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**Greenwood Forest**  
Baptist Church

April 16, 2023

# ***Bulletin Art*** Ananias and Sapphira

Samuel Songo (Zimbabwe, c. 1940)

The painting on the cover of this week's bulletin illustrates the story of Ananias and Sapphira in its substance but also its context.

The painting itself depicts Ananias carried by others for burial while Sapphira speaks with Peter. They carry Ananias not just from life to death, but from inside the community to outside of it. Ananias and Sapphira's sin was not simply a lack of generosity but undermining the sustainability and stability of the community to which they had committed themselves. The painting depicts that reality in the distance created between Ananias and the village where Peter speaks with Sapphira.

The painting is by Samuel Songo, a child when he made the painting. Songo had significant physical disabilities and studied art at a Mission School in Zimbabwe, then Southern Rhodesia under control of the British Empire. The Mission School at Cyrene was a collaboration between a Scottish clergyman, British allies, and local leaders. Focused on indigenous art, the mission produced numerous prominent artists and craftspeople in a time of intense segregation and discrimination in modern-day Zimbabwe. At the time, the government was controlled by a White supremacist minority who exploited the local population. The Mission School worked to counter-act those systems of oppression through art. The chapel at the mission has a multi-panel mural depicting Africans as characters in the Scriptures, including a mural of a Black Jesus, which was considered controversial by White imperialists.

It cannot be lost on us that these White imperialists claimed to be Christians, much like Ananias and Sapphira. They too pledged their lives to the Christian community, but in practice they took from and exploited others. Their principle concern was for the preservation of the British Empire, not the dignity and humanity of their siblings in what is now Zimbabwe. Colonialism sought to preserve much for the colonizer with little to no regard for the colonized, which Ananias and Sapphira were doing by maintaining their own funds while depending on the Christian community for their daily life and needs.

In what ways do we participate in systems that help ourselves but take from others at the same time? How can we help develop a community of abundance where everyone has what they need?

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Find out more information: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62231113>.



**Greenwood Forest**  
Baptist Church

**an inclusive  
community  
of faith**

# Welcome

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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](http://gfbccary.org)



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# Announcements Church Events and Updates

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## ***Property Repurposing Meetings***

Come receive updates on the property repurposing process at a Town Hall on April 16 at 9:45am and Business Meeting on April 30 at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall. The Town Hall this Sunday will provide new information as well as time for questions.

## ***Freedom School***

We'll be hosting a special Faith Formation series on faith and freedom movements April 23, May 7, 14, 21, and June 4. The curriculum is designed to prepare Freedom Riders for their trip this summer, but everyone in the church is invited to attend if they are interested! Freedom School will meet in Room C221.

## ***Freedom Ride Easter Egg Fundraiser***

In the Narthex, you'll find 100 Easter Eggs that are a part of raising funds for our Freedom Riders' trip to Alabama this summer. Here's how it works: all the eggs have a dollar amount in them between \$1 and \$100 (no repeated amounts). Draw an egg and donate that money to the Freedom Ride at [gfbccary.org/give](http://gfbccary.org/give) or by check. Either way write "Freedom Ride Egg" in the memo line. But wait, there's more! Each egg contains a prize from a Freedom Ride sticker and some candy up to a GFBC mug or a Freedom Ride t-shirt. You can donate more than once to increase your shot at a bigger prize!

## ***The Greenwood App***

A greenwood is a forest that is filled with life and abundance and that is what we hope for in your spiritual life. As a tool for you, we've developed an app called The Greenwood that you can use on your spiritual journey. The Greenwood includes most of the practices and disciplines we explored together on the Discipleship Retreat this year, daily prayer for each day of the week, and access to all of our available discipleship resources. The Greenwood is available in the Google Play store and coming soon to the Apple App Store (Apple users can access a preview right now at [gfbccary.org/app](http://gfbccary.org/app)).

## ***Fellowship Lunch (4/30)***

We'll have another Fellowship Meal after worship on April 30 hosted by Franz and Jill Bryant. The cost for the meal is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids with proceeds going to the Organ Fund. We hope to see you there!

## ***Dinner Theater (5/19)***

You are cordially invited to be our guest at a special night of music and fine food at GFBC on May 19 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall! Steve Denning (head chef) and Stephen Stacks (sous chef) will prepare a multiple course meal and the evening will feature a Broadway Revue put on by B.J. Facemire and the GFBC Music Ministry. Tickets will be \$75/plate and all proceeds will go to the organ fund as we prepare to complete our long-awaited renovation. You can purchase tickets at [gfbccary.org/dinnertheater](http://gfbccary.org/dinnertheater). Do not miss this incredible evening—register now!

# 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  
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)  
Fred Seeger  
Lee and Patti Webb  
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](http://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:**

### **Media Center**

*The Greenwood Forest Media Center is a curated collection of progressive and inclusive Christian theology. If you've wanted to dive deeper into any special topics we've talked about in the past several years, we have books for you! You can reserve books online at [gfbccary.org/mediacenter](http://gfbccary.org/mediacenter) using your username (first initial and last name). On Sunday, it will be ready for you in the Narthex!*

*Your gifts to Greenwood Forest make this ministry possible!*

# Order of Worship

## Second Sunday of Easter

✝ 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** | *Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* | arr. Butler

**Welcome to Worship** | Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

✝ **Preparation for Worship** | *Christ is Alive* (vv. 1-2; pg. 7)

**Call to Worship (Psalm 16)** | Johnny Jackson

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

**I say to the Lord, "I have no good apart from you."**

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;

**Their drink offerings I will not pour out.**

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;

**You hold my lot.**

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

**I have a goodly heritage.**

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

**In the night my heart instructs me.**

I keep the Lord always before me;

**Because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

**My body also rests secure.**

For you do not give me up to Sheol,

**Or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

You show me the path of life.

**In your presence there is fullness of joy.**

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory of the resurrection.

### 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.

Johnny Jackson is leading hymns today.

**Invocation** | *Johnny Jackson*

† **Hymn** | *Take My Life and Let it Be (pg. 8)*

**Offertory Prayer** | *Chris Cook*

† **Doxology** | *Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN* 📖

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
O praise God. Alleluia!  
Praise God above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
O praise God! O praise God!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**The Prayers of the People** | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome* 📖  
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** | *Acts 4:32-5:11* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

The word of God for us, the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | *We Will Make No Peace with Oppression (pg. 10)*

**Sermon** | *Off the Beaten Path with Ananias and Sapphira* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *I Surrender All (pg. 9)* 📖

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude** | *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing* | *arr. Butler*

### **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.

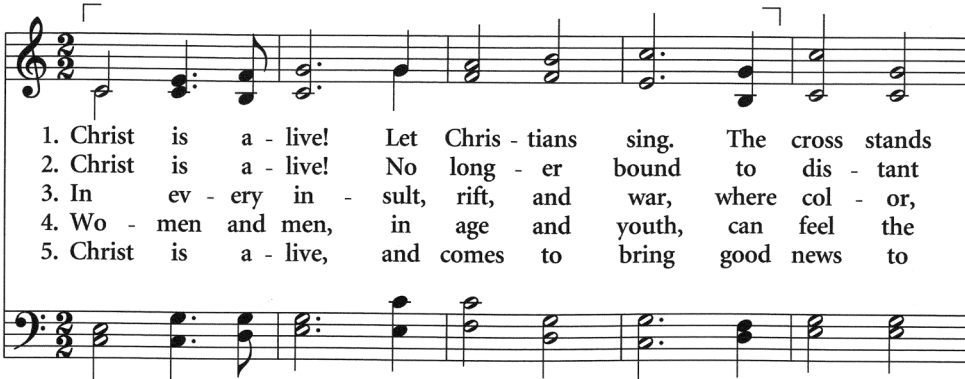
### **The Prayers of the People**

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.

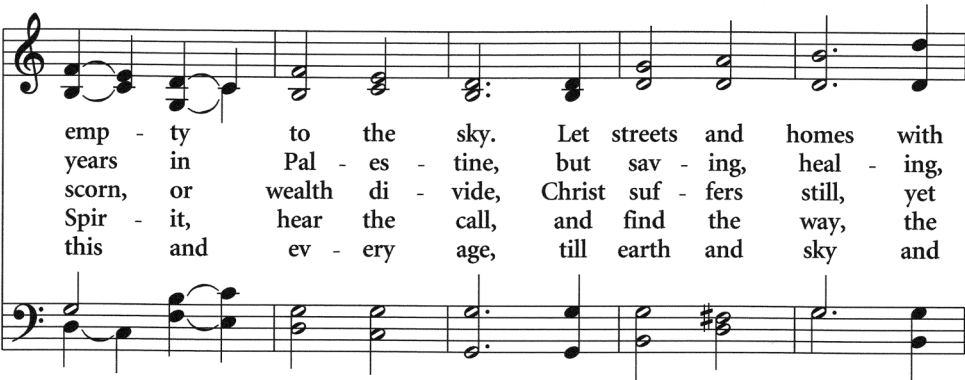
### **Final Hymn: An Invitation**

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!

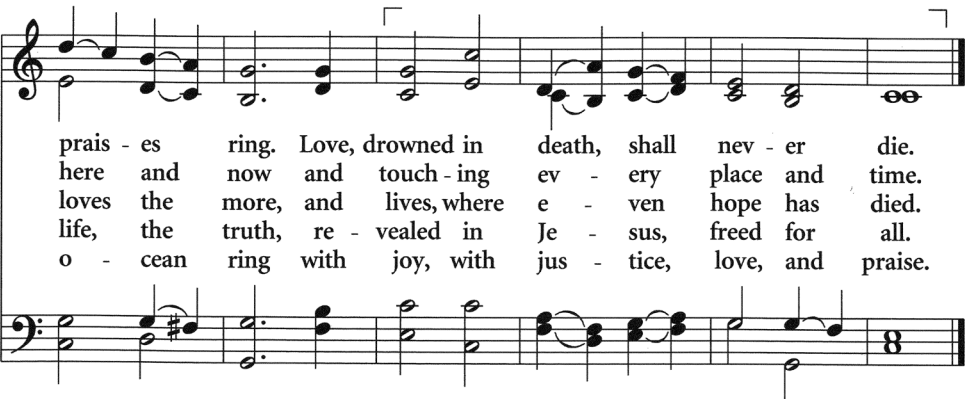
# Christ is Alive



1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4. Wo - men and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.


# Take My Life and Let it Be



1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed,  
 2. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti -  
 3. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would  
 4. Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no  
 5. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its



Lord, to Thee; take my hands, and let them move  
 ful for Thee; take my voice, and let me sing  
 I with - hold; take my mo - ments and my days,  
 long - er mine; take my heart, it is Thine own,  
 trea - sure store. Take my - self and I will be



at the im - pulse of Thy love, at the im - pulse of Thy love.  
 al - ways, on - ly, for my King, al - ways, on - ly, for my King.  
 let them flow in cease - less praise, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 it shall be Thy roy - al throne, it shall be Thy roy - al throne.  
 ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

# I Surrender All

1. All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, all to Him I free - ly give;  
 2. All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, make me, Sav - ior, whol - ly Thine;  
 3. All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to Thee;

I will ev - er love and trust Him, in His pres - ence dai - ly live.  
 let me feel Thy Ho - ly Spir - it, tru - ly know that Thou art mine.  
 fill me with Thy love and pow - er, let Thy bless - ing fall on me.

I sur-ren - der all, I sur-ren - der all;  
 I sur-ren - der all, I sur-ren - der all;

all to Thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur-ren - der all.

# ***Anthem*** We Will Make No Peace with Oppression

Porter's Gate

Praise Team

*We will make no peace, no peace, no peace with oppression*

*we will make no peace, no peace*

*We will make no peace, no peace, no peace with oppression*

*we will make no peace, no peace*

Those who live by the sword will die by the sword

we will stand against the violence of every form

We will march in the streets, no justice, no peace

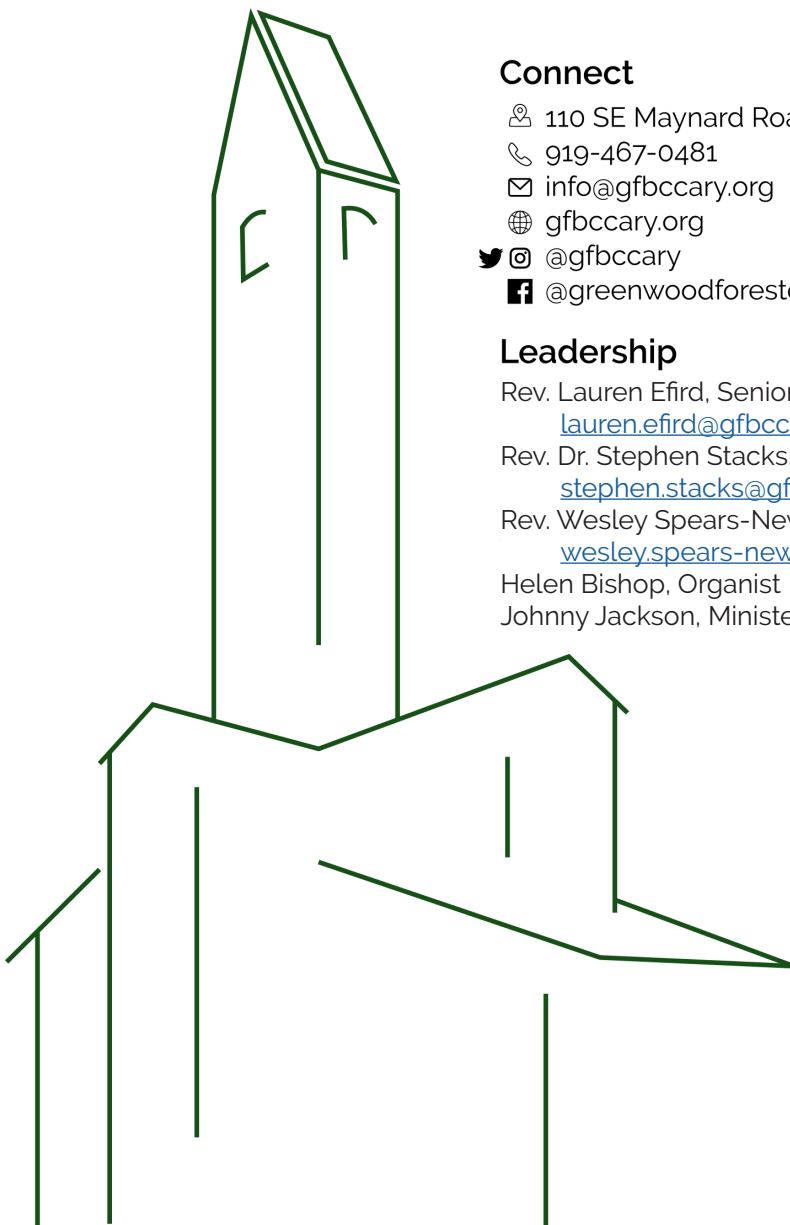
on and on 'til thy neighbor, 'til we all stand free

*Almighty God, help us not to be afraid*

*Almighty God, give us your strength*

We won't turn away from the pain of our brothers,  
cries of our sisters, grieving of our mothers

We won't turn away from destructive politicians,  
overflowing prisons, corruption in our systems



## Connect

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## Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Johnny Jackson, Ministerial Intern

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