



# Greenwood Forest

## Baptist Church





# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

August 15, 2021

## ORDINARY TIME

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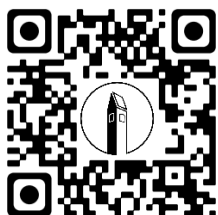
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← You can  
scan with your  
phone's camera  
to give online!

# an inclusive community 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.*



# Order of Worship

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Lauren Efrid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (Proverbs 9:1-6)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars.

People: She has prepared food and wine and set her table.

Leader: She has sent out her servants; she calls from the highest places in the town,

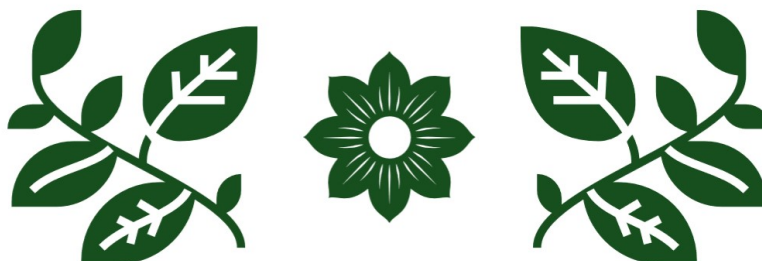
People: "You that lack wisdom, turn in here!"

Leader: Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

People: Lay aside immaturity; live and walk in the way of insight."

Invocation

Rev. Spears-Newsome



## Gathering Hymn

There is a Line of Women  
Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

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'rful 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

Rick Chappell

## 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. 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

Esther 7

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.

Sermon

The Courageous Queen

Rev. Efird

Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

*(see page 5)*

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 hymn leader today is Blair Biser.*

# God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on Thy peo - ple  
2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn Thy Christ, as -  
3. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils  
4. Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that

pour Thy power; crown Thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry,  
sail His ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us,  
we de - plore; let the search for Thy sal - va - tion  
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es

bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
in the fight to set all free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
serv - ing Thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing Thee whom we a - dore.  
that we fail not man nor Thee! That we fail not man nor Thee!



**September 12**

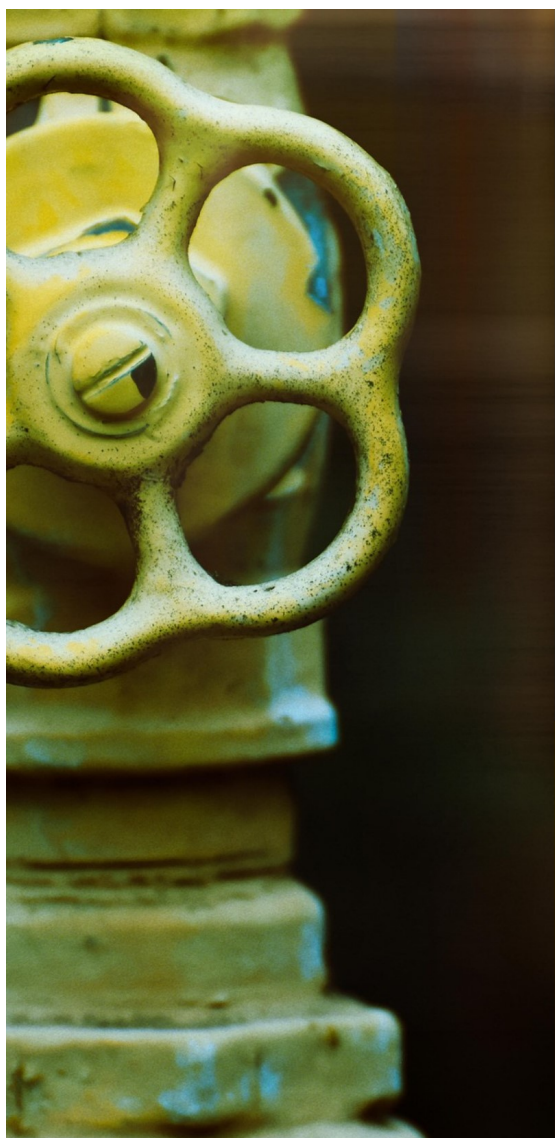
**@ 5:00pm**

BBQ + Auction  
Crafts + Games  
and more!



**Fundraiser & Kickoff**

*If you have something you'd like to contribute to the auction (e.g., art, food, stays at beach or mountain houses, etc.), please contact Toni Beal at [toni.beal@gmail.com](mailto:toni.beal@gmail.com)!*



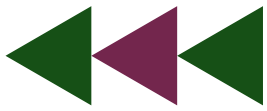
**PARDON THE MESS:**

The church campus has been closed this week due to a water-related project. We expect the water to be back on this Sunday, but we continue with our modified schedule, canceling Faith Formation this week. Worship and the Business Meeting will happen as scheduled with online participation available.

**Aug. 15 Sunday Schedule:**

11am Worship

2pm Business Meeting

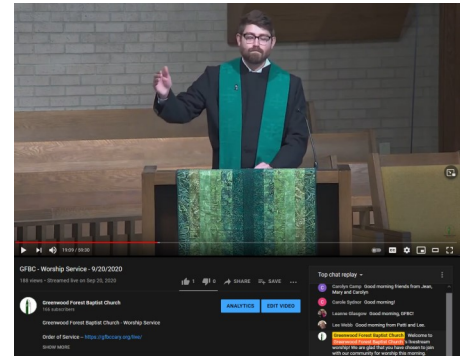


# A Look Back

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.

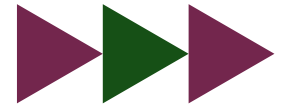
## Children's and Youth Ministries Persisted

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.



► **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 in-person and on Zoom.



► **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](http://gfbccary.org/give).

## ► July 2021 Finance Update

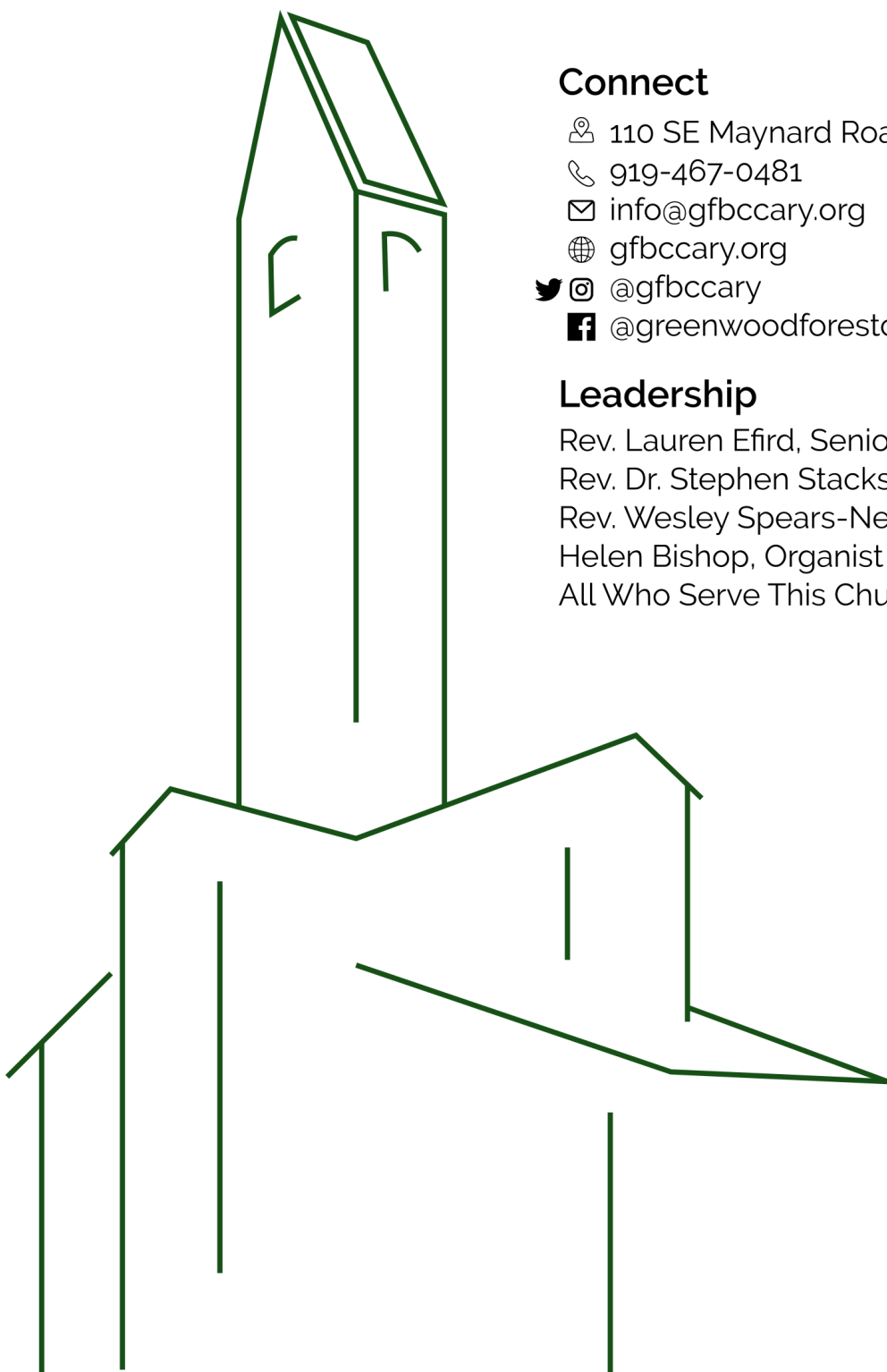
*Updated when the previous month's books have closed.*

|                                       | July 2021 | YTD        |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Congregational Giving                 | \$51,113  | \$598,640  |
| Congregational Giving Target          | \$53,624  | \$647,970  |
| Congregational Giving Under/Over      | \$(2,511) | (\$49,330) |
| Other Receipts                        | \$128,186 | \$149,621  |
| Total Giving and Receipts             | \$179,300 | \$748,261  |
| Total Disbursements                   | \$59,262  | \$687,555  |
| Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements | \$120,038 | \$60,706   |
| Together We Build Giving              | \$3,108   | \$118,851  |

## ► Prayer List\*

Jim Allen  
 Nell Allen  
 Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)  
 Don Beal  
 Gilles Bikindou  
 Laura Crook  
 Sharon Edmondson  
 Dennis Gilpin (Elaine Dodson's friend)  
 Elizabeth Harvey  
 James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)  
 Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)  
 Sylvia Morgan  
 Betty Patterson (Doris Martin's sister)  
 The Perry Family (at the death of Ava Perry)  
 Fred Seeger  
 Marta Whitehouse (Al Whitehouse's mother)  
 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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📞 919-467-0481

✉ info@gfbccary.org

🌐 gfbccary.org

🐦 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

## 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