



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

May 10, 2026



Bulletin Art

Photo of EJI Jars from AlachuaCounty.us

In Montgomery, Alabama there are rows and rows of jars of soil on shelves. They vary in their colors, an array of earthy tones that make a rainbow of browns, reds, oranges, and blacks. Each one is filled with dirt from across the country, all of them locations of lynchings. More than 6,500 Black people were lynched between the end of the American Civil War and 1950. The Equal Justice Initiative attempts to keep a record and a monument to these lives lost to violent white supremacy. The soil is all that's left behind of these lives. Paul and Silas found themselves with feet pressed into soil likewise marked by violence and oppression. They found themselves in prison for setting a young girl free from slavers – their act of liberation declared a crime for endangering the profits of the men who controlled the woman's body and life. This relentless pursuit of profits leaves soil and people exhausted, spent of energy and life. Much of our society is premised on this sort of exploitation. Yolanda Pierce points out that from slavery to modern capitalism, we have invented systems designed to support the "indolent lifestyles" of the few by stripping soil and people "of life giving-resources" (80).

How have you been exploited by these processes and systems? What wounds do you carry? Remember that recalling our wounds is not a competition of sufferings (the American slavocracy and history of racial terrorism is incomparable), but a way to hold our burdens together and support each other.

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome



Current Sermon Series: The Wounds are the Witness

If we are to become Easter people, people of the resurrection, people walking in the way of Jesus, we must learn from the witness of wounds, the wounds of Jesus and the wounds of the marginalized. It is only then that we can learn to become the church, the people we are called to be. As Yolanda Pierce says in her book, *The Wounds are the Witness: Black Faith Weaving Memory into Justice and Healing*, "If we are to love Jesus, we have to love the man with the still-healing wounds and not just the conquering hero. We have to love the broken Jesus and not just the triumphant one. Likewise, we have to love wounded people and wounded places. To work for flourishing and liberation in a broken world, we cannot look away from crucified flesh or be repulsed by the wounds" (144). For Christians in the United States, this means seriously reckoning with the wounds of Indigenous Americans and enslaved African people. It means understanding that the wounds that are continually inflicted on people of color in our country must be tended in order for all our wounds to be healed. In this Easter season sermon series, we will take the time to draw close to Jesus, our wounded healer, and learn to carefully tend both our own wounds and the wounds of those who've been marginalized, recognizing that the liberation of all God's people is bound together in the healing of all our wounds.

-Rev. Lauren Hayes

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

- 4 | Announcements
- 5 | Community Notes
- 6 | Order of Worship
- 8 | Songbook



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

Upcoming Fellowship Events

The Fellowship Committee is excited for you to join us for any of the upcoming family-friendly events in the Spring and Summer:

May 30 (10am) | Local Nature Walk (location TBD)

June 14 (4-6pm) | Picnic in GFBC Courtyard (BBQ provided, bring your favorite side dish or dessert!)

July 15 (6-8pm) | Game Night at GFBC (bring your favorite game and your dinner; desserts provided!)

Newcomers Reception

All those new to GFBC are invited to a reception after worship on May 17th! 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.

Blood Drive: May 13th

We are collaborating with the Red Cross to host another Blood Drive on Wednesday, May 13th from 1-6PM. Everyone who donates will receive a \$20 Amazon e-gift card. Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter: Greenwood to schedule an appointment.

Women's Luncheon

Join the Women's Lunch Bunch every third Monday at 11:30 AM. Each month, we gather at a different restaurant to enjoy great food, warm fellowship, and meaningful conversation. We'd love to see you there! If you'd like to join the "Lunch Bunch," please contact Janice Medford at 919-612-8878.

Sign Up For Our Email List

If you would like to be added to our church email list, please send an email to alex@gfbccary.org with your contact information. We'll make sure you're included so you can stay up to date on news, events, and important announcements.

Ministry Highlight

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. 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

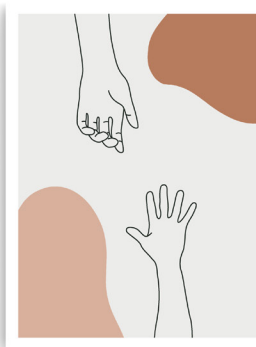
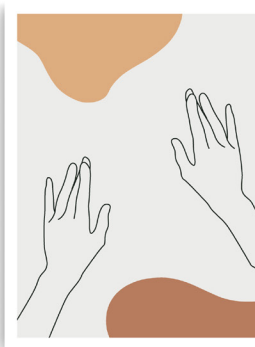
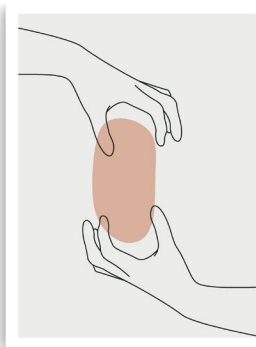
Spiritual Life Surveys

Please go to gfbccary.org/survey to fill out our yearly spiritual life survey! This survey is helpful, as it allows us to identify how to best support and serve the GFBC community. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Senior Class of 2026

Are you graduating from high school this summer? If so, we would love to shout you out during worship! If you are interested in being recognized, please email Wes at wes@gfbccary.org
Congratulations to our Senior Class of 2026!

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
Jo Brooks
Carolyn Camp
Rick Hollings (Mary Whitehouse's father)
Lee Taylor
Nancy Watson
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 | Sixth Sunday of Easter

✝ 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 Love to Tell the Story | arr. Mary McDonald

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 66:8-20) 📖

Bless our God, O peoples,

Let the sound of God's praise be heard,

Who has kept us among the living,

And has not let our feet slip.

We went through fire and through water;

Yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

Come and hear, all you who fear God,

And we will tell what God has done for us.

We cried aloud to God,

With our tongues, God was extolled.

Truly God has listened;

God has given heed to the words of our prayer.

Blessed be God, because God has not rejected us

Or removed God's steadfast love from us!

Invocation | Greg Upchurch

✝ **Hymn** | Lift High the Cross (pg. 8, vv. 1, 2 & 4)

Offertory Prayer | Susan Beck

Offertory | O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus | arr. Don Phillips

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory of God.

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. 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** | Steal Away (pg. 9)

Reading | Acts 16:16-40 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Anthem | Acclamation | Robert Ray (pg. 11)

Sermon | Wounded Soil and Wounded Souls | Rev. Hayes

† **Hymn** | Amazing Grace (pg.10) 

† **Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | Amazing Grace | arr. Jack Schrader

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!

Our hymn leader today is
Jazzmoné Sutton.

Lift High the Cross

Unison

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till

Fine

all the world adore His sacred name.

Parts

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, our
2. O Lord, once lift - ed on this glo - rious tree, as
3. For Thy blest cross which doth for all a - tone, cre -
4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

D.C.

King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
Thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to Thee.
a - tion's prais - es raise be - fore Thy throne.
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Steal Away

Steal a-way, steal a-way, steal a-way to Je - sus!

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

Steal a-way, steal a-way home, I ain't got long to stay here.

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

Verses

Unison

1. My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the thun - der;
2. Green trees are bend-ing, Poor sin - ners stand a trem-bling;
3. My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the light - ning;

The verses are written in a unison style. The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

div. D.C.
The trum-pet sounds with - in my soul; I ain't got long to stay here.

The final system of music includes a *div.* (divisi) instruction and a *D.C.* (Da Capo) instruction. The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

Amazing Grace

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -
4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing

wretch like me! I once was lost, but
fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
hope se - cures; He will my shield and
as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we first be - gun.

Anthem | Acclamation

Robert Ray (from *Gospel Mass*)

Hallelujah; praise the Lord.
Hallelujah; praise the Lord.
Hallelujah. Let us praise the Lord.

Praise him with stringed instruments.
Praise him with dance.
Praise him on the psalt'ry and harp.
Everything that has breath ought to praise him



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