



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

August 30, 2026



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 (gfbccary.org/fall26). Printed copies are available in the Narthex.

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

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.

Join Us for Affordable Housing on September 19

ONE Wake's affordable housing campaign takes a step forward on **September 19** as we gather ourselves and future homeowners and residents seeking their place among us as neighbors. Join us as we hear stories of longing, innovation, and dedication to addressing the housing crisis. We'll present solutions to elected officials from throughout Wake County.

We cannot continue to operate in the same systems, hoping that developers will care enough to save a small portion of their property for those who want to live and work here. Housing at all levels of affordability is an investment in a thriving civic society. People are not thriving when they're spending more than a third of their wages on housing. More than a quarter of Wake County residents are experiencing that burden. If that describes your struggle too, we definitely want to see you on September 19.

Join Greenwood Forest and fellow sibling institutions and congregations in ONE Wake on **September 19 at 1:00pm** at the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi (11401 Leesville Road Raleigh, 27613). RSVP at onewake.org/events

Backpack Buddies

This week's Backpack Buddy packing will be **Tuesday, Sept 1 at 10am**. Please join us in the suite behind the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Contact Susan Beck if you want more details.

Choir Rehearsals

Regular choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday **September 9th at 7:00pm**

Faith Giving Sundays

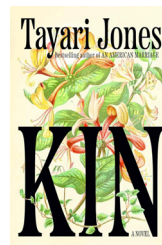
We ask you to consider making a special investment of \$20 on the last Sunday of every month. This collective effort is essential in ensuring our budget remains on track, allowing us to continue making a difference in our community and beyond. Contact Susan Beck if you have any questions or want to give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

Pledge Cards for 26-27

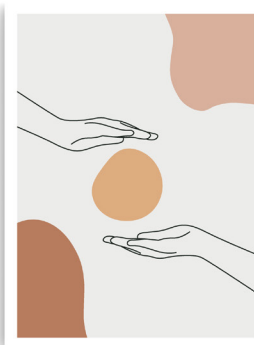
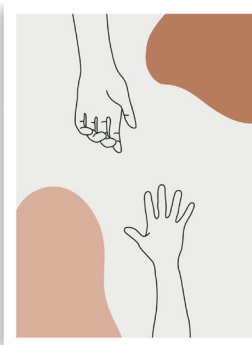
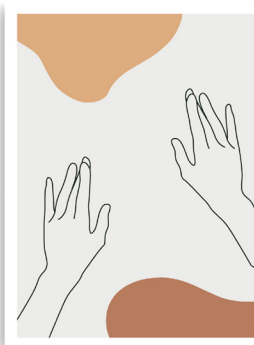
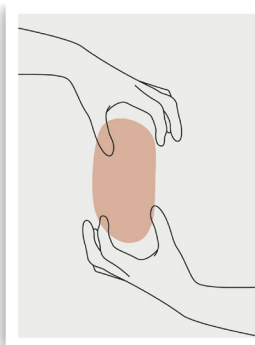
In an effort to formalize our commitment to the September 2026-August 2027 budget, we are asking everyone to complete a pledge card (available in the narthex) and return it to the church office by the end of September. We will be formally incorporating the submission of pledge cards into our worship service on September 6. As you prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Greenwood Forest Baptist Church for the next 12 months, we ask that you increase your current giving by 10% or begin giving at the 10% level each month. This means that if you currently give \$300 a month, we ask that you give \$330. Or, if your current monthly income is \$3,000 a month, we ask that you give \$300. We appreciate the challenge this may be to your personal budget, and we are grateful for your faithful support of GFBC ministries.

Kin Bookclub

Join us on **September 27th from 5:30-7:30pm** for a book club discussion facilitated by Rev. Lauren Hayes. *Kin* by Tayari Jones is a compelling novel exploring mothers and daughters, friendship and sisterhood, and the complexities of being a woman in the South. Through its characters and their stories, the novel considers how race, class, and geography intersect with our individual experiences.



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
Jazzmoné Sutton (at the death of her mother,
Vernita Dudley)
Tom Hartnett (Diane Morde's brother-in-law)
Rick Hollings (Mary Whitehouse's father)
Marissa Kruzewski
Kathy Seeger Rhoades (Marie Seeger's daughter)
Alex Stacks (Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks's brother)
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 | Fourteenth 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 | Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness | arr. J.G 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 (Based on Psalm 105) 📖

We come to this sacred space to call on God's name,

We come to make God's deeds known.

We come to sing praises to God;

And to tell of God's wonderful works.

We come to seek God's strength;

And to rejoice in God's presence.

We come to remember what God has done,

God's miracles, and God's words of blessing, spoken over us

Invocation | Betsy Sisley

Backpack Blessing | Rev. Spears-Newsome

✝ **Hymn** | Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult (pg. 8)

Stewardship Testimony | TJ Sisley

Offertory Prayer | Nathan Bullock

Offertory | There in God's Garden | arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

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. Lynn McLaughlin 📖

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** | Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone (pg. 9, vv.1-3)

Reading | Matthew 16:21-28 | Nathan Bullock

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

Anthem | Prayer of St. Francis | Allen Pote

Sermon | Rev. Spears-Newsome

† **Hymn** | Wherever He Leads I'll Go (pg. 10) 📖

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

Postlude | Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah | arr. Cindy Berry

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

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system contains four verses of lyrics. The second system continues the melody and includes a final line of lyrics. The piano accompaniment is simple, using chords and single notes to support the vocal lines.

1. Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild rest - less sea;
2. Je - sus calls us from the wor-ship of the vain world's gold - en store,
3. In our joys and in our sor-rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
4. Je - sus calls us: by Your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear Your call,

day by day His sweet voice sound-eth, say - ing "Chris-tian, fol - low me!"
from each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing "Chris-tian, love me more."
still He calls in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love Me more than these."
give our hearts to full o - be - dience, serve and love You best of all.

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone



1. Must Je - sus bear the cross a - lone, and
 2. How hap - py are the saints a - bove, who
 3. The con - se - crat - ed cross I'll bear till
 4. Up - on the crys - tal pave - ment down, at
 5. O pre - cious cross! O glo - rious crown! O

all the world go free? No, there's a cross for
 once went sor - rowing here! But now they taste un -
 death shall set me free; and then go home my
 Je - sus' pierc - ed feet, joy - ful I'll cast my
 res - ur - rec - tion day! When Christ the Lord from

ev - ery - one, and there's a cross for me.
 min - gled love and joy with - out a tear.
 crown to wear, for there's a crown for me.
 gold - en crown and His dear name re - peat.
 heaven comes down and bears my soul a - way.

Wherever He Leads I'll Go



1. "Take up thy cross and fol - low Me," I heard my Mas - ter say;
 2. He drew me clos - er to His side, I sought His will to know,
 3. It may be through the shad - ows dim, or o'er the storm - y sea,
 4. My heart, my life, my all I bring to Christ who loves me so;



"I gave My life to ran - som thee, sur - ren - der your all to - day."
 and in that will I now a - bide, wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.
 I take my cross and fol - low Him, wher - ev - er He lead - eth me.
 He is my Mas - ter, Lord, and King, wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.



Wher - ev - er He leads I'll go, wher - ev - er He leads I'll go,



I'll fol - low my Christ who loves me so, wher - ev - er He leads I'll go.

Anthem | Prayer of St. Francis

Allen Pote

Soloist, Leanne Glasgow

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord.
Where there is doubt, let there be faith.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there's despair let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let there be light,
Where there is sadness, let there be joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
For it is in giving that we receive,
And it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Amen.



Connect

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Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

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