

“Love will not prevail in any situation where one party wants to maintain control.”  
- bell hooks



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

July 28, 2024



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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)



[greenwoodforestcary](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)



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

# Announcements Church Events and Updates

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## 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](https://fbccary.org/place24) to tell members of the committee about your interests and they'll reach out to you soon!

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

## Wonder Room Open House

If your child is entering Kindergarten or would like to start coming to our K-5 Faith Formation time, Sunday, August 4 would be a great time to join us! The Children's Ministry Team is hosting an open house for new families at 9:45am and would love to see you there. Donuts will be provided!

## 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!

There will be an informational meeting during the Faith Formation hour (9:45am) on August 11 in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and pastries will be available!

## Rev. Spears-Newsome Sabbatical

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

## Dorcas Food Drive

This is the final week of the Christmas in July Food Drive for Dorcas Ministries is this week! This Sunday bring snacks, peanut butter, and jelly.

## ONE Wake Petition Drive for Housing

ONE Wake is collecting signatures for a petition supporting at-scale affordable home ownership in Wake County to be delivered to candidates for County Commissioner seats this fall. ONE Wake is working with Nehemiah Housing, a partner organizing group based in East Brooklyn, NY to build over 2,000 units of affordable homeownership and affordable rental units in Wake County. You can find out more at [onewake.org/nehemiah](https://onewake.org/nehemiah). GFBC members will be in the back of the sanctuary for the next few weeks collecting signatures for this important initiative. As the rest of our ONE Wake institutions come alongside GFBC in the next several months to build our housing project, we'll need to return our support to this effort! Visit the ONE Wake website for more information or you can talk directly with Tim Carr or any member of the ONE Wake team at GFBC.

# Community Notes Prayer Requests and Giving

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## 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](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.



# 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 Love Thee* | arr. Waller

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (Enfleshed)** 📖

When the way is difficult and dangerous,  
**let us still choose what is good and just.**

When evil comes to break us down and break us apart,  
**let us still choose to carry on with each other.**

When power from on high strikes fear in our hearts,  
**let us still choose the courage to persist.**

For we know that the love and power of God, which  
abides in us, will not be overcome.

**Let us worship God!**

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

† **Hymn** | *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound* (pg. 7)

**Offertory Prayer** | Andy Jarrell

**Offertory** | "Acclamation" from Gospel Mass | Robert Ray 📖

† **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. 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** | *The Servant Song* (pg. 8)


**Reading** | *Romans 12:10-20* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | *Prayer of St. Francis* (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | *The Heart of Love* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Where Charity and Love Prevail* (pg. 9) 

**Sabbatical Blessing** | *Andy Jarrell*

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude** | *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* | *arr. James Pethel*

**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!

# The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/2. The first system contains four numbered verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

1. The church of Christ can - not be bound by walls of wood or stone.  
2. True faith will o - pen up the door and step in - to the street.  
3. True love will not sit i - dly by when jus - tice is de - nied.  
4. If what we have, we free - ly share to meet our neigh - bor's need,

Where char - i - ty and love are found, there can the church be known.  
True ser - vice will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.  
True mer - cy hears the home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.  
then we ex - tend the Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.



# The Servant Song

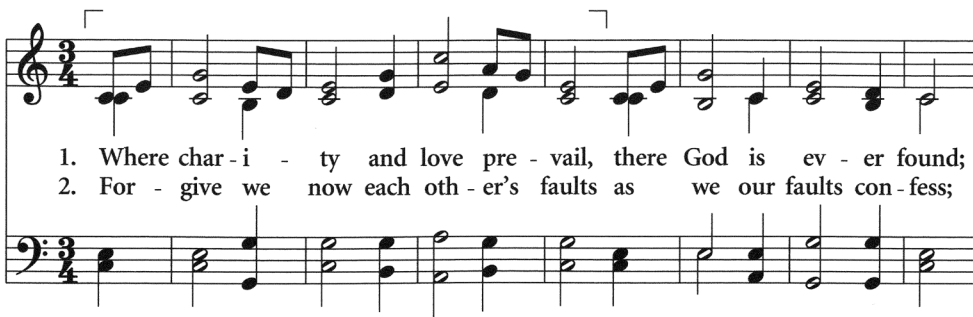
Unison

1. Will you let me be your ser - vant,  
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney,  
3. I will hold the Christ - light for you  
4. I will weep when you are weep - ing,  
5. When we sing to God in heav - en,

let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I might  
here to - geth - er on the road; we are here to  
in the night - time of your fear; I will hold my  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you; I will share your  
we shall find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've

have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.  
help each oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.  
hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

# Where Charity and Love Prevail



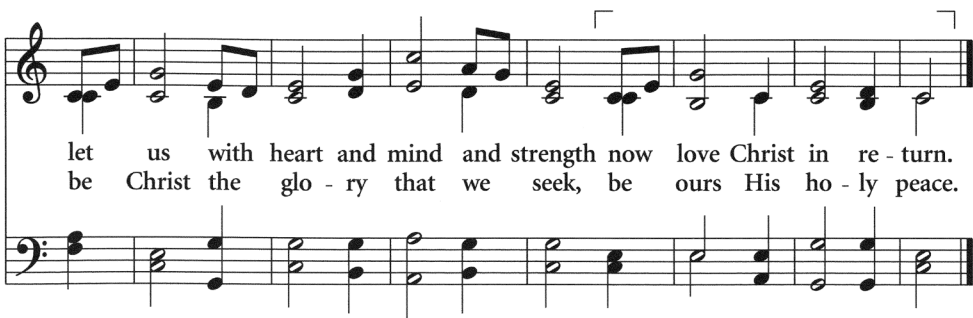
1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2. For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.  
and let us love each oth - er well in Chris - tian ho - li - ness.



With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear true char - i - ty we learn;  
Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let all con - ten - tion cease;



let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in re - turn.  
be Christ the glo - ry that we seek, be ours His ho - ly peace.

# **Offertory** "Acclamation" from *Gospel Mass*

Robert Ray

Hallelujah; praise the Lord.  
Hallelujah; praise the Lord.  
Hallelujah! Let us praise the Lord.

Praise him with stringed instruments.  
Praise him with dance.  
Praise him on the psaltery and harp.  
Everything that has breath ought to praise him

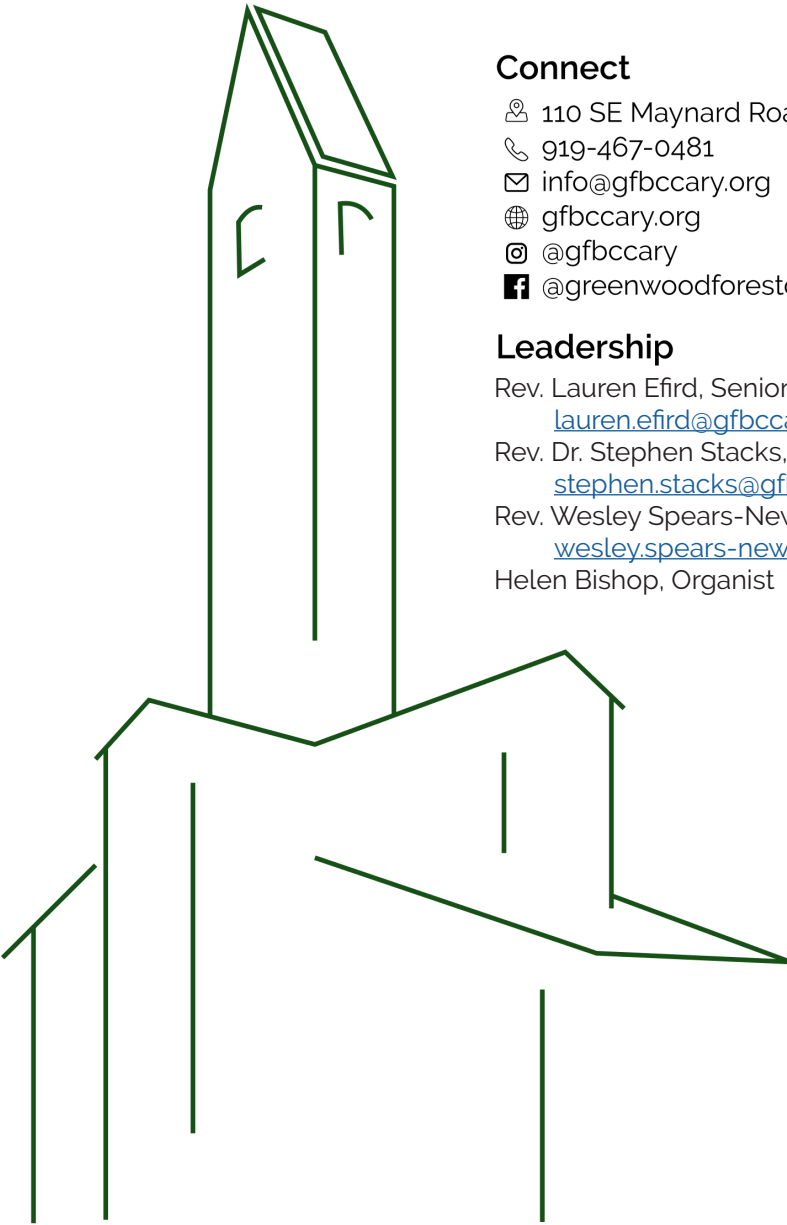
# **Anthem** Prayer of St. Francis

Allen Pote

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



## Connect

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📷 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

[stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org](mailto:stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

[wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org)

Helen Bishop, Organist

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