



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

January 30, 2022

ORDINARY TIME

Connect with us



gfbccary.org



[greenwood
forestcary](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)



[@gfbccary](https://twitter.com/gfbccary)



[@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

Contents

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Order of Worship | 2 |
| Connect | 6 |
| Pray Give | 7 |
| Omicron Update | 8 |

an inclusive community of faith

► Welcome to worship!

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.



► Current Sermon Series

Our current sermon series, *Sing a Song*, takes inspiration from multiple generations of popular music in conversation with the week's biblical text. Discover what everyone from Lil Nas X to Garth Brooks has to do with our faith and Scripture!



Scan to give!

- Today's color is green for Ordinary Time, a season of spiritual growth.
- 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.



Gathering Hymn

O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench

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

O carpenter, why leave the bench
Where wood yields to your art,
And take instead, to try your skill
The stony human heart?

O carpenter, why leave the tools
To carry out your plans,
And go instead to do God's work
With empty open hands?

O carpenter, why leave the world
Of table, bed, and house,
To face the empire's carpentry,
To lift a Roman cross?

O carpenter, why leave repairs
With wood and clamp and glue,
And rise from death to
seek instead to make
the whole world new?

O carpenter, who else could do
The work that you have done?
What can we do but sing your praise,
O Savior, Mary's son!

Offertory Prayer

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. Dr. 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.

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

"Sanctus" from *Gospel Mass*
BJ Facemire, Soloist

Robert Ray

*Holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
Hosanna be to thee, in the highest,
Who gave me victory!*

There was a man sittin' by the roadside,
He was blind, he could not see,
Then the master of the earth and skies,
Touched his eyes and he looked around
saying...

Another man lay by a poolside,
Thirty-eight years with his infirmity,
Then the Lord troubled the water,

The man arose and he jumped for joy
saying...

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord,
We will always sing thy praise,
Hosanna in the highest,
Sing hosanna in the highest!

Like the blind man and the lame man,
I was lost living in sin,*
Then I opened up my heart one day,
I let the Savior in, now I shout saying...

** This line can be construed as equating disability with sin. The text is meant to compare the experience of isolation and disorientation the people in these stories must have felt in a society that did not include them to what it feels like to be "lost in sin." However, we want to clearly state that disability has nothing to do with sin. People with disabilities are beloved by God and the only sin is not including them fully.*

Sermon

Who Says You Can't Go Home?

Rev. Spears-Newsome

Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

(see page 5)

Benediction

Rev. Spears-Newsome

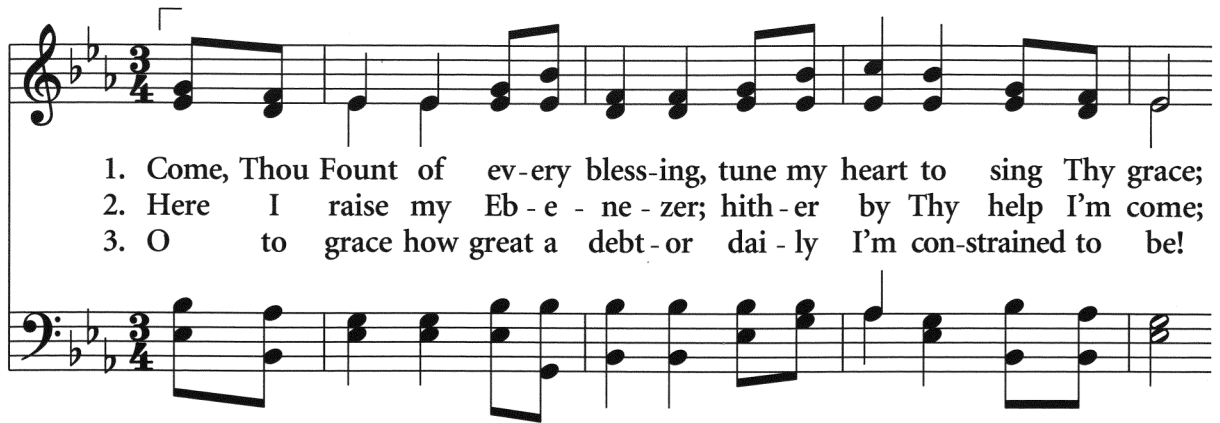
Postlude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

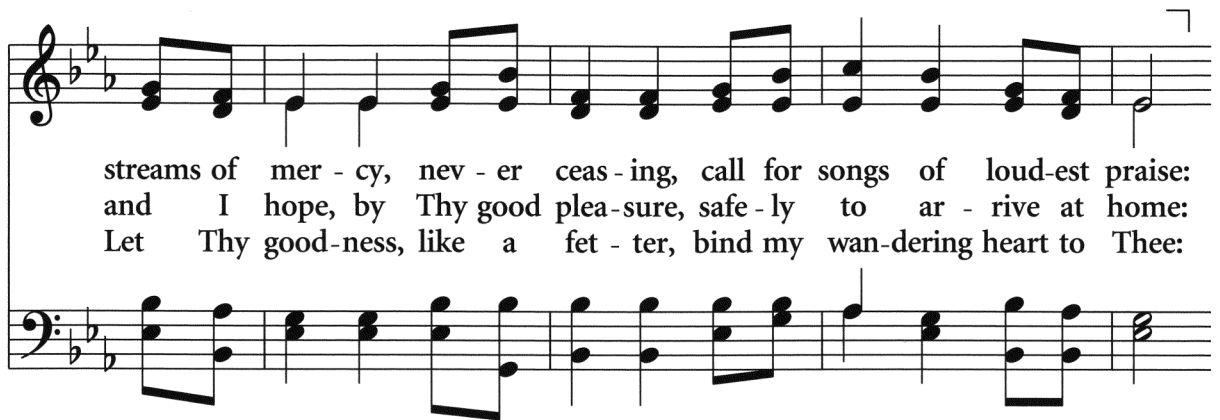
arr. Warford, Jr.

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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



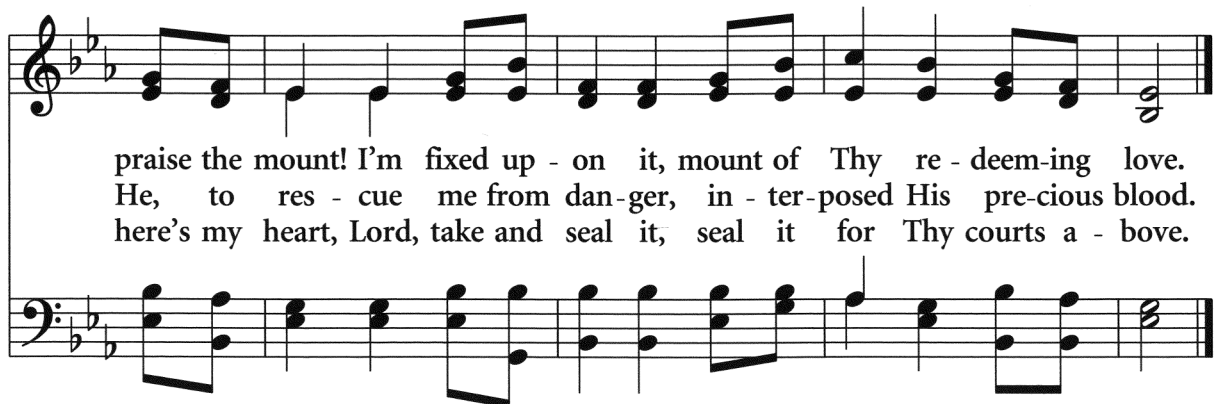
1. Come, Thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2. Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by Thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise:
and I hope, by Thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home:
Let Thy good-ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to Thee:



teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a stran-ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of Thy re - deem-ing love.
He, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed His pre-cious blood.
here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

CONNECTCONNECT

► Reminder: Feedback on Bylaws

The December 2021 Business Meeting included a presentation on proposed bylaw changes. Copies of the changes are available in the office and the Narthex or via email from Leta Huntsinger, Chair of Deacons. Changes will be up for a vote at the next Business Meeting (date TBD).

► Staff Anniversary: Randy Palmer

From the Personnel Committee



Randy Palmer became our Custodian on January 27, 2004 and throughout those 18 years has provided care and

stewardship over our Sanctuary and throughout our facilities and campus. We celebrate what he does while we give thanks for who he is and for his joyful spirit. It is always a blessing to hear his voice in our musical offerings. Tell Randy thank you when you see him!

► Discipleship Retreat: March 11-13

Remember to save the date for our Discipleship Retreat (March 11-13)! Rev. Melissa Florer-Bixler will be joining us to talk about her book, *How to Have an Enemy: Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace*. More details coming soon.



Churchwide Faith Formation
February 6, 13, and 20
Led by Andy Jarrell
9:45 am in Fellowship Hall
Online Option Available

► Churchwide Faith Formation Series

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 in the world.

► Prayer List*

The Allen Family (at the death of 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)
 Betty Griffin (Jane Griffin's mother)
 Megan Jarrell
 The Jones Family (at the death of Frances)
 Gary Kent
 Doris Martin
 Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)
 Sylvia Morgan
 Suzanne Rohrbacher (friend of MaryBeth McDermott)
 Fred Seeger
 Wilton Short (Jennifer Whaley's father)
 Frank Smith
 Kathi Smith
 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.

► December 2021 Finance Update

Updated when the previous months' books close.

| | Dec., 2021 | YTD |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Congregational Giving | \$62,794 | \$195,713 |
| Congregational Giving Target | \$63,680 | \$229,430 |
| Congregational Giving Under/Over | (\$886) | (\$33,717) |
| Other Receipts | \$19,405 | \$42,461 |
| Total Giving and Receipts | \$82,199 | \$238,174 |
| Total Disbursements | \$64,328 | \$251,401 |
| Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements | \$17,871 | (\$13,227) |
| Together We Build Giving | \$11,471 | \$109,032 |

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.**

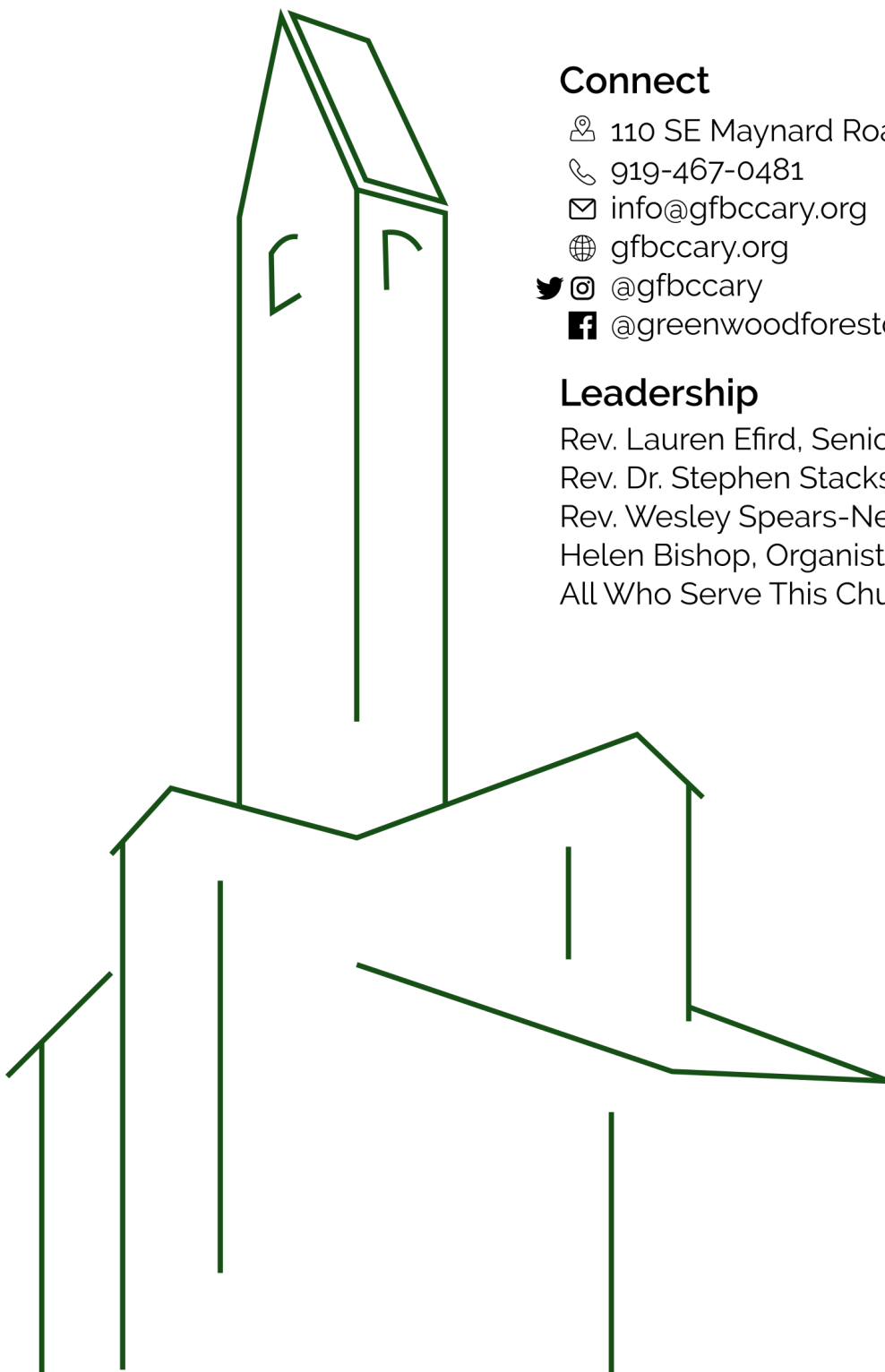
In that spirit, we would like for you to note the following updates/reminders:

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

📍 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

📞 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