

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

August 3, 2025



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Bulletin Art

"The Scream" by Edvard Munch, pastel on board

Essentially *The Scream* is autobiographical, an expressionistic construction based on Munch's actual experience of a scream piercing through nature while on a walk, after his two companions, seen in the background, had left him. Fitting the fact that the sound must have been heard at a time when his mind was in an abnormal state, Munch renders it in a style which if pushed to extremes can destroy human integrity. As previously noted, the flowing curves of art nouveau represent a subjective linear fusion imposed upon nature, whereby the multiplicity of particulars is unified into a totality of organic suggestion with feminine overtones. But man is part of nature, and absorption into such a totality liquidates the individual. Beginning at this time Munch included art nouveau elements in many pictures but usually only in a limited or modified way. Here, however, in depicting his own morbid experience, he has let go, and allowed the foreground figure to become distorted by the subjectivized flow of nature; the scream could be interpreted as expressing the agony of the obliteration of human personality by this unifying force. Significantly, although it was Munch himself who underwent the experience depicted, the protagonist bears no resemblance to him or anyone else. The creature in the foreground has been depersonalized and crushed into sexlessness or, if anything, stamped with a trace of the femininity of the world that has come close to assimilating it.

— Estate of Edvard Munch (edvardmunch.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.

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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.



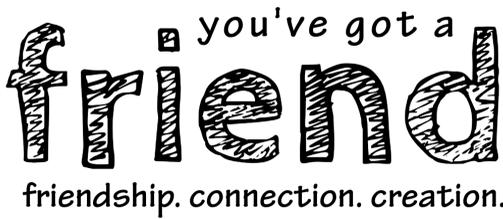
Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.



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



August Faith Formation

In August, Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome and our high school youth will be leading Churchwide Faith Formation! They'll be showcasing an interview game called "Wild Card" (based on the podcast of the same name) with various adults in the congregation. You won't want to miss these deep conversations at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays in August.

August Business Meeting

We'll be holding a business meeting in the Fellowship Hall on August 24 at 2pm. This is the annual meeting where we discuss and vote on the budget and nominating slate for the 2025-2026 church fiscal year. Come join us for these important deliberations!

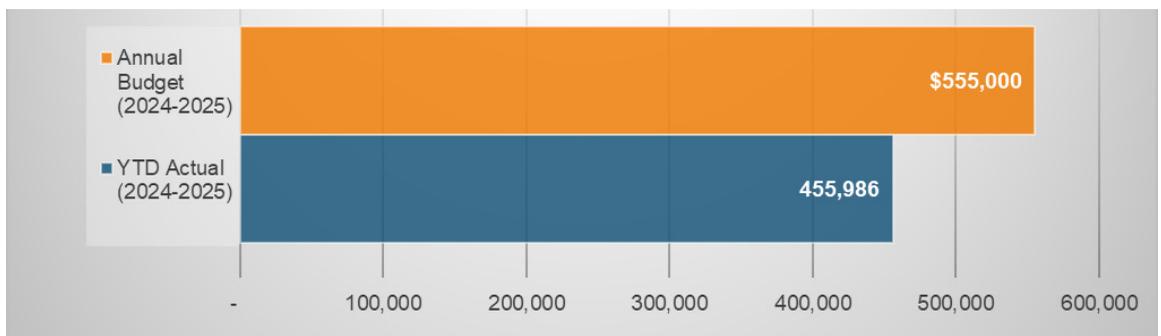
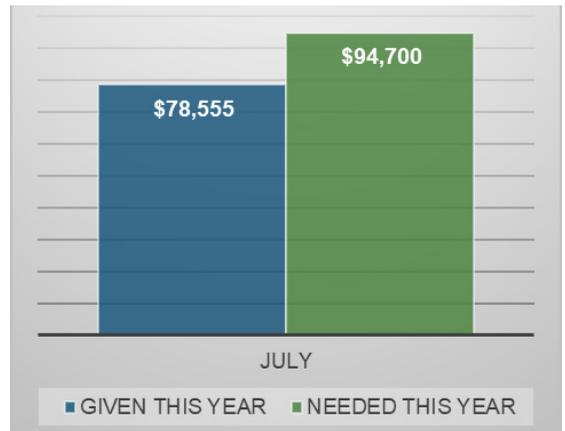
Work Anniversary

On August 15th we celebrate Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks 13th anniversary of serving at Greenwood Forest. As Director of Liturgy and Formation, Stephen is responsible for much of what you experience in

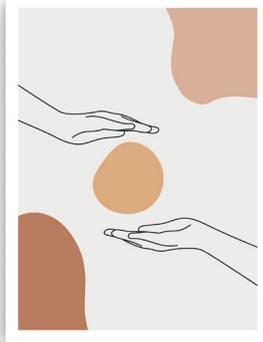
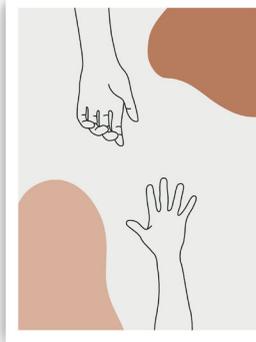
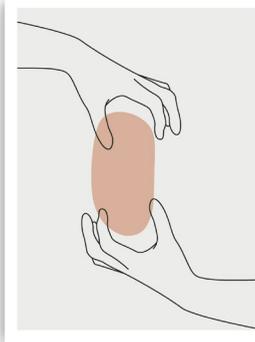
weekly worship as well as discipleship events throughout the year. Thank you, Stephen!

Update from Finance

We wanted to give you an update on where we are on our giving goals for the year as of July 22. Below, in the blue and green graph you can see our progress on the mortgage payment for this year. We still need \$16,145 for the mortgage as of July 22. In the orange and blue graph, you can see our progress on the Annual Budget. Currently, we are \$99,014 away from fulfilling needed giving to the budget for the '24-'25 fiscal year. The church fiscal year ends on August 31 (just a few weeks from now), so we appreciate any and all gifts to these annual funds!



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)
Mac Graham
Doris Martin
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 | Eighth 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 | I Come with Joy | arr. Hal Hopson

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (from Leslie Penrose) 📖

We come, God of the Journey, a people from different places, different histories, different lifestyles.

We come hoping to find companionship for the journey, solidarity for the struggle.

We gather, God of Hospitality, around your "welcome table," a table not yet round, but rounding.

We gather seeking to become a round-table people, welcoming of all, with no preferred seating, no firsts and no lasts, and no corners for 'the least of these.'

We yearn, God of the Rainbow, for a new way of living and relating as neighbors not strangers, as family not 'them and us'.

We yearn to live fully celebrating both the diversity of our human family, and the unity of our call to love and justice.

We hunger, God of Abundant Life, for lives that have meaning and integrity, and for relationships grounded in mutuality and respect.

We thirst for places to bring our doubts, our fears; places to express honestly who we are. We thirst for hope and encouragement as we struggle to follow Jesus in the way of life-risking love.

With the gift of your grace we are nourished.

With the promise of your presence may we be strengthened to be faithful. Amen.

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.

Invocation | Nathan Bullock

† **Hymn** | The Bond of Love (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Blair Biser

Offertory | Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir | arr. Samuel Scheidt 

† **Doxology** | Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Transcendent God, we bless your name
Incarnate Christ, the Risen One
The Spirit with us, Immanent
The Source, the Word, the Breath of life. Amen.

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** | They'll Know We Are Christians (pg. 7)

Reading | Psalm 88 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | I Love the Lord | Richard Smallwood (pg. 10)

Sermon | The Psalmist's Fair-Weather Friends | Rev. Hayes

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** | I Come with Joy (pg. 9)

Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | Blessed Assurance | 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.

They'll Know We Are Christians

7

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

This system of music features a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final phrase held over two measures. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support with chords and single notes.

We are one in the bond of love; we are one in the bond of love.

This system continues the musical piece with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature remains three flats and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal melody is more active, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano accompaniment uses a consistent rhythmic pattern of chords.

We have joined our spir-its with the Spir-it of God; we are one in the bond of love.

The final system of music on this page, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature is three flats and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal melody concludes with a final phrase held over two measures. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support.

The Bond of Love

I Come with Joy

Unison

1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved and
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4. The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

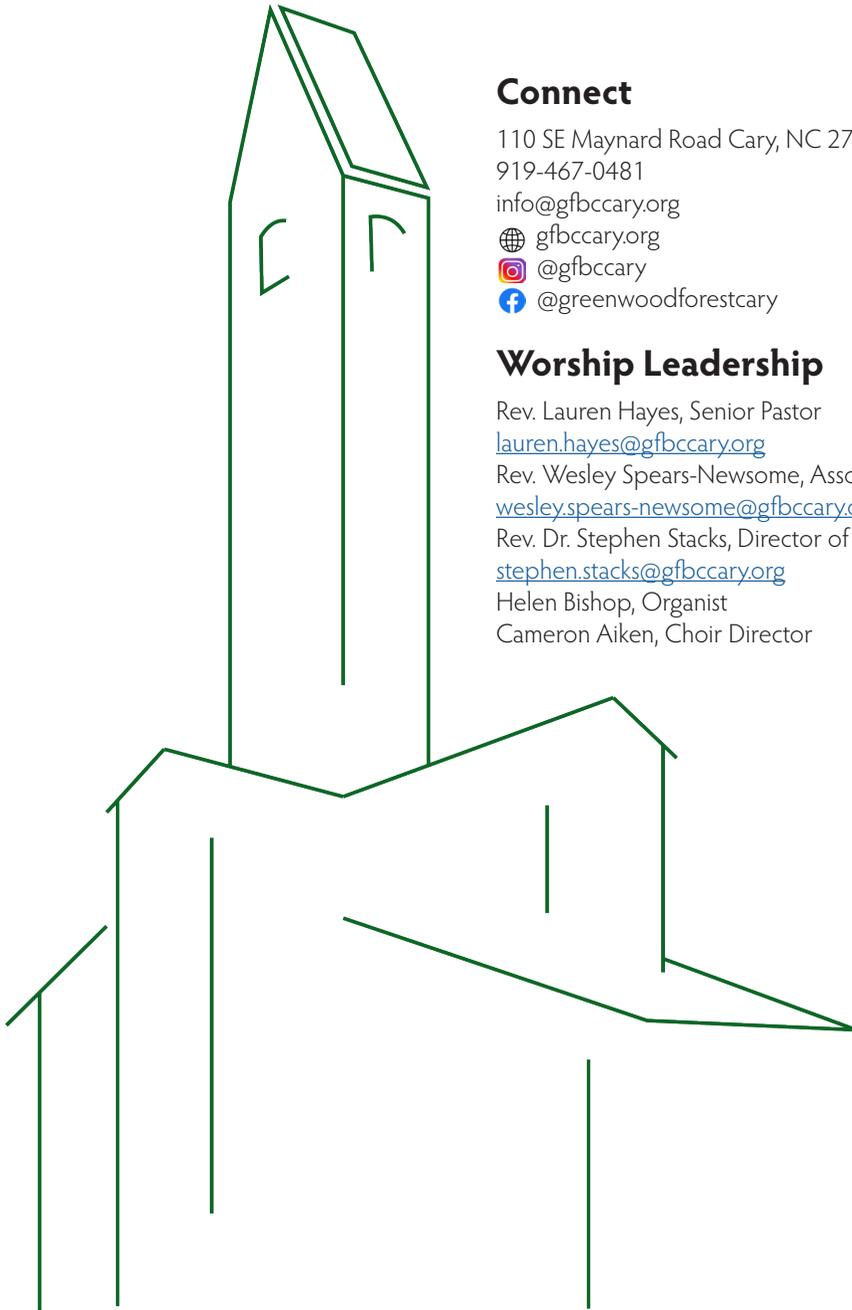
love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
stran - gers now are friends, and stran - gers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Anthem I Love the Lord

arr. Richard Smallwood; soloist: Randy Palmer

I love the Lord, he heard my cry
And pitied ev'ry groan.
Long as I love, while troubles rise,
I'll hasten to his throne.

I love the Lord; he bowed his ear
And chased my griefs away;
Oh, let my heart no more despair
While I have breath to pray.



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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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

stephen.stacks@gbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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