



# Greenwood Forest

## Baptist Church

June 18, 2023



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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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**Bulletin Art:** *"Miriam Dancing and Singing" from the Chludov Psalter dated to the mid 9th century CE perhaps by artists in the monastery of St. John the Studite in Constantinople and used in the Hagia Sophia.*

## 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.



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# 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](http://gfbccary.org/vbs) and you can register to volunteer at [tinyurl.com/kirkvbsvolunteer](http://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](http://gfbccary.org/summer). Ask Wes if you need any more information!

## Business Meeting Sunday 6/18 at 9:45am

We will hold a regular church business meeting at 9:45am on Sunday, June 18. Aside from regular business, we'll be voting on the Nominating Committee for the 2023-2024 church year. See you there!

## 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](http://gfbccary.org/life) and the Find Your Place survey at [gfbccary.org/place](http://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!

# Announcements Church Events and Updates



## **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.

## **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 Rev. Wes Spears-Newsome, as well!

## **Golden Oldies**

A series exploring the songs of the Hebrew Scriptures in worship.

**June 18**

Miriam's Song  
Exodus 15:1-21

**June 25**

Deborah's Song  
Judges 5

**July 2**

Hannah's Song  
1 Samuel 2:1-10

**July 9**

Judith's Song  
Judith 16:1-6, 13

# 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)  
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](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:**

### **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 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

✝ 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** | *Adoro te devote* | arr. Lynette Maynard

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19)** | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

I love the Lord,

**Because God has heard my voice and my supplications.**

Because God inclined God's ear to me,

**Therefore I will call on God as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

**I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called on the name of the Lord:

**"O Lord, I pray, save my life!"**

What shall I return for all the Lord's bounty to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,**

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people.

**Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of faithful ones.**

O Lord, I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.

**You have loosed my bonds.**

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice

**And call on the name of the Lord.**

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people,

**In the courts of the house of the Lord,**

In your midst, O Jerusalem.

**Praise the Lord!**

Today's color is **green**, representing growth and new life. 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. Dr. Stacks*

† **Hymn** | *On Jordan's Stormy Banks (pg. 7)*

**Offertory Prayer** | *Tim Carr*

† **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** | *On Eagle's Wings (vv. 1-2; pg. 8)*

**Reading** | *Exodus 15:1-21* | *Rev. Dr. Stacks*

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

**Anthem** | *Be Not Afraid (pg. 10)*

**Sermon** | *Miriam's Song* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *When the Saints Go Marching In (pg. 9)* 📖

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude** | *I Love the Lord* | *arr. Richard Smallwood*

## 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!

# On Jordan's Stormy Banks

1. On Jor-dan's storm-y banks I stand and cast a wish-ful eye  
2. All o'er those wide-ex-ten-d-ed plains shines one e-ter-nal day;  
3. No chill-ing winds nor pois-onous breath can reach that health-ful shore;  
4. When shall I reach that hap-py place and be for-ev-er blest?

to Ca-naan's fair and hap-py land where my pos-ses-sions lie.  
there God the Son for-ev-er reigns and scat-ters night a-way.  
sick-ness and sor-row, pain and death are felt and feared no more.  
When shall I see my Fa-ther's face and in His bo-som rest?

I am bound for the prom-ised land, I am bound for the prom-ised land;

O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land.



Unison

And He will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the

breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun and

hold you in the palm of His hand. *Fine*

1. You who dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, who a -  
2. The snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and  
3. You need not fear the ter - ror of the night nor the

bide in His shad - ow for life, say to the Lord, "My  
fa - mine will bring you no fear, un - der His wings your  
ar - row that flies by day; though thou - sands fall a -

*D.C.*  
ref - uge, my Rock in whom I trust."  
ref - uge, His faith - ful - ness you shield.  
bout you, near you it shall not come.

# On Eagle's Wings

# When the Saints Go Marching In

1. O when the saints go march - ing in, O when the  
2. O when the sun re - fused to shine, O when the  
3. O when they crown Him Lord of all, O when they

saints go march - ing in,  
sun re - fused to shine, O Lord, I want to be in that  
crown Him Lord of all,

num-ber when the saints go march - ing in.  
when the sun re - fused to shine.  
when they crown Him Lord of all.

# **Anthem** Be Not Afraid

Craig Courtney

Be not afraid for I have redeemed you.

Be not afraid, I have called you by name.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed.

You are mine, you are precious in my sight.

My love for you is everlasting,

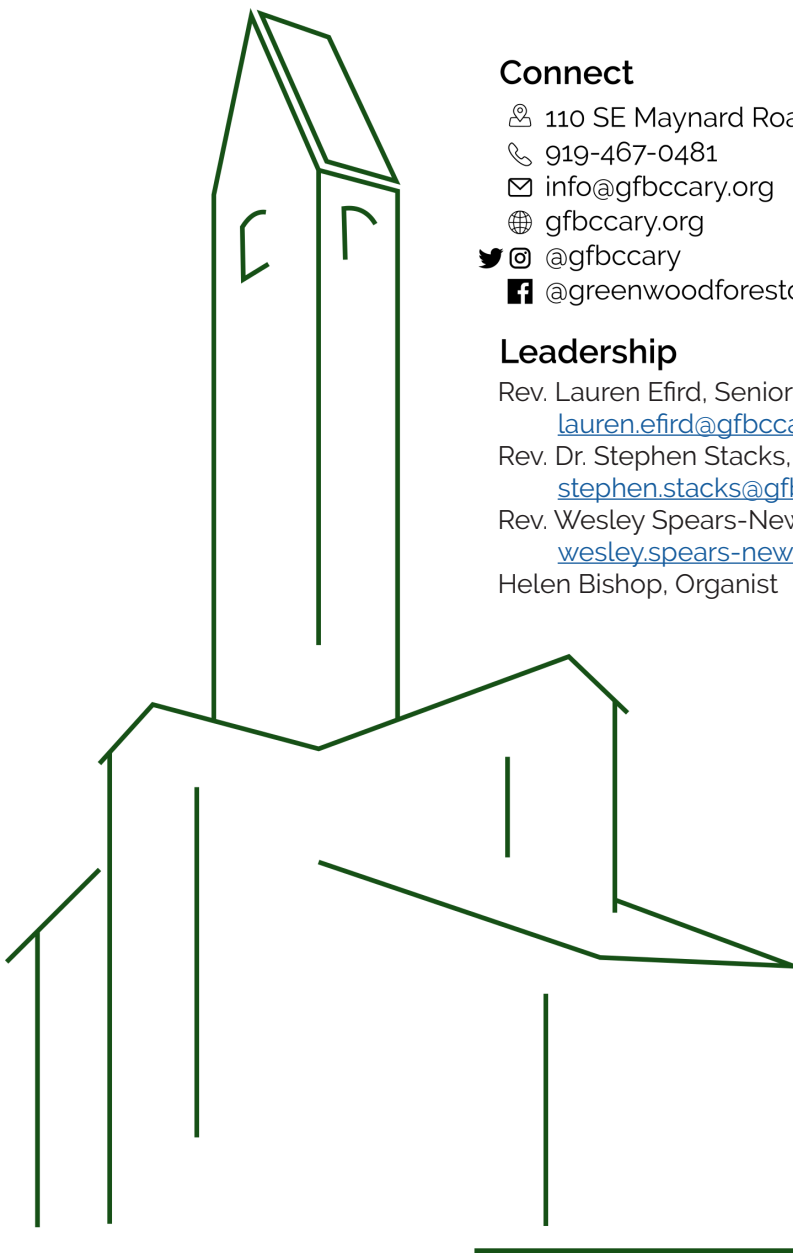
My love for you shall have no end.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed.

You are mine, you are precious in my sight.



## Connect

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## Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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