



But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them.



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

June 9, 2024



Scan for Digital

# Bulletin Art Mary at the Border

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This rudimentary icon was something I made after we learned about the Trump administration's family separation policy in 2018, also a few months after Greenwood Forest church member Gilles Bikindou was kidnapped, incarcerated, and deported by ICE. It depicts Mary, the Mother of God, at the US border wall seeking to get in. She is pregnant with Jesus but, much like in the Nativity, cannot find any respite for her and her soon-to-be-born child. The Holy Spirit sits perched on the wall, weeping for the rejection Mary experiences. Yet in the midst of it, Mary treads on a serpent (a traditional symbol of the defeat of Satan) and the border wall begins to crack. Jesus, as Ephesians says, breaks down the wall of hostility between us, which is exactly what's happening here. Above Mary are words from Hebrews, a reminder that our earthly systems of citizenship are irrelevant to the designs of God. For the city of God, citizenship is not dependent on our national identities and boundaries. In the city of God, such things are subverted and robbed of their power. But as Mary shows here, we still live in the in-between time before God's reign is fully realized. There remains much work to be done.

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

## Guest Preacher Rev. Isaac Villegas

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As a child of Latin American immigrants, Isaac Villegas grew up in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, in the southwest corner of this country. He moved from California to North Carolina, where he served as the pastor of Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship for sixteen years. He was elected to the executive board of Mennonite Church USA, from 2013-2015. He's currently a member of the governing board of the NC Council of Churches.

His writing life has led to his appointment as a contributing editor at *The Christian Century* magazine and to the editorial committee for *The Anabaptist Witness* journal. He writes regularly as a columnist for *The Christian Century* and *Anabaptist World* magazines, and publishes from time to time in *Ruminant Magazine*, *Scalawag*, *Commonweal*, *Sojourners*, *Faith & Leadership*, and *Conrad Grebel Review*.

The Associated Church Press presented Villegas with their first place Award of Excellence for theological writing in 2018, an Award of Merit in 2019, and the Award of Excellence for Photography in 2019.

Villegas has received two research grants from The Louisville Institute for writing projects: "Gifts of Unity" in 2010, and "Remembering the Dead in the Borderlands" in 2020.



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)



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# *Congratulations, Graduates!*

***Autumn Hardison***

*University of North Carolina Wilmington with a Bachelor of Science in Business*

***Katie Lockhart***

*Western Carolina University with a Master of Project Management*

# 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  
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)  
Fred Seeger  
Paul Smith  
Linda Sorrell  
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)  
Kathleen Wicker  
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:

### Freedom Ride: Tucson

In just a few weeks, members of Greenwood Forest will go on a journey to Tucson, Arizona and then south to the border with Mexico. We'll be experiencing migrant stories, the testimonies of those who work with them, and walking in their footsteps. The Sunday after we return, July 7, we hope to share with you our own reflections on this trip during worship.

# Order of Worship Ordinary Time

✝ 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 Know That My Redeemer Lives* | SHOUT ON

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (Psalm 126)** 📖

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

**We were like those who dream.**

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

**And our tongue with shouts of joy;**

Then it was said among the nations,

**"The LORD has done great things for them."**

The LORD has done great things for us,

**And we rejoiced.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

**Like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

May those who sow in tears

**Reap with shouts of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

**Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

**Invocation** | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

✝ **Hymn** | *All Who Hunger Gather Gladly* (pg. 7)

**Offertory Prayer** | *Tim Carr*

**Offertory** | *Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee* | *arr. Maynard* 📖

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

## 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.

† **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.

**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** | *We Who Believe in Freedom (pg. 8)*

**Reading** | *Isaiah 25:6-9* | *Rev. Efird*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | *Esto les Digo (pg. 10)*

**Sermon** | *A Feast, For All Peoples* | *Rev. Isaac Villegas*

† **Hymn** | *Nothing But the Blood (pg. 9)* 📖

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude** | *We Gather Together* | *arr. Labenske*

**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!

# All Who Hunger Gather Gladly

1. All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
2. All who hun-ger, nev-er stran-gers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
3. All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er; Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.

Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You who yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
We who once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
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Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.



# We Who Believe in Freedom



Verses: Led by songleader

1. Until the killing of black (brown) men,  
Black (Brown) mothers' sons  
Is as important as the killing of white men  
White mothers' sons
2. Until the dreams of all the dreamers  
Are honored in this land  
And we acknowledge the inherent value  
Of their lives
3. Until the kingdom of justice  
Descends on us all  
Until righteousness comes down  
Like a mighty waterfall.

Original Song: Sweet Honey in the Rock  
New Verses: Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

# Nothing But the Blood

1. What makes us all ci - ti - zens? Nothing but the blood of  
 2. What tears down our bor - der walls? Nothing but the blood of  
 3. What se - cures our lib - er - ty? Nothing but the blood of  
 4. What calls us to move past hate? Nothing but the blood of

Je - sus. What re - names us as God's kin? Nothing but the blood of  
 Je - sus. What force can u nite us all? Nothing but the blood of  
 Je - sus. What dis - arms the pow'rs that be? Nothing but the blood of  
 Je - sus. What trans - forms our bro - ken state? Nothing but the blood of

Je - sus. O pre - cious is the flow that de - stroys the  
 Je - sus.  
 Je - sus.  
 Je - sus.

sta - tus quo, — No oth - er fount I know, nothing but the blood of Je - sus!

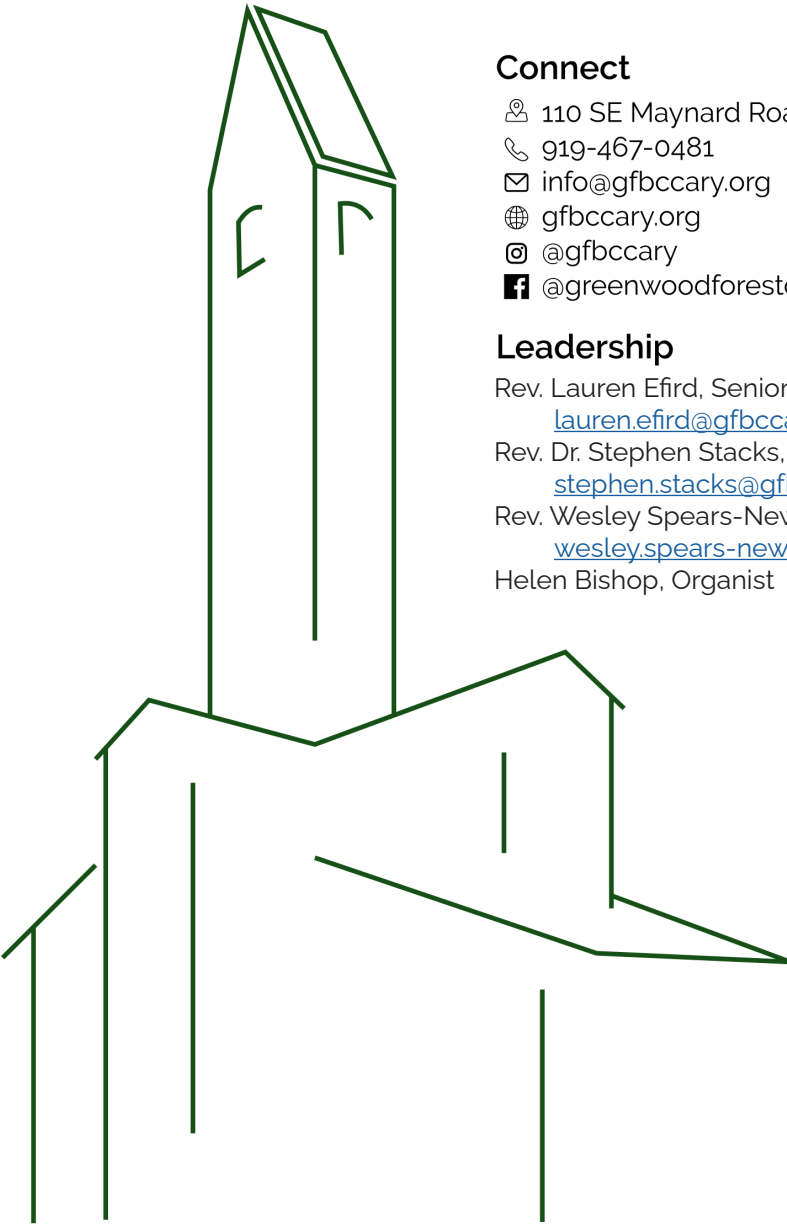
New Words: Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

# ***Anthem*** Esto les Digo

Kinley Lange | Catherine Glasgow, soloist

*Esto les digo,  
si dos de ustedes se ponen,  
se ponen de acuerdo aquí en,  
en la tierra para pedir,  
pedir algo en oración,  
mi padre que está en el cielo,  
se lo dará.  
Porque donde dos o tres  
se reúnen en mi nombre,  
allí estoy yo, en medio de ellos.*

Again I say to you,  
that if two of you  
agree on earth about anything  
that they may ask,  
it shall be done for them  
by my father who is in heaven.  
For where two or three  
have gathered together in my name,  
I am there in their midst.



## Connect

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📘 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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