



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 16, 2025



## Bulletin Art

Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, "Mary and Martha," digital painting | inspired by Luke 10:38-42

Growing up, I felt I had to decide whether I was a Mary or a Martha. I never identified with Martha because the culturally-prescribed roles of a woman were my weakness, and I didn't identify with Mary either because she seemed more earnest than I felt.

Diving into the Greek of this text helped me work through my very well-worn opinions to find some nuance. Martha's work was not limited to cooking and cleaning; the Greek word used for her many tasks is *διακονία* which also means "service, ministering, and promoting religion." With this layered meaning in mind, it is clear to me that Jesus' response is not about Martha's ministry, but her preoccupation with Mary.

I think the most pivotal shift in translation is found in v. 42 where it is often translated, "Mary has chosen the better part." When you look at the Greek, however, it can also be translated as, "a good portion" or "a useful share." In light of this, I believe Jesus is not offering a value judgment between them, but assuaging Martha's worry by affirming that Mary is doing a good portion of the work too.

Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, a place that was reserved for men. I wonder if Martha was concerned about what might happen to Mary for being out of "her place." Jesus' response is radical because he affirms she has chosen a good portion of the work, and even though she is not where she is expected to be, no one can take that away from her. Jesus protects her right to assume the position of a disciple.

In this image, Mary eagerly reaches toward Jesus. Her clothing is patterned with mustard seeds and flowers because her faith may seem small, but her boundary-breaking faithfulness will nurture her faith to grow beyond what seems possible. Martha reaches toward Mary to pull her into more "appropriate" work. Martha's dress is patterned with open hands to image her vital ministry of welcome, service, and cultivating space for Jesus' message to take root. I imaged Jesus equally affirming both Mary and Martha's lived-out faiths. He is green, the combination of Mary and Martha's colors (yellow + blue), showing that he embodies the integration of both faith and works.

- Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

# 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.

### Contents

- 3 | Announcements
- 5 | Community Notes
- 6 | Order of Worship
- 8 | Songbook

### 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

---

## GFBC Game Night (3/21)

On March 21 from 5-8pm in the Fellowship Hall, come join us for a time of fellowship, games, food, and even some March Madness! Bring something for dinner with you, but we'll have desserts for everyone. Come drop in whenever you'd like to play board games, watch basketball or just chat with friends. You can sign up on Realm!

## Lent at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the Lenten season, a time when we reflect and repent. Here are some important dates to save during Lent:

**April 13:** Palm Sunday and Children's Ministry Egg Hunt (following worship)

**April 18:** Good Friday Tenebrae Service (7pm)

**April 20:** Easter Sunday

## Lent Series: Everything [in] Between

This year, we're spending time in Luke's Gospel with some stories that may be familiar to you: the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, Zaccheus, and more. In all of the stories we'll study, we will see how Jesus' ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted and challenged the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. Jesus intentionally highlighted the cultural and political polarities of

his time to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. We invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

## Day of Action (3/20)

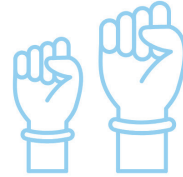
In the times we live, many of you have been asking, "What can I do?" Next week, we're inviting GFBC and members of the community to a Day of Action on March 20. We have two opportunities for you.

First, ONE WAKE's Annual Meeting will be held at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Raleigh (813 Darby St, Raleigh, NC 27610). If you are interested in organizing around elections and policy change, especially affordable housing, we want you to be present with GFBC's contingent at St. Ambrose. The assembly begins at 7pm.

Second, a group of concerned Cary citizens has organized a town hall meeting and invited Senator Thom Tillis to attend. They asked if we could host them at the church and we agreed to host the event. Whether Sen. Tillis accepts the invitation or not, the group plans to hear testimonies from members of our community about refugees, Ukraine, Medicaid, and more. This event will be at GFBC. The town hall begins at 6:30pm.

We want folks at both events, so all that we ask is you don't stay home next Thursday!

# What can I do?



*Are you interested in activism (protest, marches, advocacy)?*

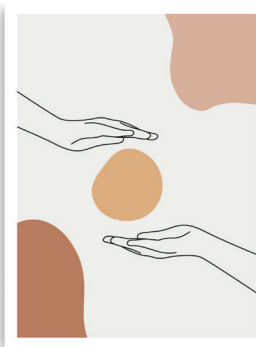
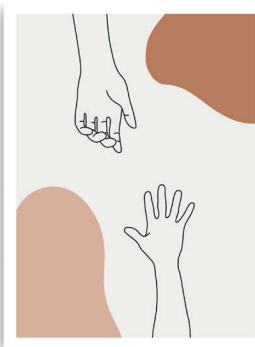
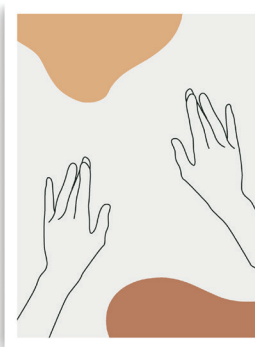
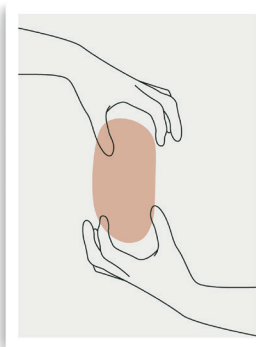
*Are you interested in organizing (policy, elections, relationships)?*

*Town Hall Open to  
Senator Thom Tillis  
@ GFBC in the Sanctuary  
3/20 at 6:30pm*

*ONE Wake Annual  
Meeting  
St. Ambrose Episcopal Church  
3/20 at 7:00pm*

**3/20**   
**DAY OF ACTION**  
**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

# 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  
Allen Cohen  
Barney Graham  
Chrissy Gunn (friend of Valerie Brooks)  
Doris Martin  
Jennie Pegram  
Fred Seeger  
Mathias Warne (family of Gail and Virgil Jones)  
Anne Whelan  
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: Youth Ministry

To begin the month of March, the GFBC Youth led worship on Transfiguration Sunday where they also wrote the prayers and helped plan the sermon. Right now, they're planning on a summer trip to Asheville, NC with partner churches there and here in the Triangle to go learn and help rebuild after Hurricane Helene. If you'd like to serve with our awesome youth, reach out to Rev. Spears-Newsome!

# Order of Worship | 2nd Sunday of Lent

✝ 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** | Aria from *Six Songs for Piano* | Mendelssohn

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (from A Sanctified Art)** 📖

Come as you are,

If you have deep faith

**Or your faith has run dry.**

Come as you are,

If you know every scripture

**Or none at all.**

If you have calloused hands

**And live your faith through good works,**

Or if you kneel at God's feet,

**With a million hungry questions,**

Come as you are.

**This is God's house.**

None are turned away.

**All are welcome here.**

**Invocation** | Elizabeth Deters

✝ **Hymn** | Lord, Speak To Me That I May Speak (pg. 8)

**Offertory Prayer** | Nathan Bullock

**Offertory** | Be Joyful, O My Soul | Brahms 📖

✝ **Doxology** | Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, who forms us from the dust.

Praise Christ, who frees us through the cross.

Praise Holy Ghost who drives us on

To meet God in the wilderness. Amen.

Today's color is **purple**, representing reflection and repentance.

## 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 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** | For All the Faithful Women (pg. 9)

**Reading** | Luke 10:38-42 | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | God Be In My Head | John Rutter

God be in my head,  
And in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes,  
And in my looking;  
God be in my mouth,  
And in my speaking;  
God be in my heart,  
And in my thinking;  
God be at mine end,  
And at my departing.

**Sermon** | Faith & Works | Rev. Efrid

**† Hymn** | Ministry and Presence (pg. 10) 

**Benediction** | Rev. Efrid

**Postlude** | Sonate in C Major K.330 | Mozart  
III Allegretto

**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 Bob Brewer for joining us in worship today while Helen Bishop is recovering!



# Lord, Speak To Me That I May Speak

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in  
2. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the  
3. O fill me with Your full - ness, Lord, un -  
4. O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just

liv - ing ech - oes of Your tone; as You have sought, so  
pre - cious things that You im - part; and wing my words, that  
til my ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and  
as You will, and when, and where, un - til Your bless - ed

let me seek Your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.  
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.  
glow - ing word, Your love to tell, Your praise to show.  
face I see, Your rest, Your joy, Your glo - ry share.

# For All The Faithful Women



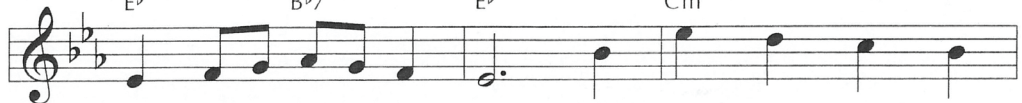
1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in  
 2 We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri -  
 3 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with  
 4 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the

(G) (C) (Am7) (Dm) (G)  
 Bb Eb Cm7 Fm Bb



days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to  
 um - phant - ly while Pha - raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay  
 pot and pan while Mar - y sat in si - lence to  
 sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her

(C) (G7) (C) (Am)  
 Eb Bb7 Eb Cm



all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and  
 drowned be - neath the sea; for Ruth, who left her  
 hear the word a - gain. We praise the oth - er  
 heart an o - pen door. O God, for saints and

(D) (G) (F) (G) (C)  
 F Bb Ab Bb Eb



glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their  
 home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who pledged to  
 Mar - y, who has - tened to the tomb and found her  
 ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that, faith - ful

(Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)  
 Cm7 Ab Bb Eb Fm Bb Eb



lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.  
 serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.  
 Lord a - ris - en, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.  
 in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

EIN FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7 ("A Mighty Fortress is Our God")

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by Martin Luther, 1529



When Je - sus passed near Mar - tha's home she had no  
Her sis - ter Ma - ry took a seat to spend time  
He said, "You are both gifts to me with diff - erent



hes - i - ta - tion "Please treat my house like it's your own,"  
with the tea - cher In - tent - ly listen - ing at his feet,  
ways of be - ing. I won't take that from Ma - ry



she gave the in - vi - ta - tion She wan - ted all the best  
his words drew her in dee - per But Mar - tha took of - fense  
whose place is right here with me. You have no - thing to prove

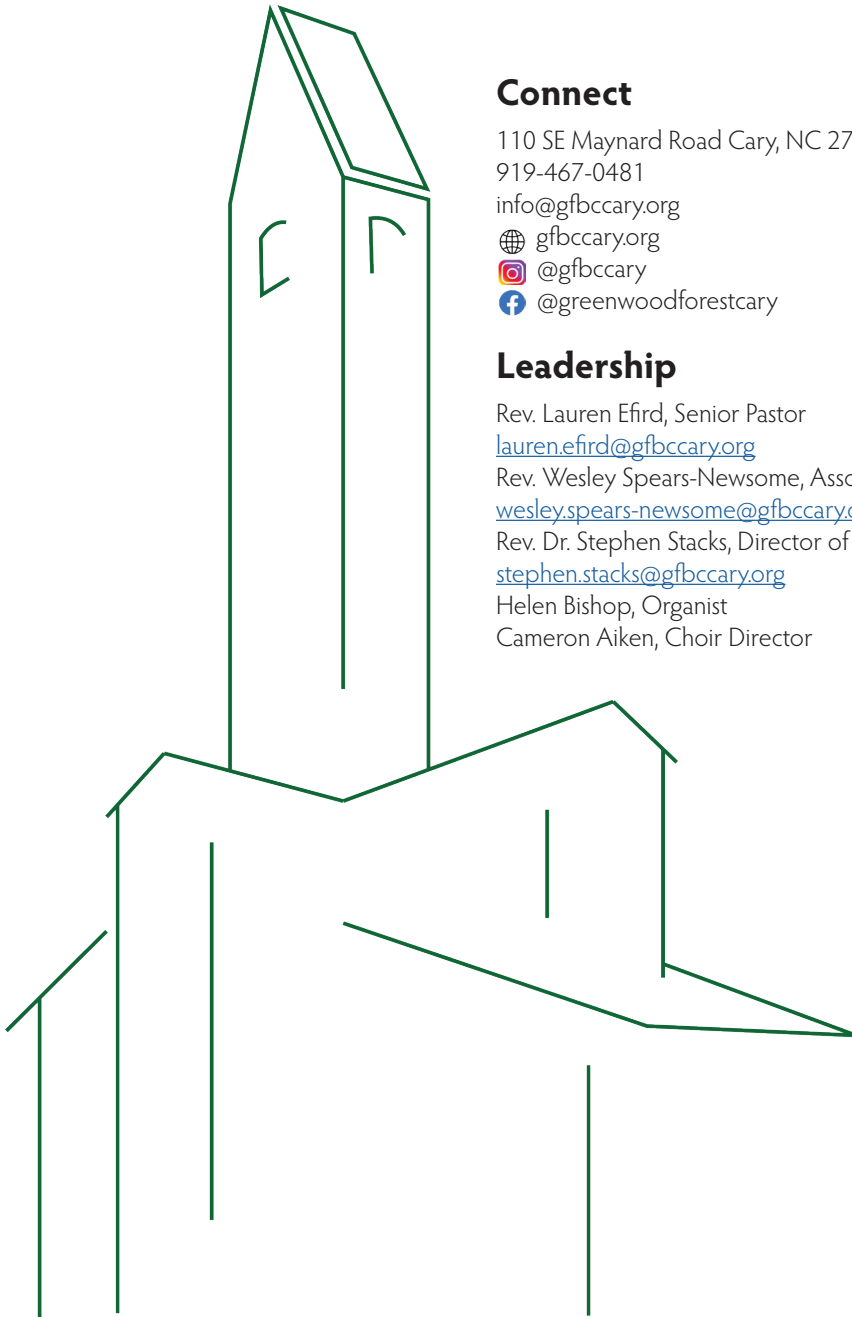


To serve her hon - ored guest Her check - list grew and grew  
At Ma - ry so con - tent With all there was to do  
So let your heart be moved. Just one thing do I need:



Her time was all con - sumed With min - i - stry a - bound - ing  
She need - ed Ma - ry too And asked for Je - sus' back - ing  
To feel your love in deeds Of min - i - stry and pre - sence."

# Ministry and Presence



## Connect

110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

919-467-0481

[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

[lauren.efird@gfbccary.org](mailto:lauren.efird@gfbccary.org)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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

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

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

Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

Reprinted hymns come from Celebrating Grace, Glory to God, or the The African American Heritage Hymnal unless otherwise noted. Copyrighted music use covered by CCLI License #1243530, OneLicense #A-721397.