



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

September 7, 2025



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# Bulletin Art

## "The Laying On of Hands Is a Time Honored Ritual" (1997) Edgar Sorrells-Adewale (USA, b. 1936)

This color offset lithograph by Sorrells-Adewale gives the impression of the religious ritual by which we consecrate individuals and commission them, or by which we pray for them. The text in the bottom right-hand corner reads:

The laying on of hands is a time honored ritual regarding the awakening of insight. Its motion is the inexorable twinness of the serpent and its wisdom is the ability to see what's hidden in plain view.

The piece is at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in Pennsylvania and carries this description:

The "laying on of hands" describes the action of a priest or other spiritual figure who physically touches a person or object of concern during a ritual. This act may be a symbolic or formal method of invoking spiritual intervention and is used in various religious practices throughout the world. Such rituals are typically focused on healing, blessings, or church-related sacraments.

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

# an inclusive community of faith

## Welcome

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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

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## Thank You from BPB

Backpack Buddies would like to thank our wonderful GFBC members for volunteering their time to deliver food this school year. Thanks to your efforts, they have fulfilled their need for delivery drivers.

## A Morning with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

Cary Presbyterian Church invites you to join them for A Morning with Jonathan Wilson Hartgrove: *Looking to the Gospels to Make Sense of Our Current Political Climate*. The event will take place on September 27th in Cary Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Free lunch will be provided.

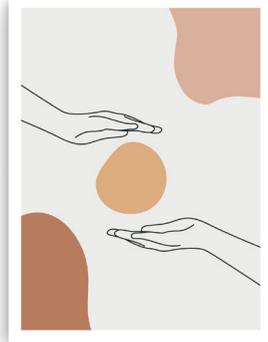
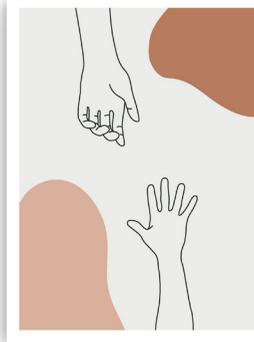
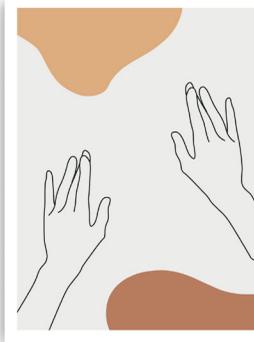
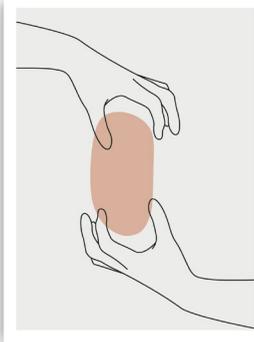
## HVAC Update

Things continue to move along with our HVAC replacement. Piece by piece, the system is coming online and we expect to move back into the rest of the building by the end of September or beginning of October. As the work continues, we'll need volunteers to help come clean and reset the parts of the building that have gone unused the past few months, so keep an eye out for when we ask for help with that. Also, if you've pledged a gift to the HVAC project, you can go ahead and fulfill those pledges as invoices are now coming in for the replacement. Thank you so much for everyone's generosity and flexibility this summer!

## Teaching Series: 9/14-28

The next three Sundays we will have churchwide Faith Formation in the Fellowship Hall led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks. In "Apocalypse Now," we will approach the book of Revelation (and other apocalyptic literature) with fresh eyes—not as strange, scary, and violent predictions for the end times, but as a prism for understanding how we can and should relate to the powers-that-be in our own time. It's the end of the world as we know it...do you feel fine?

# 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)  
Jay and Doris Martin  
Mac Graham  
Carrie  
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](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 | Thirteenth 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** | Sweet Hour of Prayer | arr. Mark Hayes

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship** | Rev. Amanda Warren 📖

Mother God, you feed us with gifts that sustain our bodies and enrich our lives.

**We give thanks for the bounty of your goodness. Your gifts are for all.**

You made our ancestors alive with your love. They have spoken your truth.

**We thank you, eternal God, for people faithful to your truth.**

God of redemption, you came as one like us, calling us to be your community of priests. Siblings, we are called . . .

**Called to follow Jesus. What a challenge! What an opportunity!**

Called to live among your people; to feel with them, to care for them

**Called to name the oppressions that destroy our world**

Called to discern those gifts of life you have hidden within each of us.

**Called to discover and share those gifts of our hearts, our hands, our whole selves.**

Called to follow Jesus and yes, we can answer;

Today's color is **red**, representing the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit

## 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.

**We can follow, because we have been called first to love,**

Called to be God's children,

**Called by name.**

**Invocation** | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

† **Hymn** | Here I Am, Lord (pg. 7-8)

**Offertory Prayer** | Blair Biser

**Offertory** | Make Me a Channel of Your Peace | arr. Jane Holstein

† **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.

**Scripture Reading** | Acts 6:1-6 | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Deacon Testimonies** | Diana McGahan and Rev. Evan Owoc-Edwards

† **Hymn** | Spirit of the Living God (pg. 10)

**Deacon Ordination and Laying on of Hands**

**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.**

**Anthem** | Be Thou My Vision | arr. Alice Parker

**Commissioning of the New Deacon Board** | Rev. Hayes

† **Hymn** | I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (pg. 9)

**Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

**Postlude** | I Love to Tell the Story | arr. Mary McDonald

## 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.

# Here I am, Lord

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My  
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My  
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin  
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them,  
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,

My hand will save. I, who made the stars of night,  
they turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,  
My hand will save. Fin-est bread I will pro-vide

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear My  
give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak My  
till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give My

light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Parts (optional)*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You call - ing in the night. (in the night.)

I will go, Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your peo - ple in my heart.

# I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -  
2. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low; though none go  
3. My cross I'll car - ry, till I see Je - sus; my cross I'll  
4. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low  
with me, I still will fol - low; though none go with me, I still will  
car - ry, till I see Je - sus; my cross I'll car - ry, till I see  
hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be - hind me, the cross be -

Je - sus; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
fol - low; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
Je - sus; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
fore me; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It features a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with a vocal staff and a bass staff. The first system contains the first four lines of the lyrics. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the next four lines. The fourth system contains the final four lines. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

Musical score for 'Spirit of the Living God' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of three systems of vocal melody and piano accompaniment. 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.'

## Anthem Be Thou My Vision

arr. Alice Parker

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
 Naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
 Thou my best thought by day and by night;  
 Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
 I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 Thou my great Father, I thy true son;  
 Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
 Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
 High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
 May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'ns Sun!  
 Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
 Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.



## Connect

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