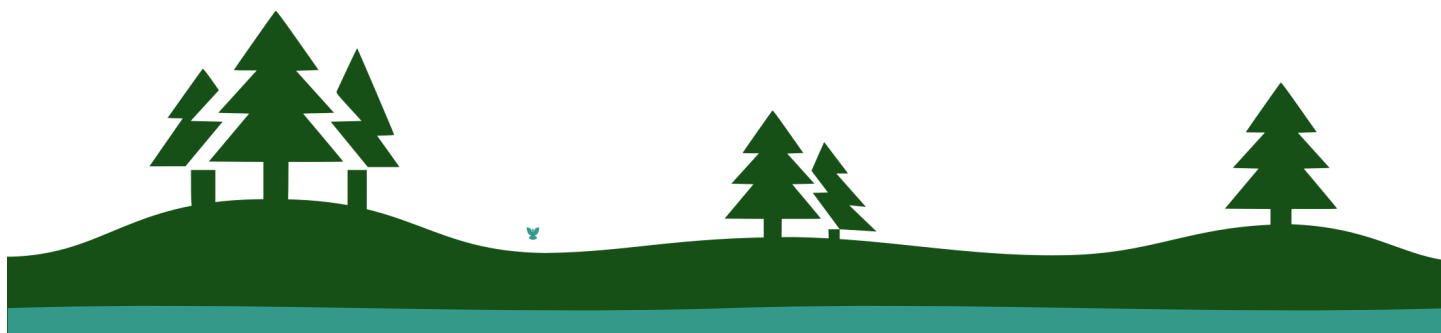




# Greenwood Forest

## Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest  
Baptist Church

January 9, 2022

BAPTISM OF  
OUR LORD

Connect with us



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Scan to give!

# 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

Baptism of our Lord Sunday

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude Children of the Heavenly Father arr. Don Wyrzten

Welcome to Worship Rev. Lauren Efir

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace Rev. Efir

Call to Worship (from Nancy Townley) Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Leader: God is with us always and calls us each by name.

People: When we pass through difficulties and stress,

Leader: God is with us and calls us by name.

People: When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,

Leader: God is with us and calls us by name, and heals us.

People: Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name. Amen.

Invocation Rev. Dr. Stacks

Gathering Hymn You Know My Name Tasha Cobbs Leonard

*We invite you to participate by listening, clapping, or meditating on the text.*

You know my name

You know my name

You know my name

You know my name

Oh how you walk with me

Oh how you talk with me

And oh how you tell me

That I am your own

You know my name

You know my name

You know my name

You know my name

And oh how you comfort me

And oh how you counsel me

It still amazes me

That I am your friend

So now I pour out

My heart to you

Here in your presence

I am made new

Offertory Prayer

Katie Lockhart

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.

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

Isaiah 43:1-7

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

Be Not Afraid

Craig Courtney

Be not afraid for I have redeemed you.  
Be not afraid, I have called you by name.  
When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you.  
When you pass through the floods,  
they will not sweep o'er you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be consumed.  
You are mine,  
you are precious in my sight.

My love for you is everlasting,  
My love for you shall have no end.  
When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you.  
When you pass through the floods,  
they will not sweep o'er you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be consumed.  
You are mine,  
you are precious in my sight.

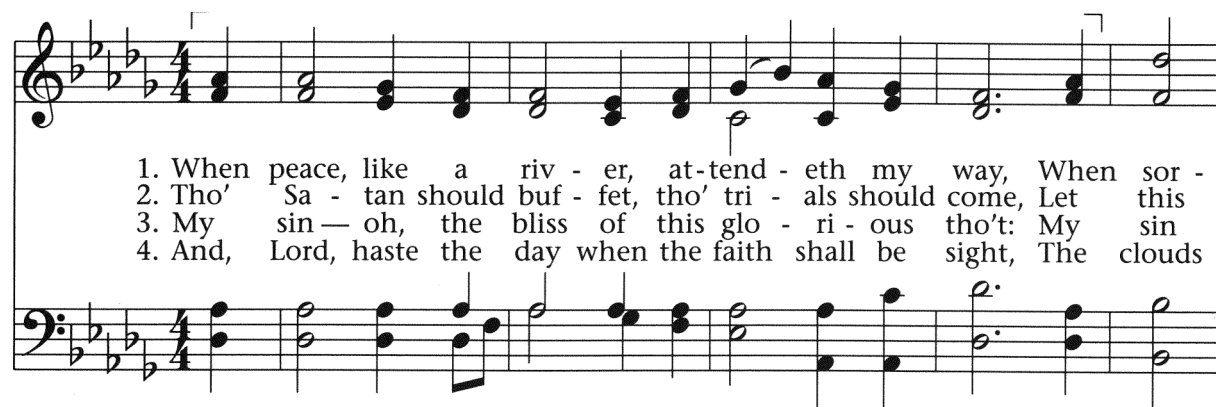
Sermon	Call Me By Your Name	Rev. Efird
Reaffirmation of Baptism		Rev. Efird
Hymn (vv. 1, 3, and 4)		It is Well with My Soul
(see page 5)		
Benediction		Rev. Efird
Postlude	Fairest Lord Jesus	arr. Victor Labenske

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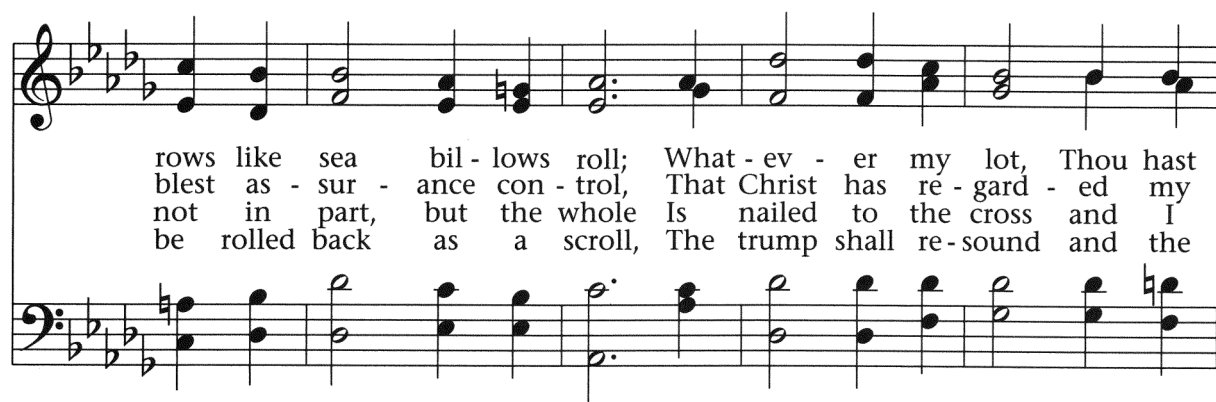
*Today's hymns come from Celebrating Grace. Copyrighted music use is covered by CCLI License #1243530 and OneLicense #A-721397.*



# It Is Well with My Soul



1. When peace, like a riv - er, at-tend - eth my way, When sor -  
 2. Tho' Sa - tan should buf - fet, tho' tri - als should come, Let this  
 3. My sin — oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous tho't: My sin  
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds



rows like sea bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast  
 blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my  
 not in part, but the whole Is nailed to the cross and I  
 be rolled back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend, "E - ven so," it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
 It is well with my soul,

## CONNECTCONNECT

### ► Staff Anniversary: Rev. Spears-Newsome

*From the Personnel Committee:*



The first week of January we celebrated Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome's 5th anniversary of serving as our Associate Pastor

of Community and Youth. We are very grateful for Wes' five faithful years of ministering in our church and greater community. From leading our youth, to coordinating our church's participation in ONE Wake, to lending his design talents to the church website (and this very bulletin), Wes' talents, gifts, and efforts are very appreciated. Be sure to give Wes a great big, "thank you!"

### ► Thank You from Church Staff

The whole church staff would like to thank the congregation for their generosity in the Christmas love offering. Each of us is so glad to be at Greenwood Forest and loves this community as much as each of you. Thank you, from us and our families, for adding to our joy this holiday season. We love and appreciate you.

### ► Thank You from Karen Burden

I knew I worked in a special place, but the GFBC Family proved it in the weeks following my father's death on December 13. The beautiful cards, the much-needed food delivery on the very day of his death, the kind emails, and even your attendance

at his visitation and funeral overwhelmed me with gratitude. Please know everything you did brought my family comfort. I feel so loved and am so deeply appreciative.

### ► Upcoming Discipleship Opportunities

*Why Do They Do That?! Insights from the Enneagram*

Faith Formation Series with Andy Jarrell  
Feb. 6, 13, and 20 (9:45-10:45am)

*How to Have an Enemy: Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace*

Discipleship Retreat with Rev. Melissa Florer-Bixler of Raleigh Mennonite  
March 11-13

*Mean Jesus?*

Faith Formation Series with  
Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks  
May 8, 15, and 22



### ► Greenwood Forest Yard Day

Please come and assist the Properties Committee for the upcoming Greenwood Forest Yard Day (Jan. 15). Any time you can provide welcome. No experience necessary. We will spread mulch and neaten up the exterior and grounds. The Canadian Geese have assured us they will give us room to work. Please bring work gloves, lawn tools for your use, and any other equipment you may use on your yard. Let Doug Black or anyone on the Properties Committee know if you have questions!

**Date: Jan. 15, 9am-12pm. (weather permitting)**





# ONE Wake Update

## ► ONE Wake 2021 Accomplishments

- Secured the commitment of Cary Town Council Candidates for the Penny for Housing plan. **350** households attended this action.
- **\$380,000** won in compensation for displaced residents in Wake Forest (average \$11,000 per family for relocation expenses).
- Fought alongside Las Americas residents (Cary) for them to receive **at least 50%** of their outstanding titles.
- Supported the rezoning of public land in Holly Springs for **124 units of affordable housing**.
- Won commitments of support for a property tax assistance program from the Raleigh City Council and the Chair of the County Commissioners. **600** people attended this action.
- **25 print and television stories** generated by ONE Wake on affordable housing.
- **333** new and existing leaders attended IAF University training and **5** new institutions joined ONE Wake.

## ► What's Next in 2022?

ONE Wake is committed to pursuing the goals established by its member institutions (including GFBC) concerning housing, jobs, and education. The next big step in Cary is a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign for the 2022 municipal elections.

The goal is to contact at least 1,500 Cary voters through a strictly non-partisan GOTV campaign with a combination of relational phone calls to members of our institutions and limited door-to-door canvassing in our community.

Join us for training (virtual) for this campaign later this month! There are two opportunities on January 25 (7pm) and January 27 (7pm). Contact Rev. Spears-Newsome if interested ([wesleyspears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesleyspears-newsome@gfbccary.org)).

Everyone should join us for our first gathering of ONE Wake members in 2022 on February 24 (7:30pm). We will hear about exciting opportunities and ratify our 2022 strategy and budget. Register at [https://www.onewake.org/internal\\_assembly\\_2\\_24\\_22](https://www.onewake.org/internal_assembly_2_24_22).



## ▶ Prayer List\*

Jim Allen  
 Nell Allen  
 Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)  
 Gilles Bikindou  
 Frank Decker  
 Vanna Fox  
 Lemuel and Victoria Franco (sister and brother-in-law of Marlen Ruegg)  
 James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)  
 Gloria Lee (friend of the Becks and the Curtis)  
 Cathy Lockhart (Katie Lockhart's mother)  
 Doris Martin  
 Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)  
 Sylvia Morgan  
 Willie Palmer (Randy Palmer's brother)  
 Fred Seeger  
 Marta Whitehouse (Al Whitehouse's mother)  
 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.*

## ▶ 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 your 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).

## ▶ November 2021 Finance Update

*Updated when the previous months' books close.*

	Nov. 2021	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$44,179	\$132,918
Congregational Giving Target	\$56,307	\$165,750
Congregational Giving Under/Over	(\$12,128)	(\$32,832)
Other Receipts	\$5,580	\$23,056
Total Giving and Receipts	\$49,760	\$155,974
Total Disbursements	\$60,882	\$187,072
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$11,123)	(\$31,098)
Together We Build Giving	\$44,080	\$97,561

# Omicron Update to Covid-19 Precautions

Dear GFBC Family,

We are monitoring the recent COVID-19 surge caused by the new variant closely and wanted to send you an update. The information coming out about Omicron suggests:

1. **Omicron is more infectious than the original strain of COVID** (although it's unclear if it is more or less contagious than the Delta variant at this time).
2. People (both children and adults) infected by the Omicron variant tend to become less sick than other variants; **while it is more contagious, it *seems* less virulent.**
3. Although there have been breakthrough cases, **vaccination and boosters *significantly* reduce the risk of serious illness** from Omicron (as well as other variants)
4. Omicron, like all COVID variants, is an airborne illness (spread through small particles called aerosols not just larger droplets), **but there are proven strategies for mitigating the risk of spreading airborne illnesses.**

While the data are unclear on how effective the total lockdowns implemented in 2020 were at mitigating the spread of COVID, the science is very clear on the effectiveness of several interventions, which are much more

sustainable long term:

- encouraging vaccination
- gathering outdoors (when possible)
- universal masking while indoors
- ensuring good ventilation
- following responsible isolation and testing protocols when symptomatic, etc.

Although gathering outside would be the option with the least amount of risk, the weather over the next two months will make that impractical/impossible. A few congregations in the Triangle have chosen to go to virtual worship for a period of time. We, however, feel comfortable continuing in-person worship for the following reasons:

- **Ventilation in our Sanctuary is very good**, and the size of space is conducive for disbursement of any aerosols that may escape masks. We will be using a portable air quality detector to continue to monitor the Sanctuary's ventilation and ensure that it stays at safe levels
- **Vaccination percentage in the congregation is very high** and those who are unable to be vaccinated at this time (children under 5) are, in the vast majority of cases, in a separate wing from the adults

while they are at church

- The other precautions we have in place (masking, distancing, keeping length of service short, minimizing congregational vocalization, etc.) make risk low for everyone **as long as we continue to abide by them strictly.**

In that spirit, we would like for you to note the following updates/reminders:

1. **If you are able to be vaccinated and have not yet, we strongly encourage you to do so. If you are vaccinated but not yet boosted, we encourage you to get boosted as soon as you are able.** If you need resources or information on vaccination, please contact the church office
2. **Do NOT come onto campus with any COVID symptoms** (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea)
3. **Ensure you have a tightly-fitted mask on before you enter the building and at all times while inside.** We recommend upgrading to an N95/KN95, but if you are wearing a cloth mask, make sure it A) fits well (covers mouth and nose

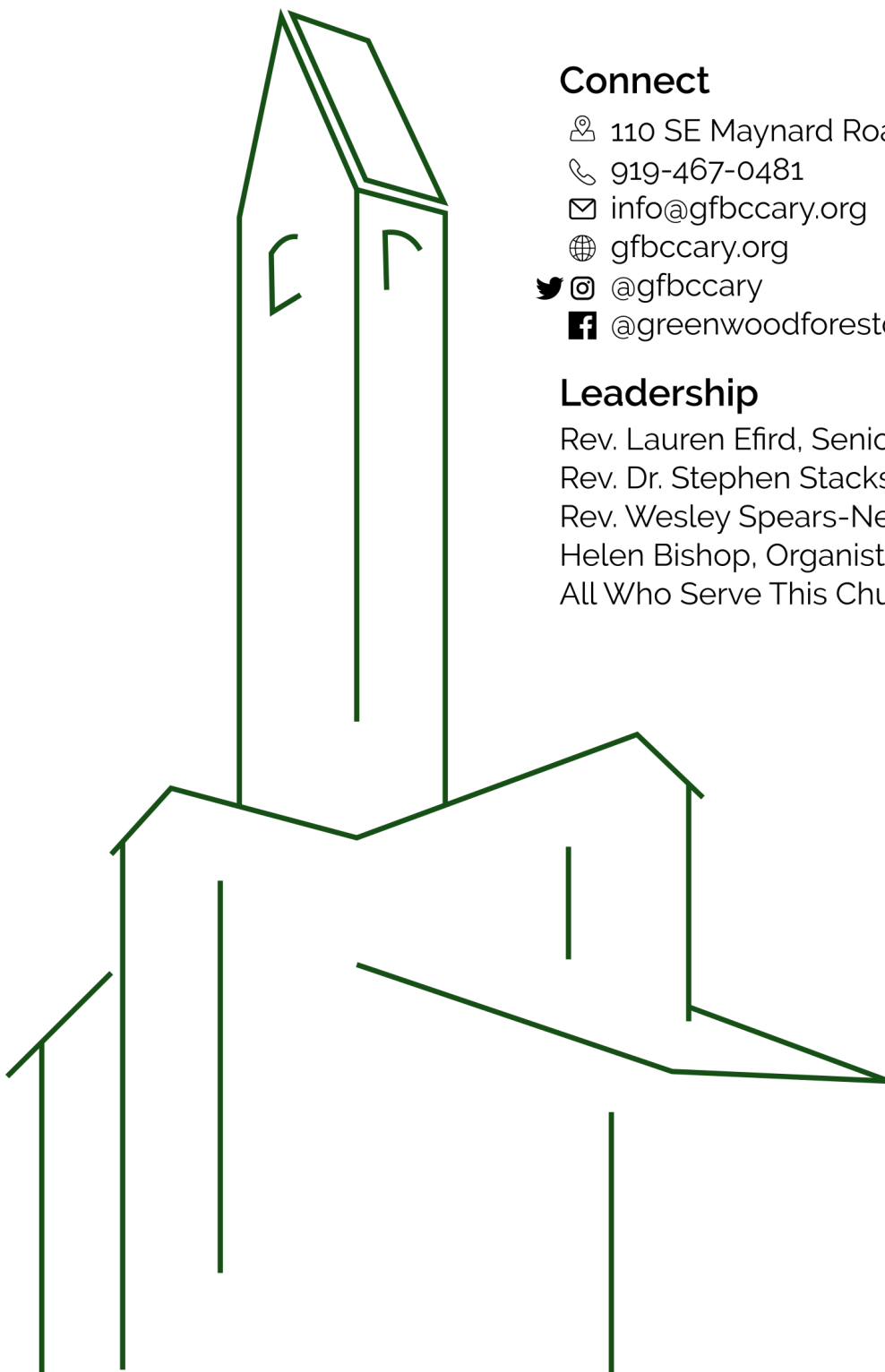
tightly, has no gaps around the perimeter of the mask) and B) is multilayered or you are double masking with a surgical mask

4. **Follow all CDC/NCDHHS isolation guidelines if you have been, or think you may have been, exposed to COVID.** Do NOT come to church if you are within isolation/quarantine time frame even if you are asymptomatic.

Until this surge has abated, we are reinstating the following precautions that we had loosened:

- No food or drink will be offered at indoor events to discourage removal of masks
- We will pause on taking communion in worship
- During worship, the congregation will only sing the closing hymn to avoid the generation of too many aerosols early in the service
- Lay speakers will use a separate lectern when leading in worship
- The ministers will do pastoral care via phone and electronic communication, except in end-of-life situations.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact Rev. Dr. Stacks.



## Connect

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📞 919-467-0481

✉️ [info@gfbccary.org](mailto:info@gfbccary.org)

🌐 [gfbccary.org](http://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