

# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

February 2, 2025



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## **Bulletin Art**

Joe Lewis, "Signs – Señales, (2019) dye-sublimation and embroidery on linen

A passage composed of symbols on quilt squares stands between a freedman (or one fleeing slavery) and another still in bondage. Tradition says symbols like these were used on the underground railroad to communicate with those seeking freedom from the South. These symbols were taken to mean the following by the artist: Tumbling Blocks: Your escape will happening soon; Log Cabin: you've reached a safe house; Drunkard's Path: Slave Hunters are near; North Star: Look to the skies to help you navigate the way; Bow Ties: To disguise yourself as a freed slave – you'll need a change of clothes. You may recognize some of these symbols from the Advent/Christmas Santified Art series.

The underground railroad remains one of the most power and potent examples of resistance to tyranny in United States history.

# 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

## 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

## Online Immigration Workshop

The United Methodist Church is hosting a virtual workshop on Wednesday February 12 at 7:00-8:30pm on the state of immigration laws and enforcement and how they're affecting religious congregations, church members, and our broader community — including recent mass deportation efforts.

Visit [nccumc.org/hope](https://nccumc.org/hope) to register. The speaker will be Doug Thie, a partner with Clawson & Staubes, LLC, who practices exclusively immigration law.

## 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](https://housing.carync.gov) to support affordable housing development.

## 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.

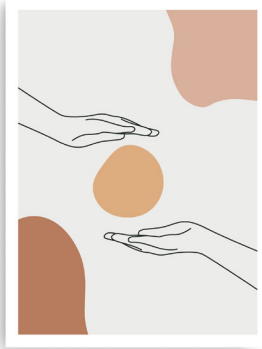
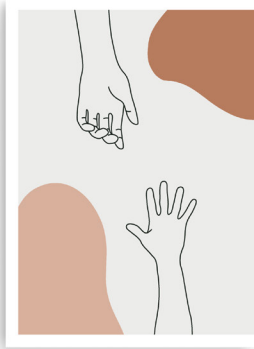
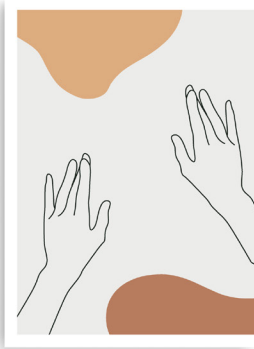
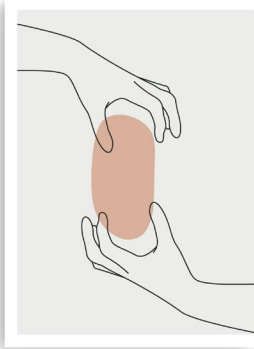
## Discipleship Retreat

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.

## Lord's Prayer Update

During our recent churchwide Faith Formation series on the Lord's Prayer, we've made some updates to our liturgy. First, you'll see an asterisk next to "Father" at the beginning indicating that you may say any title/name of God to begin the prayer. Second, there was broad consensus that "debts" rather than "transgressions" was a more faithful rendering of the prayer and better spoke to its intentions. Many English-speaking traditions already use this language. That is now reflected in the bulletin.

# 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.*

Helen Bishop  
Jo Brooks  
Lauren Efird (at the death of her grandmother)  
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](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.

## Monthly Ministry Highlight: Discipleship Ministry

Our Discipleship Ministry first and foremost consists of our Faith Formation teachers who lead classes and small groups. We also have churchwide Faith Formation sessions focused on specific topics, like the one recently conclude on the Lord's Prayer. In March, we are hosting our annual Discipleship Retreat at the church focused this year on Christian vocation in our daily lives. We hope you'll join us March 7-9 for these important reflections and conversations!

# Order of Worship | 4th 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** | In Thee, Lord, Have I Put My Trust | arr. J.C. Bach

**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 *Black Liturgies* by Cole Arthur Riley)** 📖

I was meant for love.

**God help me to receive it.**

I need more than me.

**We get free together.**

I am worthy of embrace.

**God, lead me to belonging.**

God, who exists in a multitude,

**Help us become a community of true belonging.**

**Invocation** | Al Whitehouse

✝ **Hymn** | Lift Every Voice and Sing (pg. 7, v. 1)

**Offertory Prayer** | Nathan Bullock

**Offertory** | Allegro from *Sonata in F* | Benedetto Marcello 📖

✝ **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** | Mary Whitehouse 📖

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

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 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 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

† Hymn | Just a Closer Walk With Thee (pg. 8)

Reading | Luke 4:21-30 | Rev. Efird

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem | Swing Low | arr. Moses Hogan

Swing low, sweet chariot,  
Coming for to carry me home,

I looked over Jordan and what did I see,  
A band of angels coming after me!

If you get there before I do,  
Tell all my friends I'm coming too!

Swing low,  
Father's gone,  
Mother's gone,  
Sister's gone,  
Brother's gone,  
Swing!

Sermon | Become Unacceptable | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Communion 

**Prayer of Confession:** Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be obedient disciples. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we've not loved our neighbors, and we've not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we've left undone, and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mystery of Faith:** Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

† Hymn | Let Us Break Bread Together (pg. 9) 

Benediction | Rev. Efird

Postlude | Touch the Earth Lightly | arr. Albert Mendoza

## 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.

\* = In the Lord's Prayer, you may say any name for God (e.g., Mother/Father/Parent).

## Communion

During Communion, we gather around the table as Christ showed us, to remember and give thanks. We have an open table—all who wish to take Communion are invited. We practice intinction, which means you receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. A gluten-free option is available on the altar.

## 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!



# Lift Every Voice and Sing

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en  
2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning  
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had  
tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning  
died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry  
way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in - to the

skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
feet Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?  
light, Keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee,

Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has  
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the  
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new  
 slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we  
 get Thee; Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for

day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

# Just a Closer Walk With Thee

1. I am weak but Thou art strong;  
2. Through this world of toil and snares,  
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er,

*Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with Thee,*

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. It features a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are numbered 1, 2, and 3, corresponding to different verses. The refrain is written in italics.

Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;  
If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?  
Time for me will be no more;

*Grant it, Je - sus, if You please?*

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are centered under the notes. The refrain is written in italics.

I'll be sat - is - fied as long  
Who with me my bur - den shares?  
Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er

*Dai - ly walk - ing close to Thee,*

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are centered under the notes. The refrain is written in italics.

As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.  
To Thy king - dom shore, to Thy shore.

*Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are centered under the notes. The refrain is written in italics.

# Let Us Break Bread Together

knees,

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees, on our

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

knees,

knees, Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees, on our

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

knees, When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

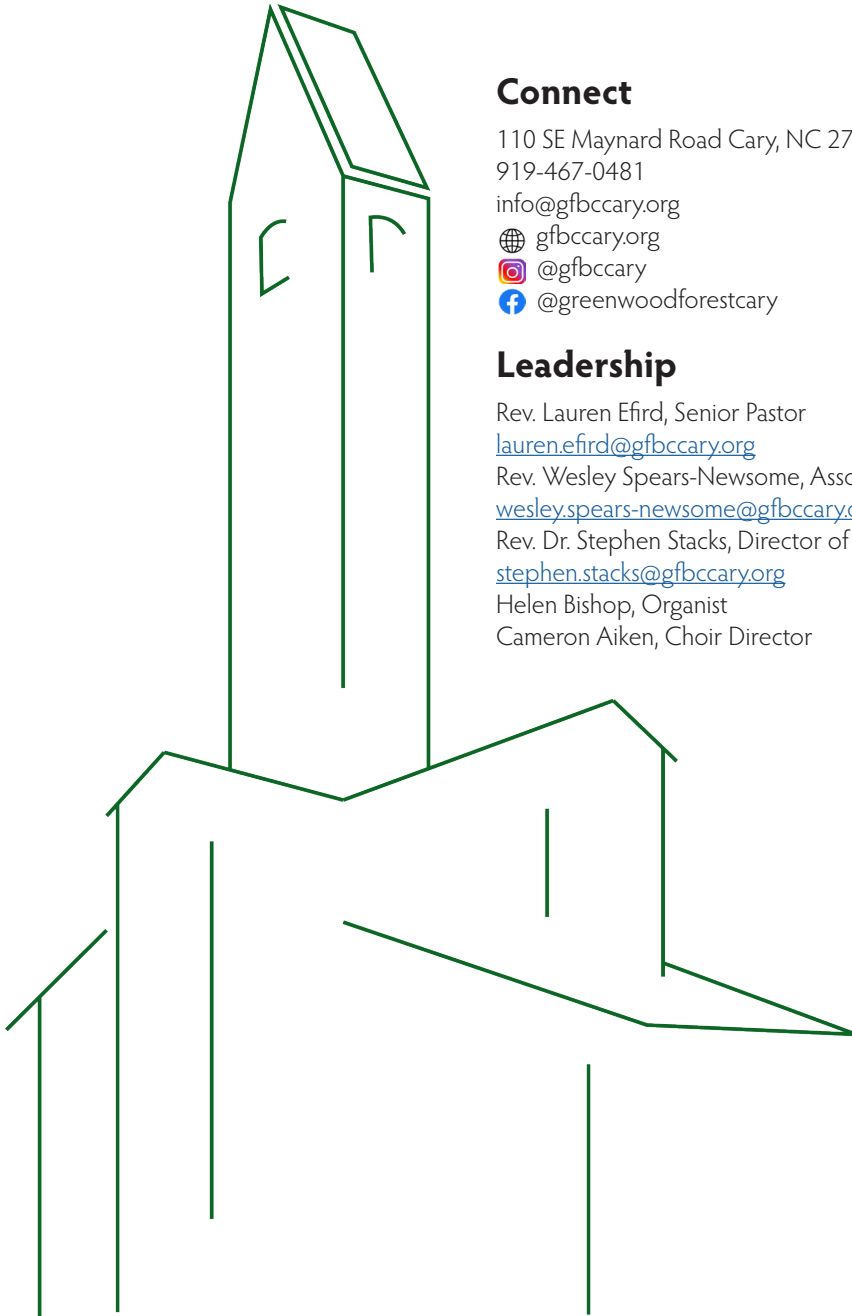
Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of music. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

me.

sun, O Lord have mer - cy on me, on me.

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth staves of music. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

- 2. Let us drink wine together...
- 3. Let us praise God together...



## Connect

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## Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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