



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

Sept. 24, 2023



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Bulletin Art Tearing the Red Sea 3

Menucha Yankelevitch

Menucha Yankelevitch is a Jewish artist from Jerusalem who specializes in oil and water paintings, mainly Judaica in subject. In this work, we see Moses above the people of Israel who are crossing through the Red Sea to safety from Pharaoh's army. You can find Yankelevitch's art for purchase at www.menuchay.art.



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.

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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



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



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Announcements Church Events and Updates

Churchwide Faith Formation Continues

Our first churchwide Faith Formation series of this programming year started last Sunday (9/17) at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall and continues this week (ends October 8). Join Dr. Mary Whitehouse and Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome in an exploration of Liberation Theology. First popularized in Latin America, liberation theologies seek to emphasize God's desire for our freedom and well-being. Liberation theologies have since exploded around the world from South Africa to Palestine to India and beyond.

Ministry Monday

We'll be gathering for our first Ministry Monday of the year on September 25 beginning at 6pm. We meet in two groups:

Group A Committees (6-7pm): Children's Ministry, Congregational Care, Personnel, Properties, and Youth

Group B Committees (7-8pm): Discipleship, Finance, Outreach and Fellowship, and Worship

We'll be meeting in-person at the church in the Faith Formation Hallway with breakout rooms for each committee. We look forward to seeing you there!

Exodus Sermon Series

A new sermon series began on September 17 on the Book of Exodus called "Beginning Again." We'll follow the journey of the Israelites from the call of Moses and the escape from Egypt to their journey in the wilderness.

Young Adult Event at Vicious Fishes in Apex

On October 8, Greenwood Forest will have a special fellowship event for young adults at Vicious Fishes in Apex from 4-6pm. Come for fellowship and a good time with other church members!

Pledge Cards

Don't forget to turn in your pledge cards for this year's budget in the offering plate! If you forgot or didn't receive yours, there are some available in the narthex.

Multi-Church Youth Event This Sunday at GFBC

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, and Covenant Community Church are working together this year to do combined youth group events once a month! The first will be this Sunday following worship; if you see our friends from our partner congregations, be sure to say hello and welcome them into our space.

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
The Family of Mary Jo Clayton
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Elaine Dodson
Stephanie Fancher (friend of Gerry Ritter)
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
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)
Kathleen Wicker at the death of her brother
William Walker
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
- 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:

Children's and Youth Ministries

As our younger members return to school, it's a great time to give thanks for our Children's and Youth Ministries! Our children meet in the Rainbow Room (Nursery and Preschool) and the Wonder Room (K-5) on Sunday mornings in creative and discovery-oriented spaces. Our youth meet in what they christened The Youth House for Faith Formation on Sunday mornings and for Alpha & Omega (youth group) on Sunday afternoons. Our kids are amazing participants in our community and **your gifts make their formation possible!**

Order of Worship 17th 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

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (by Katherine Hawker)

The sea of apathy surrounds, enticing us with self-promotion
luring us with greed.

The sea of apathy surrounds,
bloated with decay.

The sea of apathy surrounds,
the remains of injustice and idolatry.

Our task this day is to cross the sea.

Our task today is to say "no" to the stench.

Our task if we chose it is to say "yes" to life and faith.

Yes! Yes.

Let us cross the sea together.

Invocation | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

† Hymn | *Come Thou Fount* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Andy Jarrell

† Doxology | *Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH* 📖

Transcendent God, we bless your name,

Incarnate Christ, the risen one,

The Spirit with us, Immanent,

The Source, the Word, the Breath of Life! Amen.

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.

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 | *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** | *When God Restored Our Common Life* (pg. 9)

Reading | *Exodus 14:19-31* | *Vivian Denning*
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Saints Bound for Heaven* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Deliverance* | *Rev. Efir*

† **Hymn** | *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* (pg. 8) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efir*

Postlude

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!

Come Thou Fount



1. Come, Thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2. Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by Thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise:
and I hope, by Thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home:
Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to Thee:



teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of Thy re - deem - ing love.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.



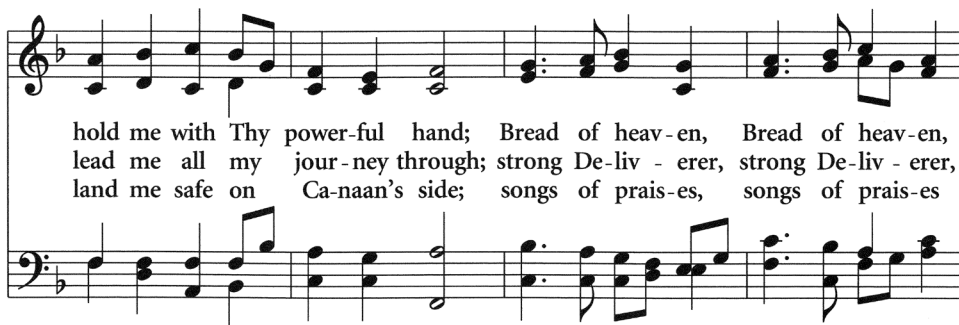
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side: bear me through the swell - ing cur - rent,



hold me with Thy power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through; strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
be Thou still my strength and shield, be Thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee.

When God Restored Our Common Life

1 When God re - stored our com - mon life, our
2 We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds in
3 Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray for

hope, our lib - er - ty, at first it seemed a
hard, un - yield - ing soil; with laugh - ing hearts we
all who are op - pressed. May those who long for

pass - ing dream, a wak - ing fan - ta - sy; a
car - ry home the fruit of all our toil. We
what is right with jus - tice now be blest. We

shock of joy swept o - ver us, for
praise the One who gave the growth, with
pray for those who mourn this day, and

we had wept so long; the seeds we wa - tered
voic - es full and strong. The seeds we wa - tered
all who suf - fer wrong; may seeds they wa - ter

once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
now with tears spring up in - to a song.

Anthem Saints Bound for Heaven

arr. Mack Wilberg

Our bondage it shall end by and by
From Egypt's yoke set free
Hail the glorious jubilee
And to Canaan we'll return by and by
Our Deliv'rer he shall come by and by
And our sorrows have an end
With our three-score years and ten
And vast glory crown the day by and by
And when to Jordan's floods we are come
Jehovah rules the tide
And the waters he'll divide
And the ransom'd host shall shout, "We are come"
Then with all the happy throng we'll rejoice
Shouting glory to our King
Till the vaults of heaven ring
And thro' all eternity we'll rejoice



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

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Dr. Abe Cáceres, Sabbatical Worship Leader
