

"Care and affirmation, the opposite of abuse
and humiliation, are the foundation of love."
- bell hooks



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

June 23, 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.

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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)



[@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

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 (through 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 | *When a Prophet Sings of Justice* | arr. Georg Bohm

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 82) 📖

God presides over the divine council;

And in the midst of the gods, holds judgment:

"How long will you judge unjustly

And show partiality to the wicked?

Give justice to the weak and the orphan!

Maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute!

Rescue the weak and the needy!

Deliver them from the hand of the wicked!"

Rise up, O God, judge the earth;

For all the nations belong to you!

Invocation | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

† **Hymn** | *God is Here!* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Natalie Patten

Offertory | *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* | arr. Glenda Austin 📖

† **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 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.

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** | *O For a World* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Matthew 18:2-5* | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *My Soul is a River* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Childhood Love Lessons* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *For Everyone Born* (vv. 1, 2, and 5; pg. 9) 

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* | *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!

God is Here!

1. God is here! As we Your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2. Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3. Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4. Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure what it
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, wa - ter, pul - pit; here the
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus -
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the Gos - pel; help us

is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -
 cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es - ty of
 tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants of the
 work Your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -

round us, all our var - ied skills and arts wait the
 preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech, here, in
 Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore what it
 ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive; we, who

com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 can - not live with - out You, we a - dore You! We be - lieve!

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
 4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
 where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
 that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
 where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

O For a World

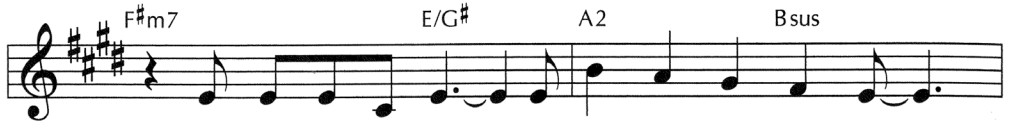
For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For gay and for straight, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 A co - ve - nant shared, a wel - com - ing space,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 a rain - bow of race and gen - der and co - lor,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for gay and for straight, the cha - lice of grace,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and
 joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,
 God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
 jus-tice and joy!

Anthem My Soul is a River

Ben Allaway

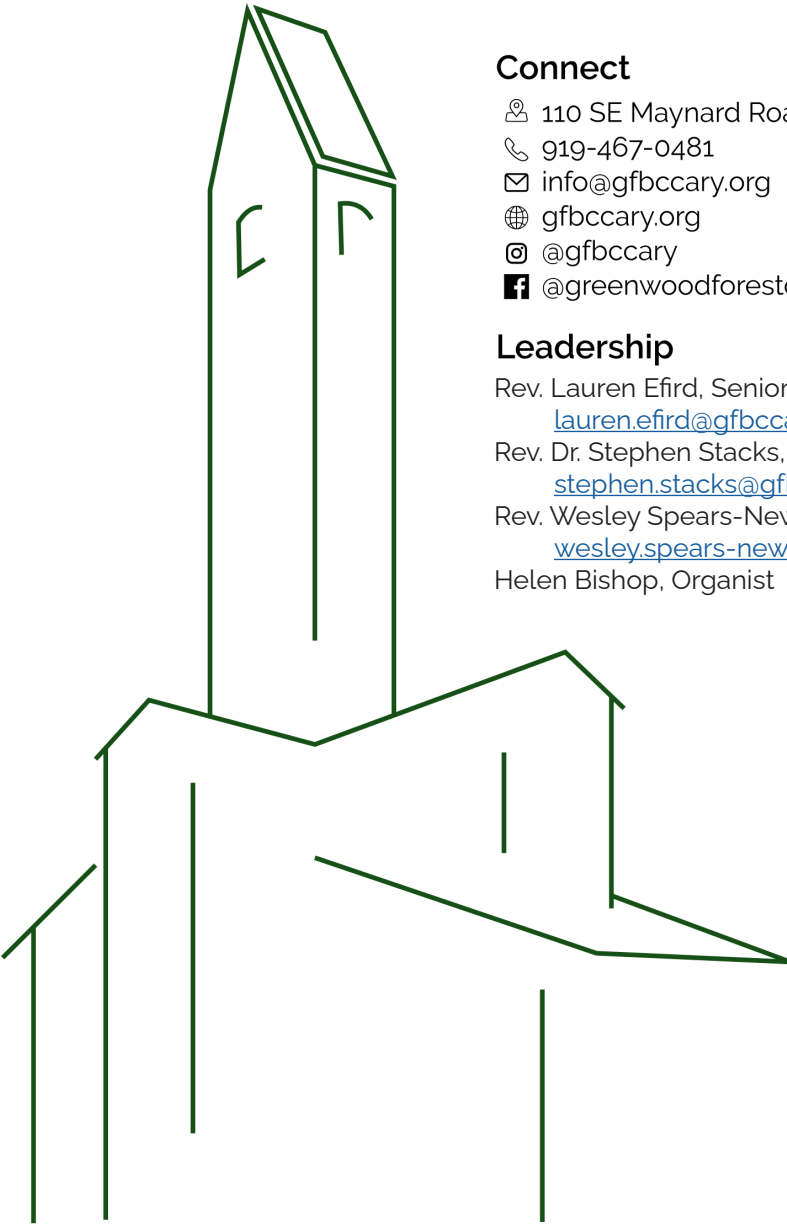
My soul is a river windin' through a weary land.

"Let justice roll, roll down like waters, righteousness like a mighty stream"

Washin' o'er a thirsty land.

My soul is a river, your soul is a river,

Join up down the river, fill a mighty ocean with peace.



Connect

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Leadership

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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