of our baptism, call us to live into that new life that is your resurrection. Amen.

From “Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals”

*Lord, the floods have raised up—
the flood have raised up their voices;
the floods raise up a roar!
But mightier than the sound of much water,
mightier than the sea's waves,
mighty on high is the LORD!*

Psalm 93:3-4 (Common English Bible)

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



2020-2021 TEACHING SERIES UPDATE

+ RISING STRONG AFTER COVID (FEBRUARY) + WHY DO THEY DO THAT?! INSIGHTS FROM THE ENNEAGRAM (APRIL) + DEVELOPING A THEOLOGY OF INCLUSION (JULY) +

Pastoral Intern Luke Perrin got our 2020-2021 Teaching Series off to a wonderful start with his recently completed series on the infancy narratives in Matthew and Luke. We will have three more opportunities this programming year for these special Sunday morning formation opportunities:

February 14, 21, and 28: Rising Strong after COVID

Rev. Dr. Stacks will lead in an overview of the concepts from Brené Brown's book *Rising Strong*, which is about embracing transformative and courageous recovery as individuals and as institutions in the wake of trauma. In this case, we will be applying the book (and its intersections with Christianity) to how we might seize the opportunities available to us in the wake of this collective trauma to rise strong as a church, and move courageously into the future.

April 11, 18, and 25: Why Do They Do That?! Insights From the Enneagram

Andy Jarrell will lead us through spiritual insights from the Enneagram, a personality type system that has amazing potential for spiritual discernment and interpersonal awareness. You'll be amazed by how these personality types describe your, your loved ones', and your fellow church members' motivations and desires, and how they will help us work together to fulfill God's mission in the world.

July 11, 18, 25 and August 1: Developing a Theology of Inclusion

Rev. Dr. Stacks will lead us through developing and understanding the scriptural basis for an inclusive theology. Rather than play defense against homophobia, racism, sexism etc. within the church, this series will play offense, showing how a high regard for Scripture and a deep commitment to Jesus should lead one to inclusion, and what that means for how we move into the future as a church.



Notice: Business Meeting January 13 @ 7pm

You received an email this past week notifying you that we will be holding a business meeting on January 13 at 7pm to discuss and vote on a few items, including the potential to apply for and receive an additional Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan as we did last year and some revisions to the church personnel handbook. You will receive relevant documents in advance of the meeting next week.

Martin Luther King Interfaith Celebration

Some of our fellow Cary congregations as well as fellow ONE Wake partners are hosting a Cary-area interfaith service on Martin Luther King Day weekend and we encourage you to attend online!

Martin Luther King Interfaith Celebration

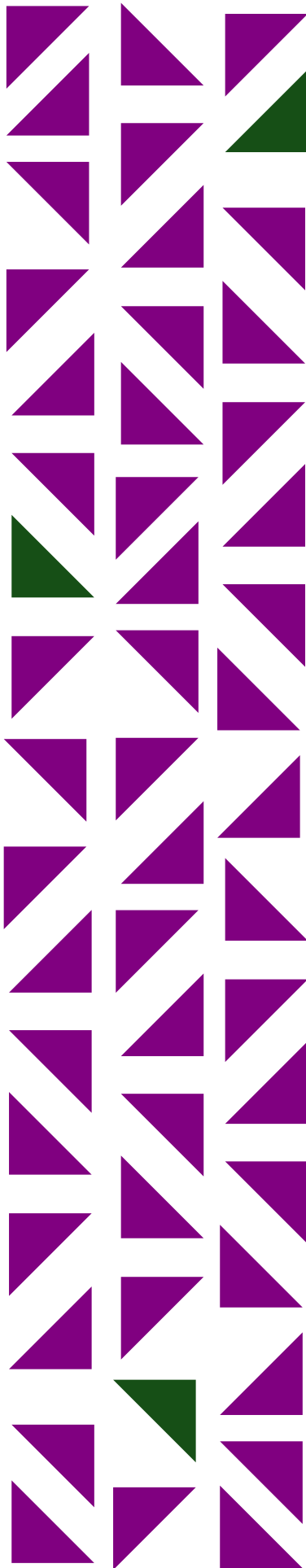
ONLINE Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021

3:30 pm

Featuring: Pleasant Grove Church Praise Team
Dr. Abraham Cáceres, Worldhousemusic
Rev. Brenda Smith, Chicago, guest preacher
Dr. Vicki Gallagher, NC State "Virtual MLK Project"

ctkcary.com/dreamfest

**Event Sponsors: Christ the King Lutheran Church; Islamic Association/Cary Mosque
Beth Shalom Synagogue; Town of Cary "Dreamfest;" ELCA Triangle Conference**



January Employment Anniversaries

On behalf of the Greenwood Forest family, the Personnel Ministry celebrates the employment anniversaries of Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor of Community and Youth Ministry and Randy Palmer, Custodian.



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church called Wesley Spears-Newsome into ministry on January 3, 2017. Wes has led our ONE Wake organizing that addresses extensive community needs including affordable

housing and community inclusion. Wes has also shepherded our youth through respect, love, and faith formation. And his powerful voice lifts us all up when he prays over us and offers scripture readings. We give thanks today for Wes, Meg, and Evelyn.



Randy Palmer became our Custodian on January 27, 2004 and throughout those 17 years has provided care and stewardship over our Sanctuary and throughout our facilities and campus. We celebrate

what he does while we give thanks for who he is and for his joyful spirit. It is always a blessing to hear his voice in our Praise Team musical offerings, and it is especially a blessing when Zelma lifts us up with her own voice in praise and jubilation. We give thanks today for Randy, Zelma, and their grandson KJ.



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.



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

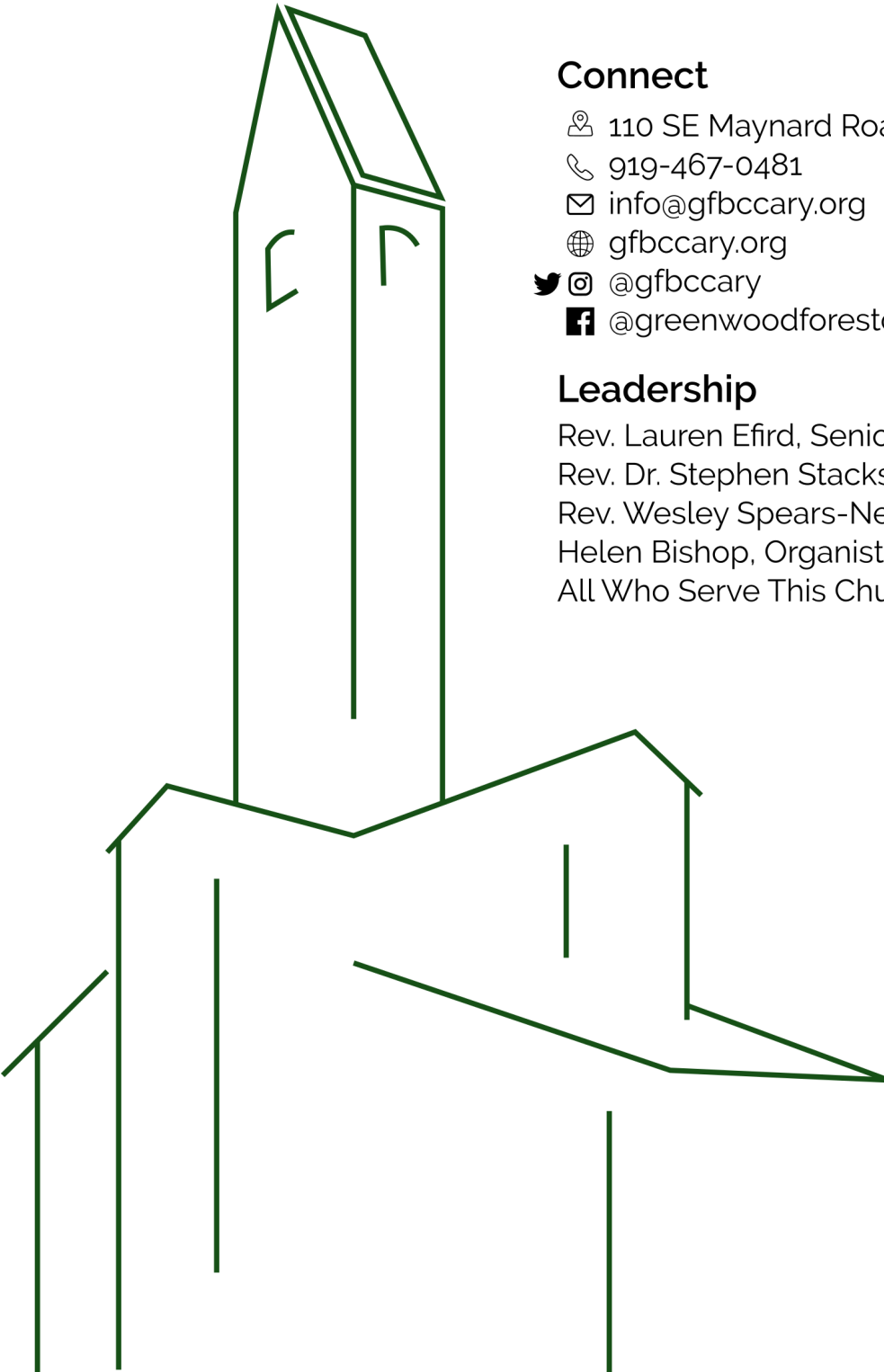
- If weekly, what day of the week: _____ (If on a holiday, debit occurs day before)
- If non-weekly, what date(s) of the month: _____

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

 info@gfbccary.org

 gfbccary.org

  [@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

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Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efrid, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

Helen Bishop, Organist

All Who Serve This Church
