



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

June 1, 2025



Bulletin Art

Lisle Gwynn Garrity, "Lost & Found," newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing

I began my artwork for this series by collaging torn strips of newspaper articles together, overlapping global headlines with photos of current events. Along the torn edges, I added gold leaf. Then I photographed the result, editing the photos in black and white. These photos would become the backdrop for my pieces, as I wanted my digital drawings to emerge within the noise of the world's deepest pains, divisions, and everything in between. The collage is also a reference to theologian Karl Barth's famous quote about reading the bible and the newspaper together. I wanted the gold leaf to represent God's presence in the spaces in between the events and forces that tear us apart.

On September 27th, 2024, I began drawing the Good Shepherd with the lost sheep tenderly wrapped around his shoulders. As I worked, rain pummeled our roof, saturating the ground with an endless deluge as the wide bands of tropical storm Helene reached our high-elevation town of Black Mountain, NC. The next day, winds roared and threw trees to the ground like dominoes. We lost power, then water, then cell service. We didn't know it yet, but every creek and river had swelled with enormous force, sweeping away everything in their path. Landslides, sinkholes, and extreme flooding ravaged the entire region of Western North Carolina, taking homes, towns, and human lives.

We were incredibly and graciously spared, having no flooding in our house or trees on our roof, so as soon as the storm relented, we headed out to find our friends and family by foot. As we walked through our small town, we found ourselves in a maze-like wasteland, changing our route every other turn due to downed trees or power lines, or washed-out roads. Progressively, we found family and friends, greeting them with great relief and urgent questions: "Do you have enough water to drink? Do you have water for flushing? Do you need any food?" It would be nearly 6 days before any emergency relief could arrive with food, water, and supplies. Meanwhile, neighbors survived by the help of their neighbors. Churches opened their doors. Firefighters and first responders persisted, despite perilous rescue missions. Helicopters air-lifted stranded people to safety.

When I began this artwork, I naively hoped to gain insight into Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. In that process, I did not wish to become the lost sheep and live through the greatest natural disaster to hit my hometown in over a thousand years. But as I read this parable again, now over 6 weeks after the storm, what strikes me is the pursuit of the shepherd, so singularly focused on the one who is lost, vulnerable, and at-risk. The Good Shepherd steadies the sheep on his shoulders and steps out of the frame toward us. His gaze finds mine, and I almost hear him whisper, "I will never stop searching for the lost. I will never stop rejoicing when one is found."

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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.



Greenwood Forest Graduates

High School Class of 2025



Brooks Jarrell

Green Level High School

Headed to
Appalachian State University



Lucy Beal

Athens Drive High School

Headed to
UNC Wilmington

The Dean Ritter Memorial Scholarship

High school seniors involved at GFBC are encouraged to apply to the Ritter Scholarship to be used at the educational institution of their choice. This scholarship honors Dean Ritter's life as an outstanding example of Christian living, by recognizing a current graduate who shares Dean's attributes. Applicants provided an essay and engaged in an interview with a selection committee. Results are announced at the beginning of worship on Graduation Sunday.

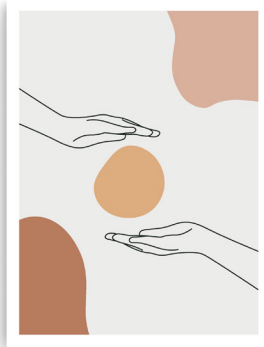
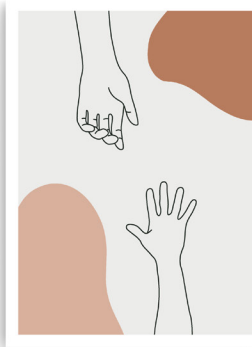
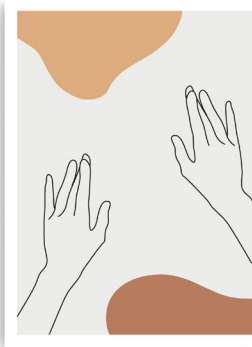
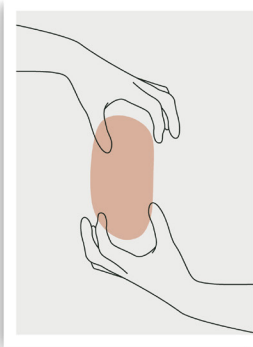
Greenwood Forest Post-High School Graduates

Hannah Meador | Bachelor of Science in Biology, Minor in Communication | UNC Charlotte

Brynn Oliver | Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Criminology, Minor in Sociology | Meredith College

Christa Soyars | Doctor of Occupational Therapy | University of Florida

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
Sandra Jarrell
Doris Martin
Tammy Panayiotou (friend of Valerie Brooks)
Jennie Pegram
Fred Seeger
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
- 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.

Save the Date!

On June 29 at 2pm we're celebrating Karen Burden's retirement! Karen has served many years as our office administrator and we'll be celebrating her together in the Fellowship Hall. We're also collecting a love offering for her; if you'd like to contribute, you can Venmo Deacon Chair Blair Biser (@blair-biser) or Personnel Chair Leta Huntsinger (@Leta-Huntsinger).



Scan to Give
Online Today!

Order of Worship | Graduation Sunday

✝ 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 | Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above | arr. Lloyd Larson

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efrid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Presentation of the Ritter Scholarship

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 47) 📖

Clap your hands, all you peoples!

Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,

A great soveriegn over all the earth.

God has gone up with a shout,

The Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

Sing praises to our ruler, sing praises.

For God is sovereign of all the earth;

Sing praises with a psalm.

God is sovereign over the nations;

God sits on the holy throne.

For the shields of the earth belong to God;

God is highly exalted!

Invocation | Leanne Glasgow

✝ **Hymn** | Jesus Loves Me This I Know (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Jazzmoné Sutton

Offertory | Children of the Heavenly Father | arr. Cindy Berry 📖

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory of God.

The pastors are wearing rainbow stoles in honor of **Pride Month**.

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.

† **Doxology** | Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
O praise God. Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
O praise God! O praise God!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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** | The King of Love My Shepherd Is (pg. 9)

Reading | Matthew 18:1-14 | Rev. Efird
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | The Road, The Rocks, and the Weeds | John Mark McMillan

Graduate Testimonies | Lucy Beal and Brooks Jarrell

Charge to Graduates | 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** | We Are One in Christ (pg. 10)

Presentation of Graduate Gifts | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Benediction | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Postlude | Take My Life and Let It Be | arr. Victor Labenske

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.

Jesus Loves Me This I Know

1. Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2. Je - sus loves me! this I know, as He loved so long a - go,
3. Je - sus loves me still to - day, walk - ing with me on my way,
4. Je - sus loves me! He will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to Him be - long; they are weak, but He is strong.
tak - ing chil - dren on His knee, say - ing, "Let them come to Me."
want - ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.
if I love Him, when I die He will take me home on high.

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of six systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the chorus. The fourth system contains the final line. The score includes treble and bass staves for each part, with lyrics written below the staves. The music is simple and easy to sing, with a clear melody and harmonic support.

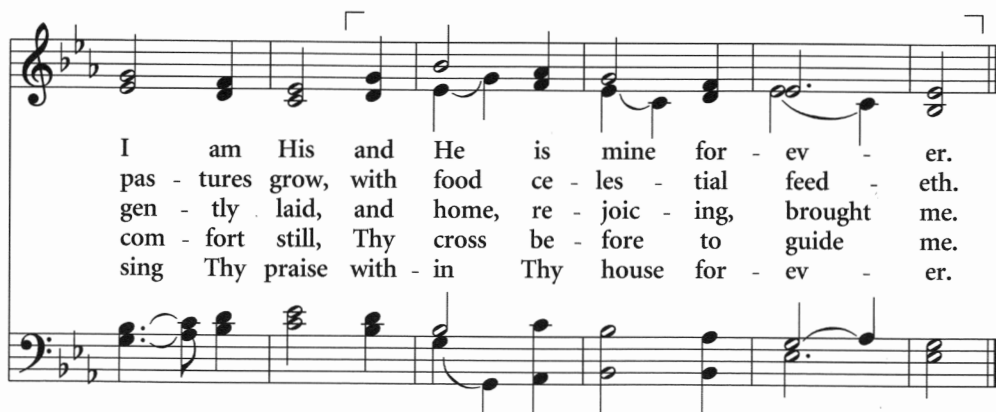
The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1. The King of love my Shep - herd is, whose
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
 3. Per - verse and fool - ish, oft I strayed, but
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill with
 5. And so through all the length of days Thy



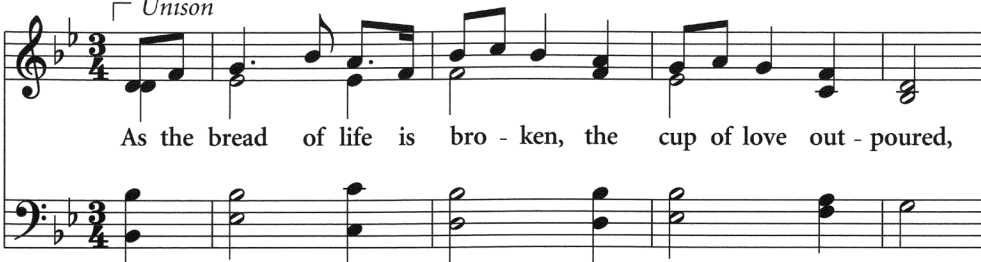
good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 ran - somed soul He lead - eth, and, where the ver - dant
 yet in love He sought me, and on His shoul - der
 Thee, dear Lord, be - side me; Thy rod and staff my
 good - ness fail - eth nev - er: good Shep - herd, may I



I am His and He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gen - tly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.
 sing Thy praise with - in Thy house for - ev - er.

We Are One in Christ

Unison

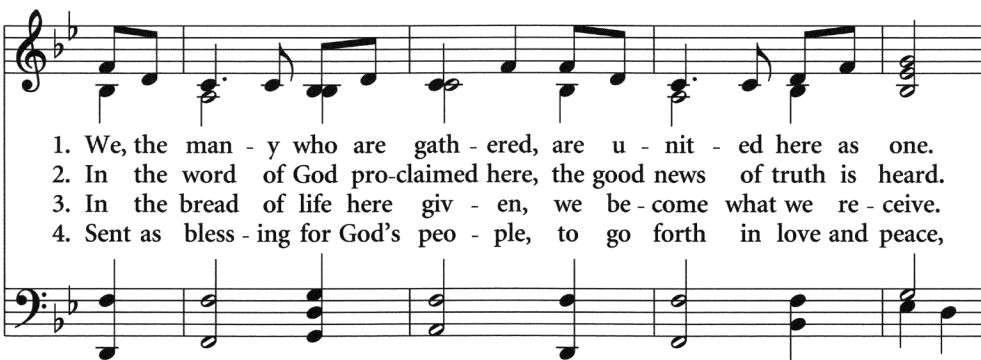


As the bread of life is bro - ken, the cup of love out - poured,

Fine

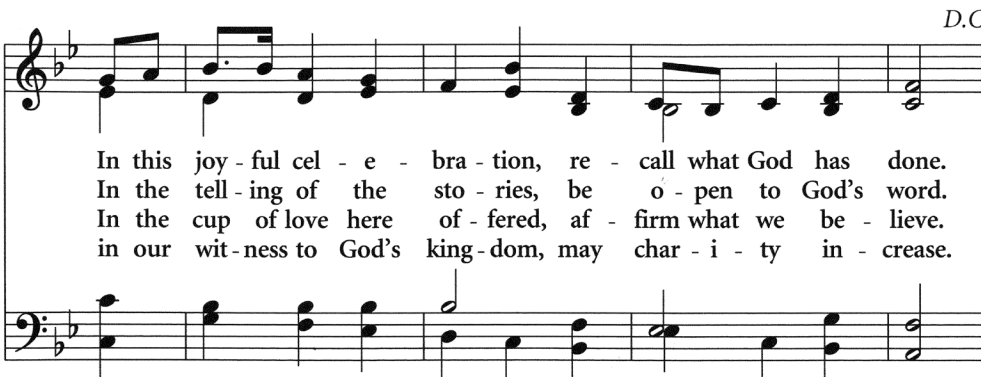


we are one in Christ, our Sav - ior, and sent to serve the Lord.



1. We, the man - y who are gath - ered, are u - nit - ed here as one.
2. In the word of God pro-claimed here, the good news of truth is heard.
3. In the bread of life here giv - en, we be - come what we re - ceive.
4. Sent as bless - ing for God's peo - ple, to go forth in love and peace,

D.C.



In this joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion, re - call what God has done.
 In the tell - ing of the sto - ries, be o - pen to God's word.
 In the cup of love here of - fered, af - firm what we be - lieve.
 in our wit - ness to God's king - dom, may char - i - ty in - crease.

Anthem The Road, the Rocks, and the Weeds

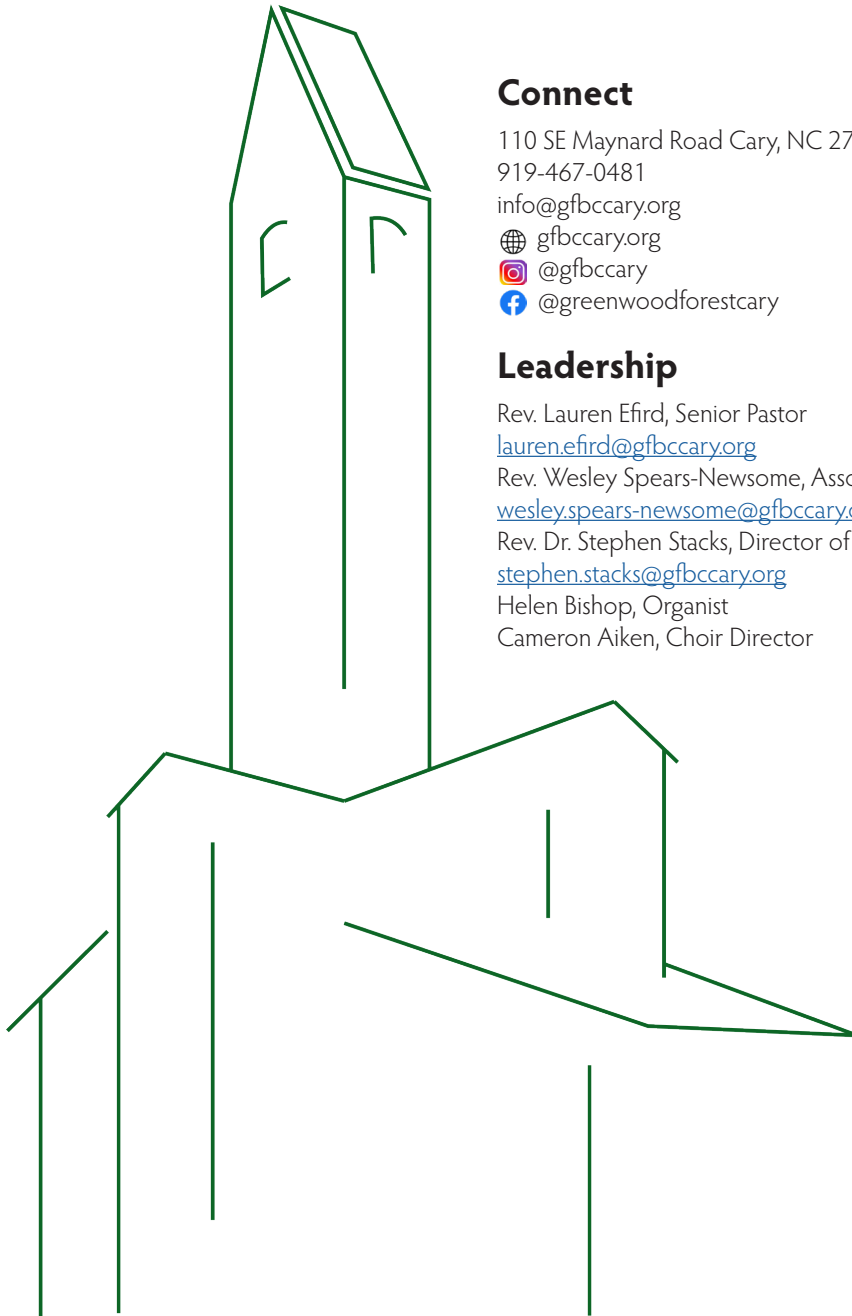
John Mark McMillan

Come down from the stars
Show your human scars
Tell me what it's like to believe
Through my Christ haunted thoughts
That the losses you bought
Are the nights that you peopled with your dreams
Well, I've got no answers
For heartbreaks or cancers
But a Savior who suffers them with me

*Singing goodbye, Olympus
The heart of my Maker
Is spread out on the road, the rocks, and the weeds*

Come down from your mountain
Your high-rise apartment
And tell me of the God you know who bleeds
And what to tell my daughter
When she asks so many questions
And I fail to fill her heaviness with peace
When I've got no answers
For hurt knees or cancers
But a Savior who suffers them with me
And Aphrodite would not weep
Nor Zeus would suffer for the weak
But have you come to stand inside my pain?
And all the things I've begged you for
Eternity and evermore
Are hidden with me here beneath the rain
The Rain

So shall I plant sequoias
And revel in the soil
Of a crop I know I'll never live to reap?
Then sow my body to my Maker
And my heart unto my savior
And spread me on the road, the rocks, and the weeds
Spread me on the road



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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