



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

June 22, 2025



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## Current Sermon Series:

# FAITH BEYOND EMPIRE

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

### Photograph of A Place at the Table Cafe

From A Place at the Table Cafe's website:

We are a nonprofit cafe where everyone is invited to join us for a wonderful dining experience — regardless of means. We are confident your breakfast, brunch or lunch experience will exceed your tastebud's expectations and add a go-giving smile to your day. Our hope is that you will leave our special cafe with a full belly and open heart. And that you will tell others about the cafe and how they can also "vote with their dollars" to be a part of building a strong community.

A Place at the Table was started in 2015 with a mission to provide community and good food to all, regardless of means.

Maggie Kane, founder and executive director, grew up volunteering at soup kitchens. She went because her mother wanted her to know what it's like to serve others. After 20+ years of volunteering, Maggie found that soup kitchens are so different from her own life experience. She wondered why she gets to eat what she wants, with

who she wants to and for how long she wants to while those experiencing homelessness do not.

Maggie realized that she needed to do something about this problem, we needed to soup kitchen 2.0 our town.

In 2018, our flagship cafe opened in downtown Raleigh. A Place at the Table is Raleigh's first pay-what-you-can cafe! The best part is that when you walk in, it looks like a regular restaurant, you wouldn't know we are a nonprofit. And it's working!

## Next Sermon Series:

you've got a  
**friend**  
friendship. connection. creation.

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 in Raleigh
- **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 Fellowship Hall if you need to rock your little ones.



Transcripts of the sermon and large print bulletins are available at the sound table for those who need them.



Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.



Restrooms are located on the hallway off the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to use the bathroom that best aligns with your gender identity (our gender-neutral, single-occupant restrooms are currently in a part of the building without HVAC).



# Announcements | Church Events and Updates

## 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 **2:30pm (new time!)** 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).

## ONE Wake Assembly (7/12)

We need to represent at the ONE Wake Assembly on July 12 at 12pm at Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (3703 Tryon Road). We're hoping for 1,000 ONE Wake members to be there to hold our elected leaders accountable for pledges they made last fall. We need their continued commitment to affordable housing across the county, and your presence ensures it! RSVP at [onewake.org](http://onewake.org).

## Book Talk and Signing

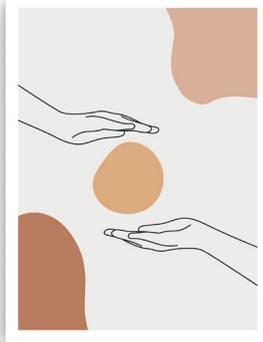
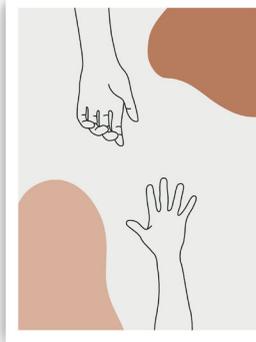
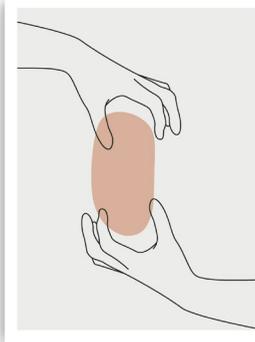
Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks will give a talk on his new book *The Resounding Revolution: Freedom Song After 1968* on Sunday, June 22 at 9:45am. Copies of the book will be available for \$20 at the event and Dr. Stacks would be happy to sign your copy. Come join us!

## 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  
Jennie Pegram  
Marie Seeger and the Seeger Family (at the death of Fred Seeger)  
Lee Webb  
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.



Scan to Give  
Online Today!

# Order of Worship | Second Sunday after 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** | As the Deer, arr. Susan Naylor Calloway

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (Psalm 42)** 📖

As a deer longs for flowing streams,

**So my soul longs for you, O God.**

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

**When shall I come and behold the face of God?**

My tears have been my food day and night,

**While people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"**

These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:

**How I went with the throng, and led the procession to the house of God,**

with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,

**a multitude keeping festival.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

**Hope in God; for I shall again praise the Lord, my help and my God.**

**Invocation** | Rev. Al Whitehouse

✝ **Hymn** | All Who Hunger Gather Gladly (pg. 7)

**Offertory Prayer** | Nathan Bullock

**Offertory** | Offertory on HOLY MANNA, arr. Cindy Berry 📖

Today's color is **green**, representing spiritual growth.

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.

† **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** | I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table (pg. 8)

**Reading** | Luke 14:15-24 | Rev. Spears-Newsome  
The word of God for us, the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | All Are Welcome at the Table | arr. Mary McDonald (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | From Kingdom Dinners to God's Banquet | Rev. Efird

† **Hymn** | For Everyone Born (pg. 9) 

**Benediction** | Rev. Efird

**Postlude** | In Christ There Is No East or West, MC KEE

## 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

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!

# All Who Hunger Gather Gladly

7

1. All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
2. All who hun-ger, nev-er stran-gers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
3. All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You who yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
We who once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
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Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

# I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

1 I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble;  
2 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus;  
3 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers;  
4 Here all the world will find a wel - come;  
5 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey;

I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.  
I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.  
I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.  
here all the world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.  
we're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble; I'm gon - na  
I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus; I'm gon - na  
I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers; I'm gon - na  
Here all the world will find a wel - come; here all the  
We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey; we're gon - na

eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.  
eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.  
join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.  
world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.  
feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

# For Everyone Born



1. For ev' - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
 2. For wo - man and man, a place at the ta - ble,  
 3. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,  
 4. For gay and for straight, a place at the ta - ble,  
 5. For ev' - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev' - ry - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,  
 re - vis - ing the rols, de - cid - ing the share,  
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
 a co - ve - nant shared, a wel - com - ing space,  
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be



a shel - ter a space, a safe place for grow - ing,  
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the po - wer,  
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrink - led  
 a rain - bow of race and gen - der and co - lor,  
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev' - ry - one born, a star o - ver - head, and  
 for wo - man and man, a sys - tem that's fair, and  
 for young and for old, the right to be - long, and  
 for gay and for straight, the cha - lice of grace, and  
 for ev' - ry - one born, the right to be free, and



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus-tice and joy com -



pas - sion and peace: yes, God will de-light when we are cre -



a - tors of jus - tice, jus-tice and joy!

# Anthem All Are Welcome at the Table

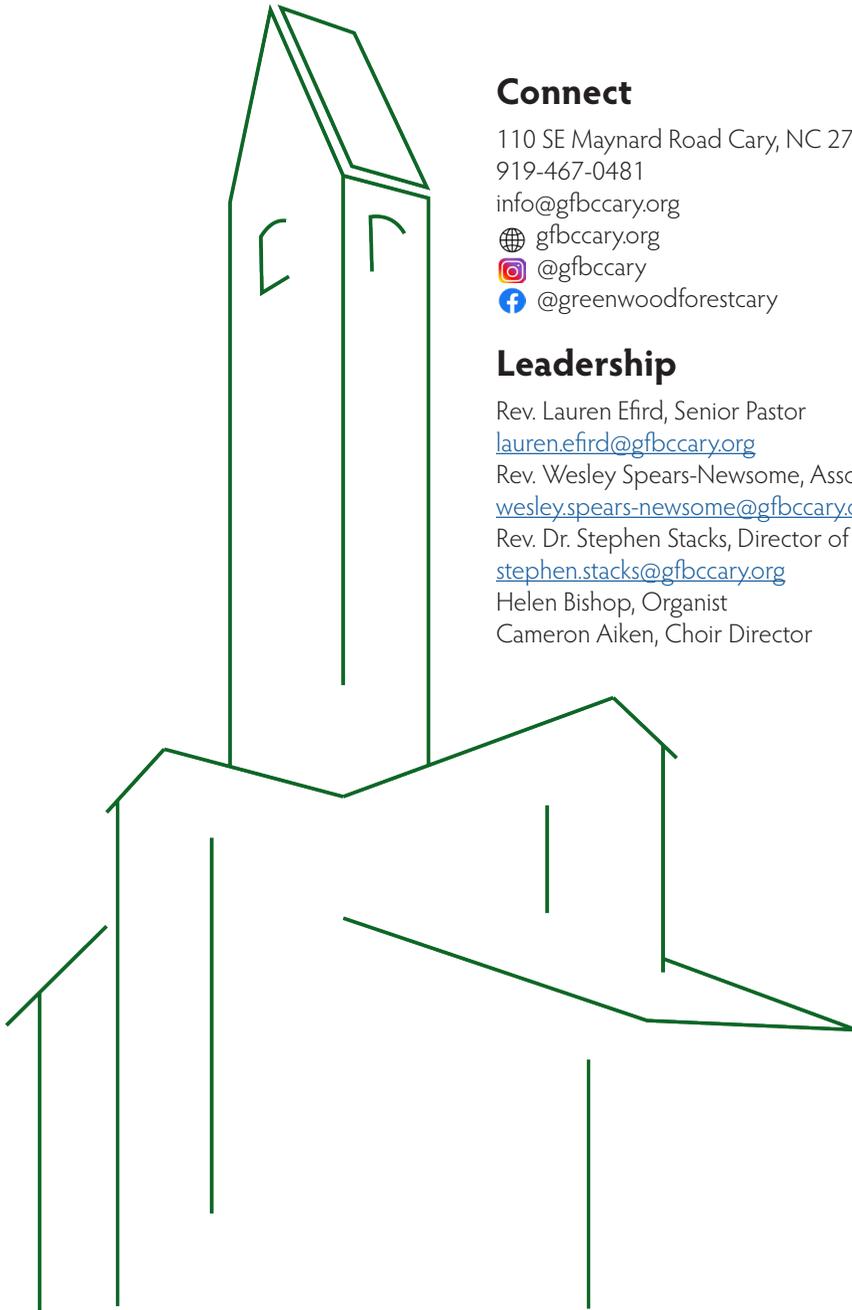
arr. Mary McDonald

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table.  
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table  
One of these days. Alleluia!  
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table;  
Gonna sit at the welcome table  
One of these days.

All are welcome at the table.  
All are welcome at the table of the Lord.  
Alleluia!  
All are welcome at the table;  
Gonna sit with my brothers and sisters  
One of these days.

At the table, come and dine;  
Feast on the bread and drink the wine.  
Come and meet us at the table of the Lord!

All of God's children, come and sit down,  
And glory in the one who wears the crown!  
All are welcome at the table of the Lord.



## Connect

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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

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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

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