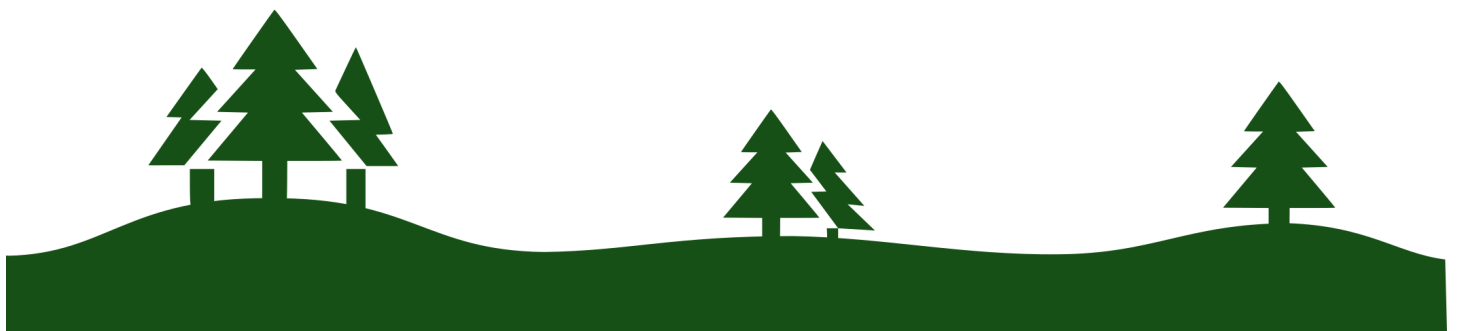




**Greenwood Forest**  
Baptist Church





ORDINARY TIME

an inclusive  
community  
of faith

Connect with us



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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

---

**Prelude** Here I Am, Lord arr. Schutte

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Gathering Hymn (vv. 1 and 2)** Will You Come and Follow Me  
(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 139:1-12)** Luke Perrin

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

**People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;**

Leader: You discern my thoughts from far away.

**People: You search out my path and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Leader: Even before a word is on my tongue,

**People: O Lord, you know it completely.**

Leader: You hem me in, behind and before,

**People: And lay your hand upon me.**

Leader: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

**People: It is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Leader: Where can I go from your spirit?

**People: Or where can I flee from your presence?**

Leader: If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

**People: If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

Leader: If I take the wings of the morning,

**People: And settle at the farthest limits of the sea,**

Leader: Even there your hand shall lead me,

**People: And your right hand shall hold me fast.**

Leader: If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,

**People: And the light around me become night',**

(continued —>)

# Will You Come and Follow Me

Unison

1. Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call your name?  
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?  
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call my name.

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low You and nev - er be the same.

Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known,  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,  
 In Your com - pa - ny I'll go where Your love and foot - steps show.

will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?  
 Will you let Me an - swer prayer in you and you in Me?  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?  
 through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

Leader: Even the darkness is not dark to you;

**People: The night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

**Invocation**

Luke Perrin

**Hymn**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

*(see page 5)*

**Offertory Prayer**

Rev. Al Whitehouse

**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. Dr. Stephen Stacks

*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**

Jonah 1-2:9

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

*We affirm the reading of Scripture with the following response:*

Reader: The word of God for us, the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

# I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -  
2. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low; though none go  
3. My cross I'll car - ry, till I see Je - sus; my cross I'll  
4. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low  
with me, I still will fol - low; though none go with me, I still will  
car - ry, till I see Je - sus; my cross I'll car - ry, till I see  
hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be - hind me, the cross be -

Je - sus; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
fol - low; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
Je - sus; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
fore me; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It features a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with a corresponding musical staff. The first system includes four numbered lines of lyrics. The second system continues the lyrics from the first system. The third system continues the lyrics from the second system. The fourth system concludes the lyrics with a final line.

You cast me out into the deep  
And there your floods surround  
I sank beneath the raging sea  
As billows crashed around

I was thrown out from your sight  
And I was driven away  
I know I will see with my eyes  
Again your holy place

I called to God in my distress  
He has heard my voice  
I cried to him out of the depths  
He answered my call

The waters closed in over me  
They came to bring me death  
I was covered up by the deep  
Weeds choked out my breathe  
I sank down to the mountain roots  
The earth had locked me in  
Just as the grave sealed up its gates  
You saved me from the pit

As my life fainted away  
I remembered you my God  
All those who hope in idols vain  
Forsake their hope of love

With my voice I will give thanks  
A sacrifice to you  
What I have vowed I now will pay  
Salvation comes from you  
Salvation comes from you  
Salvation comes from you

**Sermon**

The Reluctant Prophet

Rev. Efrid

**Hymn**

What Wondrous Love is This

*(see page 8)*

**Benediction**

Rev. Efrid

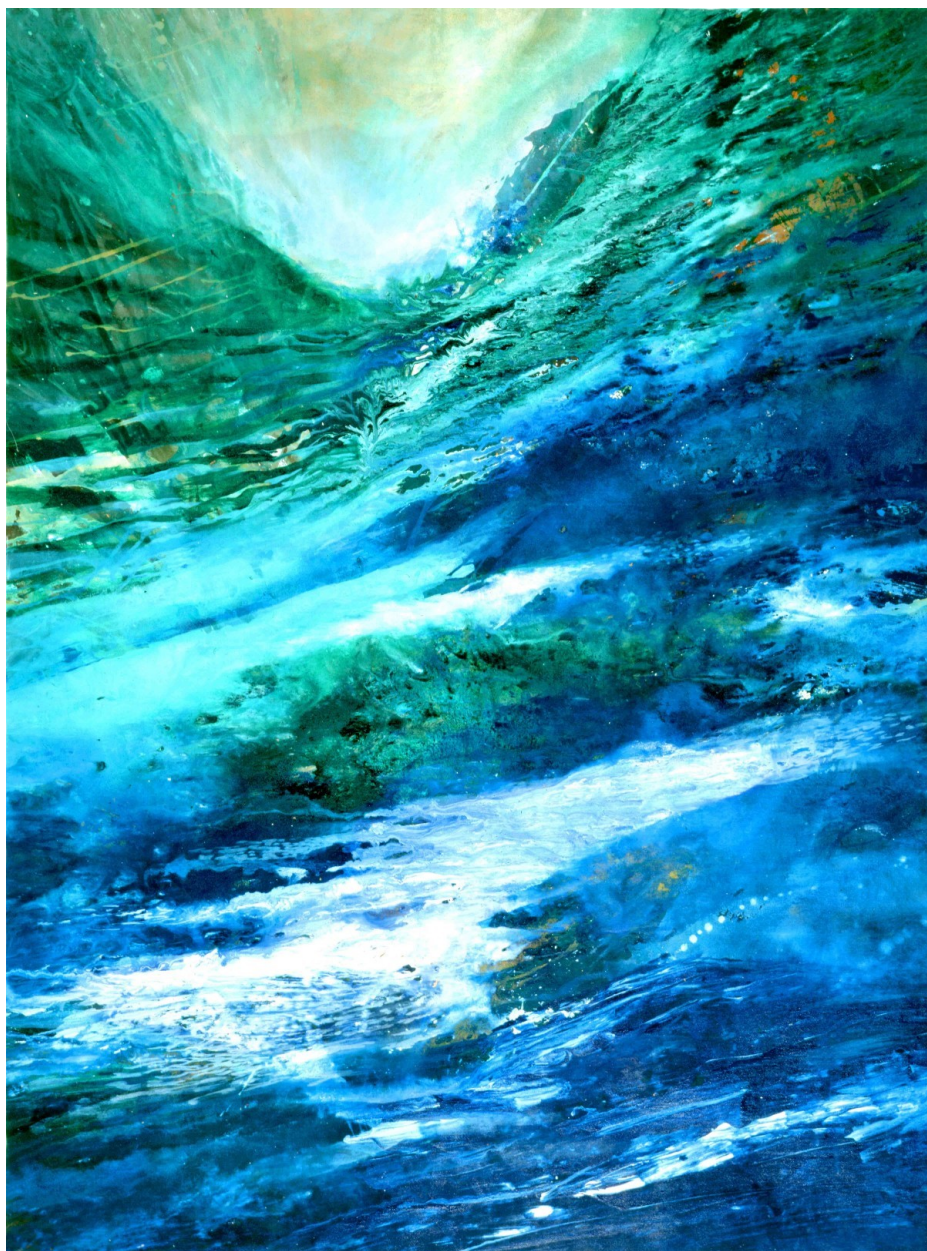
**Postlude**

Lead Me, Guide Me

arr. Akers

\*\*\*

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



"The Waters" by Yoram Raanan (yoramraanan.com)



# What Wondrous Love is This

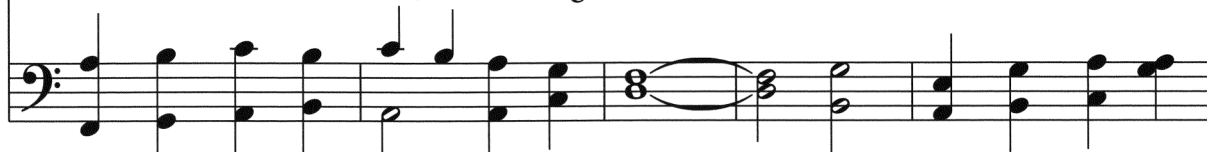
Unison



1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing; to  
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is  
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing  
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm



this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
down be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my  
Lamb Who is the great "I Am," while mil-lions join the theme, I will  
free I'll sing and joy - ful be; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul.  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on.



# 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



Emma Aeppli  
 Jim Allen  
 Nell Allen  
 Peter Barboriak  
*(Valerie Brooks' friend)*  
 Gilles Bikindou  
 Kitty Blanton  
 Ashley Brooks  
 Carol Crews  
*(Katie Lockhart's aunt)*  
 Louise Faulkner  
 James Mark Frazier  
*(Sue Hughes' brother)*  
 Rebecca Hester  
*(Valerie Brooks' friend)*  
 Lydia Hoyle  
*(at the death of her sister,  
 Jane Huffman)*  
 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)*  
 Bryant Stallings  
 Gena  
*(Kathy and Dan Watkin's  
 friend)*  
 Carol Wells  
 Gladys Wells  
 Alison Zieglmeier  
 Our partner church,  
 Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

### Prayer for this Week

Pray over Jonah's psalm from this week, here in a different translation so you can hear it anew:

*I called out to the Lord in my distress,  
 and he answered me.  
 From the belly of the underworld, I cried out for help.  
 You have heard my voice.  
 You had cast me into the depths  
 in the heart of the seas,  
 and the flood surrounds me.  
 All your strong waves and rushing water  
 passed over me.  
 So I said, "I have been driven away from your sight.  
 Will I ever again look on your holy temple?  
 Waters have grasped me to the point of death;  
 the deep surrounds me.  
 Seaweed is wrapped around my head  
 at the base of the undersea mountains.  
 I have sunk down to the underworld;  
 its bars hold me with no end in sight.  
 But you brought me out of the pit."  
 When my endurance was weakening,  
 I remembered the Lord,  
 and my prayer came to you,  
 to your holy temple.  
 Those deceived by worthless things lose their chance  
 for mercy.  
 But me, I will offer a sacrifice to you with a voice  
 of thanks.  
 That which I have promised, I will pay.  
 Deliverance belongs to the Lord!*

### Jonah 2:2-9 (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.

## **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 this weekend and we encourage you to attend online!

# **Martin Luther King Interfaith Celebration**

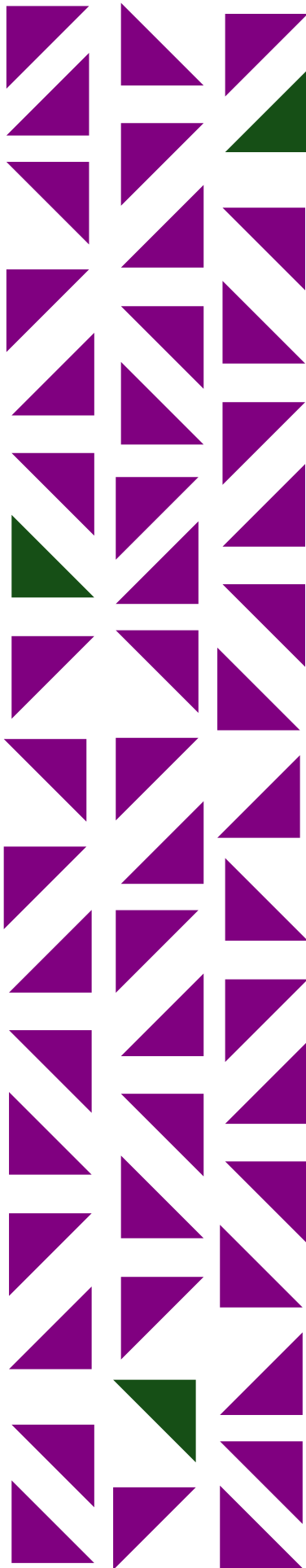
**ONLINE Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021**

**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](https://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.

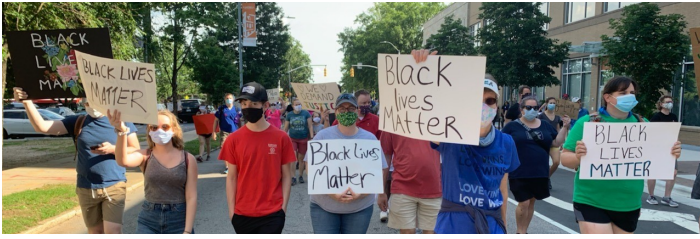


## May

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.





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](https://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.



*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.*

## December Finance Update

	Dec. 2020	Year-to-Date
Congregational Giving	\$84,506	\$232,343
Congregational Giving Target	\$71,512	\$245,790
Congregational Giving Under/Over	\$12,994	(\$13,447)
Other Receipts	\$5,086	\$9,129
Total Giving and Receipts	\$89,592	\$241,472
Total Disbursements	\$56,695	\$239,914
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	\$32,897	\$1,558
Together We Build Giving	\$29,918	\$59,392

### Ways to Tithe

1. Set up an automatic payment through your bank using the "Bill Pay" function. This results in your bank mailing a check to the church weekly or monthly.
2. Give online through the church website. Simply go to [gfbccary.org/give](http://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

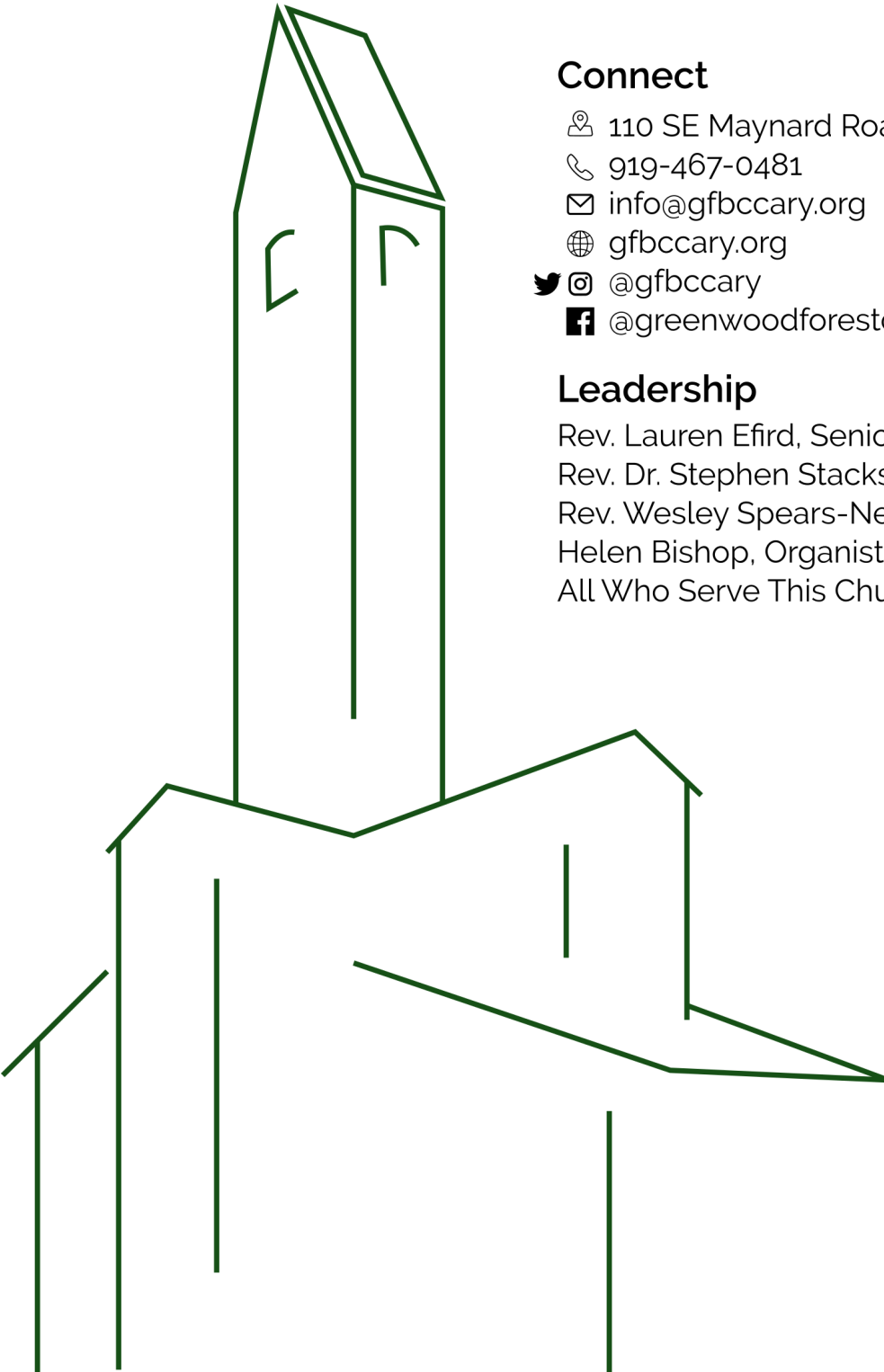
- If weekly, what day of the week: \_\_\_\_\_ (If on a holiday, debit occurs day before)
- If non-weekly, what date(s) of the month: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:info@gfbccary.org)

 [gfbccary.org](http://gfbccary.org)

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

 [@greenwoodforestcary](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)

## 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

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