



Scan for Digital



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

January 15, 2023



Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

**an inclusive
community
of faith**

Welcome

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 exactly as you are.

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REMINDERS



Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers. There is also a glider in the back of the sanctuary if you need to rock your little ones.



Hearing assistance devices are available at the back of the sanctuary along with a transcript of the sermon.



Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.



Gender-neutral, single-occupant bathrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary in the Narthex.



gfbccary.org



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Announcements Church Events and Updates

New Fellowship Meals

Starting Sunday, January 29, we will have monthly fellowship meals following worship hosted by Franz and Jill Bryant. The cost for the meal will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids, with all proceeds going to the organ fund. The menu for January is assorted soups, salad, pimento cheese sandwiches, chicken nuggets (kids only), cookies, and tea. This will be an excellent opportunity to gather and socialize, and to raise money for the upcoming organ installation. Plan on attending!

New GFBC Intern

Johnny Jackson will be serving as our Worship and Discipleship Ministry Intern for the Spring semester. Johnny is a student at Campbell Divinity School. You'll have an opportunity to get to know Johnny better in the coming weeks, as she serves in various ministries around the church.

Rev. Spears-Newsome Work Anniversary

From the Personnel Committee:

On January 3rd we celebrated Reverend Wesley Spears-Newsome's 6th year of serving as our Associate Pastor of Community and Youth. Among Wes' many responsibilities are leading our youth, coordinating our church's participation in ONE Wake and our other local missions, and lending his design talents to the church website and bulletin. Be sure to give Wes a big "thank you!" for his six faithful years of ministering in our church and greater community.

Coffeehouse Theology

New Faith Formation Series Begins Sunday!

Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God." In this series, we'll test the hypothesis that every thing is sacred by looking at "secular" music and how it speaks to our spiritual lives. Each week, Rev. Dr. Stacks will select and perform a song and we will break down the song and discuss its resonance with our faith journeys. (January 15, 22, and 29)

Discipleship Retreat

This year's Discipleship Retreat will feature an exploration of what it means to pray and how we can strengthen our prayer lives. The weekend will feature sessions led by the ministers on a wide range of prayer styles including food and prayer, praying with nature, Ignatian imaginative prayer, and prayer journaling. Sunday morning's session will feature lay people sharing their insights as well.

We'll use James Martin's book *Learning to Pray* as our guide for the weekend (February 24-26). The registration fee is \$35 and includes the book and 3 meals.

Register on Realm ([onRealm.org/GreenwoodForest](https://onrealm.org/GreenwoodForest)) today! If you need assistance creating an account or registering, contact Rev. Spears-Newsome.

Community Notes Prayer Requests and Giving



Please keep in prayer these members of our community and their friends and family. To add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names rotate off and can be re-added upon request.

Nell Allen
Bess Averre
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Gilles Bikindou
Katie Buchanan (Pat and Tom Brooks' niece)
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Elaine Dodson
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Gail and Virgil Jones
Betty Mayfield
Edna Overcash (Jay Martin's sister)
Annie Poe
Jerry Poe
Fred Seeger
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba



All of the ministries of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church are supported by members of our community like you. Thank you! Supporting us is easy. You can:

- Give online at gfbccary.org/give
- Place your gift in the offering plate before or after worship.
- Set up an automated bank draft through the church office.
- Set up a recurring gift through your bank's "bill pay" function.

A monthly finance update is available in the weekly church email. If you're not receiving our weekly email and would like to, please contact the church office.

Monthly Ministry Highlight:

Discipleship Ministry

Our Discipleship Ministry is dedicated to the Christian formation of our community through regular Faith Formation on Sundays, special churchwide Teaching Series, and our annual Discipleship Retreat. Your gifts to Greenwood Forest make this ministry possible. Don't forget to register for the Discipleship Retreat on February 24-26!

Order of Worship 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

✝ This icon indicates an invitation to stand or express reverence however you see fit.

📖 This icon indicates a worship aid is available in the righthand column.

🎵 Hymns and song lyrics are available in the songbook following the Order of Worship.

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 📖

Call to Worship (from Ps. 40) | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

I waited patiently for the LORD;

God inclined to me and heard my cry.

God drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,

And set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

God put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise.

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

Happy are those who make the LORD their trust!

Who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

You have multiplied your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;

None can compare with you!

Were I to proclaim and tell of them,

They would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,

But you have given me an open ear.

Invocation | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Today's color is **green**, symbolizing creation and growth.

The Passing of the Peace

The passing of the peace is a symbolic enactment of the reconciling love and mercy of God in our midst. We express it through a peace sign, a handshake, a wave, or many other expressions of peace. Be mindful and considerate of others' desire for physical space or distance.

Prayer in Worship

We use many kinds of prayers in worship. The Call to Worship is a communal prayer using call and response. The Invocation is a single individual inviting (or invoking) God into our worship this morning. The Prayers of the People uses intercessory prayer to ask God to come to the world's aid. The benediction is a blessing offered over those gathered in worship.

† **Gathering Hymn** | *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | *Anthony Warren*

† **Doxology** | *Tune: GLORIA PATRI* 📖

Glory be to the Maker,
And to the Christ,
And to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen! Amen!

The Prayers of the People | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks* 📖

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

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.

† **Hymn** | *Together in this Sacred Space* (pg. 9)

Scripture Reading | *John 1:29-42* | *Johnny Jackson*

The word of God for us, the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Lead Me, Lord* (pg. 6)

Sermon | *The Rabbi's Students* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *The One Who Taught Beside the Sea* (pg. 10) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude

The Doxology

A "doxology" is a short hymn that usually praises the Trinity. We sing the doxology as we symbolically present our offerings back to God.

The Prayers of the People

This prayer typically has five parts: a confession, prayers for the earth, prayers for the world, prayers for the church, and prayers for those with needs in our own community.

Final Hymn: An Invitation

During the final hymn, if you'd like to join our community at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, we invite you to come forward to the altar. When you come forward, you'll be greeted by a minister and a deacon who will then introduce you to the congregation after the hymn. Welcome!

Anthem Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord.

Lead me in thy righteousness.

Make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord,

Thou and thou only,

Who makest me dwell in safety.

Bulletin Art

"On the Seashore," Rev. Spears-Newsome
with AI-Assisted Art Creator DALL-E

Three people walk along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, a pivotal location in the ministry of Jesus. They look out at the hills in the distance on the other side of the water as if contemplating their future travels across the sea. They wear red, the color of Pentecost or of the Holy Spirit, symbolizing the movement God will generate in their lives.

Who are these three people? It could be John the Baptist and his disciples waiting for Jesus, looking ahead to what God will do in his ministry. It could be Jesus and the two disciples of John the Baptist who begin to follow him in today's passage. It could be Andrew and his brother Simon following Jesus, too. Or perhaps one of the figures could be you.

This digital painting is in the style of the expressionist movement, a style of art where reality isn't paramount. Instead, the feelings conveyed by the image are primary. I hoped that this image could convey the desire of the figures to move forward toward the sunset (or sunrise!). The desire for forward movement is their desire to align themselves with the Spirit of God.

Where in your life do you have the desire for forward movement? Where is the Spirit urging you on?

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can-not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

Refrain

Sweet Ho-ly Spir-it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill-ing us with your love; and for these bless-ings we

lift our hearts in praise; with-out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re-vived when we shall leave this place.

Together in this Sacred Space

1. To - geth - er in this sac - red space our voi - ces rise as
 2. Our voi - ces ring out shrill and loud when life's first breath we
 3. The hymns we pass down bear a truth that word a - lone can't
 4. All praise to God who gives us breath and fills our hearts with

5
 one, A song com - pels our hearts to beat in per - fect u - ni -
 breathe, But soon our cries are tuned to praise the God we taste and
 share. In sing - ing we com - mune with God and mag - ni - fy our
 song! To Je - sus Christ who took on flesh, our life and love be -

9
 son, The Spi - rit of the Liv - ing God moves through us as we sing To
 see. We grow and mu - sic fills our lives, re - mains a constant friend. We
 prayer. Then lift - ing up our hearts in joy, we o - pen hea - ven space to
 longs! We bless the Spi - rit of the Lord who guides us in the way! O

14
 form and shape our hearts to seek the reign of Christ our King.
 age, and still our songs ring out, a sol - ace at life's end.
 join with all the saints through time as they their an - them raise.
 lead us on, great Three in One, to ne - ver - end - ing day!

The One Who Taught Beside the Sea



1. The One who taught be-side the sea, who set the de-mon-rid-den free,
 2. The pas-tor of the sim-ple folk who of-fered them His eas-y yoke,



the friend of ev-ery ref-u-gee is Je-sus Christ our Lord.
 the One who died with-out a cloak is Je-sus Christ our Lord.

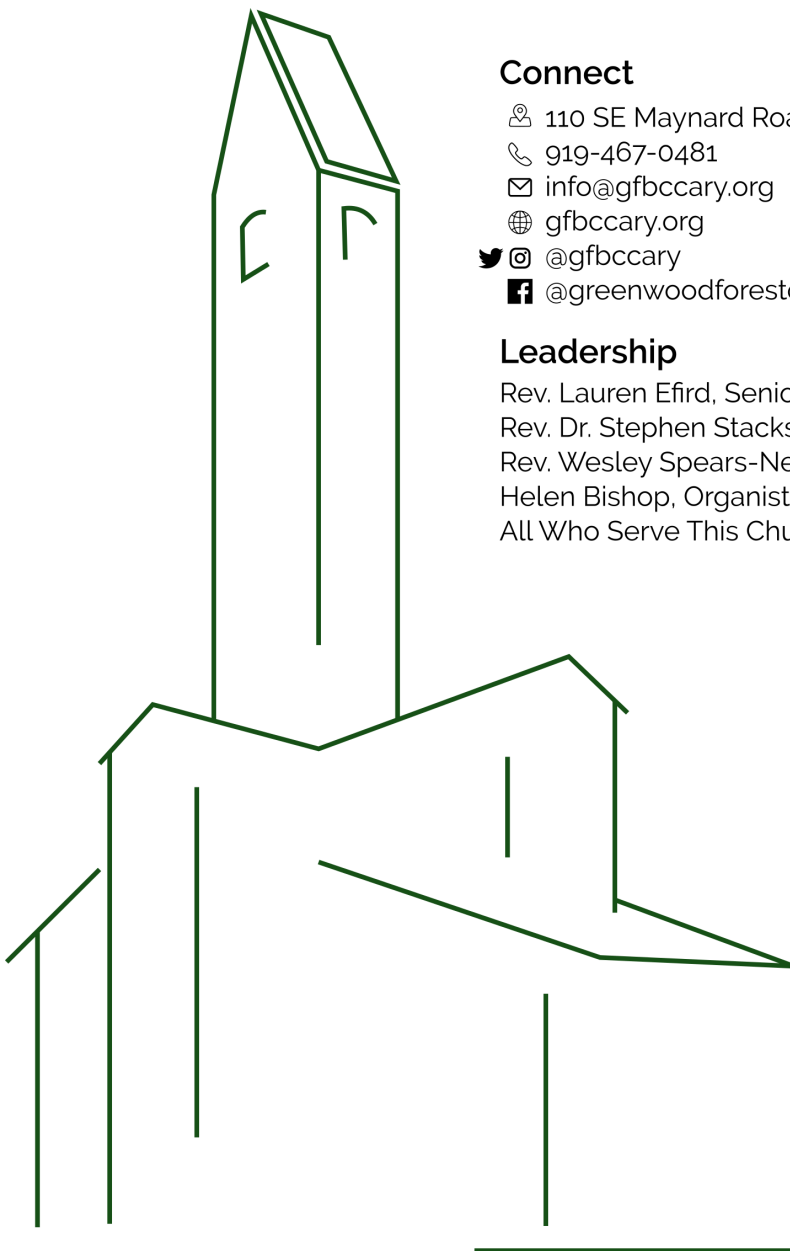


The One who fast-ed for-ty days, who val-ued chil-dren's sim-ple ways,
 The One o-beyed by wind and wave, whose ver-y name means "He will save,"



the source and goal of all our praise is Je-sus Christ our Lord.
 whose ris-ing frees us from the grave is Je-sus Christ our Lord.





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