



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

June 11, 2023



Scan for Digital



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

- 3 | Announcements
- 4 | Community Notes
- 5 | Order of Worship
- 7 | Songbook

Bulletin Art: "Blue Ridge Parkway Ice Rock" by Chris Hash (Wikimedia Commons). A road stretches into the forests of the Appalachian Mountains, suggesting a new journey to a new place.

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

Vacation Bible School

We're joining forces with our friends at the Kirk of Kildaire for Vacation Bible School this summer! The program will run June 19-22 (6-8pm) with a free dinner available at 5:30pm each day. VBS is for ages 4-years to those who have finished 5th grade this year. You can register to attend at gfbccary.org/vbs and you can register to volunteer at tinyurl.com/kirkvbsvolunteer. The theme will focus on Joseph and Egypt this year!

Summer Program Begins 6/20!

The Neighborhood Summer Program happens every summer for local kids. The program offers food (breakfast and lunch) and summer enrichment activities for children of all ages. You can bring your child to the Kirk of Kildaire Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from June 20 to August 17 from 9am to 1pm. Greenwood Forest members serve as volunteers to help on Thursdays during the summer and you can sign up at gfbccary.org/summer. Ask Wes if you need any more information!

Yarn Donations Needed

During the Summer Program, Marlen Ruegg leads a crafting class with local parents on Thursday mornings. We need donations of chunky yarn and Red Hearts brand worsted weight yarn to support the program. If you would like to help in the class, you can reach out to Wes, as well!

Congregational Surveys

During the summer months, we take a step back and try to figure out the answers to two questions:

First, how is the spiritual health of the congregation? Has the past year seen positive spiritual growth for you or have you experienced some difficulties in your spiritual life this year?

Second, where is your place at Greenwood Forest? Maybe you've already found your niche or maybe you're still searching. Regardless, we want to know where your gifts are and what you'd like to be doing at church this year.

To that end, we have two surveys we'd like everyone to fill out, one focused on each of those questions. You can find the Spiritual Life survey at gfbccary.org/life and the Find Your Place survey at gfbccary.org/place.

Your responses shape the life of the church in important ways because we wouldn't be who we are without you. These surveys will be open for responses for the next few weeks and we want to hear from you soon!

Anti-Bullying Event (6/23)

June 23, 7pm: What is bullying? How can you help prevent it and foster an inclusive environment? Come join Pride of Cary in our sanctuary for a presentation from Hope 4 Teens, followed by a Q&A and Open Discussion Forum on Bullying Prevention, Advocacy, And Support Networks. This will be an excellent educational opportunity to share experiences with other teens, advocates, and parents of the LGBTQIA+ community and allies. Your participation makes a difference and saves lives.

Congratulations, Graduates!

GFBC Youth Graduates

Catherine Glasgow

*graduating from Apex High School
attending Appalachian State University
to study Music Education*

Sean Glasgow

*graduating from Apex High School
attending Appalachian State University
to study Music Production*

Graduates from the Congregation

Chloe Beal

*NC State University with a Bachelor's in Psychology
and a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences*

Johnny Jackson

Campbell University Divinity School with a Master of Divinity

Ansley Mills

NC State University with a Bachelor's in Genetics

Alexander Soyars

*NC State University with a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences
and a Bachelor's in Business Administration*

Charles Taliano

*(grandson of Mercedes Auger)
graduating from Gil St. Bernard School
attending Lafayette College
to study Economics*

Haley Walker

NC State University with a Bachelor's in Textile Technology

Community Notes Prayer Requests and Giving



PRAY

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
Valerie Brooks
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Debra Davis (friend of Susan Beck)
Elaine Dodson
Stephanie Fancher (friend of Gerry Ritter)
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Tony Izydor (Roz Slawson's nephew-in-law)
Angela Patton (Leta Huntsinger's cousin)
Diedre Scofield Queen (friend of Valerie Brooks)
Fred Seeger
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba

Thank You Note from Gerry Ritter:

I thank you all for the many healing ways you expressed your love for my family after Harold's death. You brought food, you sent flowers, you sent cards, you sent texts and emails, and so many of you came personally to me, to Scott, to Denise, and to Ava and Erica showing your witness to God's love and presence. Words cannot express the gratitude we have for you. Please know each of you made a positive impact on our day-to-day living since his death. We feel so blessed to be part of this special community of faith.



GIVING

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:

Outreach Ministry

Outreach at Greenwood Forest takes many different forms, including hospitality, charitable work, and simply inviting people to church! A few examples: In early June, we hosted a Blood Drive to help the sick. On Transgender Day of Visibility, we partnered with Pride of Cary to host an event around trans identity, rights, and more. Every week, we host groups in our church who need places to meet to advance recovery and community. Without your gifts, none of this work is possible!

Order of Worship Graduation Sunday

✝ 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 | *Rejoice, You Righteous, in the Lord* | arr. Larson

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efir

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Ps. 33:1-12) | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to God with the harp.

Sing to God a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all God's work is done in faithfulness.

God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of God's mouth.

God gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle, and put the deeps in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe.

For God spoke, and it came to be; God commanded, and it stood firm.

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; God frustrates the plans of the peoples.

The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of God's heart to all generations.

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom God has chosen as God's heritage.

Today's color is **white**, representing God's glory and holiness. Clergy stoles are **rainbow** in honor of Pride Month and the inclusive love of God.

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.

Invocation | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

† **Hymn** | *Be Thou My Vision (pg. 7)*

Offertory Prayer | *Anthony Warren*

† **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. 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** | *I Will Be Your God (pg. 8)*

Reading | *Genesis 12:1-9* | *Rev. Efirid*

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

Anthem | *Flourishing (pg. 10)*

Graduate Testimonies | *Catherine Glasgow and Sean Glasgow*

Charge to Graduates | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

† **Hymn** | *Wherever He Leads I'll Go (vv. 1 & 3, pg. 9)* 📖

Graduate Gifts | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

Benediction | *May the Peace* | *The Porter's Gate*

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!

Be Thou My Vision

Unison

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my true word;
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain emp - ty praise,
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and Thou my high tower,
Thou and Thou on - ly first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
raise Thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
High King of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

I Will Be Your God

1. To A - bra - ham and Sa - rah the call of God was clear:
2. From A - bra - ham and Sa - rah a - rose a pil - grim race,
3. We of this gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid

"Go forth and I will show you a coun - try rich and fair.
de - pen - dent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun - dant grace;
can jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid,

You need not fear the jour - ney, for I have pledged my word
and in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing word,
re - joic - ing in God's good - ness and trust - ing in this word,

that you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
"That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."

Wherever He Leads I'll Go

1. "Take up thy cross and fol - low Me," I heard my Mas - ter say;
2. He drew me clos - er to His side, I sought His will to know,
3. It may be through the shad - ows dim, or o'er the storm - y sea,
4. My heart, my life, my all I bring to Christ who loves me so;

"I gave My life to ran - som thee, sur - ren - der your all to - day."
and in that will I now a - bide, wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.
I take my cross and fol - low Him, wher - ev - er He lead - eth me.
He is my Mas - ter, Lord, and King, wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.

Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go, wher - ev - er He leads I'll go,

I'll fol - low my Christ who loves me so, wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.

Anthem Flourishing

Sandra McCracken

Teach me, oh God to follow your decrees
Give me understanding, your word, I wanna keep
Direct me in the path, of your commands
For there I find delight, my will is in your hands

*Turn my heart away from worthless things
Preserve my life, according to your ways
Take away disgrace
You hold me in my place—flourishing*

Fulfill your promise to the ones you love
Within your ways we walk, for your laws are good
Temptation loses pow'r, my soul's revived
In righteousness, oh God, preserve my life

Benediction May the Peace

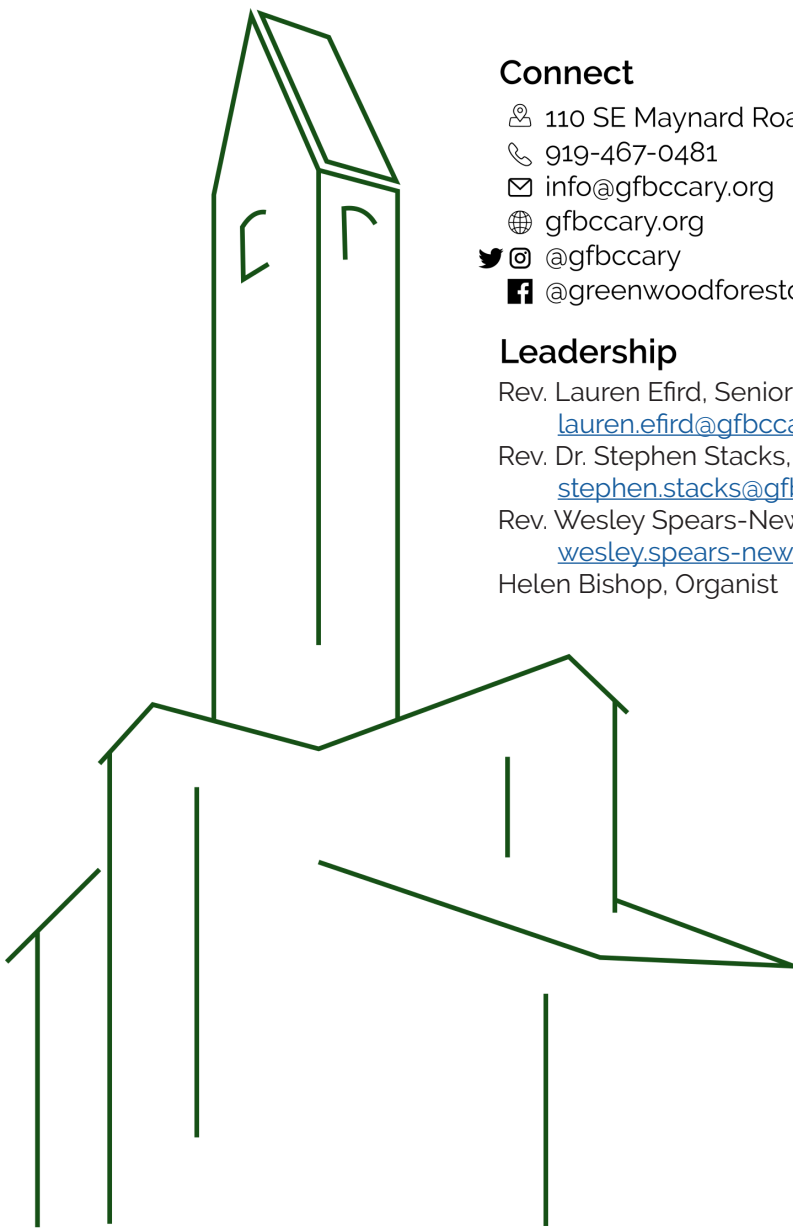
The Porter's Gate

*May the peace of the Lord go with you
Wherever you may go.*

If he sends you to the wilderness, may he give you flowing streams.
Through the long days of your exodus taste the sweetness manna brings.

If he sends you on the raging sea, may his mercy go before.
To show you where your calling leads and protect you in the storm.

If she sends you through the vale of tears, may she join you as you weep.
May she hold you when you meet your fears in the shadows dark and deep.



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
