



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

January 19, 2025



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Bulletin Art

"St. John the Baptist" by Auguste Rodin, cast in bronze; housed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)

This early bronze betrays the raw physical and emotional intensity that set Rodin's work apart from conventional sculpture of his era. The saint's gouged eyes, sunken cheeks, and tousled locks convey the spiritual ferocity with which he announces Christ's coming. A painted plaster version of the bust (which Rodin derived from his over-life-size, full-length figure Saint John the Baptist Preaching of 1878) was first exhibited as an independent work in the Paris Salon of 1879.

— Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)

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, citizenship statuses, 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.



Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell Preaching on January 19

We're welcoming back Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell to our pulpit this Sunday, January 19.

Rev. Dr. Boswell is a preacher, pastor, author, civil rights leader, and sought after public speaker. Rev. Dr. Boswell recently served as Senior Pastor at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. Before that, he served as Senior Pastor here at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church. He was also Pastor at Commonwealth Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA, and an Adjunct Professor of Political Theology and Ethics at the John Leland Center for Theological Studies. He was also the lone clergy member of the NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture; a citizen group that worked to expose NC's participation in the CIA's post-9/11 torture program.

Dr. Boswell has received numerous awards and honors for his work as a pastor and civil rights leader. In 2021 he was selected to be one of the Freedom Fete speakers at Trinity Episcopal School, and was awarded the prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. Medallion. The award is the city of Charlotte's highest honor, given to a person who promotes racial equality, social justice, and community service.

He is the author of "For the Facing of this Hour: Preaching that Resists White Christian Nationalism," and "Confronting Whiteness: A Spiritual Journey of Reflection, Conversation, and Transformation."

Organizing Bootcamp with ONE Wake

If you've been greatly disturbed by the outcome of elections and feel the need to do something about the world we're living in, getting trained as an organizer is a great place to start. ONE Wake is offering a two-hour training on how to be part of the organizing team at GFBC whether you're currently a part of it or interested in joining. It will take place on January 25 at 10am at Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (3703 Tryon Road). You can register (no cost) at onewake.org.

Teaching Series on the Lord's Prayer continues Jan. 12 in Fellowship Hall

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks will continue a three-week series on the Lord's Prayer. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am to explore the history, language, and usage of Christianity's most enduring prayer.

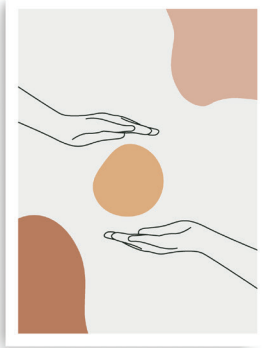
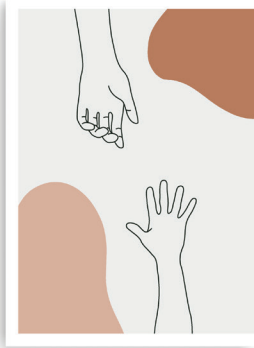
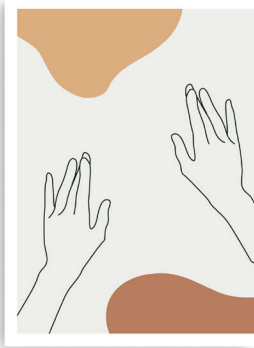
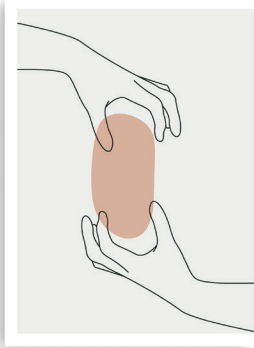
Ministry Monday (1/27)

We will have our quarterly committee meetings on January 27. Look out for details from your committee chair soon! We split into Group A and B, which begin at 6pm and 7pm respectively.

Group A (6pm): Outreach/Fellowship, Children, Properties, Discipleship, and Finance

Group B (7pm): Congregational Care, Personnel, and Youth

Community Notes | Prayer Requests and Giving



Prayer

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.

Jo Brooks
David Floyd
Barney Graham
Doris Martin
Jennie Pegram
Fred Seeger
Mathias Warne (family of Gail and Virgil Jones)
Kathleen Wicker
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: Immigration Justice

Since returning from our trip to Tucson, AZ and the US-Mexico Border, a group of GFBC members have been exploring what it needs to look like to honor migrant justice in our context. We've been learning and discussing issues together and determining what actions to take. With the transition in presidential administrations this month, these issues will only become more salient. You can join us by reaching out to Diana McGahan at ddmcgahan@gmail.com. The next meeting is February 18 at 7pm via video call.

Order of Worship | 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

✝ *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 | Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord! | Traditional Cameroon Song

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 146) 📖

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

We will sing praises to our God all our life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,

In mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

On that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

Whose hope is in the Lord their God,

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

Who keeps faith forever;

Who executes justice for the oppressed;

Who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;

God upholds the orphan and the widow.

The Lord will reign forever.

Praise the Lord!

Invocation | Rick Chappell

Today's color is **green**, representing spiritual growth.

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.

† **Hymn** | They'll Know We Are Christians (vv. 1-2; pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Blair Biser

Offertory | Brightest and Best | arr. Mark Hayes 📖

† **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. 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** | Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me (pg. 8)

Reading | Luke 3:1-20 | Rev. Efirid

The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | Every Time I Feel the Spirit (pg. 10)

Sermon | Holy and Unholy Concurrences | Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell

† **Hymn** | Break Every Chain (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | Rev. Dr. Boswell

Postlude | Break Every Chain (reprise)

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!

They'll Know We Are Christians

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

love. Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me

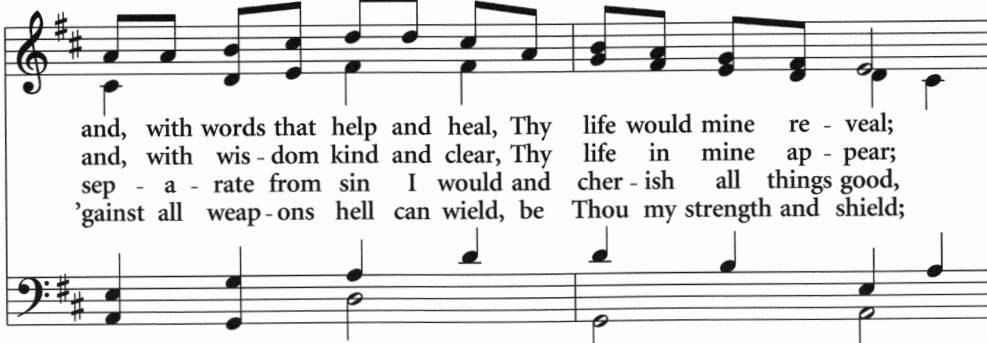
Unison



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.

Break Every Chain

*There is power in the name of Jesus
There is power in the name of Jesus
There is power in the name of Jesus
To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain*

All sufficient sacrifice,
So freely given, such a price
Bought our redemption, heaven's gates
Swing wide

There's a people rising up
There's a people rising up
There's a people rising up
To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain

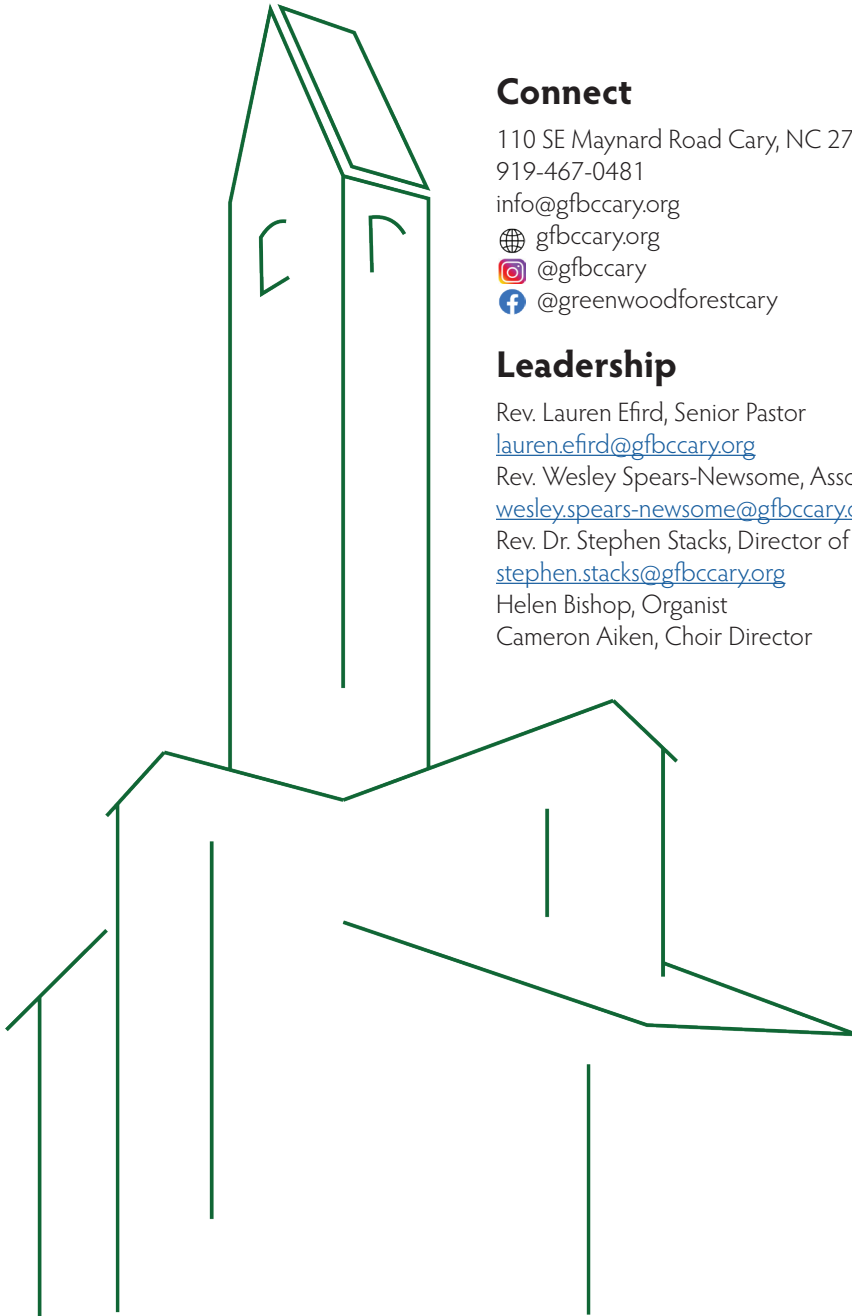
Anthem Every Time I Feel the Spirit

arr. William Dawson

*Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.*

Upon the mountain, my God spoke,
out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
All around me, it looked so fine,
I asked my Lord if all was mine.

Jordan River, chilly and cold,
it chills the body, but not the soul.
There ain't but one train on this track,
it runs to heaven and right back.



Connect

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Director of Liturgy & Formation

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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