



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

February 12, 2023

Artist Statement

Two in the Desert; AI-Generated Image (DALL-E)

This week, our bulletin image is shaped like the rest of our service: by our youth. The youth came up with a general idea and prompts to provide an artificial intelligence to generate an image that evoked their imaginations and perception of the story of Hagar.

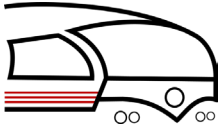
Here, a tall figure looms over a smaller one in a desert setting. The taller figure represents, for our youth, the authorities and power-holders who overlook, neglect, or otherwise disregard those without power, especially minors.

Christian author on parenting Cindy Wang Brandt often remarks that “children are a marginalized group.” Our world is not built for the thriving and humanity of children and youth; more often it is built to exploit them or simply contain them.

We’ve been studying the whole story of Scripture through the lens of often-overlooked women this year in Alpha & Omega. The youth chose Hagar’s story to share on Youth Sunday because they felt kinship with her character. They highlighted how so many young people in our country feel “tossed out” and left without support like Hagar while simultaneously being expected to shoulder huge responsibilities for which they have not been prepared — or for which they are acting as surrogates for adults who should be taking care of things.

In the end, however, the story of Hagar reminds us that God meets us in places where we have exhausted our resources. God will be with those who have been “tossed out,” and those who have been neglected and marginalized like Hagar are perhaps the ones who know God the best. After all, Hagar is the only person in Scripture who gives God a name.

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome



FREEDOM RIDE '23

July 2-8

Join us on a pilgrimage of transformation and discovery.

Explore the history of the Civil Rights Movement and the struggle for freedom where it happened.

Meet experts and even eye-witnesses and participants in the Movement.

Discover what the freedom struggle means for your life now.

Join us on the 2023 Freedom Ride to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma.

\$500/person; includes transportation, lodging, and meals in Alabama.

Note: This trip is deliberately intergenerational and based on the needs and abilities of participants. If you have reservations about your ability to attend, please contact Rev. Spears-Newsome.



Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (Birmingham, AL)



Sixteenth Street Baptist Church (Birmingham, AL)



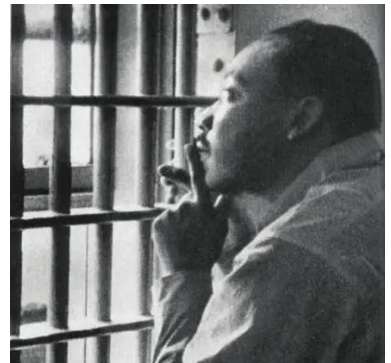
National Memorial for Peace and Justice (Montgomery, AL)



Edmund Pettus Bridge, Site of Bloody Sunday (Selma, AL)



Voting Rights Institute (Selma, AL)



Martin Luther King, Jr. in Prison in Birmingham, AL



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.

CONTENTS

4 | Announcements

5 | Community Notes

6 | Order of Worship

8 | Songbook

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



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



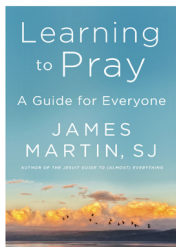
[@gfbccary](https://twitter.com/gfbccary)



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

Announcements Church Events and Updates

Discipleship Retreat



Have you ever struggled with prayer? This year's Discipleship Retreat will focus on an exploration of prayer, different prayer practices, and how we can strengthen and expand our prayer lives. Our ministers will lead a wide range of

sessions, including food and prayer, praying with nature, Ignatian prayer, and journaling. We'll use James Martin's *Learning to Pray* as our guide for the weekend (Feb.24-26). The fee is \$35 and includes the book and meals.

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

Schedule:

Friday

6:00pm | Dinner/What is Prayer?

Led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Saturday

9:15am | Coffee and Pastries

9:45am | Prayer and the Written Word

Led by Rev. Lauren Efird

10:30am | Break

10:45am | Formula and Improvisation in Prayer

Led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

12:00pm | Prayer and Nature/Prayer Walk

Led by Johnny Jackson

12:30pm | Picnic Lunch at Bond Park

Sunday

9:45am | Prayer and the Ignatian Imagination

Led by Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

11:00am | Worship/Prayer as Resistance

Ministry Monday (2/13)

Ministry Monday is coming up (Feb. 13)!

Ministry Monday committee meetings happen via Zoom. You'll hear from your committee chairs prior to that date.

Team A (6:30-7:15pm): Children, Personnel, Properties, Youth

Team B (7:30-8:15pm): Congregational Care, Discipleship, Finance, Outreach and Fellowship, Worship

Business Meeting (3/12)

Mark your calendars for a church business meeting on March 12 to discuss matters related to the property and other regular business. We'll hold the meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am before worship.

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
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
The Beck Family at the death of Alice Curti
Gilles Bikindou
Katie Buchanan (Pat and Tom Brooks' niece)
Greg Clawson (friend of Rick Chappell)
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Elaine Dodson
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Betty Mayfield
Kathy Seeger Rhoades (Fred and Marie Seeger's daughter)
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:

Youth Ministry

Our youth ministry shapes the lives and faith of our young people through weekly activities and unique experiences. Youth meet regularly on Sunday mornings, Sunday afternoons at Alpha & Omega, and go on special retreats and trips. The Freedom Ride was also born out of our youth ministry! Our youth will lead us in worship on Youth Sunday this February, as well.

Your gifts to Greenwood Forest make this ministry possible!

Order of Worship 6th 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 | *Desert Soul* | *Rend Collective* (pg. 8)

Welcome to Worship | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (from Psalm 1) | *Griffin Beal*

The truly happy person doesn't follow wicked advice,
**They don't stand on the road of sinners, and
don't sit with the disrespectful.**

Instead, these persons love the LORD's instruction,
And they recite God's instruction day and night!
They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,
Which bears fruit at just the right time
Their leaves don't fade.

Whatever they do succeeds.

Invocation | *Brooks Jarrell*

✝ **Gathering Hymn** | *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* (pg. 9)

Offertory Prayer | *Lucy Beal*

✝ **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!

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.

The Prayers of the People

Catherine Glasgow, Sean Glasgow, and Anna Claire Jarrell
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.**

Scripture Reading | *Genesis 16:1-13* | *Brooks Jarrell*

*Drama: Ella Biser (Sarai), Nomi Gomi (Hagar),
Anna Claire Jarrell (God's Messenger), and
Alyssa Medford (Abram/Ishmael)*


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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Nothing to Fear* (pg. 8)

Sermon | *Nomi Gomi*

Closing | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

† Hymn | *Abide with Me* (pg. 10) 

Benediction | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

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!

Prelude Desert Soul

Rend Collective

Youth Band: Lucy Beal, Ella Biser, Catherine Glasgow, Sean Glasgow, Ella Riddick

I love you, Lord

But I want to love you more

I need you God

But I want to need you more

I'm desperate for a desperate heart

I'm reaching out, I'm reaching

I'm lost without

Your creative spark in me, recreate me

I'm dead inside

Unless your resurrection sings

I'm desperate for a desperate heart

I'm reaching out, I'm reaching

All that I am is dry bones

Without you Lord, a desert soul

I am broken but running

Towards you God, you make me whole

You are exactly what we need

Only you can satisfy

Anthem Nothing to Fear

Porter's Gate

Youth Band: Lucy Beal, Ella Biser, Catherine Glasgow, Sean Glasgow, Ella Riddick

When you pass through the waters I will be with you

And the depths of the river shall not overwhelm

When you walk through the fire you will not be burned

I am the Lord, I am the Lord

And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear

There is nothing to fear, nothing to fear

For I am with you always

In the depths of your sorrow I wept beside you

When you walked through the shadow I drew you near

And yesterday, today, tomorrow, always the same

I am the Lord, I am the Lord

What can separate you from my perfect Love?

Do not fear

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. The first system contains the first two verses of the hymn. The second system contains the final two verses. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with the Soprano and Alto parts sharing the first two verses and the Tenor and Bass parts sharing the last two verses.

1. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call an - swer me.
2. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Reprinted hymns come from *Celebrating Grace, Glory to God, or the The African American Heritage Hymnal* unless otherwise noted. Copyrighted music use covered by CCLI License #1243530, OneLicense #A-721397.

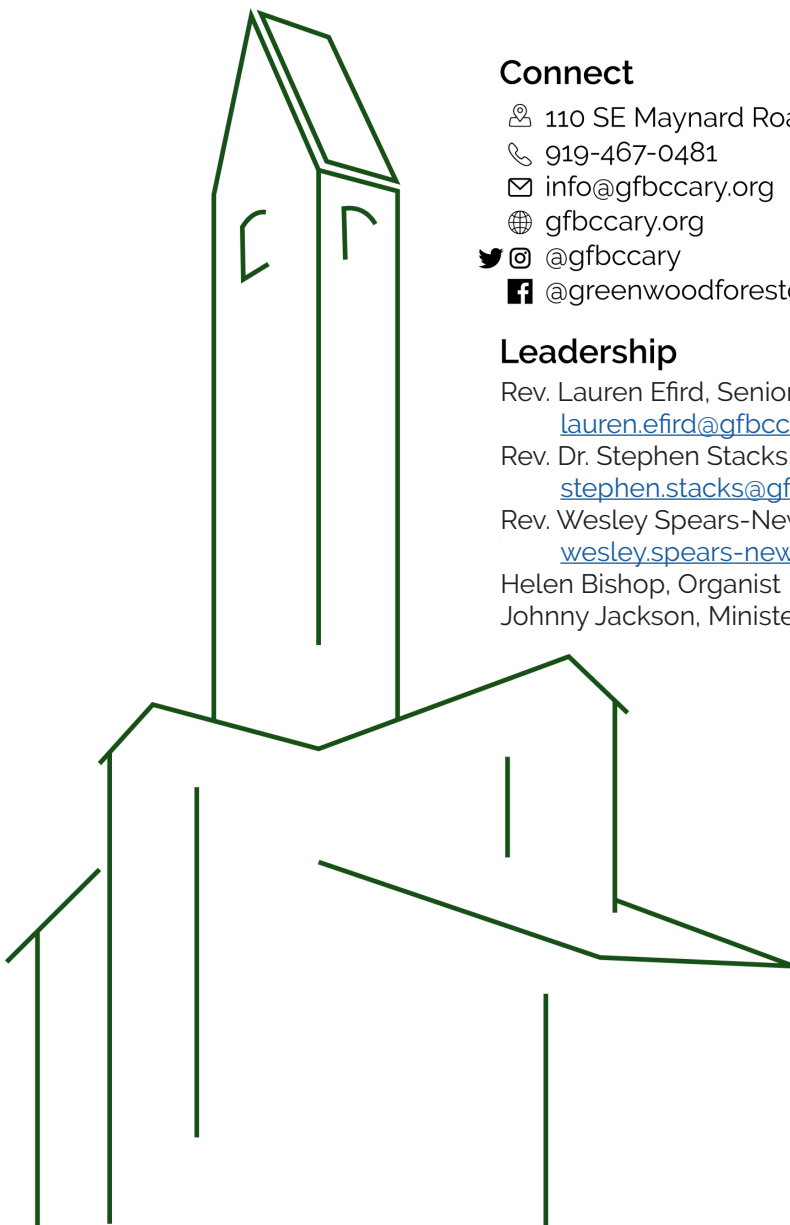
Abide with Me

1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3. I need Thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4. Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
 Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee.

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me!
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me!
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me!
 In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me!



Connect

📍 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

☎ 919-467-0481

✉ info@gfbccary.org

🌐 gfbccary.org

🐦 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

lauren.efird@gfbccary.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Johnny Jackson, Ministerial Intern
