



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

January 26, 2025



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art

Byzantine Bread Stamp (c. 500-900); housed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)

Stamps like this were used on communion bread in the Byzantine era. The inscription is a sequence of initials that would have conveyed the sentiment: "Jesus Christ Victorious."

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

Teaching Series Concludes

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks will conclude a three-week series on the Lord's Prayer 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!

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

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

Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, our worship services during February will feature music from Black composers and artists, as well as liturgical elements from the African American Heritage Hymnal. Here at GFBC, we celebrate Black History Month alongside our Black congregants and Black siblings everywhere as a way to honor Black stories, beauty, and contributions, but also as a way to signal our continued commitment to Black lives throughout the year. For us, Black History Month is not a way to absolve ourselves of the year-round and life-long work of anti-racism, but a moment to celebrate and to recommit ourselves to the gospel work of inclusivity in our worship and in our lives.

Guest Preachers:

February 9 - Rev. Dr. Mycal Brickhouse

February 16 - Dr. Rose Cornelius

February 23 - Dr. Latonya Penny

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Cary Housing Survey

The Town of Cary is looking for input on the future of housing in our town. Please consider giving your input to a survey at housing.carync.gov to support affordable housing development.

Gilles Bikindou Memorial Service

We will hold a memorial service for Gilles Bikindou on January 26 at 3pm in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to come and we've extended the invitation to his Congolese community in the Triangle, as well. You may also extend the invitation to anyone else in the community who may wish to attend.

We'll ask everyone who wants to do so to supply a note, memory, prayer, or other written offering to Gilles, which we will inter in lieu of a burial in the United States.

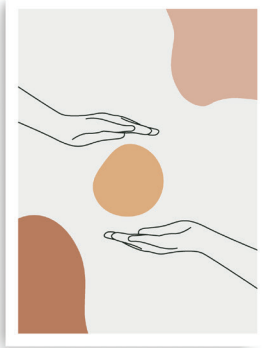
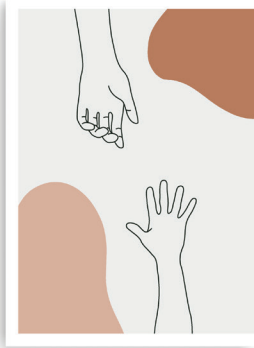
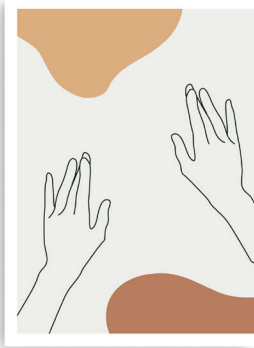
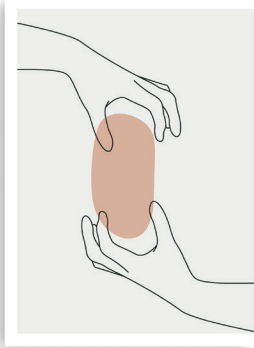
Discipleship Retreat

Make plans to join us for the 2025 Discipleship Retreat on March 7 through 9! This year will focus on the theme of Vocation in Daily Life as a pathway to deeper direction and spiritual growth in this time of uncertainty and anxiety. Register on Realm now! If you need help accessing Realm or registering, please contact Rev. Spears-Newsome.

Altar Flowers for 2025

If you would like to provide flowers (\$80) in honor or in memory of someone in 2025, please contact the church office.

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
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 | 3rd 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 | Come, Holy Spirit, Our Souls Inspire | arr. Healey Willan

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (based on Luke 4:18-19) 📖

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,

We are all God's anointed!

Anointed to bring good news to the poor.

To proclaim release to prisoners

And recovery of sight to the blind,

To liberate the oppressed,

To proclaim the year of jubilee.

Thanks be to God!

Invocation | Elizabeth Deters

✝ **Hymn** | They'll Know We Are Christians (vv. 3-4; pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Natalie Patten

Offertory | Blessed Jesus, at Your Word | arr. Walther 📖

✝ **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.

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 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 | In Christ There is No East or West (pg. 8)

Reading | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | One Bread (pg. 10)

Sermon | Rev. Efird

† Hymn | Let Us Build a House (pg. 9) 

Benediction | Rev. Efird

Postlude | Psalm 19 | arr. Cindy Berry

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.

In Christ There is No East or West

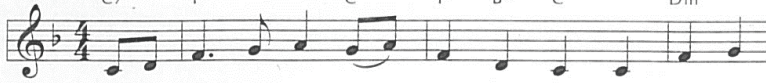
1. In Christ there is no East or West, in
2. In Him shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
4. In Christ now meet both East and West, in

Him no South or North; but one great fel - low -
high com - mun - ion find; His ser - vice is the
e'er your race may be; who serves my Fa - ther
Him meet South and North: all Christ-like souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord, close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
as His child is sure - ly kin to me.
one in Him through - out the whole wide earth.

Let Us Build a House

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm



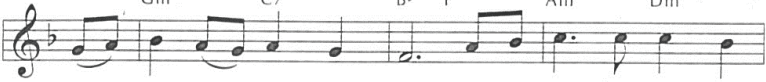
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa-ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be-yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe-ly live, a place where saints and chil-dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil-dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban-quet hall on ho-ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi-sions heard and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for-give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a-new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus-tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out-cast and the
 as words with-in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

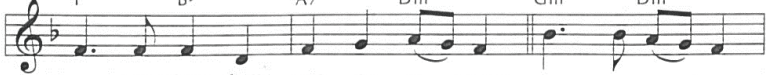
(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b



vi-sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit-ness and as sym-bol of God's grace; here as
 Je-sus, is re-vealed in time and space; as we
 strang-er bear the im-age of God's face; let us
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm



love of Christ shall end di-vi-sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je-sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel-come;
 bring an end to fear and dan-ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf-ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F (C7)



all are wel-come; all are wel-come in this place.

Anthem One Bread

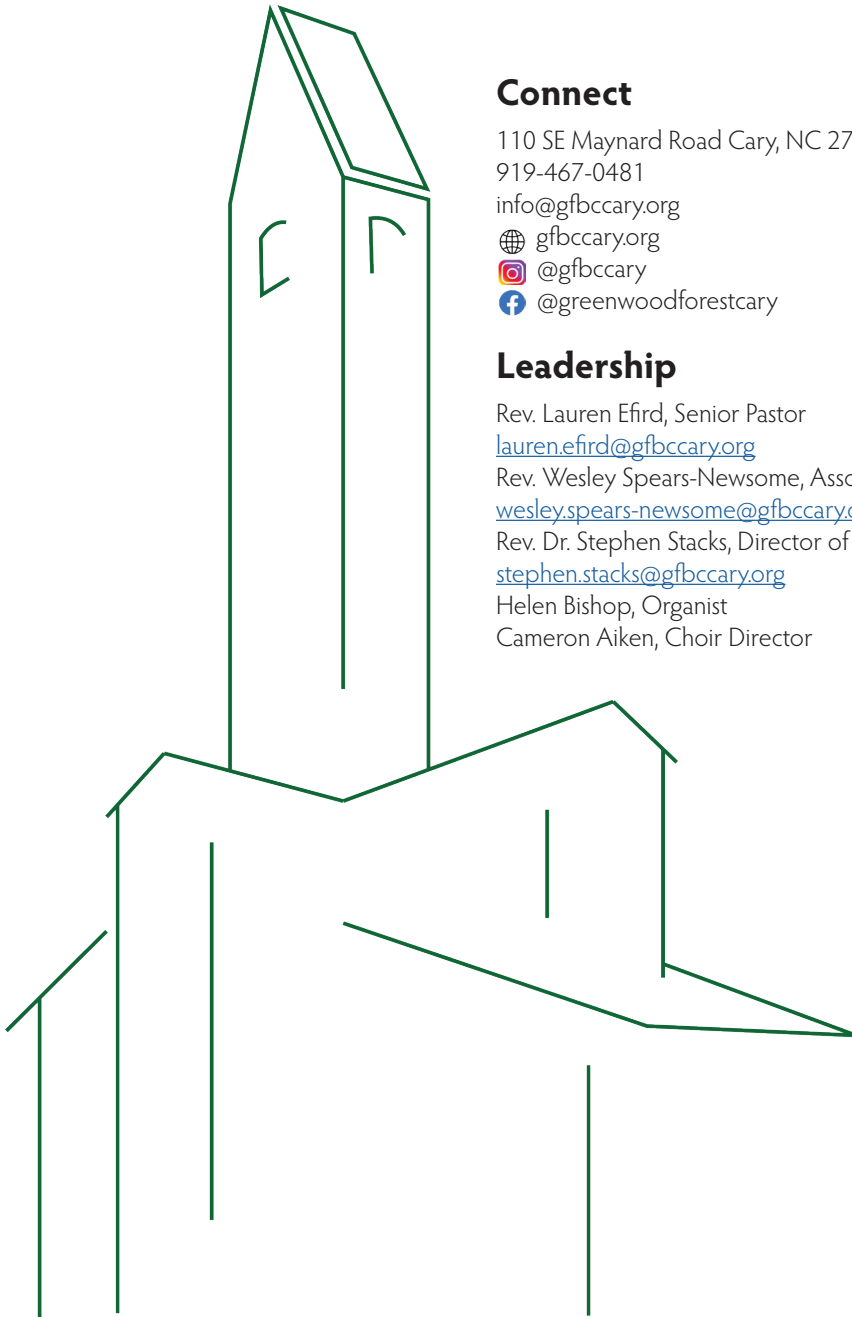
arr. Larson

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.



Connect

110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

919-467-0481

info@gfbccary.org

gfbccary.org

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

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

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

lauren.efird@gfbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

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

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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