



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

August 16, 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)



[@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/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 last summer rehearsal date is **today**. We'd love to see you there!

Business Meeting

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 year!

Grief Group

We are hoping to gauge interest in a 6 week grief group counseling session. These sessions would be in partnership with Good Shepherd United Church of Christ and would be led by Brynn White, M. Div., BCC. If you are interested in participating or if you'd like more information, reach out to Alex Filby.

Work Anniversary

Yesterday, we marked Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks's 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.

Thank you!

On behalf of the greater Webb family, thank you so much for your beautiful expressions of sympathy through cards, flowers, kind words and gift cards in the loss of our dear Patti. She was a wonderful helpmeet, companion and partner in ministry for me; a shining example of what a Christian mother and grandmother should be for her children and grandchildren; a faithful and devoted member of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church; and an excellent church musician. -Lee Webb

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.

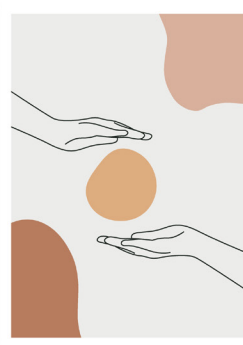
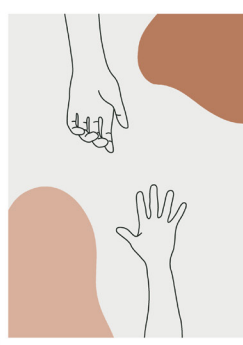
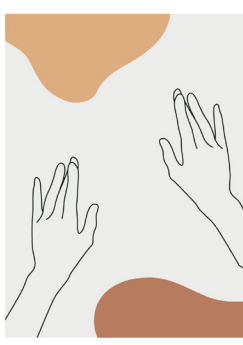
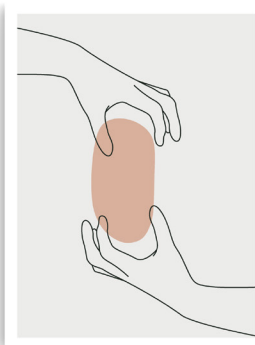
In order to allow space for even deeper connection, the staff and deacons have created a new Sunday meeting schedule. **Starting September 6, 2026**, we will begin gathering in the sanctuary at **10am**, so folks can visit, have a cup of coffee, and settle in. We will **worship** together from **10:15am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

Be sure to check out the new 2026 Church handbook ([link here](#)). Printed copies are available in the Narthex.

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
Mercedes Auger
Richard Adair (Janice Medford's brother)
Jo Brooks
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 | Twelfth 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 | Amazing Grace | arr. Don Phillips

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 56:1, 6-8) 📖

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right,

For soon God's salvation will come and deliver us!

And the foreigners who love God and keep the Sabbath

God will make them joyful, for God's house is a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I will gather many others in with all the outcasts of Israel.

Invocation | Leanne Glasgow

✝ **Hymn** | In Christ There Is No East or West (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Susan Beck

Offertory | Oh, How Blest Are You | arr. Healey Willan

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** | What a Friend We Have in Jesus (pg. 9)

Reading | Matthew 15: 21-28 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Anthem | Brother James's Air | arr. Mack Wilberg

Sermon | Rev. Hayes

† **Hymn** | Stir Your Church, O God, Our Father (pg. 10) 

† **Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | Great Is Thy Faithfulness | arr. Larry Shackley

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 Susan
Meador.

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.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



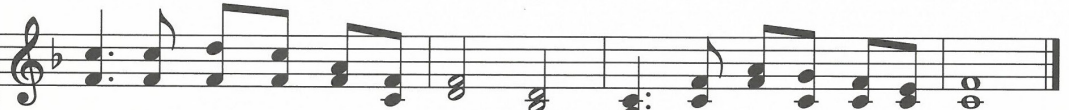
1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;

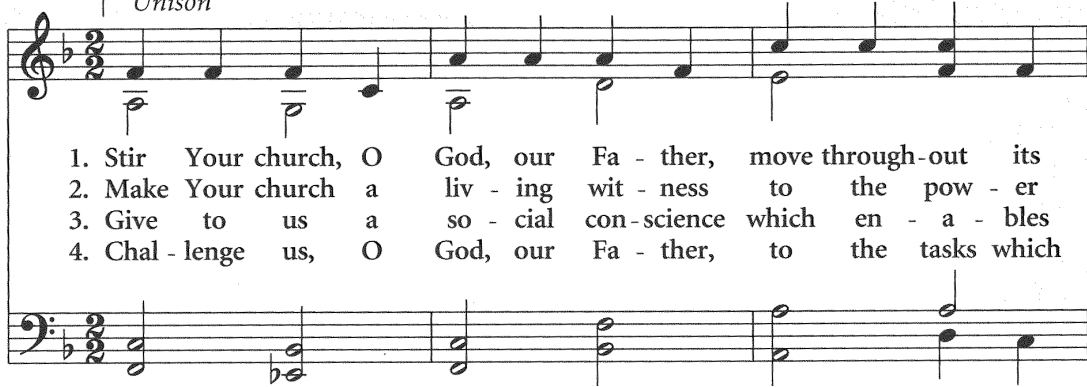


all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.
 in His arms He'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.

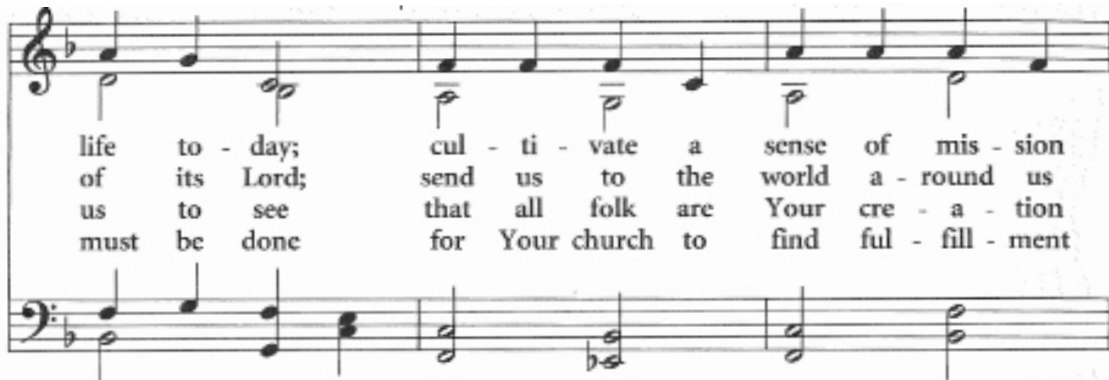


Stir Your Church, O God, Our Father

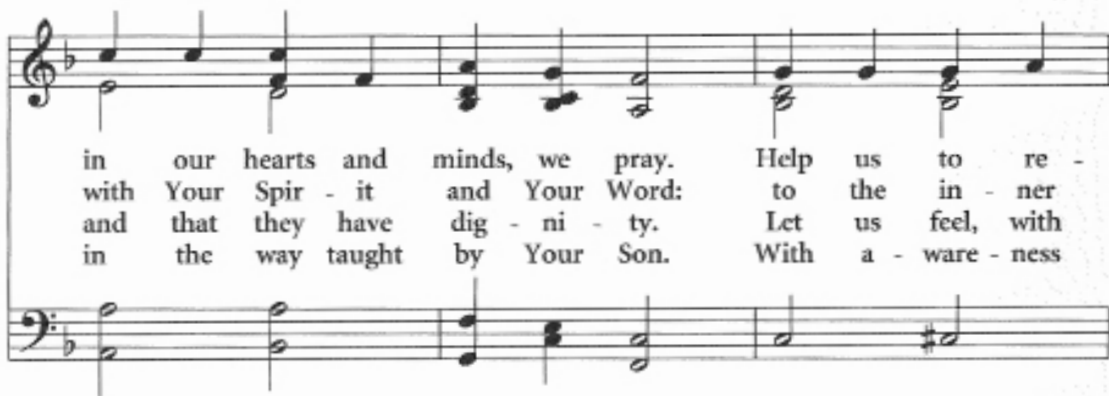
Unison



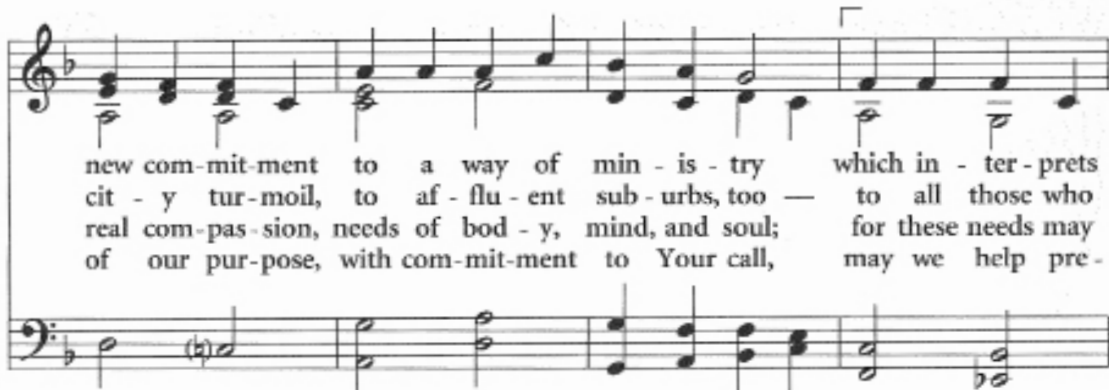
1. Stir Your church, O God, our Fa - ther, move through-out its
 2. Make Your church a liv - ing wit - ness to the pow - er
 3. Give to us a so - cial con - science which en - a - bles
 4. Chal - lenge us, O God, our Fa - ther, to the tasks which



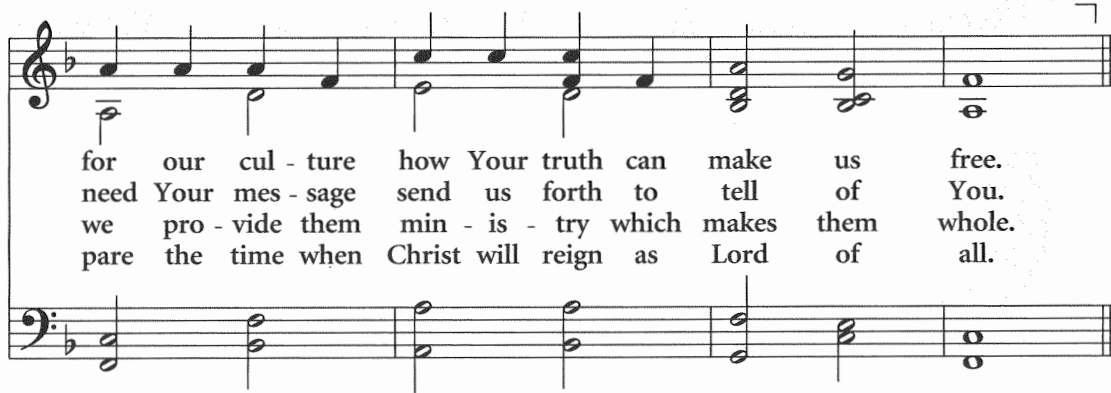
life to - day; cul - ti - vate a sense of mis - sion
 of its Lord; send us to the world a - round us
 us to see that all folk are Your cre - a - tion
 must be done for Your church to find ful - fill - ment



in our hearts and minds, we pray. Help us to re -
 with Your Spir - it and Your Word: to the in - ner
 and that they have dig - ni - ty. Let us feel, with
 in the way taught by Your Son. With a - ware - ness



new com - mit - ment to a way of min - is - try which in - ter - prets
 cit - y tur - moil, to af - flu - ent sub - urbs, too — to all those who
 real com - pas - sion, needs of bod - y, mind, and soul; for these needs may
 of our pur - pose, with com - mit - ment to Your call, may we help pre -



Anthem | Brother James's Air

arr. Mack Wilberg

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of blessedness,
E'en for his own name's sake.
Within the paths of blessedness,
E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I pass thro' shadowed vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me,
And thy rod and staff me comfort still.
Thy rod and staff me comfort still,
Me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my days
Will surely follow me;
And in my father's heart always
My dwelling place shall be.
And in my heart for evermore
Thy dwelling place shall be.



Connect

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Leadership

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Director of Liturgy & Formation

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

alex.filby@gfbccary.org

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