



# Greenwood Forest

## Baptist Church

August 20, 2023



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# Current Series: Unassimilated

The Book of Daniel

August 13-27, we'll be diving into stories from the Book of Daniel. Daniel takes place after the Babylonian Empire conquers Jerusalem and deports many of its residents. We'll be hearing the stories of deported Jewish heroes, including Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah and how they rejected the empire's attempts to assimilate them.

August 13: The Royal Rations

August 20: The Fiery Furnace

August 27: The Lion's Den

## ***Bulletin Art***

Unknown Artist (16th c.)

Photographed by Michel Bakni, this icon is one of many in a collection called Arabic Icons: Christian Art of the Levant. From the 16th century, it's a representation of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace for refusing to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's statue. An angel of God protects them within the flames.



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)



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



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



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# Announcements Church Events and Updates

## Stories of Vocation and Faith Returns in August

We are reprising the Stories of Vocation and Faith series by hearing more incredible lay people reflect on the intersection of their faith and work. Here's who's up next (both remaining sessions in the Fellowship Hall):

Aug. 20: Kevin Schaefer

Aug. 27: Evan Owoc-Edwards

## Backpack Buddies

The Backpack Buddies ministry will again deliver food bags weekly to children at Farmington Woods and Briarcliff Elementary Schools this year. Your donations to the Backpack Buddies fund are appreciated and make this possible.

We will be packing bags the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00am starting on September 5. If you'd like to receive a reminder before each packing date, email Judy Vaccarro at [judyvaccaro@gmail.com](mailto:judyvaccaro@gmail.com). Packing takes about an hour and there is no commitment, just come on the dates that fit your schedule. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

## Join the Handbell Choir!

The handbell choir is recruiting new ringers for the Fall! All levels of experience and musical abilities are welcome. Rehearsals will start in September. Please contact Natalie Patten ([nhpatten@gmail.com](mailto:nhpatten@gmail.com)) if you are interested.

## Budget Presentation

We will have a budget presentation over lunch this Sunday at 12 pm, following worship. We will have a regular business meeting to vote on the budget and nominating slate on 8/27 at 2pm.

## Cary Council Candidate Assembly at GFBC 9/18

Join hundreds of neighbors across Cary to publicly meet with candidates for Town Council. The fall election represents a major opportunity to win commitments from candidates, including:

- supporting fair compensation for the 140+ families likely to be displaced from the Chatham Estates mobile home community;
- ensuring that the redevelopment of town campus includes affordable housing;
- renewing or expanding the \$9 million affordable housing fund we won last year;
- support for ONE Wake member institutions in Cary that are developing affordable housing on church-owned land.

RSVP at [gfbccary.org/onewake](http://gfbccary.org/onewake).

## Work Anniversary

On August 15th we celebrated Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks 11th anniversary of serving as our Associate Pastor of Worship and Faith Formation. If you've attended a churchwide Faith Formation or retreat led by Stephen, you've experienced his gift of teaching and his value of education in our faith journey. If you've sung in the choir or participated in creating music for worship you've heard his skill at bringing out our best. Stephen is on a well-earned sabbatical the next several weeks. Take a moment to say a prayer of thanksgiving and rejuvenation for Stephen while he is away. We look forward to his return.

# 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  
Bess Averre  
Gilles Bikindou  
Mary George Brewer  
Valerie Brooks  
Laura Crook  
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)  
The Family of Emerson Deese at his death  
Elaine Dodson  
Stephanie Fancher (friend of Gerry Ritter)  
Vanna Fox  
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)  
Brett Guenther (family of Valerie Brooks)  
Anjar Hossain (friend of Kevin Schaefer)  
Tony Izador (family of Roz Slawson)  
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)  
Fred Seeger  
Eddie Stewart (friend of Diana Morde)  
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba



## 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:

### **Faith Formation at GFBC**

Faith Formation at GFBC takes many forms. We gather on Sunday mornings for regular Faith Formation classes. Sometimes, like this month of August, we come together for churchwide Faith Formation. Our children gather in the Rainbow Room, Wonder Room, and Youth House for their own special times of discipleship. Small groups and special studies also provide opportunities, like the one Rev. Efirid is leading on Rachel Held Evans' book *Inspired* the next several weeks. **Without your gifts, none of this work is possible!**

# Order of Worship 11th 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** | *Babethandaza* | *Traditional Zulu Song*

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (Ps. 71)** | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

In you, O Lord, I take refuge.

**Let me never be put to shame.**

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me.

**Incline your ear to me and save me.**

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress.

**Save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.**

Rescue me, O God, from the hand of the wicked.

**Save me from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.**

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust.

**Upon you I have leaned from my birth.**

It was you who took me from my mother's womb.

**My praise is continually of you!**

† **Invocation** | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

**Hymn** | *How Firm a Foundation* (pg. 7)

**Offertory Prayer** | *Chris Cook*

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

## 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.

† **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. 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.**

† **Hymn** | *Be Still My Soul* (pg. 8)

**Reading** | *Daniel 3* | *Lynn McLaughlin*

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

**Anthem** | *I Am Available to You* (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | *The Fiery Furnace* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (pg. 9) 📖

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude** | *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* | *arr. Mark Hayes*

**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!

# How Firm a Foundation

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
4. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
5. "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose

is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent word!  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
I will not, I will not de - sert to his foes;

What more can He say than to you He has said,  
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
the flame shall not hurt thee, I on - ly de - sign  
that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake!"



# Be Still My Soul

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.  
2. Be still, my soul: your God will un - der - take  
3. Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain; leave to your  
to guide the fu - ture as in a - ges past. Your hope, your  
when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap -

God to or - der and pro - vide; in ev - ery change God  
con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake; all now mys - te - rious  
point - ment, grief, and fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's

faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul: your best, your heav - en - ly  
shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still  
pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are

friend through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
know the Christ who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.  
past, all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a -  
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign -  
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy works and de - fend  
 4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal -  
 eth, shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gen - tly sus -  
 thee; sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -  
 Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

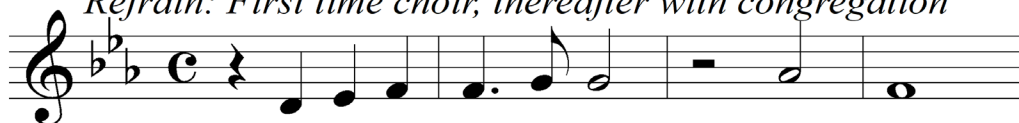
va - tion! All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw  
 tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have  
 tend thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al - mighty can  
 fore Him. Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a -

near; praise Him in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
 been grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?  
 do, if with His love He be - friend thee.  
 gain, glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him.

# **Anthem** I Am Available to You, O Lord

arr. Abe Cáceres, Worldhouse Music

*Refrain: First time choir, thereafter with congregation*



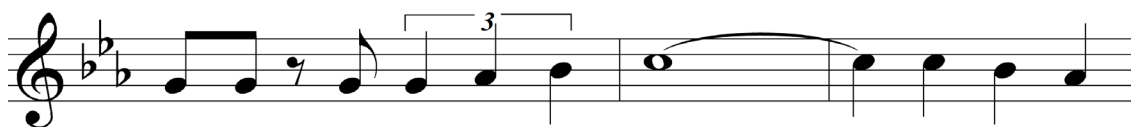
I am a - vail - a - ble to you.



I am a - vail - a - ble to you.



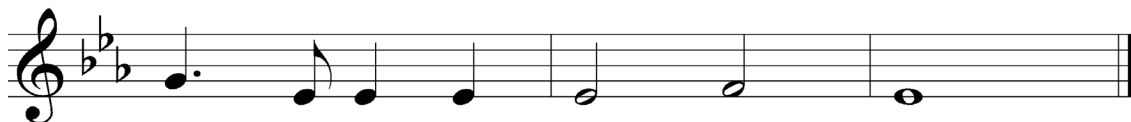
Take me just as I am. Change me as on-ly you can.



Make me a part of your plan! \_\_\_\_\_ I am a -



vail - a - ble. I am a - vail - a - ble. I am a -



vail - a - ble to you, O Lord.



## Connect

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☎ 919-467-0481

✉ [info@gfbccary.org](mailto:info@gfbccary.org)

🌐 [gfbccary.org](http://gfbccary.org)

🐦 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

[lauren.efird@gfbccary.org](mailto:lauren.efird@gfbccary.org)

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

[wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org)

Helen Bishop, Organist

Dr. Abe Cáceres, Sabbatical Worship Leader

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