



Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church





**ORDINARY
TIME**

**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.



← You can scan with your phone's camera to give online!

If you need a hearing assistance device, they are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera if in attendance.



Order of Worship

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Trust and Obey

arr. V. Labenske

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 85:8-13)

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Leader: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

People: For God will speak peace to those who turn in their hearts.

Leader: Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God,

People: That God's glory may dwell in our land.

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

People: Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Leader: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

People: And righteousness will look down from the sky.

Leader: The Lord will give what is good; our land will yield its increase.

People: Righteousness will go before the Lord, and make a path for God's steps.

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Stacks

Gathering Hymn (vv. 1, 3 & 5)

Take My Life, and Let It Be

(see page 4)

Offertory Prayer

Sarah Walden

Presentation of the Offering

OLD HUNDREDTH

Transcendent God, we bless your name,

Incarnate Christ, the risen one,

The Spirit with us, Immanent,

The Source, the Word, the Breath of Life! Amen.

Take My Life, and Let It Be



1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed,
2. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti -
3. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would
4. Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no
5. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its



Lord, to Thee; take my hands, and let them move
ful for Thee; take my voice, and let me sing
I with - hold; take my mo - ments and my days,
long - er mine; take my heart, it is Thine own,
treasure store. Take my - self and I will be



at the im - pulse of Thy love, at the im - pulse of Thy love.
al - ways, on - ly, for my King, al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
let them flow in cease - less praise, let them flow in cease - less praise.
it shall be Thy roy - al throne, it shall be Thy roy - al throne.
ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

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 6:14-29

Rev. Dr. Stacks

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.

Anthem

Illuminate the Shadows

Porter's Gate

Illuminate the shadows, and comfort those who are cast down.

Illuminate the shadows, be our refuge in the time of storm.

O God, our help, in the time of trouble.

Illuminate the shadows, and cast the evil ruler from his throne.

Illuminate the shadows, break oppression with your mighty arm.

O God, our help, in the time of trouble.

Illuminate the shadows, till every idol has been trampled on.

Illuminate the shadows, till every statue comes tumbling down.

O God, our help, in the time of trouble.

Sermon

What Do You Regard?

Rev. Efirid

Hymn

God Has Spoken By the Prophets

1. God has spo - ken by the proph - ets, spo - ken the un - chang - ing Word;
 2. God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
 3. God is speak - ing by the Spir - it, speak - ing to our hearts a - gain;

each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the One, the righ - teous Lord!
 bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, with the Fa - ther ev - er one;
 in the age - long Word de - clar - ing God's own mes - sage, now as then.

'Mid the world's de - spair and tur - moil one firm an - chor hold - ing fast:
 spo - ken by the Word in - car - nate, God of God ere time was born;
 Through the rise and fall of na - tions one sure faith is stand - ing fast:

God e - ter - nal reigns for - ev - er, God the first and God the last.
 Light of light, to earth de - scend - ing, Christ, as God in hu - man form.
 God a - bides, the Word un - chang - ing, God the first and God the last.

Benediction

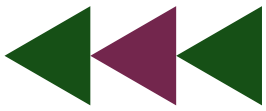
Rev. Efirid

Postlude

Because I Have Been Given Much

arr. Donna Williams

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

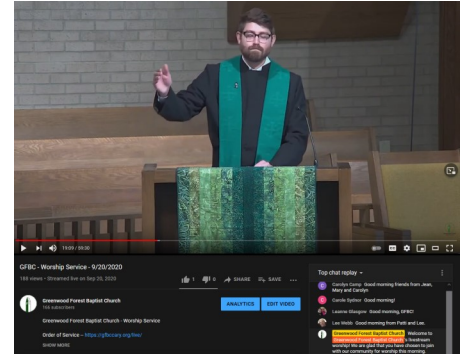


A Look Back

Since March 2020, when the pandemic dramatically disrupted all our lives, we still managed to continue the ministries of our church in unconventional ways. Here's a look back at all we did during an unprecedented year-and-a-half of church life:

Launched Livestream Capabilities and a New Website

We launched a livestream during the pandemic so we could worship together from afar. We also launched a new website to support our virtual outreach! We'll be maintaining our livestream capabilities for the future, too, so everyone can come to worship from wherever they are.



Held Digital Gatherings

In addition to virtual worship, Faith Formation classes and small groups continued to meet digitally in many cases and some often met outside. We also hosted teaching series for the congregation over Zoom! Special interactive worship services like Good Friday and the Service of Lament were also held over Zoom.

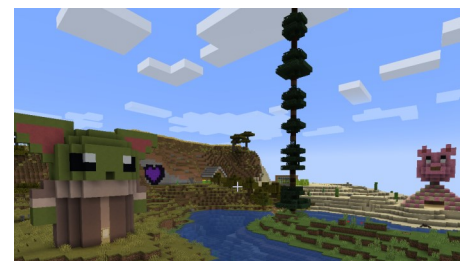


Continued Mission Work

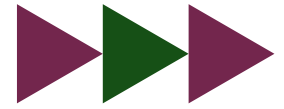
While in-person interactions necessarily decreased during the pandemic, the needs of our community only increased. Greenwood Forest members continued to provide needed ministry through Family Promise and Backpack Buddies during the pandemic, feeding potentially thousands of meals to those in need.

Children's and Youth Ministries Persisted

Our youngest members continued to meet virtually and sometimes outside during the pandemic. Our children's ministry had regular gatherings and even hosted an outdoor movie night! Our youth met every week, including multiple times a week when the pandemic first began and totally shut down schools. They played games, caught up with each other, and did Bible Study virtually. They even built things together in Minecraft!



A Look Ahead



As we enter a new phase of church life, we have lots of things to look forward to! Here's a look ahead at what's coming this year at Greenwood Forest:

Together We Build

We hit pause on the Together We Build campaign during the pandemic, but it will resume this August and finish by the end of the year! We'll also host enjoyable fundraisers for TWB this year, including a pig picking and social event on September 12, a golf tournament on October 18, and a 5K run later in the year. Contact us to make your pledge today!



The Wonder Room

We're launching a new K-5 children's program on Sunday mornings this Fall! The Wonder Room will be a kid-driven experience that gives them unique opportunities for worship, play, reading, and crafting. Stay tuned for our new children's ministry space, which will open in August.



The Greenwood Forest Children's Center

During the pandemic, the Greenwood Forest Children's Center hired a new director, Elizabeth Wolber, who is excited to begin the new school year! The GFCC is reopening with 132 kids enrolled (88% capacity).



Realm

We'll be updating our church organization software in the fall, which will include new features for all our members, including sign-ups, online giving, a pictorial directory, and more!



Organ Updates

The organ renovation is in its final stages! If you'd like to contribute to the organ fund to help finish the work, contact Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks.

ACTACTACTACT

▶ Neighborhood Summer Program



Greenwood Forest is joining our partner churches to host the annual Summer Program which provides care, nourishment, and

enrichment for kids during the summer. There will be numerous health and safety precautions in place including masks, vaccine requirements, pre-registration, and limitation to one church's campus this year.

We need your help to make this vital mission of our church and our partners happen this year! We need both kitchen volunteers and volunteers to spend time with kids. Youth volunteers welcome. Pastors from multiple congregations will be on site to assist and lead volunteers.

If you can help on any of the Thursdays from July 22 to August 12 (9am-1pm), email Rev. Spears-Newsome at wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org! We can't make this happen without your help!

GIVEGIVEGIVEGIVE

▶ Ways to Tithe

- Set up an automated bank draft by filling out a form requested from the church office, attaching a voided check, and mailing it back to the church office.
- Set up auto pay through you bank using the "Bill Pay" function. Then, your bank will mail a check to the church weekly or monthly.
- Give online through the church website at gfbccary.org/give.

▶ June 2021 Finance Update

Updated when the previous month's books have closed.

	June 2021	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$47,387	\$547,527
Congregational Giving Target	\$53,624	\$594,346
Congregational Giving Under/Over	\$(6,237)	(\$46,829)
Other Receipts	\$2,945	\$21,434
Total Giving and Receipts	\$50,332	\$568,962
Total Disbursements	\$75,624	\$628,493
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$25,292)	(\$59,531)
Together We Build Giving	\$5,408	\$115,743



► Next Business Meeting

We will have our next business meeting on August 15 at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. The 2021-2022 budget materials will be sent out in advance of the business meeting.

► Prayer for the Week

Pray the following words this week and ask God what they mean for your life and the life of the church:

Lord, make it second nature for us to do what is right in your sight. Make us more concerned with abiding by the tenets of your kingdom than by human law. Amen.

From *Common Prayer: Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*

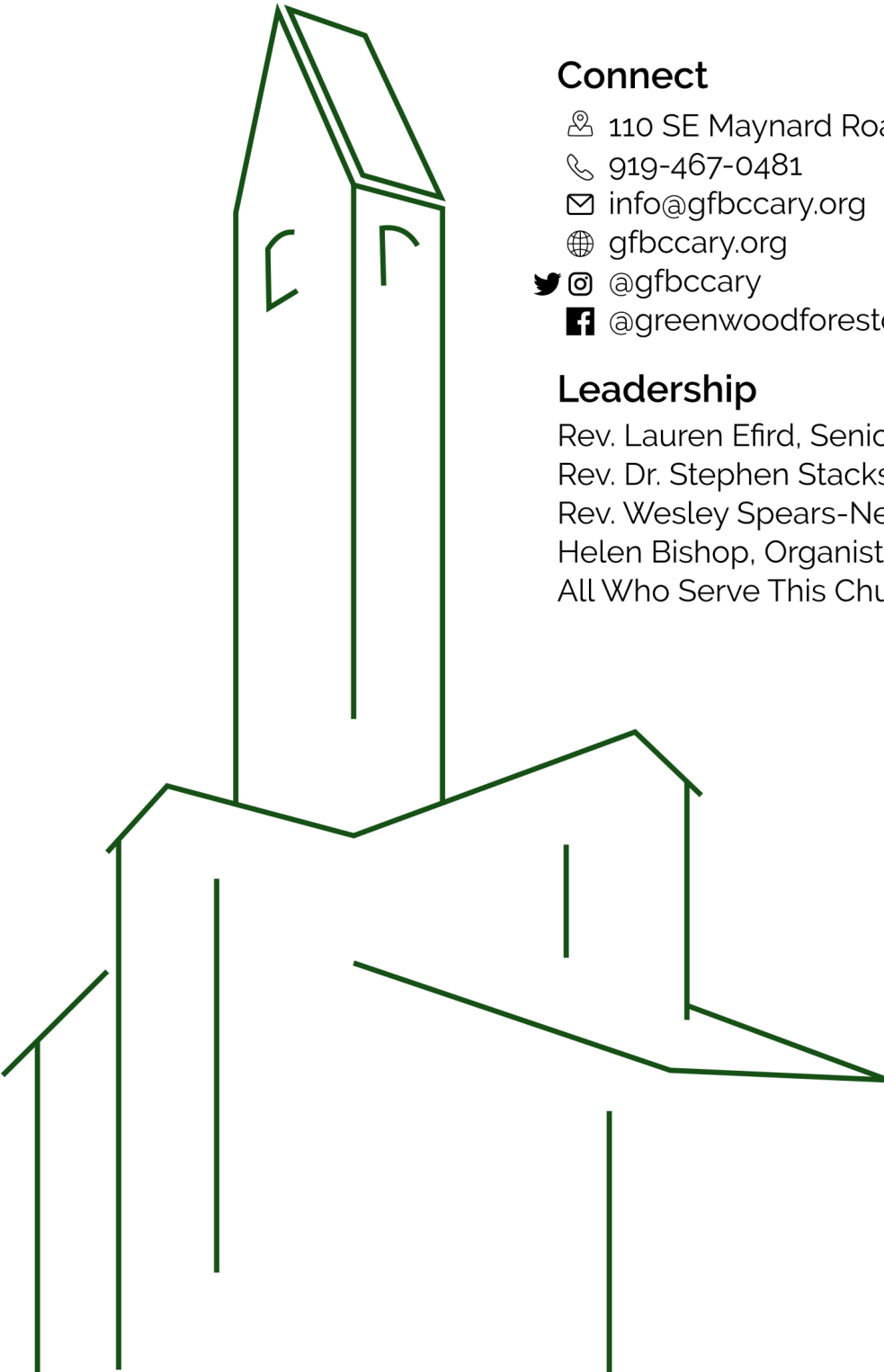
PRAYPRAYPRAYPRAY

► Prayer List*

Jim Allen
Nell Allen
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Don Beal
Gilles Bikindou
Elizabeth Biser (at the death of her uncle,
Jim Wigginton)
Jo Brooks
Bob and Alice Curti (Susan Beck's parents)
Sharon Edmondson
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Betty Griffin (Jane Griffin's mother)
Doug Hughes (Kathy Watkin's friend)
Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)
John Miller
Sylvia Morgan
Fan Pantou (Judy Teander's sister)
Dick Reinert
Fred Seeger
Randy Soyars (Mark Soyars' father)
Marta Whitehouse (Al Whitehouse's
mother)
Alison Zieglmeier
Our partner church,
Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba


Be in prayer especially for our partner church right now due to the unrest in Cuba and their continued struggles with COVID-19, the economic consequences of the embargo, and the authoritarian response of their leadership.

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



Connect

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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
