



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

July 20, 2025



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Bulletin Art

"Two Friends/David and Jonathan" by Karl Hofer, oil on canvas

This expressionist painting was done by the German painter Karl Hofer in 1926. Originally, the painting bore the title "David and Jonathan" but after 1931 the title was changed to "Two Friends." In the 1920's, Berlin was a global center for gay and lesbian life, but that changed with the rise of Hitler and Nazism in the 1930's. An enduring discussion that surrounds David and Jonathan's story in the Old Testament is whether or not they might also be considered gay romantic partners. Obviously, attraction, relationships, sexuality, and gender were not thought of in those terms in the same way then; nevertheless, David and Jonathan have often existed as a stand-in or point of empathy for particularly gay men reading Scripture.

Hofer's painting with its original title gestures at this relationship. Whatever the case, it also suggests the vulnerability that comes with companionship and friendship of any kind. To be a friend is to be vulnerable to and with someone else. The Städel Museum in Frankfurt, where this painting is now kept, had this to say about the work:

"With their naked torsos, the two exhausted-looking men stand close together. Their relationship seems unclear: while the dark-haired man seems to seek closeness, the one in front looks into the distance without reacting to or reciprocating the touch. Among other aspects, this tension between closeness and distance leads to the picture's perturbing effect. [...] Hofer's piece speaks above all of the existential tragedy of a life that was legally and socially unacceptable."

- 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

Youth on Mission Trip (7/20-23)

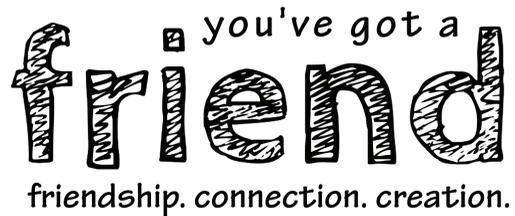
Our youth will be on a mission and service learning trip to Western North Carolina this week alongside Community UCC, Umstead Park UCC, and Pilgrim UCC from the Triangle and Circle of Mercy (an Alliance of Baptist and UCC congregation in Asheville). They'll be assisting in recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene.

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:

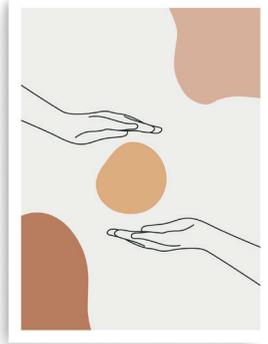
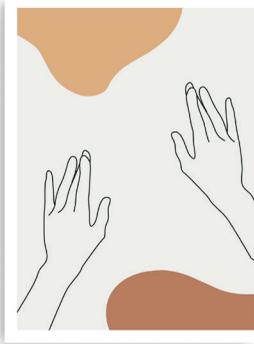


In July, we're beginning a new sermon and event series called "You've Got a Friend: Friendship. Connection. Creation." In worship, we'll be exploring biblical friendships and there will be several events through July and August you'll want to mark your calendars for:

- **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 (more info to come!) Moved to the Fall!
- **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
Steven (friend of GFBC)
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 | Sixth 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 | Gather Us In | arr. Jeffrey Honoré

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Commissioning our Youth | Rev. Hayes

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (from Rev. Leslie Penrose) 📖

We gather to worship together,

Different people, different lives, different histories,

Yet all children of the same Parent,

Created lovingly by the Source of all life!

We gather to reconnect with one another,

Different people, different lives, different histories,

Yet all disciples of one Teacher.

Jesus, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.

We gather with different joys and sorrows, different hopes and fears....

Different people, different lives, different histories,

Yet one people with one God, one faith, one baptism.

Let us open ourselves to the presence of God at work in us, among us, and through us.

Invocation | Diana McGahan

✝ **Hymn** | Blest Be the Tie (vv. 1 and 3; pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Jazzmoné Sutton

Offertory | God Will Take Care of You | arr. Cindy Berry 📖

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 | Steve Denning 

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** | Where Charity and Love Prevail (pg. 8)

Reading | 1 Samuel 20 | Rev. Hayes

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | Hallelujah (Your Love is Amazing) | Brown and Doerksen (pg. 10)

Sermon | I Love You, Man | Rev. Al Whitehouse

† **Hymn** | Love Divine All Loves Excelling (pg. 9) 

Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah | arr. Barry Braman

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 first system of music consists of a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The bass line is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

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 second system of music continues the vocal and bass lines from the first system. It concludes with a double bar line. The musical notation is consistent with the first system, maintaining the same key signature and time signature.

Where Charity and Love Prevail

1. Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2. For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess;

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
and let us love each oth - er well in Chris-tian ho - li - ness.

With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear true char - i - ty we learn;
Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let all con - ten - tion cease;

let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in re - turn.
be Christ the glo - ry that we seek, be ours His ho - ly peace.

Love Divine All Loves Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell-ing, joy of heaven to earth come down,
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all Thy grace re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



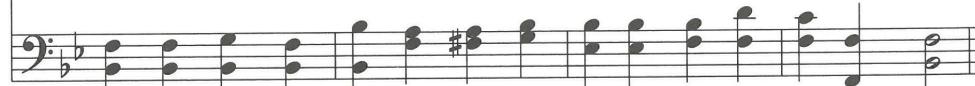
fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Let us all in Thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
let us see Thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee:



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
Take a - way our bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



Anthem Hallelujah (Your Love is Amazing)

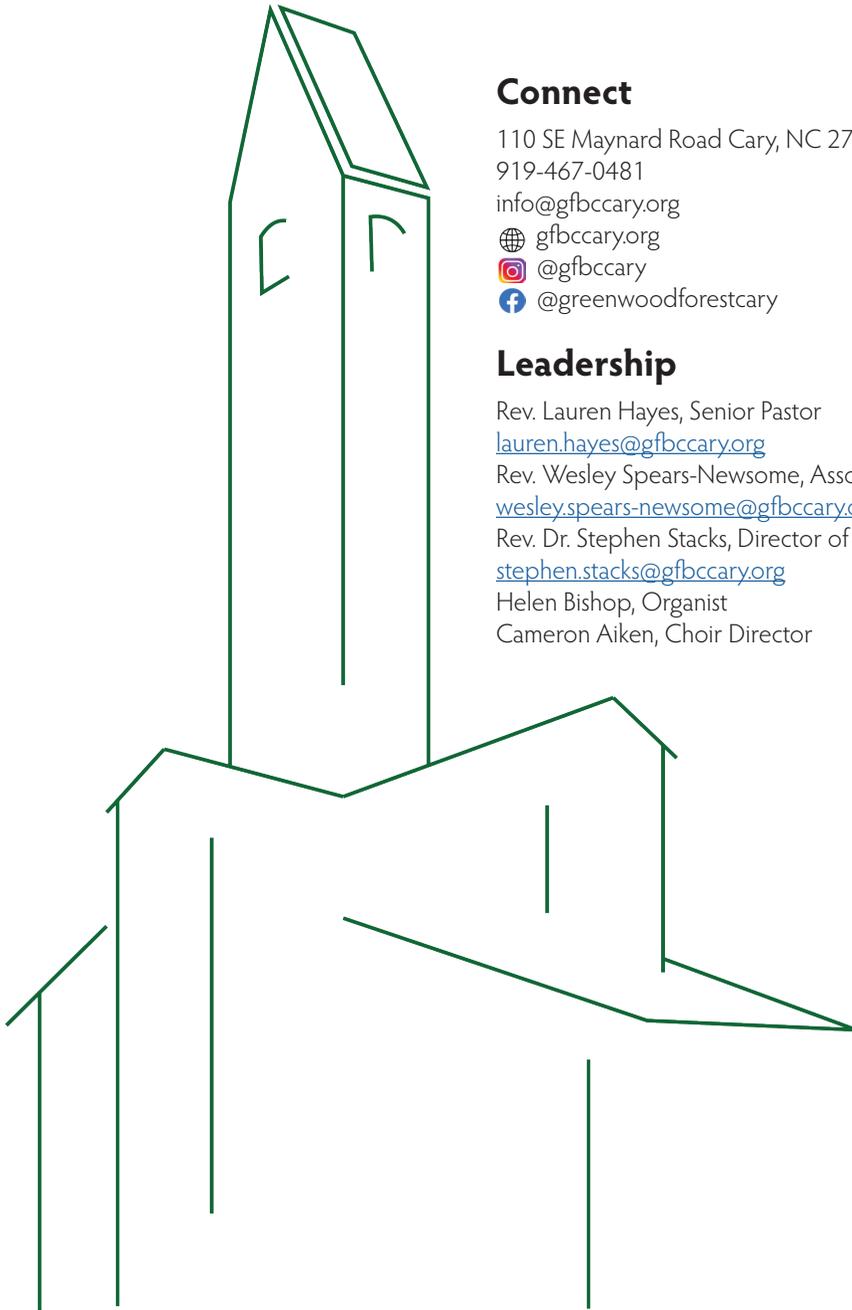
Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging
Your love is a mountain firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a mystery, how you gently lift me
When I am surrounded, your love carries me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, your love makes me sing.

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising
All the joy that's growing deep inside of me.
And every time I see you, all your goodness shines through
I can feel this God song rising up in me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, your love makes me sing.



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Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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