



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

July 12, 2026



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



[greenwoodforestcary](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)



[@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Game Night

The Fellowship Committee is excited for you to join us Wednesday, **July 15th from 6-8pm** for Game Night at GFBC (bring your favorite game and your dinner; desserts provided!)

Join Us For Summer Choir

During the summer, instead of rehearsing on Wednesday evenings, the Sanctuary Choir gathers for a potluck lunch once a month following Sunday worship and rehearses the anthems for upcoming Sundays. We enjoy each other's company and sing lots of fun music. It's a great time to join if you would like to try singing in the choir! Childcare will be available. Our potluck/rehearsal dates for the summer are **July 19** and **August 16**. We'd love to see you there!

GFBC 101- August 2

If you're new (or even new-ish!) to Greenwood Forest and want to learn more and get involved, GFBC 101 is for you! Following worship on **August 2**, we'll have a lunch and afternoon retreat that orients participants to the values, history, and community of the church. Participants only need to attend one of the sessions (both are the same content). Sign up at gfbccary.org/101 and email Rev. Spears-Newsome if you have questions.

Women's Lunch Gathering

Join us on the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM for a women's lunch gathering. Each month, the group comes together to connect, catch up, and enjoy a new restaurant. For more information, contact Janice Medford at (919) 387-8249.

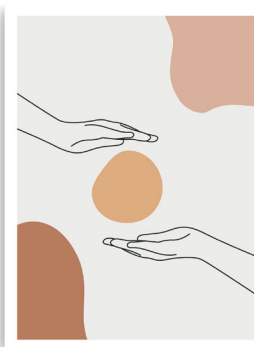
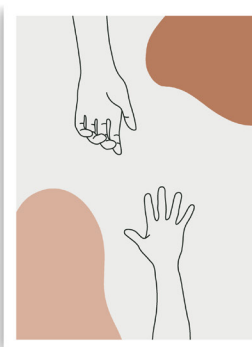
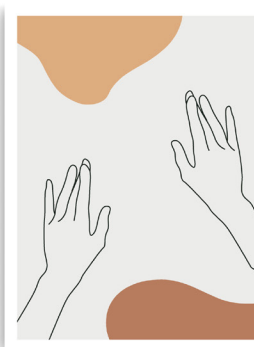
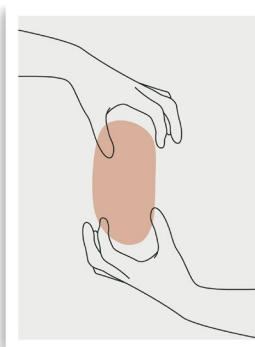
Faith Formation Teachers Wanted

We are always in need of gifted and called lay people to serve in the Discipleship ministry. If you are interested in teaching or facilitating a Faith Formation class at GFBC, please reach out to Rev. Dr. Stacks

Newcomers Reception

All those new to GFBC are invited to a reception after worship today, **July 12th**! 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.

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

Richard Adair (Janice Medford's brother)

Jo Brooks

The Webb Family (at the death of Patti Webb)

Rick Hollings (Mary Whitehouse's father)

Marissa Kruzewski

Kathy and Lee Taylor

Nancy Watson

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 | Seventh 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 | Christus, der ist mein Leben | arr. Johann Pachelbel

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Isaiah 55:10-12) 📖

As the rain comes down and does not return until it has watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

So shall God's word be; it shall not return empty, but shall accomplish its purpose.

You shall go out in joy

and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Invocation | Nathan Bullock

✝ **Hymn** | Be Thou My Vision (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Rick Chappell

Offertory | Prelude on SLANE | Gordon Young

✝ **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.

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

The Prayers of the People | Rev. 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 | Seed, Scattered and Sown (pg. 9)

Reading | Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | We Abide, We Abide in You | Porter's Gate (pg. 11)

Sermon | Rev. Hayes

† Hymn | Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (pg. 10)

† Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | Be Thou My Vision and Help Me to See | arr. Abe Cáceres

collective offering to God and the wellbeing of this community. A short doxology follows as we offer our gifts.

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.

Thank You!

Our hymn leader today is Blair Biser.

Be Thou My Vision

Unison

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and Thou my high tower,
 Thou and Thou on - ly first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 raise Thou me heaven-ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

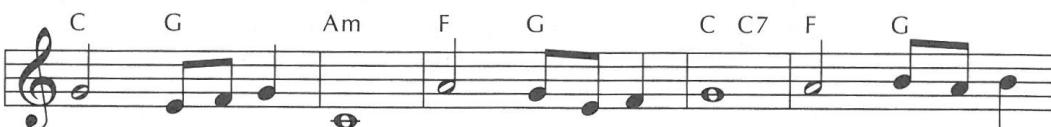
Seed, Scattered and Sown



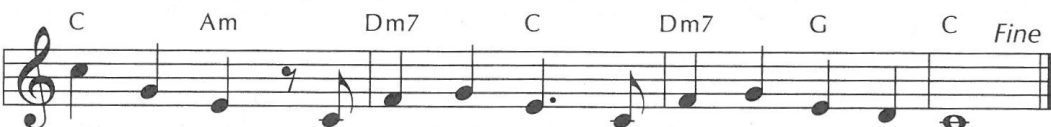
Seed, scat-tered and sown; wheat, gath-ered and grown;



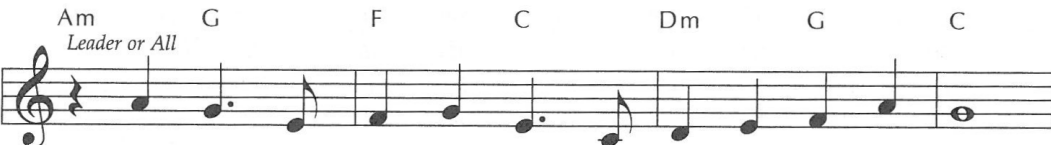
bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the liv - ing bread of God.



Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands; one cup that is



shared by all, the liv - ing cup, the liv - ing bread of God.



- 1 Is not the bread we break a shar - ing in our Lord?
- 2 The seed which falls on rock will with - er and will die.
- 3 As wheat up - on the hills was gath-ered and was grown,



Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ out - poured?
The seed with - in good ground will flow - er and have life.
so may the church of God be gath-ered in - to one.

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart,
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart,
 4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Anthem | We Abide, We Abide in You

Porter's Gate, performed by Lou and Evan Owoc-Edwards

We are the vineyard you have planted
Tend our leaves and wild branches:
we abide, we abide in you.
We abide, we abide in you.

Fruit growing from our strength and labor,
rain on us with grace and favor:
we abide, we abide in you.
We abide, we abide in you.

*Where can my soul find living water?
Apart from you we bear no fruit!
O plant my feet down by the river:
we abide, we abide in you.*



Connect

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Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

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