



Architecture Firm CH2M's concept for a revitalized Los Angeles River



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

April 21, 2024



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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

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

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

Sermon Series and Spring Cantata

During the month of April, we'll be reflecting on the role of all God's creation in our faith. The series "The Earth is the Lord's" begins with Genesis and ends in Revelation before we enjoy our spring cantata. On April 28, the Sanctuary Choir will perform Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass* in worship. The piece is a reflection on creation from space down to the ground. It uses the Latin mass text, beautiful lush harmony, and strings to reflect on the spiritual dimension of our relationship to the earth. It will be a beautiful conclusion to our April worship series on creation care. Make plans to be there!

Civil Rights Leader William Barber Returns to Raleigh on April 26

A group of pastors of inclusive churches in North Carolina, including our own Rev. Lauren Efrid and former GFBC pastor Rev. Benjamin Boswell, have invited Rev. William Barber to return to North Carolina to preach in Raleigh on April 26 at 7pm. Rev. Barber will be preaching on "War, Genocide, and the Gospel" at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church. Everyone at GFBC is invited to attend.

Rev. William Barber is currently a professor at Yale Divinity School and director of their Center for Public Theology and Public Policy. He began the revival of the Poor People's Campaign (originally begun by Martin Luther King, Jr. before his assassination), has served numerous roles in the NAACP, and was pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro for thirty years. Barber has received numerous honors, including the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, multiple honorary doctorates, and was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2018.

Spiritual Life Survey

Each year, we take some time to reflect on our collective spiritual life at Greenwood Forest through a survey of church members. Your responses inform how we plan events for the next church year and what emphases we explore in worship and discipleship. Please fill out this year's survey at gfbccary.org/life24.

Cary Community Meeting on 5/1 at 6:30pm

Our rezoning application is going forward for a community meeting hosted by the Town of Cary on May 1 at 6:30pm. This is a virtual meeting and we'd love to see you there in support of the project! You can register for the meeting at the Town of Cary's website or via the link you received in your inbox. Contact Rev. Spears-Newsome if you have any questions.

Ministry Monday (5/13)

We will have our next night of church ministry team meetings on May 13. 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

Business Meeting (5/19)

We'll be having a regular business meeting at 2pm on May 19 in the Fellowship Hall. Agenda items include property updates, the nominating process, and other regular updates.

Announcements Church Events and Updates

Churchwide Faith Formation this Sunday!

Dr. Lydia Hoyle and Rev. Bucky Sydnor will continue to present three different interpretive approaches to the story of Lazarus in John 11 through April 28. Lydia will teach on April 21, focusing on Eastern Orthodox and imaginative/contemplative approaches to the text, and Bucky will teach on April 28, focusing on the historical critical approach. It will be a fascinating three weeks of diving into one of the most interesting passages in John's gospel.

Baby Shower for the Owoc-Edwards Family

The Jubilee Faith Formation Class is hosting a baby shower for Lou and Evan Owoc-Edwards on April 28 in the Fellowship Hall from 2-4pm and you're invited! The whole church is welcome to enjoy a time of gifts, games, and food. The Owoc-Edwards family is registered at BabyList. If you bring a pack of diapers, you'll be entered in a raffle for prizes!

Freedom Ride Fundraiser

For the next several weeks, we'll have different fundraiser activities in the Narthex for the Freedom Ride. You can try your hand at different games and see if you win a prize or have to make a donation (maximum donation: \$50; prizes include items from the GFBC merch store on our website). You can always make a donation at gfbccary.org/give and put Freedom Ride 2024 in the memo line!

Climate Actions

As we talk about our relationship with the earth this month, here's a list of actions you can take adapted from the book *Following Jesus in a Warming World* by Kyle Meyaard-Schaap:

- Calculate your carbon footprint at Global Footprint Network (footprintcalculator.org)
- Use LED lights, which use 80% less energy
- Use ENERGY STAR lights, appliances, etc.
- Turn your thermostat up in summer and down in winter
- Turn off lights/unplug devices when not in use
- Run only full loads in dishwasher and washing machine; line-dry clothes
- Purchase renewable energy from your utility provider and take advantage of their energy-efficiency programs
- Consider installing solar panels
- Better seal and insulate your house
- Drive less; carpool, ride the bus, walk, or bike
- Refuse, rethink, repurpose, reduce, reuse, recycle (in that order!)
- Buy durable products over disposable ones
- Research the ecological and social impacts of your purchases (try betterworldshopper.com)
- Plant a vegetable garden or buy a plot at a community garden
- Wash and reuse single-use plastic bags
- Use reusable water bottles
- Compost food waste
- Eat less meat, especially beef
- Buy local products
- Purchase secondhand clothes
- Buy all your produce at the farmer's market this summer
- Buy a share from a local CSA (community supported agriculture)
- Fly less often; when you do, purchase carbon offsets (try climatestewarduse.org/offset)

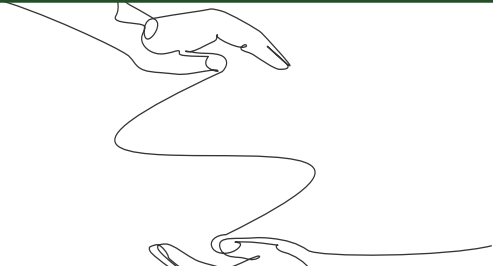
Community Notes Prayer Requests and Giving



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
Jo Brooks
Edwina Erwin
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)
Katheron E. Palmer (mother of Randy Palmer)
Fred Seeger
Paul Smith
Felecia Spears (friend of Susan Beck)
Nancy Walters (mother of Chuck Beck)
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)
Patti Webb
Gladys Wells
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:

Outreach and Fellowship Ministry

The Outreach and Fellowship Ministry is responsible for so many things we enjoy inside our community of faith and our wider community. As we reflect on creation this month, the Outreach and Fellowship Ministry asks that you consider how you can care for the earth both at church and at home!

Order of Worship Fourth Sunday of Easter

✝ 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 | *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* | arr. Labenske

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efir

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 48) 📖

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God.

God's holy mountain, beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth.

We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.

Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.

Walk about Zion; go all around it; count its towers;
consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels,
that you may tell the next generation
that this is God,

our God forever and ever.

The Lord will be our guide forever.

Invocation | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

✝ **Hymn** | *Shall We Gather at the River* (pg. 7; vv. 1 and 4)

Today's color is **white**,
representing the
resurrection and glory of
Jesus Christ.

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,
expressed through a peace
sign, a handshake, a wave,
conversation, etc. We hope
you will take the time to
greet and speak with those
around you or with someone
you haven't met!

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.

Offertory Prayer | *Sally Shaver*

Offertory | *Let the Whole Creation Cry* | *arr. Larson* 📖

† **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. 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** | *There in God's Garden* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Revelation 22:1-5* | *Brooks Jarrell*

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Brother Sun* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *For the Healing of the Nations* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *The Lord Is My Light* | *arr. Greg Sewell*

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. A short doxology follows as we offer our gifts.

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!

Shall We Gather at the River

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

There in God's Garden

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drills of our hu - man
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

For the Healing of the Nations

1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair Your
3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
4. You, Cre - a - tor, God, have writ - ten Your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in Your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of love in ac - tion
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through care and good - ness
dog - mas that ob - scure Your plan. In our com - mon quest for jus - tice
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re - sponse and ser - vice

help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.
fear will die and hope in - crease, fear will die and hope in - crease.
may we hal - low life's brief span, may we hal - low life's brief span.
earth its des - ti - ny may find, earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Anthem Brother Sun (Giving Glory!)

Porter's Gate

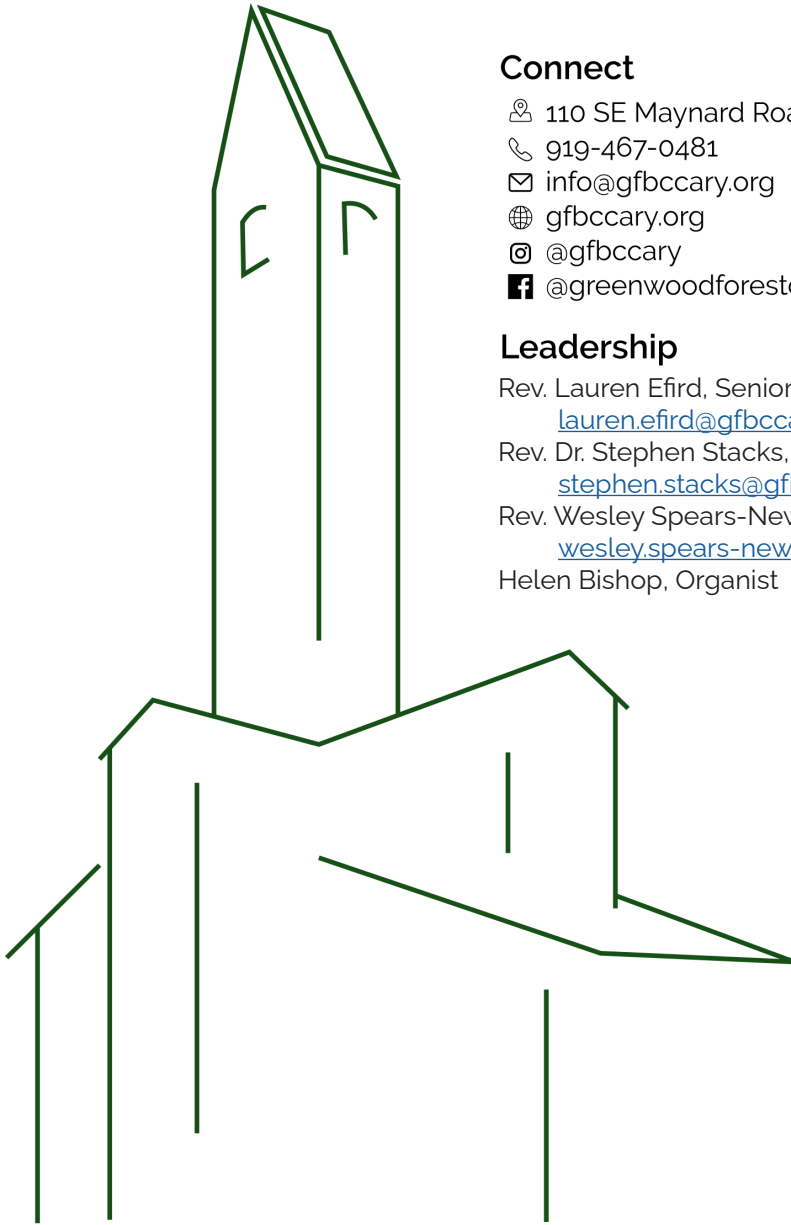
Brother sun, sister moon
Your light shines from the heavens
Giving glory, all the glory
To the maker

Gentle wind, welcome home
You've been traveling with your song
Singing glory, all the glory
To the maker

Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Singing glory
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Singing glory to the maker
Hallelujah!

Sweetest rain, serenade
Pouring down from the heavens
Bring all your blessings, every blessing
From the maker

All you people, join in the song
There is work to be done
For the glory, all the glory
Of the maker



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Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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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

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