



# Greenwood Forest

## Baptist Church





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November 28, 2021

ADVENT

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Scan to give!

### ► Welcome to Greenwood Forest!

**an inclusive  
community  
of faith**

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.

### ► Close to Home: Advent and Christmas Sermon Series



**close to  
Home**

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Our worship series this year, *Close to Home*, acknowledges the "already

but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us. *Sanctified Art* has provided devotionals and activities for this season, which you'll receive in your Faith Formation groups and you can visit an art installation in the narthex related to this theme.

- *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.*



# Homesick

First Sunday of Advent

## Chiming of the Hour

### Prelude

### Wherever You Are

Barnaby Bright

I can't describe the way I've been feeling,  
Everything all turned around inside my head  
Longing to find some magical sign,  
A key to my deepest design  
The home my body has left.

I've waited on the fig trees to sprout their lovely leaves to no avail,  
I've tried to find my voice like Zechariah but it comes out weak and pale,  
Can we build a place for all the lost who long to be  
Held inside the arms of love, the joy that sets us free.  
Maybe I'm on my own but wherever you are  
I am home.

One night that seems like a lifetime ago,  
some travelers far from home searched for a room and a bed,  
Snow fell against the light of the stars  
Without any offer or invite he came to give life to the dead

Can you imagine all the weight of all the world yet no one welcomes you in,  
The cast away and cast aside are dear to you, you cherish us just as we came,  
We can build a place for all the lost who long to be  
Held inside your arms of love, the joy that sets us free.  
How are we ever alone, wherever you are,  
We are home.

### Welcome to Worship

Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

### Passing of the Peace

Rev. Efird



## Call to Worship (Sanctified Art)

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Leader: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

People: We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers,  
for the end of suffering.

Leader: Yes, we are homesick—

People: For joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors,  
and for emptied hospitals.

Leader: We are homesick for the world God promises.

People: We are homesick, but we are on our way.

Leader: God is here. God is still creating.

People: Let us worship Holy God.

## Invocation

Rev. Dr. Stacks

## Gathering Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*(see page 4)*

## Offertory Prayer

Katie Lockhart

## Presentation of the Offering

GREENSLEEVES

E Minor: Em D G D B<sup>7</sup> Em Am/C

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

B Em D G D B<sup>7</sup>

here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

Em Am B Em

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



# Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us;  
 yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
 now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear de - sire of  
 Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all - suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.



## The Prayers of the People

Rev. Wesley 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

Luke 21:25-36

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

When the Stars Begin to Fall

arr. The Seekers

*BJ Facemire, Soloist*

My Lord what a morning

My Lord what a morning

My Lord what a morning

When the stars begin to fall

You will weep for the

rocks and mountains

You will weep for the

rocks and mountains

You will weep for the

rocks and mountains

When the stars begin to fall

You will hear the shout of victory

You will hear the shout of victory

You will hear the shout of victory

When the stars begin to fall

## Sermon

Homesick

Rev. Efird

## Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*(see page 6)*

## Benediction

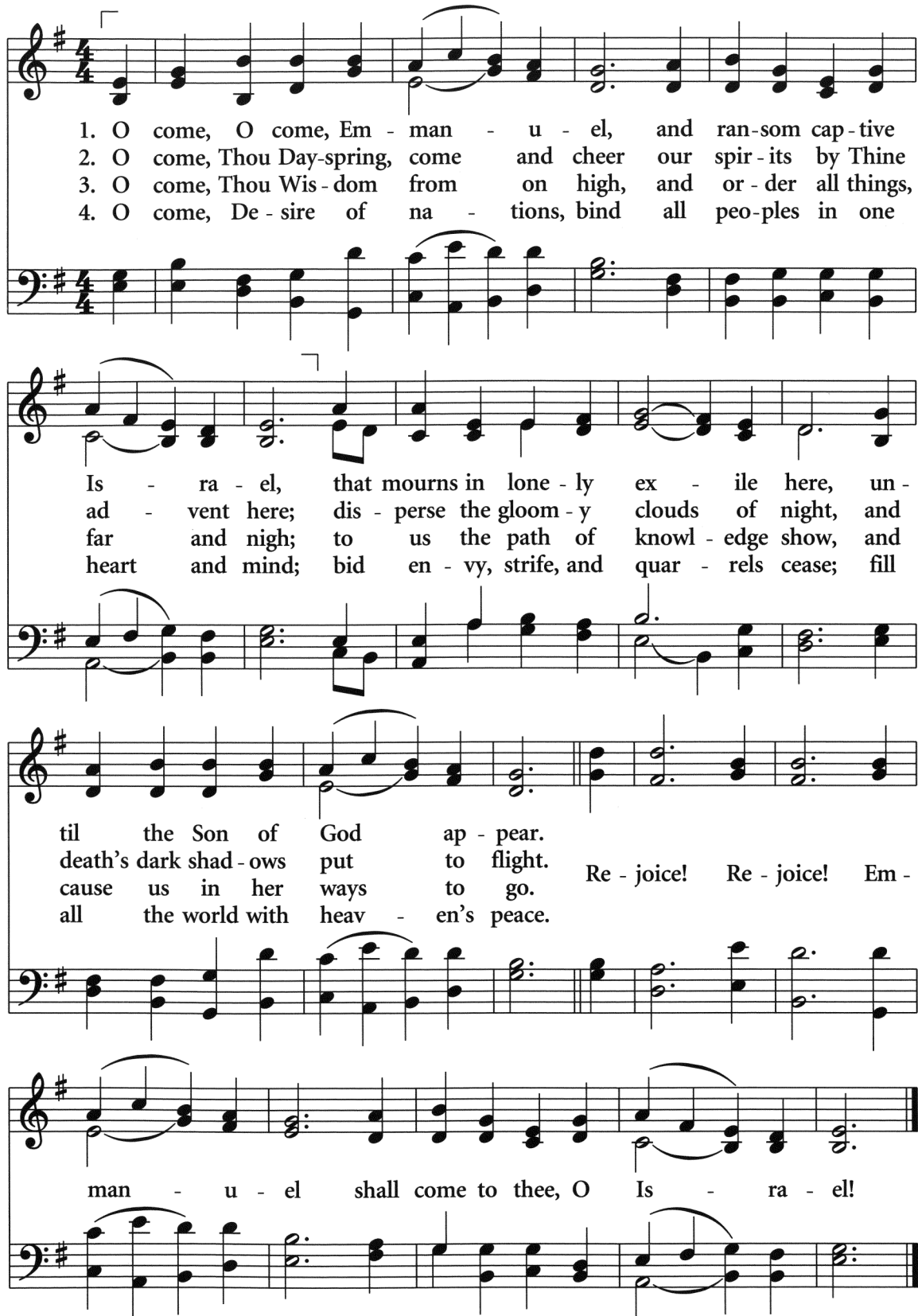
Rev. Efird

## Postlude





# O Come, O Come Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap - tive  
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by Thine  
3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and  
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and  
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; fill

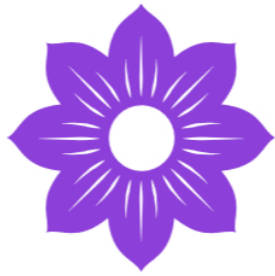
til the Son of God ap - pear.  
death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
cause us in her ways to go.  
all the world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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



## ► Poinsettia Dedications



The Advent and Christmas seasons are right around the corner, which means we will be decorating the sanctuary soon! If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for the sanctuary adornment and a dedication listed in the bulletin, please visit [gfbccary.org/poinsettias](https://gfbccary.org/poinsettias). Poinsettias and dedications are \$15. Any profits from poinsettia sales will go to the Organ Fund.

## ► Christmas Gifts for Our Neighbors



With our partners at the Kirk of Kildaire as we do each year, we will be collecting Christmas gifts for our neighbors that we work with through Backpack Buddies and the Neighborhood Summer Program. If you'd like to sign up to purchase a gift, please visit [gfbccary.org/gifts](https://gfbccary.org/gifts) (redirects to a signup). Gifts benefit our neighborhood children and other local ministries. Please follow these steps to donate gifts:

- Sign up for a slot at the link.
- Purchase and wrap the gift.
- Label with the agency code and number (included in your signup), name of the recipient, and a brief description of the gift. Make sure this label can be easily removed.
- Return to the Kirk of Kildaire drop-off on Sunday December 5 from 1-3pm or you can drop off gifts at the Kirk of Kildaire church office.

## ► Greenwood Forest Children's Center Scholarship Fundraiser

GFCC is excited to continue the long-standing tradition of raffling off beautifully themed baskets and experiences to raise money for the Dr. Bill Jones Scholarship Fund. This fund is a crucial part of making GFCC accessible to all children within the community, regardless of financial circumstance.

You are invited to stop by the GFBC Media Center on Sunday morning, December 5th to view baskets and purchase tickets. Tickets are \$1 each or \$10 for 12. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Wolber at [gfccdirector@gmail.com](mailto:gfccdirector@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

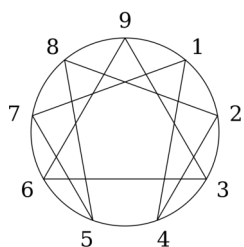


# DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## 2022

### ► Why Do They Do That?! Insights from the Enneagram

*February 6, 13, and 20 during Faith Formation / Led by Andy Jarrell*

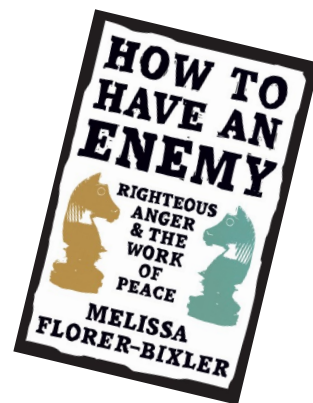


Andy will lead us through spiritual insights from the Enneagram, a personality type system that has amazing potential for spiritual discernment and interpersonal awareness. You'll be amazed by how these personality types describe your, your loved ones', and your fellow church members' motivations and desires, and how they will help us work together to fulfill God's mission.

### ► Retreat | How to Have an Enemy: Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace

*March 11-13 at GFBC / Led by Rev. Melissa Florer-Bixler*

Don't miss this year's Discipleship Retreat featuring Rev. Melissa Florer-Bixler, who will lead several sessions over the weekend on her new book *How to Have an Enemy: Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace*. Melissa is a dynamic writer and speaker. In addition to her many publications, she is the pastor at Raleigh Mennonite Church. Stay tuned for more details!



### ► Mean Jesus?

*May 8, 15, and 22 during Faith Formation / Led by Stephen Stacks*

In this provocative series, Rev. Dr. Stacks will dive into passages in the gospels when Jesus is ... less than pleasant. These passages fly in the face of the sweet, sentimental Jesus about which many of us were taught. What does "mean Jesus" have to teach 21st century Christians? Is "nice" a synonym for "loving" or not? These are the questions we'll explore together.

### ► Stories of Vocation and Faith

*June 5, 12, 19, and 26 during Faith Formation*

Each week we will hear a lay person reflect on the intersection of their faith lives and their vocational/work lives. This will be an exciting way to learn more about your fellow church members and to connect what we do in church with our lives during the week. This round of vocational reflections will feature Jazzmoné Sutton, Rick Chappell, Elizabeth Biser, and Mary Whitehouse.

# Advent & Christmas

## Special Worship Services

Decorating/Wreath-Making Party | Nov. 21, 3:00 pm

Service of Lament | Dec. 15, 6:00 pm

A Service of Lessons & Carols | Dec. 19, 11:00 am



## Advent Worship Services

First Sunday of Advent | Nov. 28, 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent | Dec. 5, 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent | Dec. 12, 11:00 am



## Christmas Worship Services

Children's Christmas Eve Service | Dec. 24, 11:00 am

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service | Dec. 24, 8:00 pm

First Sunday of Christmas | Dec. 26, 11:00 am

Epiphany Sunday | Jan. 2, 11:00 am



## PRAYPRAYPRAYPRAY

### ► Prayer List\*

Jim Allen  
 Nell Allen  
 Peter Barboriak (*Valerie Brooks' friend*)  
 Gilles Bikindou  
 Vanna Fox  
 James Mark Frazier (*Sue Hughes' brother*)  
 Don Hamrick  
 Cathy Lockhart (*Katie Lockhart's mother*)  
 Janet Merriman (*Roz Slawson's friend*)

Sylvia Morgan  
 Fred Seeger  
 Elizabeth Vickery  
 Marta Whitehouse (*Al Whitehouse's mother*)  
 Alison Zieglmeier  
 Our partners at 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.*

## GIVEGIVEGIVEGIVE

### ► Together We Build Campaign Concludes — Thank You!

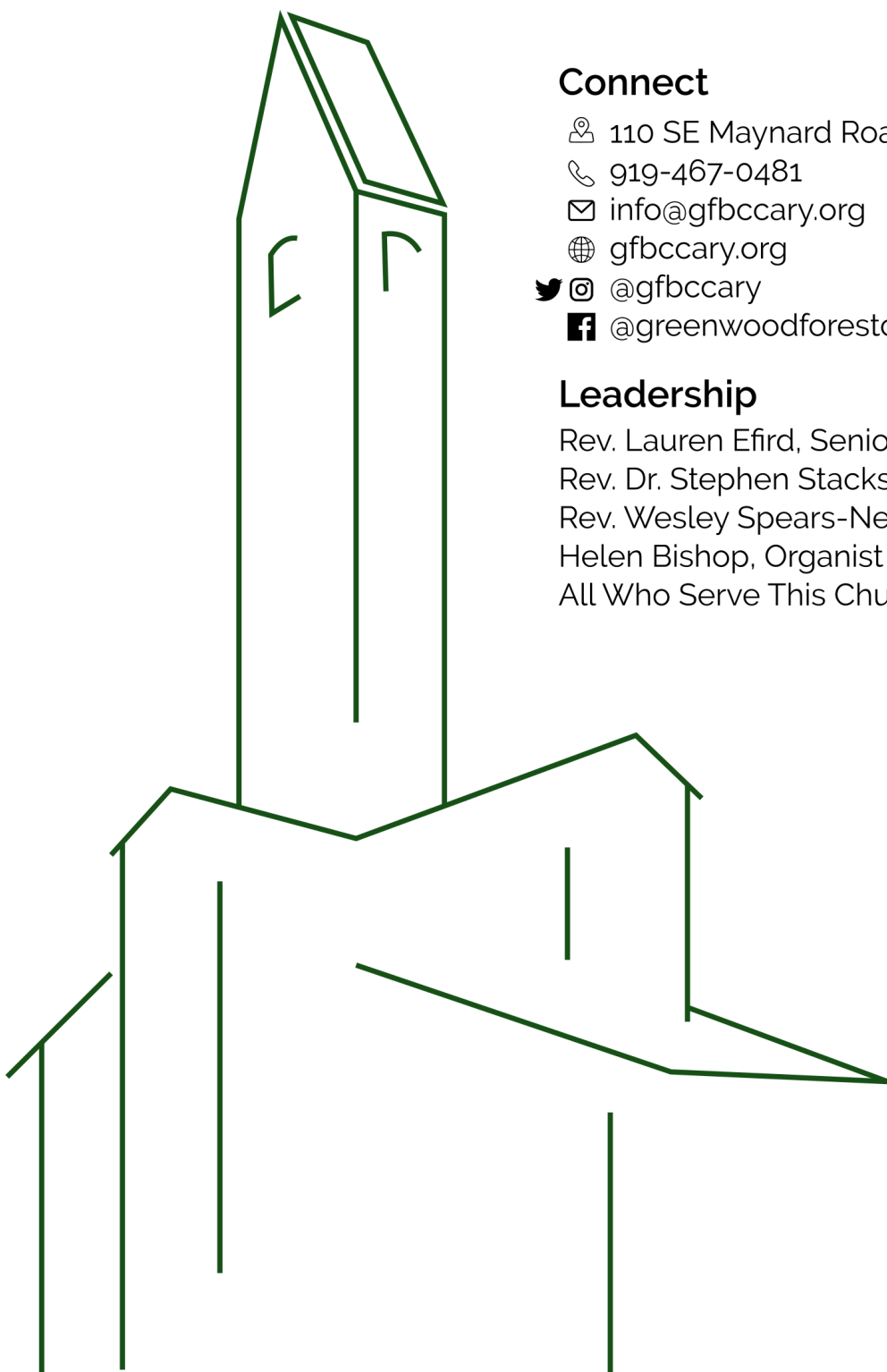
On November 21, we celebrated the conclusion to the Together We Build Campaign. Despite all of the ups-and-downs of the past two years, you were able to raise **\$1,023,107** toward retiring the church's debt. Your contributions and effort have made way for a stable financial future for Greenwood Forest Baptist Church in the coming decades, ensuring that there will be an inclusive community of faith on the corner of Maynard and Kildaire Farm Roads for years to come.



### ► October 2021 Finance Update

*Updated when the previous months' books close.*

	Oct. 2021	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$46,910	\$88,739
Congregational Giving Target	\$63,750	\$114,750
Congregational Giving Under/Over	(\$16,480)	(\$26,011)
Other Receipts	\$13,000	\$17,476
Total Giving and Receipts	\$59,910	\$106,215
Total Disbursements	\$68,582	\$126,190
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$8,672)	(\$19,975)
Together We Build Giving	\$38,045	\$53,482



## 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