



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

August 9, 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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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](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)



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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 last summer rehearsal date is **August 16**. We'd love to see you there!

Budget Presentation and Business Meeting

The budget presentation will be held this morning at **9:45am** in the Fellowship Hall. On **Sunday, August 23rd at 2pm**, we will be conducting a churchwide business meeting. All are encouraged to attend as we prepare for the new church fiscal year!

Newcomers Reception Today

All those new to GFBC are invited to a reception after worship today, **August 9th**! 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.

Work Anniversary

On **August 15th**, we celebrate Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks' 14 year work anniversary with GFBC! Please join us in congratulating Rev. Dr. Stacks and thanking him for his faithful service, leadership, and dedication to our church family. We are grateful for all that you do for GFBC.

Sunday Schedule Change

When leadership reviewed the results of this year's Spiritual Life Survey (participants included long-time members, newcomers, and even some visitors!), we learned that most people are longing for deeper relationships and community.

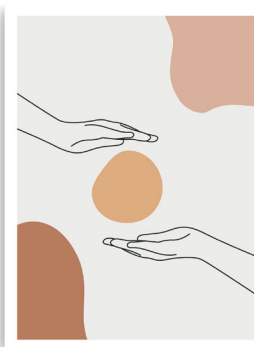
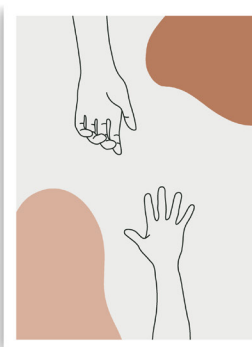
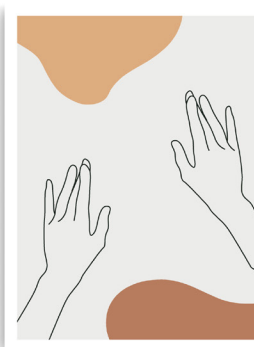
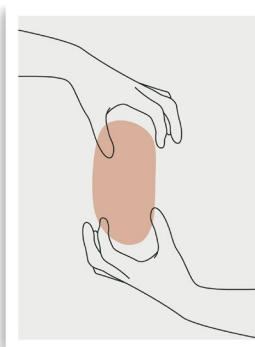
The survey revealed a desire for more in-person communal discipleship and fellowship events. Deeper engagement with community leads to better spiritual well-being. But, in the past few years, we've noticed a decrease in participation for Faith Formation groups on Sunday mornings, and we've observed that it's harder for new people to find and join small groups upon arrival to our campus. At the same time, we've noticed newcomers in our pews, lively conversation in the sanctuary, and higher worship attendance.

In order to allow space for even deeper connection, the staff and deacons have created a new Sunday meeting schedule. **Starting September 6, 2026**, we will begin gathering in the sanctuary at **10am**, so folks can visit, have a cup of coffee, and settle in. We will **worship** together from **10:15am to 11:00am**.

From there, we will transition to **community hour**, where there will be several different offerings, such as Churchwide Faith Formation Sessions; Faith Formation Groups; Coffee with a pastor; Sermon Series Talk Back Sessions; Youth Group (grades 6 to 12); Wonder Room (K to 5); Rainbow Room (infants and preschoolers).

Youth and children's rooms will **dismiss** at **12pm**. More details will be provided in the new church year booklet. We are really excited about the opportunities this new schedule will provide!

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

Rick Hollings (Mary Whitehouse's father)

Marissa Kruzewski

Gerry Ritter

Leanne Ritter (at the death of her uncle, Jackie Flowers)

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 | Eleventh 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 | Healer of Our Every Ill | Marty Haugen

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 85:8-13) 📖

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
For God will speak peace to those who turn in their hearts.

Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God,
That God's glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
Justice and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
And righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good; our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before the Lord, and make a path for God's steps.

Invocation | Greg Upchurch

✝ **Hymn** | Eternal Father, Strong to Save (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Jazzmoné Sutton

Offertory | The Light of Day Again Is Here | arr. Johann Pachelbel

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

† **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** | Just a Closer Walk with Thee (pg. 9)

Reading | Matthew 14:22-33 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Anthem | Trouble Won't Go | Enter the Worship Circle

Sermon | Rev. Hayes

† **Hymn** | Precious Lord, Take My Hand (pg. 10) 

† **Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | How Firm a Foundation | arr. Victor Labenske

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.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1. E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm doth bind the
2. O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3. O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood up - on the wa - ters
4. O Trin - i - ty of love and power, Your chil - dren shield in

rest - less wave, who bids the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid their an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire, and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep; O hear us when we
 calm a - mid the rage did sleep; O hear us when we
 give for wild con - fu - sion peace; O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus, ev - er - more shall

cry to Thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to Thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to Thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to Thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

1. I am weak but Thou art strong;
 2. Through this world of toil and snares,
 3. When my fee-ble life is o'er,

Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with Thee,

Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
 If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
 Time for me will be no more;

Grant it, Je - sus, if You please?

I'll be sat - is - fied as long
 Who with me my bur - den shares?
 Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er

Dai - ly walk - ing close to Thee,

As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.
 None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
 To Thy king - dom shore, to Thy shore.

Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand —
2. When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near —

I am tired, when my life I am weak, is al-most I am worn; gone;

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light —
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall —

take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Anthem | Trouble Won't Go

(Enter the Worship Circle)

Performed by Blair Biser and Evan Owoc-Edwards

Trouble won't go, peace won't stay
Oceans roar, levees break
Trouble won't go, peace won't stay
Bridges fall, earth gives way

Ain't no refuge but you, my God
Ain't no safe place but in your arms
I'm gonna be still
I'm gonna be still

Trouble won't go, peace won't stay
Landmines where the children play
Trouble won't go, peace won't stay
In this whole world, no safe place

Ain't gonna find no place to hide but in you, my God



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