

“To love well is the task of all meaningful relationships.”
- bell hooks



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

July 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.

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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

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 gfbccary.org/place24 to tell members of the committee about your interests and they'll reach out to you soon!

Dorcas Food Drive

This is the third week of the Christmas in July Food Drive for Dorcas Ministries is this week! This Sunday bring shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, baby wipes, and feminine products.

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 gfbccary.org/summer. We are scheduled to provide volunteers on Wednesdays (9am-12:30pm), but you may volunteer on Tuesdays or Thursdays, as well.

Business Meeting 8/18

Our annual business meeting in which we will vote on the 2024-2025 nominating slate and budget will be on August 18 at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. Make sure to mark your calendars and join us!

Rev. Spears-Newsome Sabbatical

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome will be going on sabbatical starting August 4 and returning to worship on November 3! Thank Wes for all that he does and wish him the best on this time of rest and renewal.

Invitation to Nell Allen's 90th Birthday

We would like to invite everyone to a 90th Birthday Celebration for Nell Allen. We will have a potluck lunch on Saturday, July 27th from 11am-1pm in the Fellowship Hall at GFBC. In lieu of gifts, please bring a dish or dessert to share. We hope that many of you can come and join us in this momentous occasion!

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
Doris Martin
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)
Jennie Pegram
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.

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

Welcome to Worship | *Rev. Lauren Efirid*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 133) 📖

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head,

Running down upon the beard,

On the beard of Aaron,

Running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon,

which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained the blessing:

Life forevermore.

Invocation | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

† **Hymn** | *We Are Called to Be God's People (pg. 7)*

Offertory Prayer | *Sally Shaver*

Offertory 📖

† **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.

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. 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** | *Blest Be the Tie* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Matthew 12:46-50* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Home at Last* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Loving Communion* | *Rev. Efir*

† **Hymn** | *Who is My Mother* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efir*

Postlude

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.

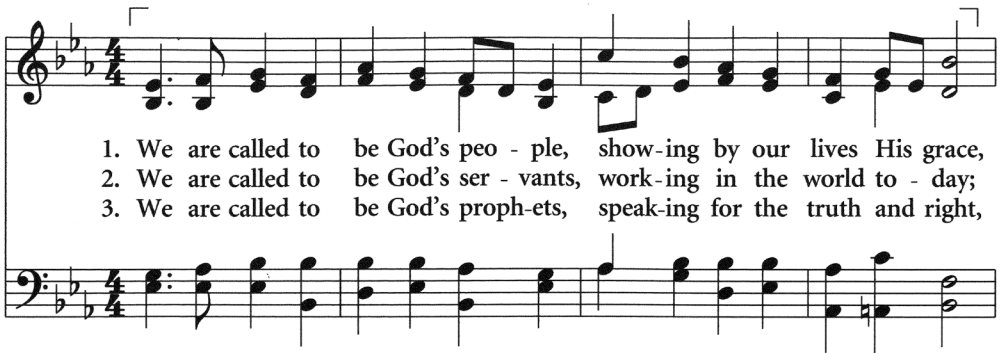
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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!

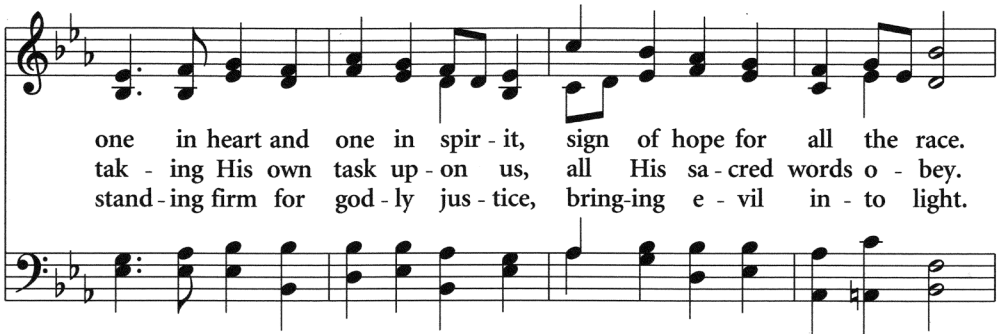
Thank You!

Thank you to Addie Smith for providing service music and hymns for this Sunday's service.

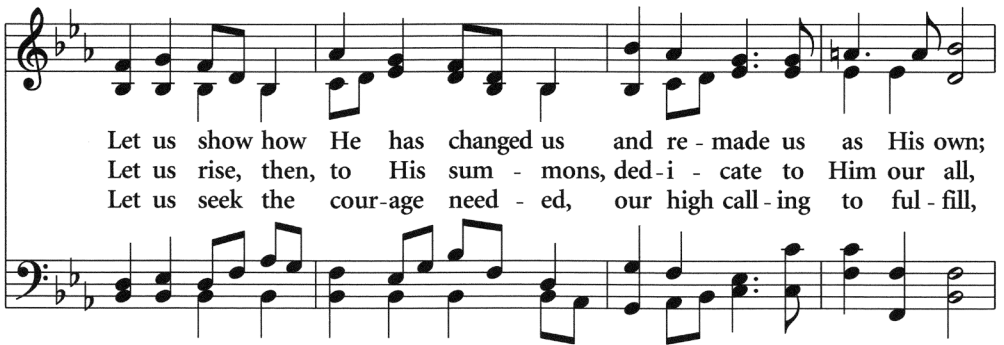
■ We Are Called to Be God's People



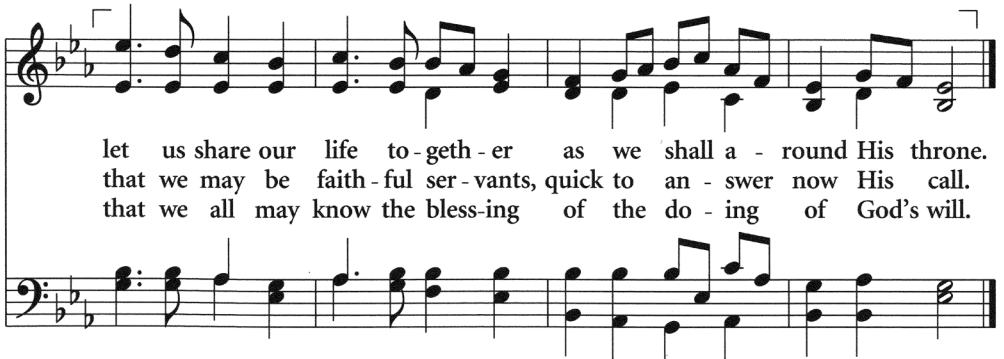
1. We are called to be God's peo - ple, show-ing by our lives His grace,
2. We are called to be God's ser - vants, work-ing in the world to - day;
3. We are called to be God's proph-ets, speak-ing for the truth and right,



one in heart and one in spir - it, sign of hope for all the race.
tak - ing His own task up - on us, all His sa - cred words o - bey.
stand - ing firm for god - ly jus - tice, bring - ing e - vil in - to light.



Let us show how He has changed us and re - made us as His own;
Let us rise, then, to His sum - mons, ded - i - cate to Him our all,
Let us seek the cour-age need - ed, our high call - ing to ful - fill,



let us share our life to - geth - er as we shall a - round His throne.
that we may be faith - ful ser - vants, quick to an - swer now His call.
that we all may know the bless - ing of the do - ing of God's will.

Blest Be the Tie

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3. We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear;
4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us in - ward pain;

the fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the two systems.

Who is My Mother

Unison

1. Who is my moth - er, who is my broth - er?
2. Dif - ferent - ly a - bled, dif - ferent - ly la - beled
3. Love will re - late us — col - or or sta - tus
4. Bound by one vi - sion, met for one mis - sion

All those who gath - er round Je - sus Christ:
wid - en the cir - cle round Je - sus Christ:
can't seg - re - gate us, round Je - sus Christ:
we claim each oth - er, round Je - sus Christ:

Spir - it - blown peo - ple born from the Gos - pel
crutch - es and stig - mas, cul - tures' en - ig - mas
fam - i - ly fail - ings, hu - man de - rail - ings —
here is my moth - er, here is my broth - er,

sit at the ta - ble, round Je - sus Christ.
all come to - geth - er round Je - sus Christ.
all are ac - cept - ed, round Je - sus Christ.
kin - dred in Spir - it, through Je - sus Christ.

Anthem Home at Last

Josh Garrels

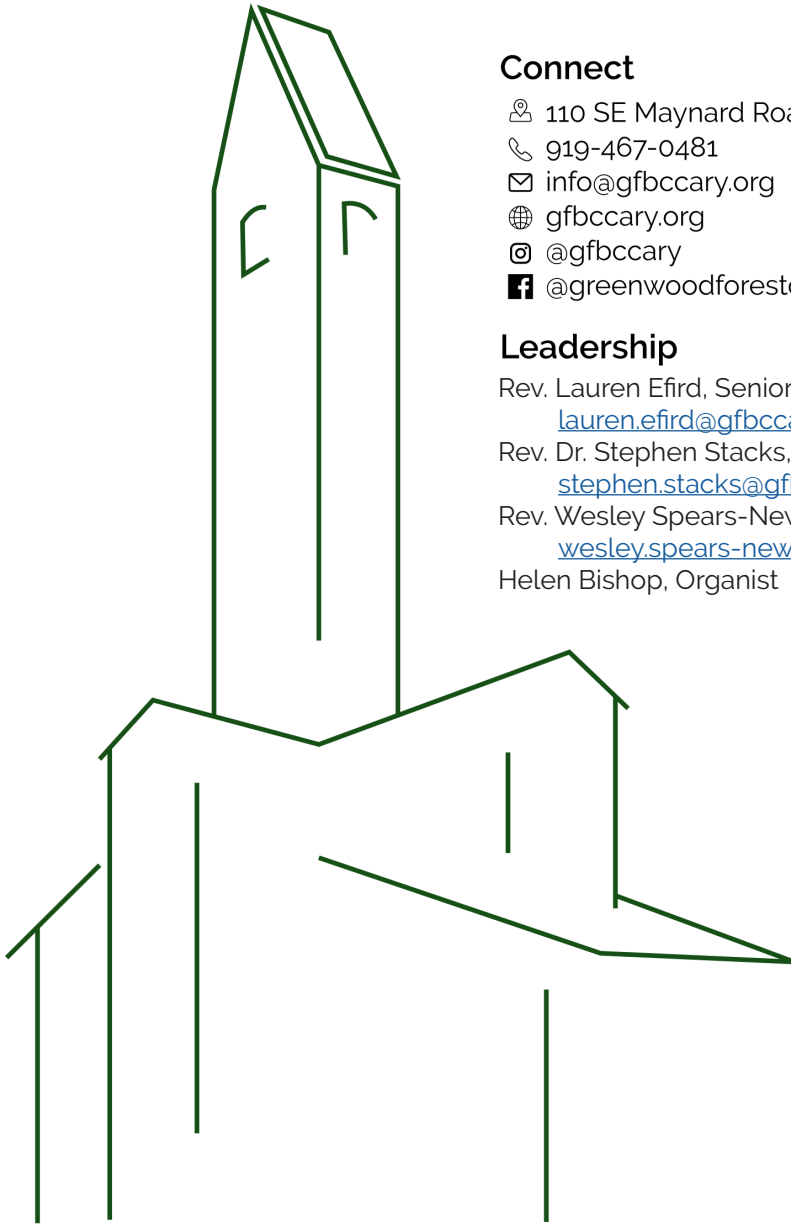
Who is there at the end of lonesome roads?
All of us hope there's a home

A place to rest where wounds get dressed, the table's full
The sound of laughter in the halls

Light the fire, gather 'round
Join together, sing it loud
Raise the glass and joyful be
Home at last, one family

We're all orphans looking for an open door
Hard times come no more

Come on up to the house of the Lord
Our God adopts us all



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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

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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