



"I want to know about the meaning of love
beyond the realm of fantasy ..."

bell hooks



Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

June 16, 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

- 3 | 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

all

about

love

Summer Sermon Series

This summer we're talking about love using the insights of one of the 20th century's most important thinkers and social critics: bell hooks. hooks was an influential writer, feminist theorist, and educator whose work on race, gender, social injustice, and spirituality have a lot to teach us about practicing our faith in an American context. Using her book, *All About Love*, we will explore what it means to learn to love again in a loveless society.

Neighborhood Summer Program (6/18-8/14)

The Neighborhood Summer Program returns this summer to provide educational enrichment and nutritious meals to neighborhood children. To sign up to serve food, play games, or read books, you can sign up at fbccary.org/summer. We are scheduled to provide volunteers on Wednesdays (9am-12:30pm), but you may volunteer on Tuesdays or Thursdays, as well.

Find Your Place!

If you'd like to find a place to plug-in at Greenwood Forest, you'll want to connect to our nominating committee. To begin, fill out the form at fbccary.org/place24 to tell members of the committee about your interests and they'll reach out to you soon!

Backpack Buddies

During the 2023-2024 school year, the Backpack Buddy ministry delivered over 3,000 food bags to children at Farmington Woods and Briarcliff Elementary Schools. Thank you to all who packed and delivered bags, and who donated to the Backpack Buddy special fund. Your support makes this ministry possible.

We urgently need your double-bagged, flat stacked plastic grocery bags to replenish our supply for the coming school year. We use over 3,000 bags each school year and at the end of this year have only several hundred remaining. Donations can be placed in the Backpack Buddy bin outside the church office.

We also welcome recurring donors to the fund that supplies Backpack Buddies! If you'd like to make a recurring gift, you can do so on the church website and select the Backpack Buddies fund from the dropdown list.

Starting again in September, we will be packing bags the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. If you'd like to receive a reminder before each packing date email Judy Vaccaro at judyvaccaro@gmail.com. Packing usually takes about an hour and there is no commitment, just come on the dates that fit your schedule.

Thanks in advance for your continued support of this important ministry.

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)
Carlton Prince (father of Megan Jarrell)
Fred Seeger
Paul Smith
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)
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:

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 | *Hello, My Old Heart* | *The Oh Hellos* (pg. 12)

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 145:8-14) 📖

The LORD is gracious and merciful,

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all,

And God's compassion is over all that God has made.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,

And all your faithful shall bless you.

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,

And tell of your power,

To make known to all people your mighty deeds,

And the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

And your dominion endures throughout all generations.

You are faithful in all your words,

And gracious in all your deeds.

You uphold all who are falling,

And raise up all who are bowed down.

Invocation | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

✝ **Hymn** | *And Can It Be* (vv. 1 and 4; pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | *Steve Denning*

Offertory | *Bist du bei mir* | *Bach* 📖

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. Dr. Stephen Stacks* 📖

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** | *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (pg. 9)*

Reading | *1 John 4:7-21* | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Amazing Grace (pg. 13)*

Sermon | *What's Love Got to Do With It?* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire (pg. 11)* 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *An Appalachian Hymn* | *arr. Phillips*

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!

And Can It Be

1. And can it be that I should gain an interest
2. He left His Father's throne above (so free, so
3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in
4. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and

in the Saviour's blood? Died He for me, who caused His
in - fi - nite His grace), emp - tied Him - self of all but
sin and na - ture's night; Thine eye dif - fused a quick - ening
all in Him, is mine! A - live in Him, my liv - ing

pain? For me, who Him to death pur - sued? A - maz - ing
love, and bled for Ad - am's help - less race; 'tis mer - cy
ray; I woke, the dun - geon flamed with light. My chains fell
Head, and clothed in righ - teous - ness di - vine, bold I ap -

love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst
 all, im - mense and free; for, O my God, it
 off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and
 proach th'e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through

die for me?
 reach - es me! A - maz - ing love! How can it
 fol - lowed Thee. A - maz - ing love! How
 Christ my own.

be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!
 can it be that Thou, my God,

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

11 Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire

Unison

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the
2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits

gift to all inspire, and have not love,
so my love profess, but not be given
long to be made whole. Let inward love

my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

Prelude Hello My Old Heart

The Oh Hellos | Catherine Glasgow, vocals; Sean Glasgow, percussion

Hello, my old heart
How have you been?
Are you still there inside my chest?
I've been so worried, you've been so still
Barely beating at all

*Oh, don't leave me here alone
Don't tell me that we've grown
For having loved a little while
Oh, I don't wanna be alone
I wanna find a home
And I wanna share it with you*

Hello, my old heart
It's been so long
Since I've given you away
And every day, I add another stone
To the walls I built around you
To keep you safe

Hello, my old heart
How have you been?
How is it being locked away?
Well, don't you worry,
'cause in there, you're safe
And it's true, you'll never beat
But you'll never break

Oh, and nothing lasts forever
Some things aren't meant to be
But you'll never find the answers
Until you set your old heart free

Anthem Amazing Grace

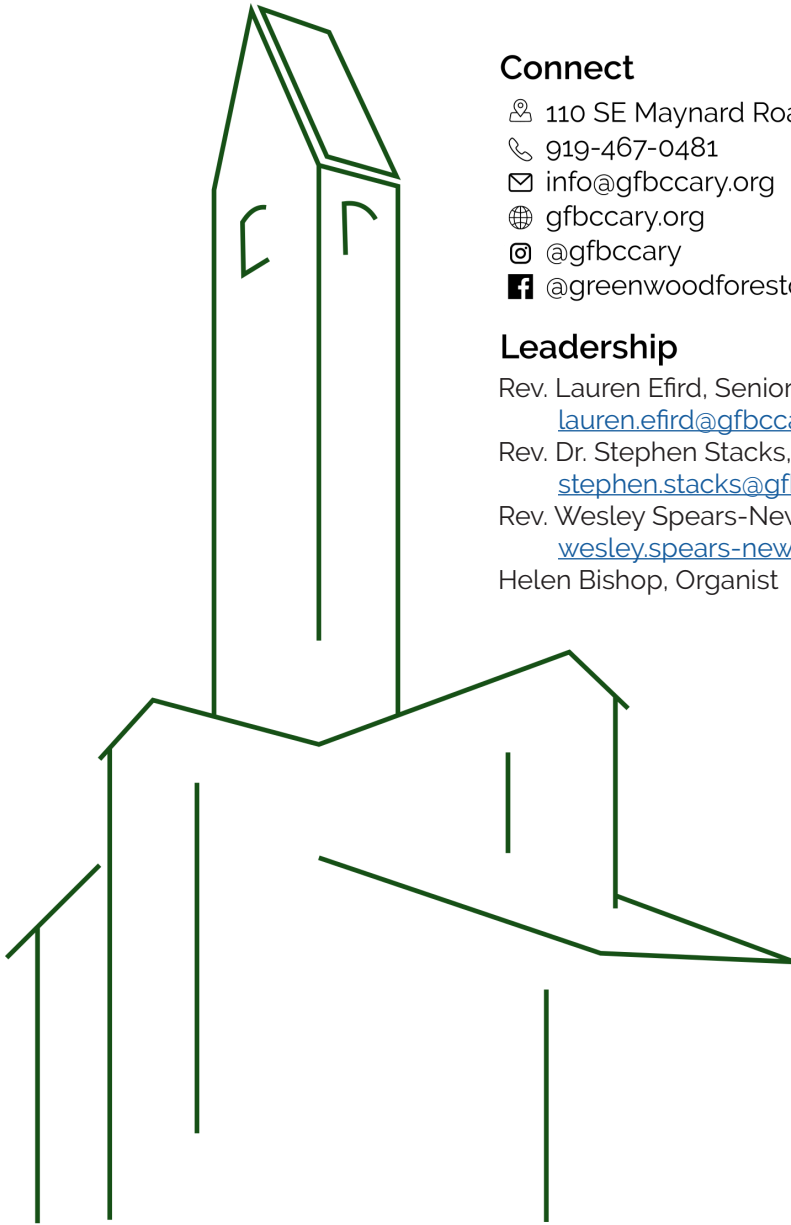
arr. Will Todd

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.



Connect

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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