

"To be loving we willingly hear each other's truth and, most important, we affirm the value of truth telling. Lies may make people feel better, but they do not help them to know love."

- bell hooks



Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

June 30, 2024





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

GFBC Heads to Tucson

Pray for your fellow church members as they head to Tucson, Arizona this week to be immersed in and learn more about the experience of migrants. The group will meet with organizations that help migrants, undergo simulations to understand the migrant experience, walk the paths of migrants in the desert, travel to the Southern border, and gather at the birthplace of the Sanctuary Movement. Pray that this will be a transformative experience for everyone involved and be sure to come back next Sunday to hear testimonies and reflections about the trip!

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
The Family of Mack Thorpe at his death
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.

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 | *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* | arr. Mendoza

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 87) 📖

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;

Give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

And I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your steadfast love toward me;

You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, the insolent rise up against me;

A band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant;

Save the child of your serving girl.

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,

because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Invocation | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

✝ **Hymn** | *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Ken Scott

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.

Offertory | *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts* | arr. Nielson 📖

† **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** | *In an Age of Twisted Values* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Ephesians 4:14-32* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Lift Thine Eyes* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Be True to Love* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *In dir ist Freud* | arr. Maynard

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.

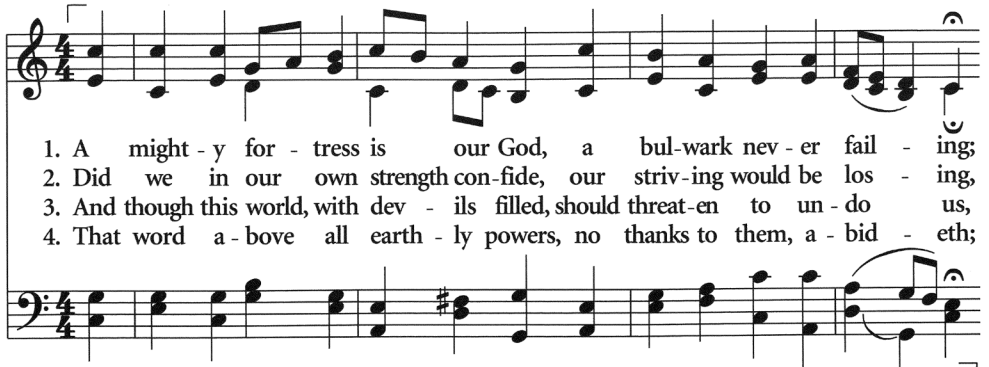
The Prayers of the People

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.

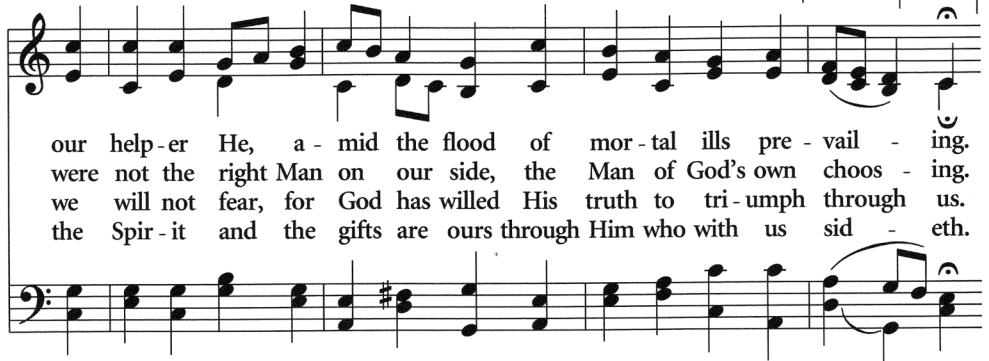
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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!

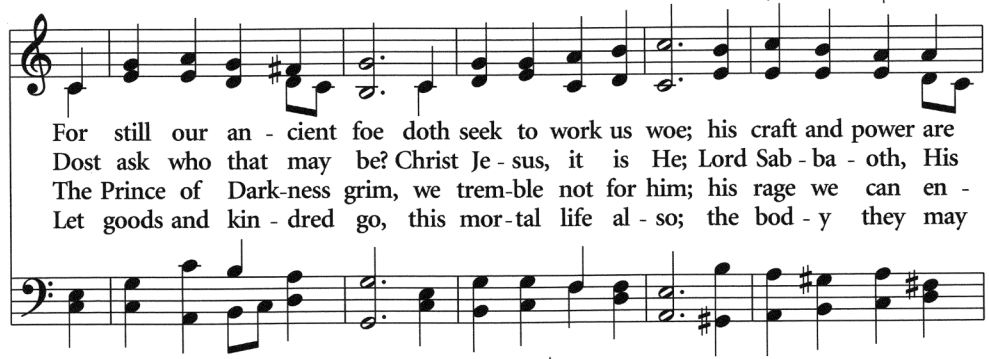
A Mighty Fortress is Our God



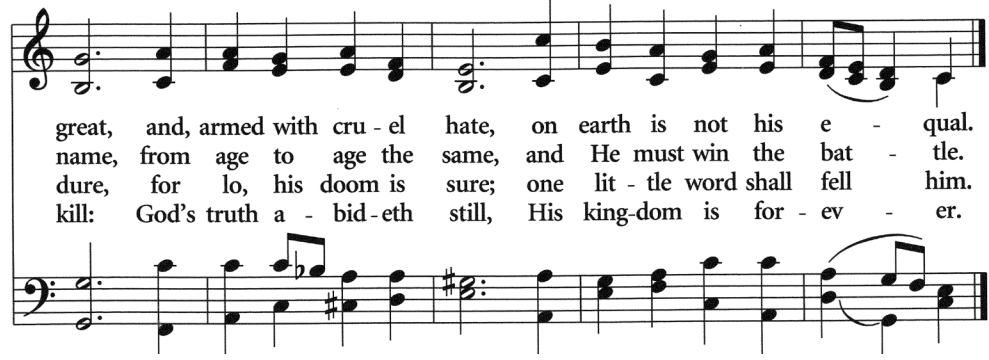
1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los - ing,
3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat-en to un - do us,
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



our help-er He, a - mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre - vail - ing.
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choos - ing.
we will not fear, for God has willed His truth to tri-umph through us.
the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sid - eth.



For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sab - ba - oth, His
The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we trem-ble not for him; his rage we can en -
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor-tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
name, from age to age the same, and He must win the bat - tle.
dure, for lo, his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.
kill: God's truth a - bid-eth still, His king-dom is for - ev - er.

In an Age of Twisted Values



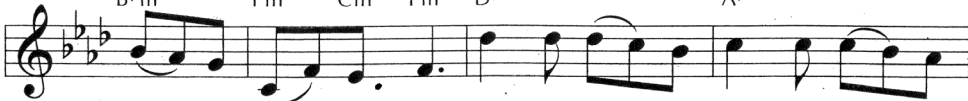
1 In an age of twist - ed val - ues we have lost the
 2 We have built dis - crim - i - na - tion on our prej - u -
 3 When our fam - i - lies are bro - ken, when our homes are
 4 We who hear your word so of - ten choose so rare - ly

(Em) (A) (B7) (Em) (Bm) (Em) (D) (G)
 Fm B^b C7 Fm Cm Fm E^b A^b



truth we need. In so - phis - ti - cat - ed lan - guage we have
 dice and fear. Ha - tred swift - ly turns to cruel - ty if we
 full of strife, when our chil - dren are be - wil - dered, when they
 to o - bey. Turn us from our will - ful wan - dering; give us

(Am) (Em) (Bm) (Em) (C) (G)
 B^bm Fm Cm Fm D^b A^b



jus - ti - fied our greed. By our strug - gle for pos - ses - sions
 hold re - sent - ments dear. For com - mu - ni - ties di - vid - ed
 lose their way in life, when we fail to give the a - ged
 truth to light our way. In the pow - er of your Spir - it

(D) (Am) (Em) (B7) (Em) (Bm)
 E^b B^bm Fm C7 Fm Cm



we have robbed the poor and weak. Hear our cry and
 by the walls of class and race, hear our cry and
 all the care we know they need, hear our cry and
 come to cleanse us, make us new; hear our cry and

(Em) (D) (G) (Am) (Em) (Bm) (Em)
 Fm E^b A^b B^bm Fm Cm Fm



heal our na - tion; your for - give - ness, Lord, we seek.
 heal our na - tion; show us, Lord, your love and grace.
 heal our na - tion; help us show more love, we plead.
 heal our na - tion till our na - tion hon - ors you.

Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me

Unison

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, dwell with me, I would gra - cious be;
2. Truth - ful Spir - it, dwell with me, I would truth - ful be;
3. Ho - ly Spir - it, dwell with me, I would ho - ly be;
4. Might - y Spir - it, dwell with me, I would might - y be;

help me now Thy grace to see, I would be like Thee;
help me now Thy truth to see, I would be like Thee;
show Thy mer - cy ten - der - ly, make me more like Thee;
help me now Thy power to see, I would be like Thee;

and, with words that help and heal, Thy life would mine re - veal;
and, with wis - dom kind and clear, Thy life in mine ap - pear;
sep - a - rate from sin I would and cher - ish all things good,
'gainst all weap - ons hell can wield, be Thou my strength and shield;

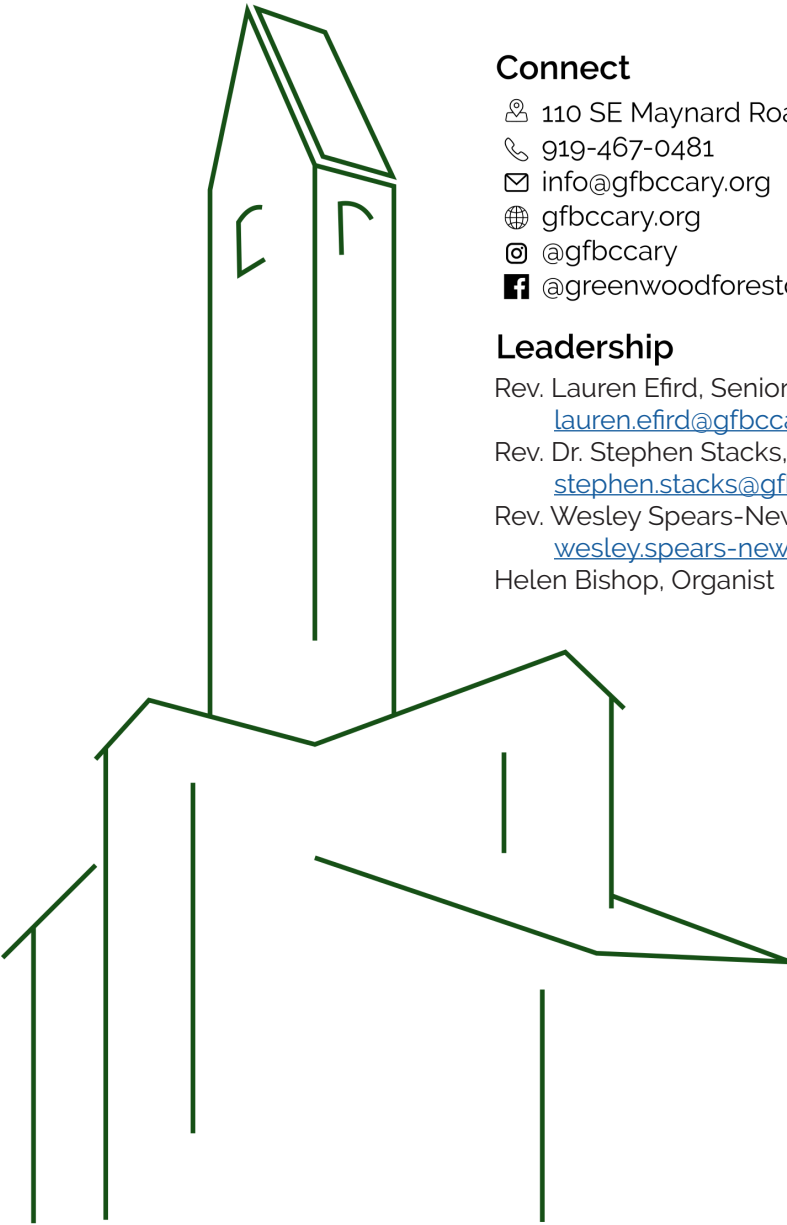
and, with ac - tions bold and meek, for Christ my Sav - ior speak.
and, with ac - tions, lov - ing - ly, speak Christ's sin - cer - i - ty.
and what - ev - er I can be give Him who gave me Thee.
let Thy word my weap - on be, Lord, Thine the vic - to - ry.

Anthem Lift Thine Eyes

Felix Mendelssohn

Sung by: Helen Bishop, Catherine Glasgow, Leanne Glasgow, Hannah Meador, Susan Meador, and Julianne Rejesus

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes, to the mountains,
Whence cometh help.
Thy help cometh from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
He hath said, "Thy foot shall not be moved.
Thy keeper will never slumber."



Connect

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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