



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

February 23, 2025



## Guest Preacher

### Dr. LaTonya Penny



Dr. LaTonya N. McIver Penny is a native of Leasburg, North Carolina and is the daughter of Tony and Phyllis McIver. After graduating from Person High School, she continued her education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree. Dr. Penny earned her Master of Arts Degree from East Carolina University and her Master of Divinity Degree from Wake Forest University. In 2019 she successfully defended her dissertation earning her Doctorate in Ministry from Campbell University.

Dr. Penny served as pastor of New Mount Zion Baptist Church in Roxboro, NC from 2014 until 2021. In 2021 she and her husband Charles Penny II, launched Belonging Fellowship, a virtual ministry committed to creating safe spaces of worship for all and a space where all can belong. Belonging Fellowship is committed to serving in communities wherever there is need.

Dr. Penny believes that all children are in the "imago Dei", the image of God, and should be treated with love, honor and respect. She is actively involved in many organizations pertaining to children with disabilities and the fair treatment of children. Dr. Penny founded her nonprofit Mary's Grace Incorporated, named after her maternal grandmother, Mary Stanfield, which creates programs and ministries of inclusion with persons with disabilities and their families, in churches and communities. She travels the country equipping churches, communities and schools with skills to include those with disabilities.

Dr. Penny is married to Charles W. Penny II who actively serves in ministry with her and they are the proud parents of miracle twins, Taylor and Hunter.

## Bulletin Art

Aaron Douglas, "The Judgment Day," (1939) oil or tempera on board

Originally from Kansas, artist Aaron Douglas relocated to Harlem in New York City to take part in the growing movement of Black art, literature, music, and thought now known as the Harlem Renaissance. He first started painting in the European traditions but his fellow artists encouraged him to look into traditional African art, technique, symbolism, and motifs. He went on to study in Paris and Haiti to develop his artistic voice and aesthetic.

In this work, "The Creation," we see the outstretched hand of the Divine reaching for humanity. This week's Scripture is from Jesus' "Sermon on the Plain," the equivalent of the "Sermon on the Mount" for Luke's Gospel. The sermon is about how we ought to live, how God created us to live. Consider how God made you to be: doing good, giving to others, showing mercy.

# 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, transcripts of the sermon, and large print bulletins are available at the back of the sanctuary.



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

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## 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 - Rev. Dr. Rose Cornelious  
February 23 - Dr. LaTonya Penny

## 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.

## Thank You

Thank you to Tom Koch for accompanying us in worship today while Helen Bishop is recovering!

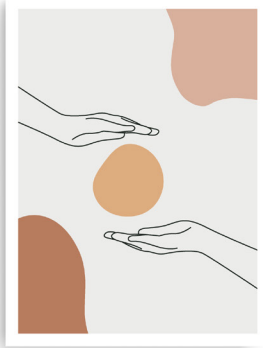
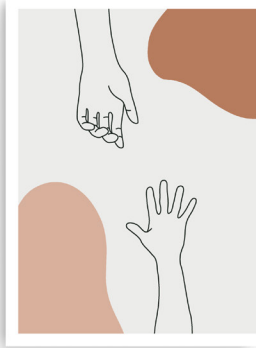
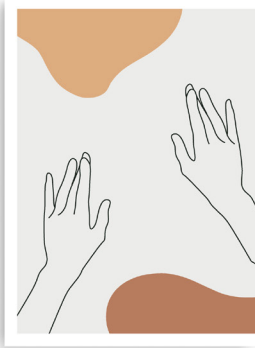
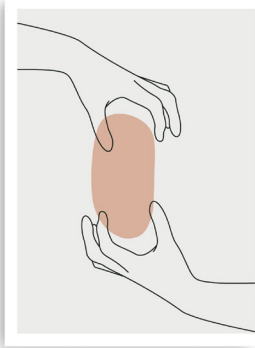
## Discipleship Retreat

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  
Karen Burden  
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 concluded 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 | 6th 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** | Amazing Grace | arr. Kartsonakis

**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)** 📖

Healing is after me.

**I am ready to be well.**

I am more than pain.

**Tragedy is not my name.**

God, restore me to myself.

**Let this breath be a mending.**

God who mends, you demand not merely justice, but repair.

**Make us people of true repair—**

Who demand accountability,

**Who possess sacred imagination,**

Who seek justice not in vague morality but in grave specificity.

**In that spirit, we worship Holy God.**

**Thanks be to God!**

**Invocation** | Diana McGahan

✝ **Hymn** | Woke Up This Morning (pg. 7)

**Offertory Prayer** | Jazzmoné Sutton

**Offertory** | Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen | arr. Price 📖

✝ **Doxology** | Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Transcendent God, we bless your name

Incarnate Christ, the risen one

The Spirit with us, Immanent

**5** 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 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.

*This week's offertory was arranged by Florence Price who in 1933 became the first Black woman to have work performed by a major symphony orchestra.*

**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 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** | Wade in the Water (pg. 8)

**Reading** | Luke 6:27-38 | Rev. Efird

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | Hallelujah from *The Cry of Jeremiah* | Rosephanye Powell

**Sermon** | Dr. LaTonya Penny

✝ **Hymn** | Precious Lord, Take My Hand (pg. 9) 📖

**Benediction** | Rev. Efird

**Postlude** | Passacaglia | Handel

**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).

**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 Tom Koch for accompanying us in worship today while Helen Bishop is recovering!

# Woke Up This Morning

1. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind,  
2. No con-dem - na - tion with my mind, stayed on  
3. Walk - in' and talk - in' with my mind,  
mind, my mind was

Je - sus. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind,  
No con-dem - na - tion with my mind,  
Walk - in' and talk - in' with my mind,  
mind, my mind was

stayed on Je - sus. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind,  
No con-dem - na - tion with my mind,  
Walk - in' and talk - in' with my mind,  
mind, my mind was

stayed on Je - sus. Hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah.



# Wade in the Water

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

Wade in the wa - ter, God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

## Verses

1. See that host all dressed in white,
2. See that band all dressed in red, God's gon - na trou - ble the
3. If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

wa - ter. The lead - er looks like the Is - ra - el - ite,  
Looks like the band that Mo - ses led,  
Just fol - low me down to Jor - dan's stream,

God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. D.C.

# Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Verses 1-3

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me  
2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger  
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
near; When my life is al - most gone,  
near, And the day is past and gone;

Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the  
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I  
At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my

light, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.  
fall; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.  
hand; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

# **Anthem** Hallelujah from *The Cry of Jeremiah*

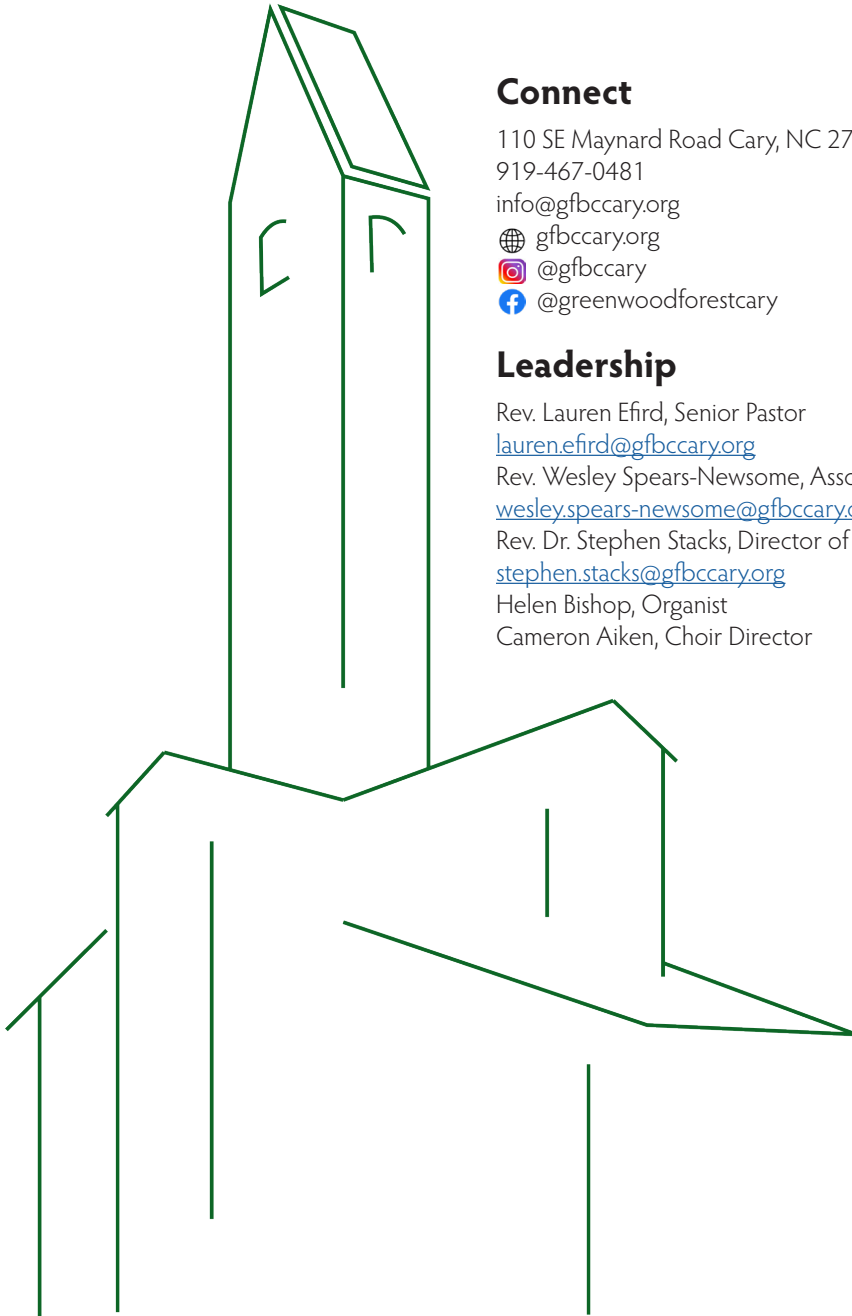
Rosephanye Powell

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord on high.  
He will deliver me.  
Hallelujah! Faithful God of love.  
His glory I will see.

Rest in the Lord, O my soul,  
Trust in God; fear not, he's always near.  
Stand on the Word of the father  
Pray in the Spirit; believe!  
God always hears.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
He will deliver me.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
His glory I will see.

God is my refuge,  
Strong mighty tower,  
He is my deliverer,  
Hallelujah!



## Connect

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[info@gfbccary.org](mailto:info@gfbccary.org)

 [gfbccary.org](http://gfbccary.org)

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

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

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior 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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