



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

an inclusive comunity of faith

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.

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.

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



Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Hallelujah

arr. Melody Bober

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Welcome to Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you! **People: And also with you!**

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (Psalm 15)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: O Lord, who may abide in your tent? People: Who may dwell on your holy hill? Leader: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, People: And speak the truth from their heart; Leader: Who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, People: Nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; Leader: In whose eyes the wicked are despised, People: But who honor those who fear the Lord; Leader: Who stand by their oath even to their hurt; People: Who do not lend money at interest, Leader: And do not take a bribe against the innocent. People: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Invocation

Gathering Hymn (vv. 1, 5 & 6)

(see page 4)

Offertory Prayer

Presentation of the Offering

.

Rev. Spears-Newsome

Chris Beal

Just As I Am

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.

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Just As I Am

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 Rev. 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.**

Anthem

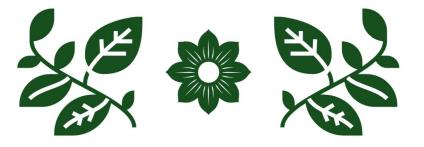
God Be In My Head

arr. Rutter

God be in my head, and in my thinking. God be in my eyes, and in my looking. God be in my mouth, and in my speaking. Oh, God be in my heart, and in my understanding.

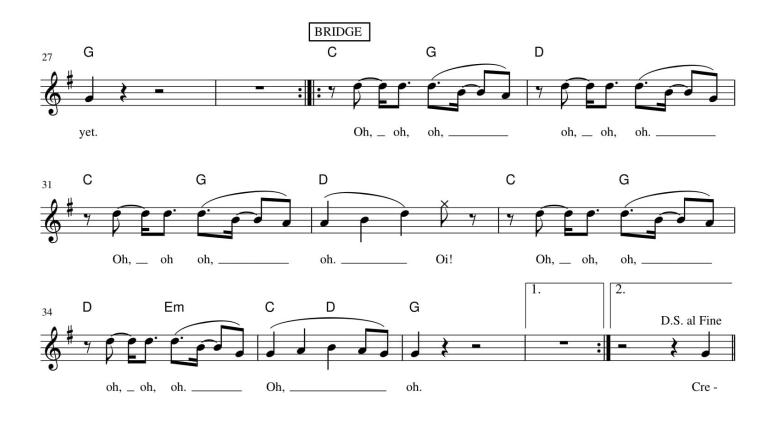
Sermon

Rev. Spears-Newsome



Hymn





Benediction

Rev. Spears-Newsome

Postlude

Soon and Very Soon/ On Jordan's Stormy Banks

arr. Cindy Berry

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

Our pianist today is Sally Shaver.

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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 144 kids enrolled (94% 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



We need help for the last two Thursdays of the Summer Program! If you can help with kids or in the kitchen on August 5 or August 12 (9am-1pm), email Rev. Spears-Newsome at

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org! We can't make this happen without your help!



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. CONNECTCONNECT

Playground Cleanup | Aug. 8, 5-7pm

Grab a pair of gloves and a rake, and come join volunteers from the church and the preschool as we give our playground a refresh in preparation for return of our children in the fall. The tasks will be simple and the atmosphere fun! Pizza will be provided for volunteers. If you cannot come but want to support the cause, you can donate to cover the cost of materials. Contact Rev. Dr. Stacks if interested!

Staff Anniversary: Stephen Stacks

From the Personnel Committee:

Greenwood Forest called Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, our Associate Pastor for Worship and Faith Formation, into ministry with us on August 15, 2012. During his 9 years of faithful ministry to us he has graced us with beautiful and inspiring music in our worship services. Under his guidance and encouragement our Praise Team. Adult Choir and Ensembles, as well as our Children's Choirs have risen to superior levels of musical competence over significantly challenging musical arrangements that enhance congregational singing and lift our spirits. A testament to his spiritual guidance can be heard in the vocalized amens from the worshipers who gather here each Sunday morning. Stephen is also an esteemed theologian and all of his inspiring faith formation studies have educated us, challenged us, inspired us, and guided our study and commitment to antiracism and equal rights protection for all people. Stephen, we love and appreciate you and your family today as we honor and celebrate your ministry and pastoral service to our church.

GIVEGIVEGIVE

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 <u>gfbccary.org/give</u>.

June 2021 Finance Update

Updated when the previous month's books have closed.

	June 2021	YTD
Congregational	\$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	\$50,332	\$568,962
Total Disbursements	\$75,624	\$628,493
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$25,292)	(\$59,531)
Together We Build	\$5,408	\$115,743

Prayer List*

Jim Allen Nell Allen Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend) Don Beal Gilles Bikindou Laura Crook Bob and Alice Curti (Susan Beck's parents) Sharon Edmondson James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother) Betty Griffin (Jane Griffin's mother) Garv Kent Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend) Sylvia Morgan **Ruby Proctor Dick Reinert** Fred Seeger Marta Whitehouse (Al Whitehouse's mother) Alison Zieglmeier Our partner church, Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

PRAYPRAYPRAYPRAY

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

