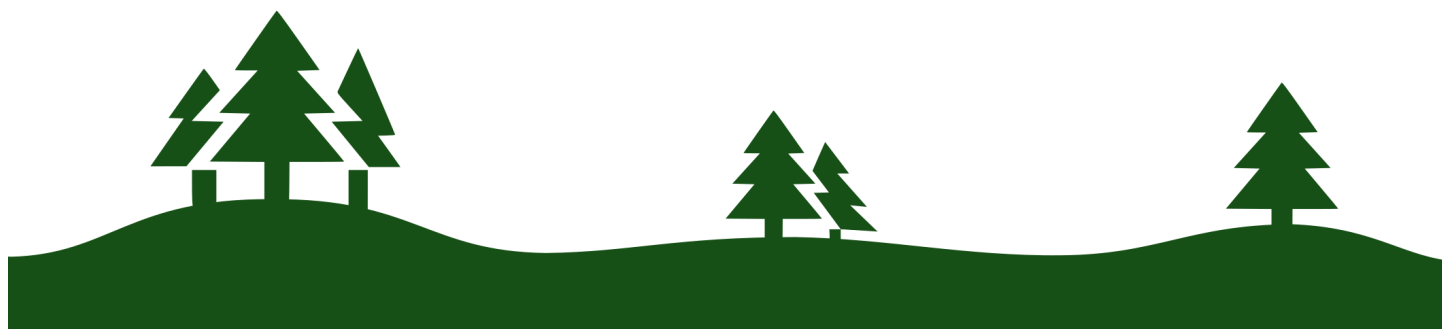




Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

January 16, 2022

ORDINARY
TIME

an inclusive community of faith

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Contents

Order of Worship	2
Connect	6
ONE Wake Update	7
Pray Give	8
Omicron Update	9



Scan to give!

► 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.

► *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.*



Order of Worship

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

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 (from Psalm 36)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,

People: And your faithfulness to the clouds.

Leader: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains.

People: Your judgments are like the great deep.

Leader: You save humans and animals alike.

People: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

Leader: All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

People: They feast on the abundance of your house.

Leader: You give them drink from the river of your delights.

People: With you is the fountain of life. In your light, we see light.

Leader: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,

People: And your salvation to the upright of heart!

Invocation

Rev. Spears-Newsome

Gathering Hymn

All Who Hunger Gather Gladly

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

All who hunger, gather gladly;
Holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You who yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers,
Seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restless and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We who once were lost and scattered
In communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal,
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
Live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Offertory Prayer

Chris Cook

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. Stephen 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.

Scripture Reading

John 2:1-11

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

Christ of All My Hopes

David Schwoebel

This anthem was commissioned on the occasion of former pastor Rev. Dr. Luther Brewer's retirement, in honor of his 33 years of ministry at Greenwood Forest.

Christ, of all my hopes the ground;
Christ, the spring of all my joy;
Still in you may I be found,
Still for you my powers employ.

Let your love my heart inflame;
Keep your fear before my sight;
Be your praise my highest aim;
Be your smile my chief delight.

Fountain of o'erflowing grace,
Freely from your fullness give;
Till I close my earthly race,
May I prove it "Christ to live!"

Thus, O thus, an entrance give
To the land of cloudless sky;
Having known it "Christ to live,"
Let me know it "gain to die."

Sermon

The Smell of Wine

Rev. Efird

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

(see page 5)

Benediction

Rev. Efird

Postlude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, o - pening to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!
love di - vine is reign-ing o'er us, bring-ing all with - in its span.

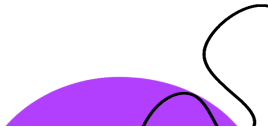
Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ, our Broth - er — all who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing-ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!
sing - ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain call us to re - joice in Thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di-vine.
joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward, in the tri-umph song of life.

Today's hymns come from *Celebrating Grace*. Copyrighted music use is covered by
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Ministry Monday



► Ministry Monday Committee Meetings: January 24

Schedule:

6:30-7:15 pm | Team A Meetings

7:30-8:15pm | Team B Meetings

Teams:

Team A: Discipleship, Congregational Care, Fellowship, Finance, Properties, and Youth

Team B: Children, Missions, Outreach, Personnel, and Worship

► Reminder: Feedback on Bylaw Changes

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).

► Observation of Martin Luther King Day

Please note that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday, January 17) is a holiday for church staff.



► 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!"



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).

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.

► 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)
 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
 The Family of Emma Webster
 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.**

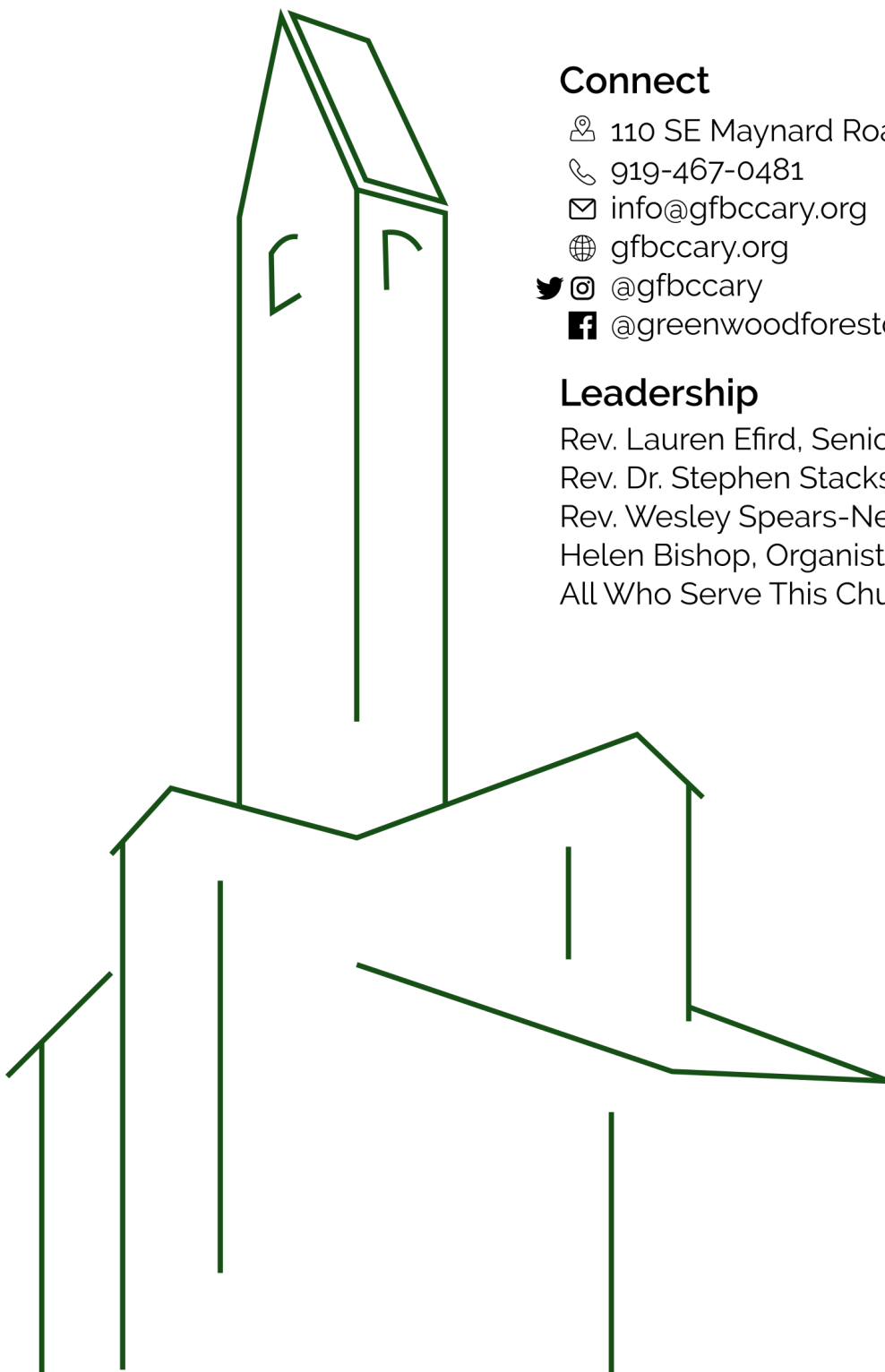
In that spirit, we would like for you to note the following updates/reminders:

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

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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