

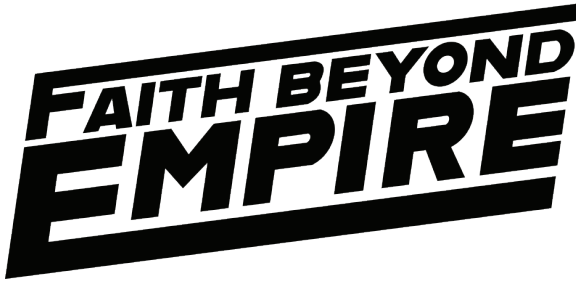


Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

June 8, 2025



Current Sermon Series:



In *Faith Beyond Empire*, we'll be exploring the ways our Scriptures lead us to resist imperial impulses like the desire to conquer, control, exploit, and consume. From Genesis to Revelation, we'll examine stories, parables, and poems to determine how we identify and respond to empire in our midst today based on how God's people have responded in Scripture.

Bulletin Art

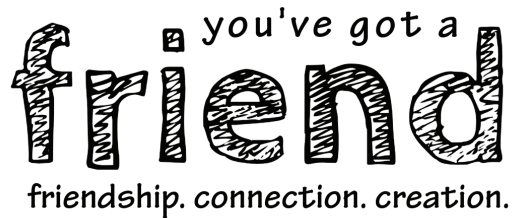
"Pentecost" by Sadao Watanabe, hand-colored kappazuri-dyed stencil print on washi paper

Sadao Watanabe was a Japanese artist of a particular kind of printing known as katazome. Unlike most printing techniques, Watanabe's did not require pressure. Rather every stencil allowed for the opportunity of painting the scene anew, so no two Watanabe prints are exactly alike.

This scene is Pentecost in Watanabe's trademark style. Here we see those gathered in the upper room receiving the Holy Spirit. Each of them has tongues of fire on their head as described in the biblical text. They all have varying reactions. While most look above (or to the flame on their heads), one seems to be overcome and covers their eyes. The Pentecost event must have inspired both wonder and terror in those who experienced it.

—Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Next Sermon Series:



In July, we're beginning a new sermon and event series called "You've Got a Friend: Friendship. Connection. Creation." In worship, we'll be exploring biblical friendships and there will be several events through July and August you'll want to mark your calendars for:

- **July 20-23:** Youth Mission Trip with other local progressive churches to Western NC
- **July 27:** Toy Story Movie Night at GFBC
- **August 9:** Youth-led fundraiser for Western NC
- **August 15:** Makers Festival and a Night with David Lamotte (more info to come!)
- **August 24:** Backpack Blessing for Children, Youth, and Educators in Worship
- **August 31:** Lilo and Stitch Movie Night

The series will also feature special Faith Formation sessions on friendship led by Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome.

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

Summer Choir Begins

The Sanctuary Choir will begin their summer schedule this Sunday, June 8 with an after-worship potluck and rehearsal. Summer is a great time to join the choir so if you've been considering it, please join us!

Support Habitat for Humanity Rezoning (6/26)

Habitat for Humanity is looking to build 15 townhomes on Piney Plains Road in Cary and their rezoning vote is on June 26 at 6:30pm at the Cary Town Council meeting (316 North Academy Street). Habitat for Humanity was a pivotal supporter of the Carr Center rezoning effort, so we need to show up and return the favor! RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/habjune26>. As we saw with the Carr Center, our voices make a difference!

Karen Burden's Retirement

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).

Summer Men's Small Group

Rev. Dr. Stacks will lead a small group devotional study for men on faithful masculinity based on the material he wrote during his last sabbatical.

The group will meet on Wednesdays at noon via Zoom starting on June 18, with a final in-person fellowship event at the end of the summer. If you would like to join, please email Rev. Dr. Stacks at stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org.

Book Talk and Signing

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks will give a talk on his new book *The Resounding Revolution: Freedom Song After 1968* on Sunday, June 22 at 9:45am. Copies of the book will be available for \$20 at the event and Dr. Stacks would be happy to sign your copy. Come join us!

Welcome Alex Filby!

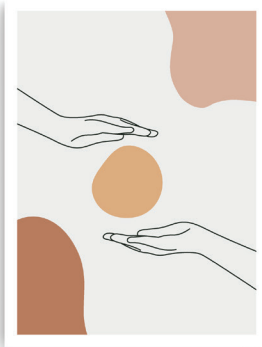
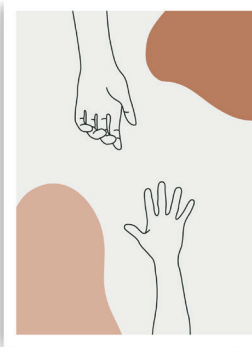
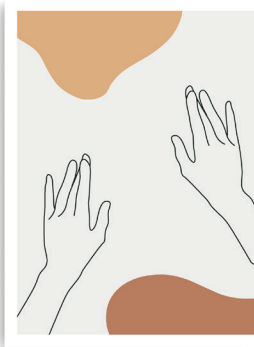
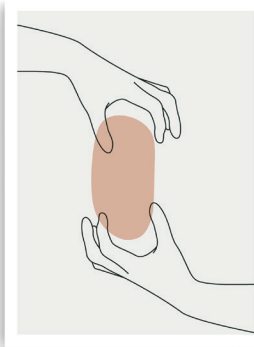
Alex Filby (she/her) graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in



2022 with a degree in Political Science. A Carrboro resident, she is deeply involved in community organizing, particularly around housing, environmental, and labor justice. With

over four years of experience coordinating events and managing facilities for mission-driven organizations, Alex has a passion for creating welcoming, functional spaces. She's thrilled to bring these skills to Greenwood Forest Baptist Church as the new Director of Administration and Facilities. Outside of work, Alex enjoys birdwatching, making music with friends, and doting on her four guinea pigs. She can't wait to meet the congregation and support the church's mission in this new role!

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
Jennifer Whaley at the death of her father
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.



Scan to Give
Online Today!

Order of Worship | Pentecost

✝ 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 | We Are One in the Spirit | arr. Albert Mendoza

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit!

People: Fill our hearts!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship 📖

When the world divides us:

Come, Holy Spirit, make us one!

When the world calls us orphaned:

Come, Holy Spirit, make us family!

When the world leads us astray:

Come, Holy Spirit, call us home!

Come, Holy Spirit, rain down on this place,

Let our souls drink your goodness!

Let our hearts overflow.

Come, Holy Spirit, rain down on this place!

Invocation | Rick Chappell

✝ **Hymn** | Spirit on the Church Descending (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Susan Beck

Offertory | Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart | arr. Whitworth 📖

Today's color is **red**, representing the Holy Spirit.

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 | Nathan Bullock 
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** | Spirit of the Living God (pg. 8)

Reading | Acts 2:1-21 | Susan Beck
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying | arr. Mark Hayes (pg. 10)

Sermon | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

† **Hymn** | Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me (pg. 9) 

Benediction | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Postlude | The Comforter Has Come | 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).

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!

Spirit on the Church Descending

1. Spi - rit on the Church des - cend-ing, rain - ing down from God a - bove;
 2. Spir - it on the pro - phets pour-ing, crown-ing kings in Wis - dom's plan;
 3. Spir - it on the Son now rest-ing, bring-ing good news to the poor;
 4. Spir - it on the earth a - bid - ing gath'r-ing peo - ple far and near;

5 Wind of pow - er, heav - ens rend-ing, fill our lives with hol - y love.
 Word of God in jus - tice speaking, will the peo - ple strength to stand.
 sight re - co - vered, cap - tives free-ing, sing for Ju - bi lee once more.
 through the king - dom Christ is building, free the world from death and fear.

9 Fall u - pon us, fall u - pon us, grant the gifts that make us one.

Words by Ben Boswell; Music by Stephen Stacks

Spirit of the Living God

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me; Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The first system ends with a repeat sign, and the second system ends with a double bar line. The third system ends with a double bar line.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me; Spir - it of the

liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me,

fill me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me

Unison

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, dwell with me, I would gra - cious be;
 2. Truth - ful Spir - it, dwell with me, I would truth - ful be;
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, dwell with me, I would ho - ly be;
 4. Might - y Spir - it, dwell with me, I would might - y be;

help me now Thy grace to see, I would be like Thee;
 help me now Thy truth to see, I would be like Thee;
 show Thy mer - cy ten - der - ly, make me more like Thee;
 help me now Thy power to see, I would be like Thee;

and, with words that help and heal, Thy life would mine re - veal;
 and, with wis - dom kind and clear, Thy life in mine ap - pear;
 sep - a - rate from sin I would and cher - ish all things good,
 'gainst all weap - ons hell can wield, be Thou my strength and shield;

and, with ac - tions bold and meek, for Christ my Sav - ior speak.
 and, with ac - tions, lov - ing - ly, speak Christ's sin - cer - i - ty.
 and what - ev - er I can be give Him who gave me Thee.
 let Thy word my weap - on be, Lord, Thine the vic - to - ry.

Anthem Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

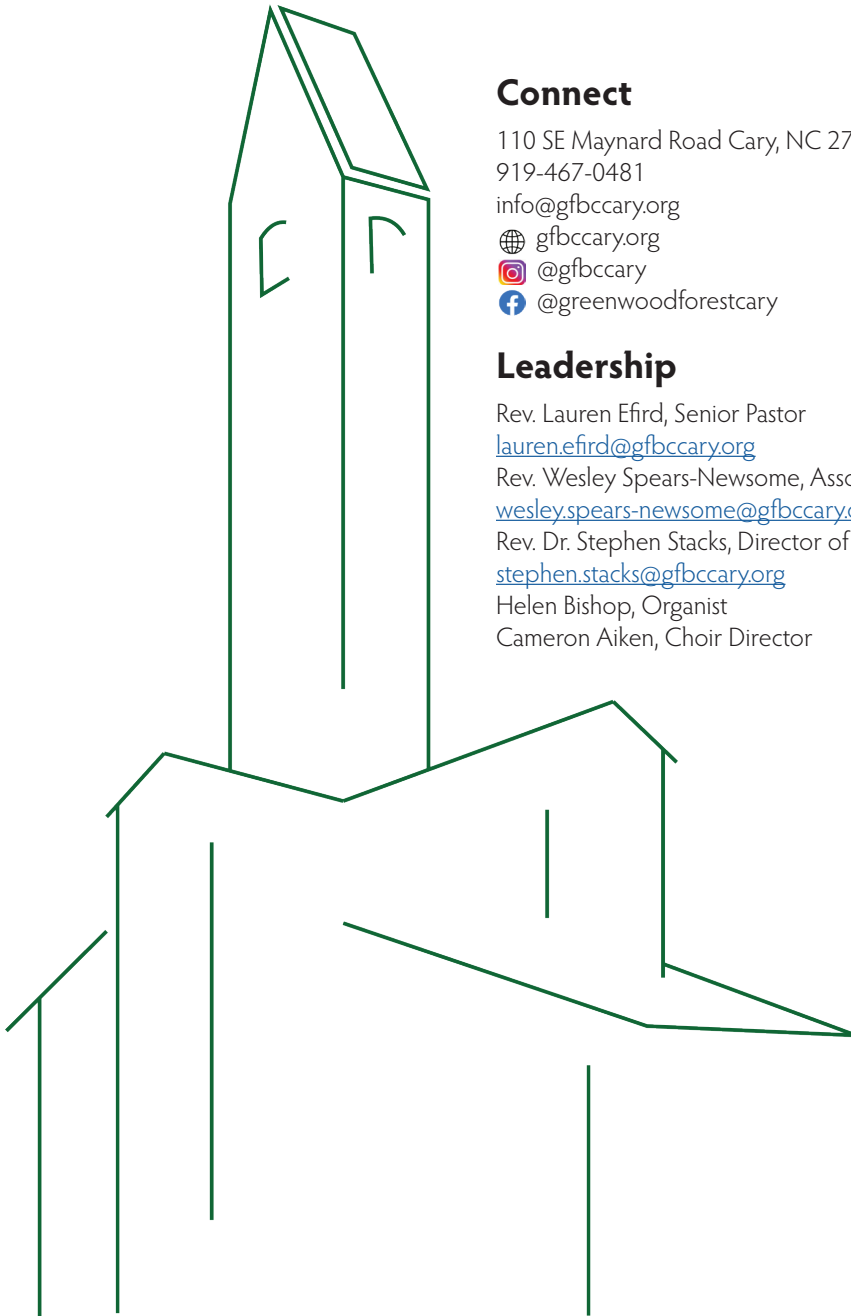
arr. Mark Hayes

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Something's gonna happen like the world has never known,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray;
A door's gonna swing open, and the walls come a-tumbling down,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

God's gonna take over, God's gonna take control,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray;
God's gonna move the mountain, gonna make the waters roll,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

You're gonna know it when the Lord stretches out his hand,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray;
There's gonna be a brand new song of vict'ry in this land,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray.



Connect

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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