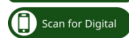




Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

Nov. 19, 2023





Advent and Christmas

November 26

Reign of Christ and Souper Love Feast (11am)

December 3

Advent I Worship (11am)

December 10

Advent II Worship (11am)

December 17

Christmas Breakfast (9:45am)
Service of Lessons and Carols (11am)

December 20

Service of Lament (6pm)

December 24

Family Christmas Eve (11am)
Candlelight Communion Service (8pm)

December 31

Christmas I Worship (11am)





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

GFBC's 60th Anniversary

We're celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church this Sunday, November 19, with a special worship service and a luncheon to follow! Our sixties-themed luncheon will feature stories from fellow church members, a special look at items from the church archives, a book of testimonies from across the congregation, a BBQ lunch, and more! Suggested donation for lunch is \$10 per adult and \$5 for kids.

As you recall our past sixty years, consider a special offering in multiples of 6! Can you give an extra \$6, \$60, or even \$600? All your gifts go toward the ministries of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church and the community we serve.

Trip to Tucson, Arizona

We're taking a new trip this year for the Freedom Ride, this time to the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona. We'll be traveling as a group with an organization called **Borderlinks** based in Tucson, AZ. We'll engage in some service, learning, and relationship-building activities with longtime residents of the borderlands and the migrants who cross them. The trip is scheduled for June 30-July 6. We'll be traveling by plane to AZ (not by bus!) and will be staying at a Borderlinks facility designed to accommodate groups like ours.

Register at gfbccary.org/tucson soon as spots are limited. Deadline to register is January 31. If you have questions, please direct them to Rev. Spears-Newsome.

"Souper" Love Feast and Sanctuary Adornment

We'll be readying the church for Advent on November 26 and we want you to join us! After **3** worship on Sunday 11/26, we'll have a potluck

"Souper" Love Feast, Advent wreath-making, and we'll decorate the sanctuary together!

Sign up to bring food at gfbccary.org/souper today! This event is a fun time for children, youth, and adults to prepare themselves for this next season.

Welcome Back, Rev. Dr. Boswell!

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell (he/him) serves as the Senior Minister of Myers Park Baptist Church (Charlotte, NC). A former U.S. Army Officer with degrees from Campbell University (B.A.), Duke University (M.Div.), and Saint Paul School of Theology (D.Min), he is a preacher, pastor, author, and civil rights leader who facilitates anti-racist education for people racialized as white and white-dominant organizations. In 2021, he was awarded the city of Charlotte's prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. Medallion, the highest honor given to a person who promotes racial equality, social justice, and community service. He is the author of *For the Facing of this Hour: Preaching that Resists White Christian Nationalism and Confronting Whiteness: A Spiritual Journey of Reflection, Conversation, and Transformation*.

Ben has served as the Pastor of three different Alliance of Baptists congregations, and as an Adjunct Professor at Leland Seminary and Wake Forest Divinity School. He has also been honored to serve alongside three gifted Alliance clergywomen who have ascended to be the first woman Senior Pastor of the churches they now serve. He is a third-generation minister on his mother's side, father of a 13-year-old daughter named Lucy, and spouse of Andi Stevenson, an amateur Latin dancer and national non-profit consultant. They live in Charlotte with their two hounds.

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)
Barbara Dial (sister of Carol Carter)
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)
Katheron E. Palmer (mother of Randy Palmer)
Fred Seeger
Eddie Stewart (friend of Diana Morde)
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)
Patti Webb
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:

60th Anniversary of GFBC

Greenwood Forest has now been in Cary for 60 years! We've worshipped, served, grieved, celebrated, and more for over six decades. None of that would have been possible without the beloved community that gathers here each week. As you recall our past sixty years, consider a special offering in multiples of 6! Can you give an extra \$6, \$60, or even \$600? All your gifts go toward the ministries of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church and the community we serve.

Order of Worship 60th Anniversary Celebration

† 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 | *Your Labor is Not in Vain* | Porter's Gate (pg. 10)

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (from Beth Merrill Neel)

Children of God—welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for who God is and all God has done,

In gratitude for who we have been and who we are becoming,

In gratitude for all of this and more, let us worship God.

Invocation | Rev. Dr. Stacks

† **Hymn** | *Now Thank We All Our God* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Ken Scott

Offertory | *We Gather Together* | arr. Mendoza 📖

Today's color is **red**, representing the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

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 Offertory

During the offertory music, we pass plates across the pews as a way to make our collective offering to God and the wellbeing of this community.

† **Doxology** | *Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH* 📖

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

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.

† **Hymn** | *Spirit on the Church Descending* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Revelation 3* | *Rev. Lauren Efir*

The word of God for us, the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *He Never Failed Me Yet* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Woke and Open or Spewed Out* | *Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell*

† **Hymn** | *God of Past Who By Your Spirit* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efir*

Postlude | *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* | *arr. Berry*

The Doxology

A “doxology” is a short hymn that usually praises the Trinity. We sing the doxology as we 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!

Flower Dedication

The flowers on the communion table today are given in honor of Kathleen Wicker who turned 98 years young on November 17.

Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven,

who, from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Spirit on the Church Descending

1. Spi - rit on the Church des - cend - ing, rain - ing down from God a - bove;
2. Spir - it on the pro - phets pour - ing, crown - ing kings in Wis - dom's plan;
3. Spir - it on the Son now rest - ing, bring - ing good news to the poor;
4. Spir - it on the earth a - bid - ing, gath'r - ing peo - ple far and near;

5
Wind of pow - er, — heav - ens rend - ing, fill our lives with hol - y love.
Word of God in — jus - tice speak - ing, will the peo - ple strength — to stand.
sight re - co - vered, — cap - tives free - ing, sing for Ju - bi lee — once more.
through the king - dom — Christ is build - ing, free the world from death — and fear.

9
Fall u - pon us, fall u - pon us, grant the gifts — that — make us one.

Words: W. Benjamin Boswell; Music: Stephen Stacks

God of Past Who By Your Spirit

1. God of past, who by Your Spir - it, led Your peo - ple
2. God of pres - ent un - der - tak - ings, give us wis - dom
3. God of hope, to Whom our ser - vice is en - trust - ed

through each age, may we learn from their ex - am - ple,
as we build for our ser - vice in Your king - dom,
for the day when Your king - dom is es - tab - lished

by their faith our doubts as - suage. May their stead - fast res - o -
that Your pur - pose be ful - filled. May our vi - sion be far -
and all peo - ple know Your way, by the lead - ing of Your

lute - ness as they fol - lowed in Your way be for us an
reach - ing, and our work by You de - creed, that in build - ing
Spir - it guide us now, new faith in - still, that we face the

in - spi - ra - tion as we serve the pres - ent day.
for the pres - ent, we dis - cern to - mor - row's need.
fu - ture bold - ly for the do - ing of Your will.

Prelude Your Labor is Not in Vain

The Porter's Gate

Your labor is not in vain
though the ground underneath you
 is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping
 are never the same
But your labor is not in vain.

*For I am with you, I am with you.
I am with you, I am with you
For I have called you,
called you by name
Your labor is not in vain.*

Your labor is not unknown
though the rocks they cry out
 and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
but your labor is not unknown.

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
the fields will sing out and rejoice
 with the truth,
for all that is old will at last be made new:
the vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

The houses you labored to build
will finally with laughter and joy be filled.
The serpent that hurts
 and destroys shall be killed
and all that is broken be healed.

Anthem He Never Failed Me Yet

arr. Robert Ray

Soloist: Randy Palmer

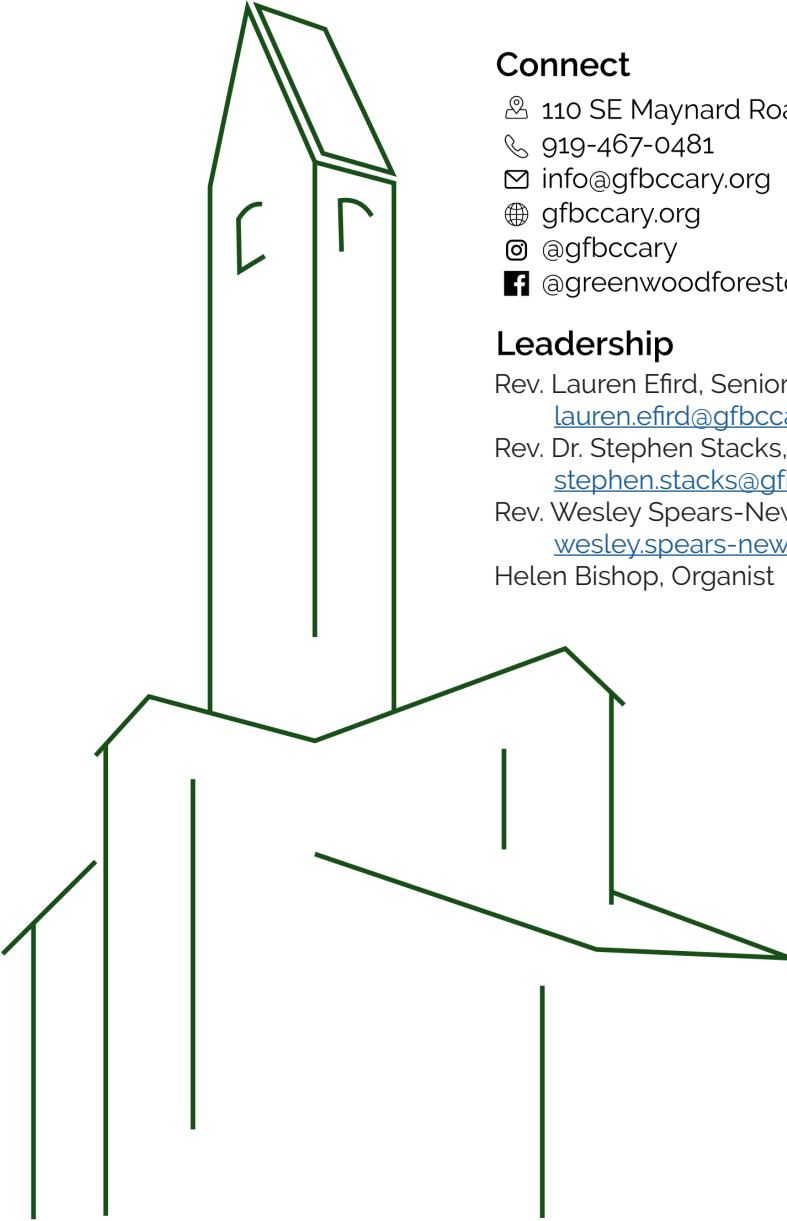
*I will sing of God's mercy
Every day, every hour
He gives me power.*

*I will sing and give thanks to thee
For all the dangers, toils and snares
That he has brought me out.
He is my God and I'll serve him
No matter what the test*

*Trust and never doubt
Jesus will surely bring you out
He never failed me yet.*

I know God is able to deliver
In times of storm
And I know that he'll keep you safe
From all earthly harm.
One day when my weary soul is at rest
I'm going home to be forever blessed

Didn't my God deliver
Moses from King Pharaoh?
And didn't he cool the fiery furnace
For Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
When I think of what my God can do
He delivered Daniel
I know he'll deliver you.



Connect

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Leadership

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist
