



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

March 6, 2022

LENT

an inclusive community of faith

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Contents

Order of Worship	2
Lenten Series	5
Act	7
Retreat	9
Pray Give	10



Scan to give!

► 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.

- *Today's color is purple for Lent, a season of reflection and repentance.*
- *Hearing assistance devices are available at the back of the sanctuary.*
- *Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.*



Order of Worship

First Sunday of Lent

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude O, The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus arr. Don Phillips

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. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

People: Jesus went into the city to heal.

Leader: Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

People: Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.

Leader: Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

People: But Jesus also went to the wilderness.

Leader: There is nowhere we can go that God does not walk with us.

People: We are in God's house. Let us worship holy God.

Invocation Rev. Spears-Newsome

Gathering Hymn Beautiful Things Gungor

(see page 3)

Offertory Prayer Gerry Ritter

Presentation of the Offering OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, who forms us from the dust.

Praise Christ, who frees us through the cross.

Praise Holy Ghost who drives us on

To meet God in the wilderness. Amen.

Beautiful Things

VERSE 1 & 2

G A/G D G A/G

1. All this pain. I won-der if I'll ev-er find my way;
 2. All this earth. — Could all that is lost ev-er be found; .

4 D G A/G Bm⁷ A^{sus} G A/G

I won-der if my life could real-ly change — at — all. —
 — Could a gar-den come up from this ground — at — all? —

8 **CHORUS 1a**

1. D 2. D D

You make beau-ti-ful things, — You make beau-ti-

12

-ful things out of the dust. — You make beau-ti-ful things, — You make beau-ti-

16 **VERSE 3**

G A/G D G A/G

-ful things out of us. 3. All a-round .

21 D G A/G D

— hope is spring-ing up from this old ground. — Out of cha-os,

24 G A Bm⁷ A^{sus} G A/G D

life is be-ing found — in — You. —

BRIDGE

D A/D G/D D

You make — me new, You are mak-ing — me new. —

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 4:1-13

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.

Anthem

Refuse the Bait

Liturgical Folk

Jesus, you entered Satan's lair

To conquer evil in its keep.

In forty days of fast and prayer

You showed your right

to tend God's sheep.

When hunger closed its vicious grasp

'Round your incarnate body's need

You fled from food as from an asp,

For you had bread enough, indeed.

O help us, Lord, refuse the bait

Of evil's constant, charming lure.

Protect us now from Satan's hate,

And keep us in your arm's secure,

And keep us in your arm's secure.

You would not use the gift of bread

To cover man's true need for grace,

The resurrection of the dead,

The gift to 'waken Adam's race.

For Caesar's ways you had no care.

The way of pow'r you would not trod.

Instead you took old Satan's dare

And let him think that he killed God.

When you return to claim your due

May we be found upon your breast

With heads reclining near to you,

Like little babes, secure, at rest.

Sermon

Even in the Desert

Rev. Efird

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

Full to the Brim

An expansive lent

LENT is one of the major seasons of the Christian calendar. It originated as a time to leave the old life behind and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. Lent is a practice of stepping away from one kind of life to live another. We step away from the American obsessions of success, greed, corruption, scarcity, and emptiness to adopt a life of wholeness, generosity, compassion, and abundance. Our theme this year, in partnership with the art collective *Sanctified Art*, emphasizes this kind of life.

Full to the Brim trusts in the promise of our baptisms—that God has already claimed us as beloved children and nothing can change that. When we are filled to the brim with that lavish love, that love spills over to those all around us.

We hope this Lent will be an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, and to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. This love disrupts the scarcity mentality that oppression and hierarchy in all its forms can plant inside of us. Love, like water, rushes and overflows, touching everything in its path.

There are *Full to the Brim* Lenten devotionals available in the back and in your email inboxes. We also used a Reflective Assessment Tool at our Ash Wednesday service, which you also have access to in your email, and there are copies in the narthex with the devotionals. There's also a gallery of thematic artwork in the narthex. If you have trouble accessing any of the online versions of the materials via email, please contact Rev. Spears-Newsome at wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side: bear me through the swell - ing cur - rent,

hold me with Thy power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through; strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
be Thou still my strength and shield, be Thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee.

► Family Promise Returns to GFBC

One of the primary challenges for people to survive and thrive in Wake County is housing. While we work to adjust policies and advance projects for affordable housing through organizing in ONE Wake, we also work to provide housing *now* for those who need it with Family Promise of Wake County.



During the height of the pandemic, families in the transitional housing program were living at the Family Promise center and some other properties owned by their non-profit. **We are now transitioning back to a model of housing that uses churches as hosts for families in need.** The change won't happen all at once, but Greenwood Forest will be one of the first churches to begin hosting families in our building again. We will welcome our guests **March 20-27**.

This week will be a smaller-scale relaunch of this ministry than we're used to at GFBC. We'll only be hosting 1-3 families for our week and will be paring down some of the roles we need help with at the church. Family Promise is also daily screening participants at their center and requires at least a negative covid-19 test to enter their program.

► How can you help?

We need volunteers to fill a few different roles throughout the week. Here's how you can help out:

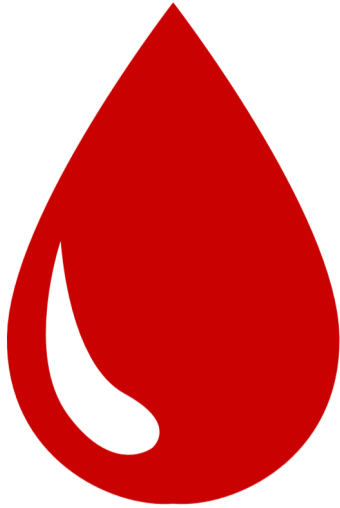
Set-Up and Tear Down: We need people to help us set up the rooms for our guests and their overnight hosts. This involves setting up and making beds and a few other amenities in the rooms we'll be using. Contact Andy Jarrell (andyjarrell@gmail.com) if interested.

Overnight Hosting: We need some folks to stay overnight with our guests in case they need anything while they're here. You'd have your own room at the church and be here from 7:30pm one day to around 7:30am the next day. Overnight hosts also set up breakfast for our guests. Contact Rev. Spears-Newsome (wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org) if interested.

Meals: We need some Faith Formation classes or individuals to provide meals for our guests during the week. Meal hosts would need to be present from 6:00-7:30pm. Contact Natalie Patten (nhpatten@gmail.com) if interested.

Van Drivers: To help our guests with transportation, we often run a van between GFBC and the Family Promise center depending on the families' needs. Contact Dave Atkins (daveatkins313@gmail.com) if you're interested in driving.

THERE'S POWER IN THE BLOOD



Donate Blood This Lent

Appointments at gfbccary.org/blood

► How can you help?

You can pledge to give and sign up to give blood at gfbccary.org/blood. At the link, you can schedule an appointment at a local, convenient donation center or a local blood drive.

Your single blood donation can save as many as three lives! Imagine the impact our collective generosity will have on the families of the recipients and our community.

Additionally, giving now allows you to give for Lent and give again at our annual "Be a Hero" blood drive hosted at GFBC on June 3.

► Blood Donations Needed

How will you give during this Lenten season? Maybe instead of giving something up, consider giving something of yourself. If donating blood is a way you can give, the American Red Cross needs your help. We are currently facing a national blood crisis. It's the worst blood shortage in over a decade.



2022 Discipleship Retreat

HOW TO HAVE AN ENEMY



Righteous Anger & the Work of Peace

We are excited to welcome Melissa Florer-Bixler to lead our 2022 Discipleship Retreat on her new book, *How to Have an Enemy: Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace*. Melissa is the pastor of Raleigh Mennonite Church, one of our partner churches in ONE Wake, and has written two books and numerous articles for *Christian Century*, *Sojourners*, *Geez Magazine*, *Anabaptist Witness*, *The Bias*, *Faith & Leadership*, and *Anabaptist Vision*.

The retreat will take place March 11-13 at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church in the Fellowship Hall. Well-fitting masks will be required indoors at all times; refreshments will be served outside. There will be a virtual option available.

Schedule:

Session 1 — Fri. (3/11) 6-7pm

Sessions 2, 3 — Sat. (3/12) 8am-12pm

Session 4 — Sun. (3/13) 9:45-10:45am

Worship — Sun. (3/13) 11am-12pm

Cost:

In-Person — \$20

Virtual — \$10

Registration fees include the cost for a copy of Melissa's book, which will be available for pickup at the church the week before and after the retreat.

Register now at gfbccary.org/retreat!

March 11-13

Business Meeting Notice (3/20)

There will be a business meeting on Sunday, March 20 at 2pm. This meeting will include a distribution of the final proposed bylaw changes (resulting from your feedback; vote at the next meeting). The meeting will be held in-person with online access available. More to come.

PRAYPRAYPRAYPRAY

Prayer List*

Nell Allen
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Gilles Bikindou
Valerie Brooks
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Elizabeth Harvey (at the death of her daughter-in-law, Amy Harvey)
Jack Lancaster (Christy Brown's father)
Doris Martin
Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)
Sylvia Morgan
Brynn Oliver
Tom Poe (Annie Poe's son)
Fred Seeger
Marta Whitehouse (Al Whitehouse's mother)
John Wilkes (Rebekah Oliver's father)
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

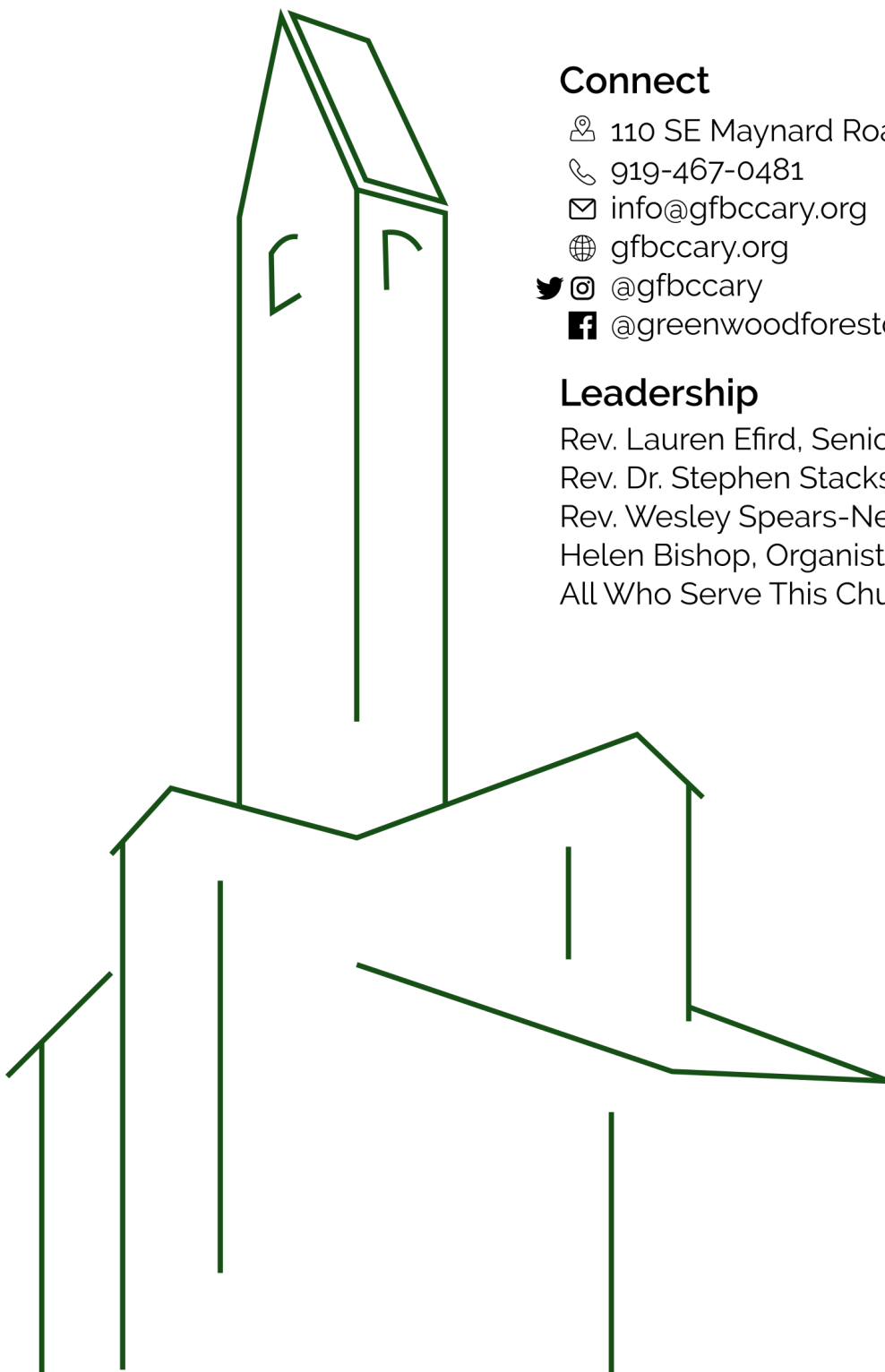
Ways to Tithe

- 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.

January 2022 Finance Update

Updated when the previous months' books close.

	Jan. 2022	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$42,212	\$237,925
Congregational Giving Target	\$63,750	\$293,180
Congregational Giving Under/Over	(\$21,538)	(\$55,255)
Other Receipts	\$15,957	\$58,418
Total Giving and Receipts	\$58,169	\$296,342
Total Disbursements	\$63,790	\$315,191
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$5,621)	(\$18,849)
Together We Build Giving	\$13,285	\$122,317



Connect

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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