

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

February 8, 2026



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Black History Month Guest Preachers



Rev. Annie Ross: Preaching February 8

Pastor Annie Ross is a multifaceted gift to the world. With sheer charisma, she delivers a message of hope among many people from every walk of life. Her poetic art of public speaking, unmistakable love for helping people, practical wisdom and insightful teaching, has positioned her as a highly sought after presenter. Ross's love for spreading her inspirational message extends into artistic genres, and her passion for monologues, poetry and music is clearly at the forefront of this commitment. The heart of Pastor Annie Ross is beautifully captured in her poetic written work, "Erasure." On the heels of her many artistic contributions, Ross has launched several Outreach Projects, including "A Servants Heart" geared towards helping families with food insecurity. In addition, Ross established "A Pot of Grace," an effort that ensures that those healing from sickness, grief or loneliness receive meals, groceries and a visit to uplift and inspire them during their recovery and healing. As

an ordained minister, and passionate dedication to her Christian faith, Ross approaches her new assignment as the Senior Pastor of Imani MCC with a respect for the legacy of the Ministry and the opportunities in the future.

Pastor Annie enjoys reading, gardening, cooking, Bitcoin and AI technology, traveling, family and friends. She obtained a BS in Health Administration and BA in Religion from Auburn University and a Master in Accounting with a concentration in Taxation from Strayer University. She is married to First Lady Priscilla Ross and will soon celebrate 30 years together this October. They have two adult children, Matthew Coleman from Washington, DC and Jessika Coleman of Raleigh, NC. Ross's storytelling yet powerful delivery continues to inspire, impact, and empower many young and seasoned alike.



Rev. Dr. Mycal Brickhouse: Preaching February 15

Rev. Dr. Mycal Xavier Brickhouse is a servant-leader whose journey in ministry is rooted in a deep commitment to faith, education, and community. Ordained as an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, his ministry has included pastoring in North Carolina, deepening alumni engagement as Director of Alumni Relations at Duke Divinity School, and now, shaping institutional impact as the Managing Director of Programs and Grants at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity.

In addition to his work at Duke, he serves as the Director of Outreach and Church Expansion at Baptist Grove Church in Raleigh, NC, where he leads strategic efforts to extend the church's reach and witness into the broader community. Whether in the academy or the local church, Rev. Brickhouse brings a consistent call to form leaders, cultivate connection, and embody the gospel through justice and joy.



Rev. Racquel Gill: Preaching February 22

Rev. Racquel C.N. Gill is a native of Winnsboro, SC. Racquel is a 2012 graduate of Columbia College in Columbia, SC where she holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Education. Racquel received her Master's of Divinity in May of 2015 from Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. Upon completion of her theological studies, Racquel served on the pastoral staff at the St. Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

After her time in Brooklyn, Racquel served as the Associate Chaplain at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC for 3 years and most recently as the Minister for Intercultural Engagement at Duke University Chapel. Racquel currently works in local government for the City of Raleigh, NC. She lives in Durham, NC with her spouse, Rev. Dr. Chelsea Brooke Yarborough, PhD and they are members of Southeast Raleigh Table United Methodist Church under the leadership of Pastor Lisa Yebuah. Racquel is an active member on the board of directors for the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice in Durham, NC.

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 sanctuary if you need to rock your little ones.



Hearing assistance devices, transcripts of the sermon, and large print bulletins are available at the back of the sanctuary.



Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.



Gender-neutral, single-occupant bathrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary in the Narthex.



gfbccary.org



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Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, our worship services during February will feature music from Black composers and artists, as well as liturgical elements from the African American Heritage Hymnal. Here at GFBC, we celebrate Black History Month alongside our Black congregants and Black siblings everywhere as a way to honor Black stories, beauty, and contributions, but also as a way to signal our continued commitment to Black lives throughout the year. For us, Black History Month is not a way to absolve ourselves of the year-round and life-long work of anti-racism, but a moment to celebrate and to recommit ourselves to the gospel work of inclusivity in our worship and in our lives.

Chili Cookoff and Maker's Festival- March 1st at 4pm!

Join us Sunday, March 1st from 4pm-6pm for a special time of congregational sharing in food, fellowship, and craft! We want to share our gifts with one another, so if you're good at painting, pottery, quilting, music, writing, drawing, woodworking, or any other craft and want to share something you've made, we want to see it!

HVAC Update

Thanks to your generosity, our HVAC project is almost fully funded! Only \$15,800 remains. If you feel led to give, now is a wonderful time to help us cross the finish line. Thank you for your faithful support.

Discipleship Retreat: February 20-22

Nothing but the Blood: The Meaning of The Cross

Why did Jesus die by violent execution? Why would God choose this method of saving the world? Why does it matter? For Discipleship Retreat 2026, we will be taking a deep dive into "atonement theory"—how we explain the crucifixion and what it accomplished. The cross is central to our faith, and how we understand it matters greatly to how we practice our faith. Join us as we explore deep questions together over a reflective and inspiring weekend.

Register at gfbcary.org/retreat26

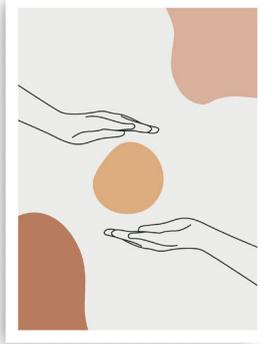
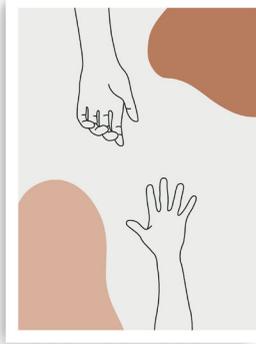
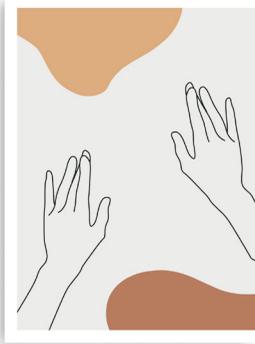
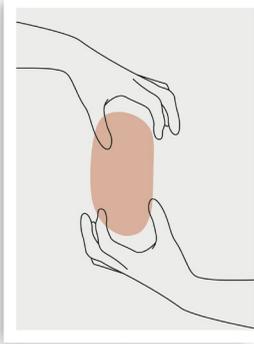
Newcomers Reception

All those new to GFBC are invited to a reception after worship today! Join us in the narthex (the entrance/foyer area to the sanctuary) to get more information about this community, make connections, and find your place here at GFBC.

Ministry Highlight

Greeters & Ushers: Greeters and Ushers serve our weekly worship service in two essential ways. Greeters stand (or sit) in the Narthex to welcome all who enter our church on Sundays. They provide a warm smile and especially work to get to know new members and visitors. You can help by taking this role on a rotating weekly or monthly basis to ensure all who enter our doors feel welcomed. Ushers serve to help make sure our service runs smoothly. They hand out bulletins, answer questions, and occasionally assist with other logistics. Most importantly, the ushers oversee the passing of the collection plates during the offering. If you are interested in joining this team, please see and speak with Nathan Bullock or reach him by email at nathan.f.bullock@gmail.com

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.

Bess Averre
Valerie Brooks
Jo Brooks
Carrie
George Daniel
Mac Graham
Nancy Watson
Chuck and Susan Beck at the death of Nancy Walters (Chuck's mother)
Anne Whelan
Steven (friend of GFBC)
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
- 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 Epiphany

✝ 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

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Based on the spiritual, Over My Head) 📖

Over our heads, we hear music in the air.

There must be a God somewhere!

We lift up our voices to you, God.

May our singing be a sweet sound to your ears.

Inhabit our praise and inspire our hearts.

Heal us—make us whole.

We need the fire and balm of your Spirit.

We stand in awe of your beauty and majesty.

Over our heads, we hear music in the air.

There must be a God somewhere!

Invocation | Leanne Glasgow

✝ Hymn | Lift Every Voice and Sing (pg. 7-8, vv. 1-2)

Offertory Prayer | Andy Jarrell

Offertory

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: 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** | Precious Lord, Take My Hand (pg. 9)

Reading | Matthew 5:13-20 | Rev. Hayes
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | The Storm is Passing Over | arr. Baker

*Have courage my soul,
And let us journey on.
Though the night is dark,
And I am far from home.
Thanks be to God,
the morning light appears.*

*The storm is passing over
The storm is passing over,
The storm is passing over,
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia*

Sermon | Rev. Annie Ross

† **Hymn** | Way Maker (pg. 10) 📖

Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude

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!

Thank you!

Special thanks to our guest musicians: Orion Weaver and David Wintermute of Symbiosis Duo.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en
2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning
died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry
way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in - to the

skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
feet Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
light, Keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee,

Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
 slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we
 get Thee; Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for

day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.
 ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Verses 1-3

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me
2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
near; When my life is al - most gone,
near, And the day is past and gone;

Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I
At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my

light, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
fall; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
hand; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Way Maker

You are here, moving in our midst,

I worship you, I worship you.

You are here, working in this place,

I worship you, I worship you.

You are here, turning lives around,

I worship you, I worship you.

You are here, mending every heart,

I worship you, I worship you.

Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness.

My God, that is who you are (x2)

You are here, touching every heart,

I worship you, I worship you.

You are here, turning lives around,

I worship you, I worship you.



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Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

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