



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

July 13, 2025



# Bulletin Art

## "Ruth and Naomi" by Leonard Baskin, bronze sculpture

In Leonard Baskin's bronze sculpture *Ruth and Naomi*, the biblical women are bound together by shared sadness and mutual support. The piece is based on the Old Testament story of Ruth of Moab, who after the death of her husband follows her widowed mother-in-law to the Land of Judah, stating in Ruth 1:16, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."

Both the subject matter and execution of *Ruth and Naomi* are rooted in Baskin's historicism, utilizing the traditional technique of casting and a biblical subject. Baskin trained initially in sculpture but also gained notice for his work in the ancient disciplines of printmaking, woodcuts, and etching.

*Ruth and Naomi* depicts misery but also celebrates the tenacity of humanity in the face of hardship. The women hold one another upright and look sadly toward their new home. The simplicity of the square-shape of the figures allows them to be generalized by the viewer to represent the human condition. The de-individualization of Baskin's figures was influenced by Sumerian sculpture, the figures of Pompeii, and the German Expressionist Ernst Barlach, whose works also minimize naturalistic details to better focus on the weight in space of the figure. Baskin preferred the human form as the subject of his sculptures because of its ability to represent both one figure and everyone: "[i]t contains all and can express all."

Baskin died in 2000 at the age of 77, organizing exhibitions of his work from his deathbed. His most well-known sculptures include a Holocaust Memorial in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and a relief at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, DC. Over the course of sixty years, his work maintained his focus on the moral life of humans, based on his belief that, "Human beings have not changed. No matter how fast we go, we still function as physical beings. That is of overwhelming importance to my art—the continuum of human life—that is what makes art sublime."

—Sara Hoffman, From the New Orleans Museum of Art ([noma.org](http://noma.org))

# 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
- 4 | Community Notes
- 5 | Order of Worship
- 7 | Songbook

### 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

## Volunteer with the Summer Program Partnership

We've partnered with the Kirk of Kildaire and Cary Presbyterian for many years to provide summer enrichment activities for neighborhood children during the summer months. If you are interested in volunteering to help these programs succeed (your presence and kindness are all that's needed, no advanced planning or training), please email Rev. Spears-Newsome to get connected. The program takes place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30am to 12:30pm at the Kirk of Kildaire.

## July Faith Formation - Neighbors at the Border

During July, as we transition from our worship series about moving beyond empire to a series on friendship, we will consider how we can be better friends with our migrant neighbors. In churchwide Faith Formation in the Fellowship Hall, three lay people and Rev. Dr. Stacks will reflect on their trip to the border last year in conversation with scripture. The schedule for these Faith Formation series is below.

July 6 - Lynn McLaughlin

July 13 - Mary Whitehouse

July 20 - Jazzmoné Sutton

July 27 - Stephen Stacks

## Next Sermon Series:

you've got a  
**friend**

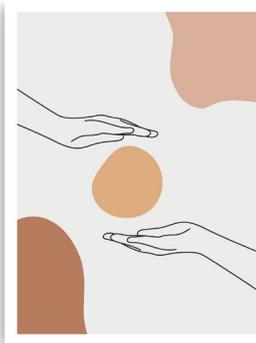
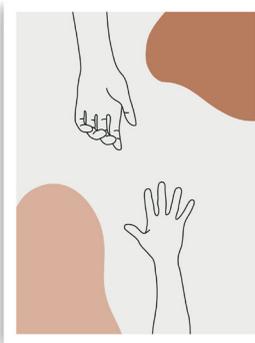
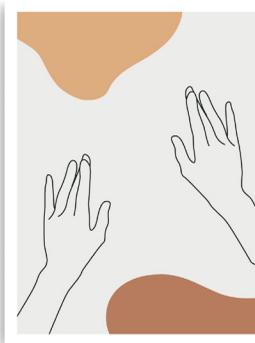
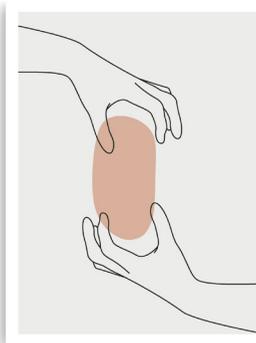
friendship. connection. creation.

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 (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.

# 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  
Barbara Dial (Carol Carter's Sister)  
Doris Martin  
Jennie Pegram  
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 | Fifth 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** | Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether | Harold Freidell

**Welcome to Worship** | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (from Rev. Leslie Penrose)** 📖

At God's table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

**Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down kin-dom of God is revealed.**

At God's table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

**Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the inside-out kin-dom of God is revealed.**

At God's table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.

**Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst the kin-dom of God is revealed.**

**Invocation** | Leanne Glasgow

✝ **Hymn** | Blest Be the Tie (vv., 1-2; pg. 7)

**Offertory Prayer** | Natalie Patten

**Offertory** | Wherever You Go | Gregory Norbet 📖

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.

† **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. 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** | Lead Me, Guide Me (vv., 1-2; pg. 8)

**Reading** | Ruth 1 | Rev. Spears-Newsome  
The word of God for us, the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | O Love | Elaine Hagenberg (pg. 7)

**Sermon** | Foul-Weather Friends | Rev. Amanda Warren

† **Hymn** | Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother (pg. 10) 

**Benediction** | Rev. Warren

**Postlude** | We Will Walk with God | SIZOHAMBA NAYE

### 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!

# Blest Be the Tie

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3. We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear;  
4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us in - ward pain;

the fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the two systems.

## Anthem O Love

Elaine Hagenberg

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thy ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

# Lead Me, Guide Me

Retrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

For if You lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r to  
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous-ness, Be my  
 3. I am lost if You take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness  
 aid when Sa-tan and sin op-press. I am put - ting all  
 blind with - out Thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways let me

D.C.

Thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.  
 my trust in Thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.  
 Thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

# Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother

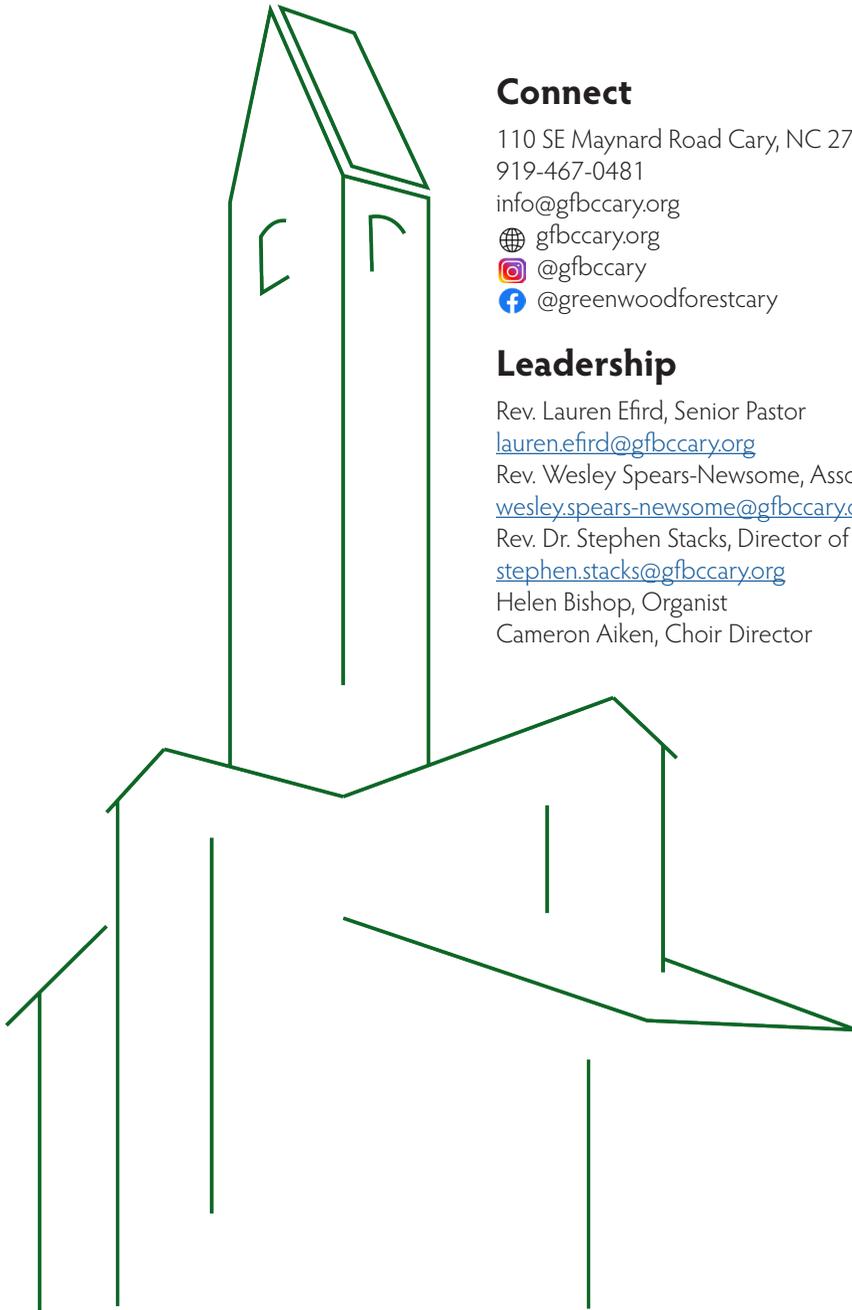
*Unison*

1. Who is my moth - er, who is my broth - er?  
2. Dif - ferent - ly a - bled, dif - ferent - ly la - beled  
3. Love will re - late us — col - or or sta - tus  
4. Bound by one vi - sion, met for one mis - sion

All those who gath - er round Je - sus Christ:  
wid - en the cir - cle round Je - sus Christ:  
can't seg - re - gate us, round Je - sus Christ:  
we claim each oth - er, round Je - sus Christ:

Spir - it - blown peo - ple born from the Gos - pel  
crutch - es and stig - mas, cul - tures' en - ig - mas  
fam - i - ly fail - ings, hu - man de - rail - ings —  
here is my moth - er, here is my broth - er,

sit at the ta - ble, round Je - sus Christ.  
all come to - geth - er round Je - sus Christ.  
all are ac - cept - ed, round Je - sus Christ.  
kin - dred in Spir - it, through Je - sus Christ.



## Connect

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

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate 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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