



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

August 8, 2021

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.

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.



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



Order of Worship

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Come Thou Fount

arr. Ordinary Time

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (Psalm 34:1-10, 22)

Rev. Efird

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times;

People: God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Leader: My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

People: Let the humble hear and be glad.

Leader: O magnify the LORD with me,

People: And let us exalt God's name together.

Leader: I sought the LORD, and the Lord answered me,

People: And delivered me from all my fears.

Leader: Look to God, and be radiant;

People: So your faces shall never be ashamed.

Leader: This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,

People: And was saved from every trouble.

Leader: O taste and see that the LORD is good;

People: Happy are those who take refuge in God.

Leader: O fear the LORD, you holy ones,

People: For those who fear God have no want.

Leader: The young lions suffer want and hunger,

People: But those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Leader: The LORD redeems the life of God's servants;

People: None of those who take refuge in God will be condemned.

Invocation

Rev. Efird

Gathering Hymn

There Is a Line of Women

1. There is a line of wo - men ex - tend-ing back to Eve, Whose
 2. So sing a song of Sar - ah to laugh-ter she gave birth; And
 3. There is a line of wo - men who took on pow'r-ful men, De -
 4. So sing a song of Shiph-rah with Pu - ah close at hand, en -

6
 role sing in shap - ing his - t'ry God on - ly could con - ceive. And
 sing a song of Ta - mar who stood for wo - men's worth; And
 fy - ing laws and scru - ples to let life live a - gain. And
 gaged to kill male chil - dren, they foiled the king's com - mand. And

10
 though, through end - less a - ges, their wit - ness was re - pressed, — God
 sing a song of Han - nah who bar-gained with her Lord; — And
 though, de - spite their tri - umph their stor - ies stayed un - told. — God
 sing a song of Ra - hab who shel-tered spies and lied; — And

14
 val - ued and af - firmed them through whom the world was blessed.
 sing a song of Ma - ry who bore and bred God's word.
 kept their num - ber grow - ing, cre - a - tive, strong and bold.
 sing a song of Es - ther pre - vent - ing ge - no - cide.

Offertory Prayer

Jennifer Whaley

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.

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

Joshua 2

Rev. Efrid

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

The 23rd Psalm

Bobby McFerrin

The Lord is my shepherd,
I have all I need.

She makes me lie down
in green meadows,
Beside the still waters,
she will lead.

She restores my soul,
she rights my wrongs.

She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk,
through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said she won't forsake me;
I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me,
in the presence of my foes.
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness
and kindness will follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house
Forever, forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter
And to the Holy of Holies
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be
World, without end. Amen.

Sermon

The Faithful Outsider

Rev. Efird

Hymn

Rahab's Song

Text: Barbara Lundblatt

Red thread flowing from the window,
Blood-red mark above the door,
Sign of passing o'er to freedom –
God has marked us forevermore.

*Red thread flowing forth to freedom!
Oh, wonderful and glorious freedom!
Red thread flowing forth to freedom,
Flowing from the heart of God.*

Rahab saw no fiery pillar,
No cloud guided her by day;
Yet, her courage kept the promise
At a station on freedom's way.

Rahab, what a daring sister!
She was bold as she was wild!
Soon she, too, was on the journey
Named as God's beloved child.

Benediction

Rev. Efird

Postlude

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

The bluegrass trio today is Chris Beal, Blair Biser, and Stephen Stacks, and the quartet is Leanne Glasgow, Jazz Sutton, Blair Biser, and Stephen Stacks.

August 15 Schedule Change



Sunday, August 15:
11:00a | Worship
2:00p | Business
Meeting
Only portable toilets
available

The plumbing work that was approved at the last business meeting will begin on Monday, August 9. The campus will be without water and restrooms for the duration of the project. The campus will be closed all week and there is a high likelihood that we will be without water on Sunday. Therefore, we are canceling Faith Formation and will only have worship on the morning of the 15th. There will be a portable toilet outside the Sanctuary. We will also hold the business meeting at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall for those who would like to attend in person (the meeting can also be accessed via Zoom). There will also be a portable toilet outside the Fellowship Hall for that meeting.

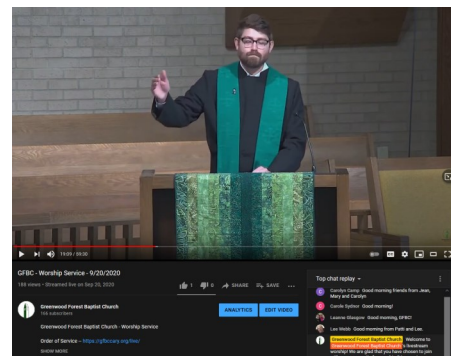


A Look Back

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.

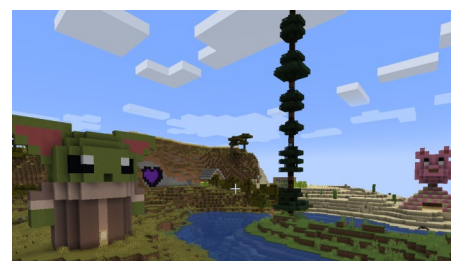


Continued Mission Work

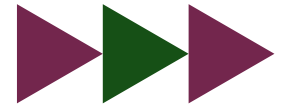
While in-person interactions necessarily decreased during the pandemic, the needs of our community only increased. Greenwood Forest members continued to provide needed ministry through Family Promise and Backpack Buddies during the pandemic, feeding potentially thousands of meals to those in need.

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 were sent to you via email in preparation for this meeting. The meeting will be held on Zoom due to a maintenance project taking place at the church.

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 anti-racism 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.

► 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

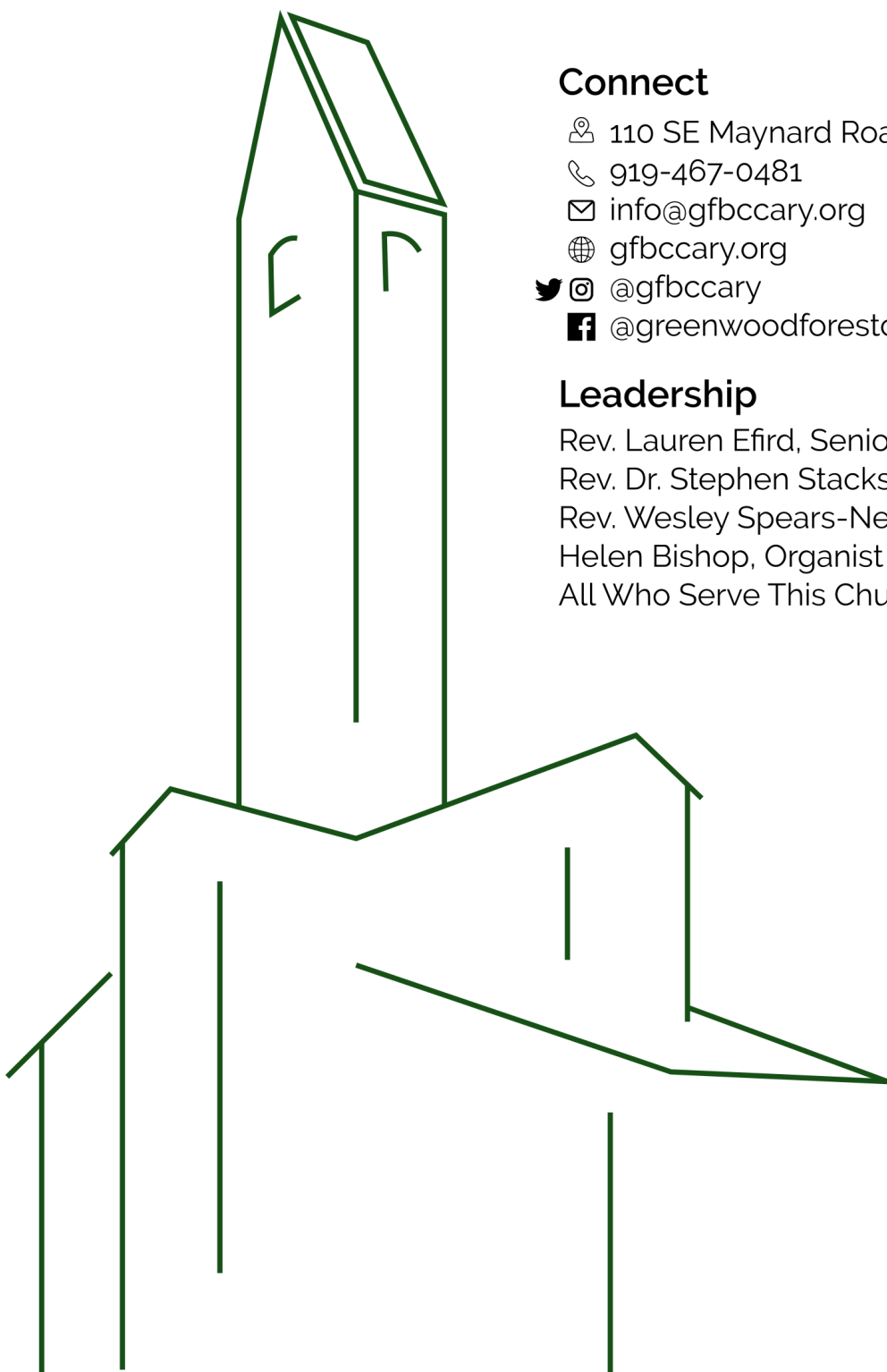
Updated when the previous month's books have closed.

	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

► 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)
 Gary Kent
 Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)
 Sylvia Morgan
 Felice Parent (at the death of her mother, Frances Parker)
 The Proctor Family (at the death of Ruby Proctor)
 Dick Reinert
 Fred Seeger
 Marta Whitehouse (Al Whitehouse's mother)
 Alison Zieglmeier
 Our partner church, Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

**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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🌐 gfbccary.org

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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