



Greenwood Forest

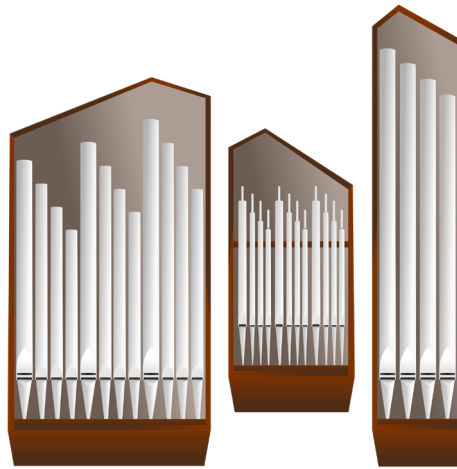
Baptist Church

July 19, 2026



Bulletin Art | Henry Meador

acrylic on canvas, 2026



Organ Update

Over the past few weeks, we've been seeing and hearing our new organ, installed by Grooms and Payne, Ltd., Pipe Organ Builders, in our worship services. In addition to the beautiful console and the refurbished facade pipes, our organ possesses the Peterson ICS-4000. This integrated control system, chosen and installed by our organ builders, might be considered the brain of the organ - as the organist plays, the ICS-4000 digitally encodes and translates the physical actions performed at the console, and sends that information to the pipe chamber, where it is translated again into the physical actions that make the sounds you hear.

For today's anthem, we will use the Record and Playback features of our organ. The ICS-4000 records performances not as audio, but as digital MIDI data. It captures the precise timing and physical movements of the organist - every key pressed, stop pulled and expression pedal used - into a digital file, which can be saved in internal memory or on a USB drive. When played back, the ICS-4000 system's solenoids and relays mechanically move the keys and stops, making the physical instrument play exactly as it was originally played by the organist.

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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Visitor Form



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



@gfbccary

Announcements | Church Events and Updates

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 **today** 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.

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.

Thank You

Thank you from the Finance Committee: Thanks for your support of GFBC and our ministries through your presence, talents, and financial gifts. Each act of faith and giving is magnified as we work together to minister to each other and our neighbors. You are making a difference!

Faith Giving Sundays

We ask you to consider making a special investment of \$20 on the last Sunday of every month. This collective effort is essential in ensuring our budget remains on track, allowing us to continue making a difference in our community and beyond. Contact Susan Beck if you have any questions or want to give a Gratitude Testimony about what GFBC means to you and why you give.

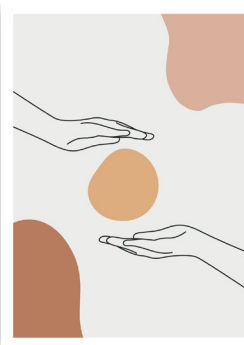
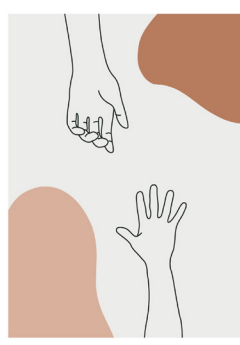
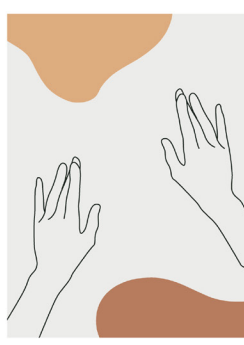
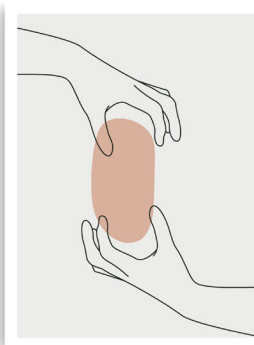
GFBC Organizing Meeting on 7/29

Greenwood Forest's ONE Wake Core Team invites all those interested in doing community organizing to enact change (especially regarding local housing, but not limited to housing) to a gathering on July 29 at 7pm at GFBC. We'll be discussing upcoming opportunities and long term plans as well as enjoying snacks and fellowship together! If you've ever been interested in local government, direct action on local issues, or otherwise getting involved in making change in Wake County, this is the place for you! Contact Nathan Bullock (nathan.f.bullock@gmail.com) or Leanne Ritter (lrutter15@yahoo.com) for more information.

Support Affordable Housing on 7/23

A local, naturally-occurring affordable housing development in Cary is up for sale and we'd like to see it stay affordable! The Raleigh Housing Authority (a quasi-governmental organization not limited to Raleigh city limits) wants to purchase the Amberwood Apartments and needs the support of the Cary Town Council to do so. They want to preserve the property as an affordable place to live instead of it being sold to a private developer. The development doesn't need subsidy from Cary or any other financial investment, just our emphatic YES that we need affordable housing. Join us at Town Hall (316 N Academy St) on July 23 at 6:30pm to add your voice.

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 | 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 | Dearest Jesus, at Thy Word | arr. Johann Gottfried Walther

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 139:1-12) 📖

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,

And lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

It is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning,

And settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

Even there your hand shall lead me,

And your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,

And the light around me become night',

Even the darkness is not dark to you;

The night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

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

Invocation | Susan Beck

† **Hymn** | God of the Fertile Fields (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Rev. Evan Owoc-Edwards

Offertory | On Eagle's Wings | arr. Douglas E. Wagner

† **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 | Nathan Bullock
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** | In Christ There Is No East or West (pg. 9)

Reading | Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 | Vivian Denning

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

Anthem | There Is a Balm | arr. Robert Lau (pg. 11)

Sermon | Rev. Spears-Newsome

† **Hymn** | Create in Me (pg. 10) 

† **Benediction** | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Postlude | Fuga IV | Charles Zeuner

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 Rev.
Evan Owoc-Edwards.

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bus'd,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

In Christ There Is No East or West

1. In Christ there is no East or West, in
 2. In Him shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
 4. In Christ now meet both East and West, in

Him no South or North; but one great fel - low -
 high com - mun - ion find; His ser - vice is the
 e'er your race may be; who serves my Fa - ther
 Him meet South and North: all Christ - like souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord, close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 as His child is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in Him through - out the whole wide earth.

Create in Me

Rend Collective

*Create in me a clean, clean heart
Create in me a work of art
Create in me a miracle
Something real and something beautiful*

*You're not finished with me yet
You're not finished with me yet
By your power I can change, I can change
'Cause you're not finished with me yet*

Anthem | There Is a Balm

arr. Robert Lau, Soloist Lou Owoc-Edwards

*There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.*

Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.

If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all."



Connect

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