



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

September 13, 2026

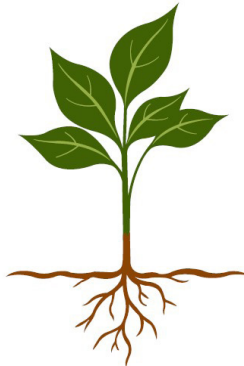


The Wheel of Days

Woodcut by Ilya Schor

This is a part of a series of woodcuts done for Rabbi Abraham Heschel's book *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man*, a seminal work of Jewish theology and articulation of the importance of Sabbath. Schor was a renowned artist in Judaism born in Austria. He and his wife fled first to Paris and then to the United States during the Holocaust. He died at 57 in 1961 while living in New York City. The woodcuts for Heschel's book on Sabbath are both remarkable and contemplative, inviting you to consider the majesty and importance of what may seem ordinary: a single day of the week. In this cut, we can see the various days of creation as outlined in Genesis with the Sabbath (the seventh day) ruling over them all.

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome



Spiritual Practices FOR TROUBLING TIMES

Sermon Series: September 6-October 18

Turmoil in our world has been relentless. There is so much injustice to fight, and sometimes we feel like we are going to crumble under the weight of it all. On top of that, in our own personal lives, we and the people we love experience pain and tumult. Engaging in spiritual practices can help us sustain ourselves—and even enliven us!—in the midst of a world that is deeply troubled. In this series, we will explore practices of sabbath, silence, play, being in nature, beauty, and care.

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



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Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Join Us for Affordable Housing, This Saturday, September 19

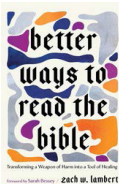
ONE Wake's affordable housing campaign takes a step forward this Saturday, **September 19** as we gather ourselves and future homeowners and residents seeking their place among us as neighbors. Join us as we hear stories of longing, innovation, and dedication to addressing the housing crisis. We'll present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

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

Save the Date | Churchwide Workday

Our next church workday is **Sept. 20, 1-3pm**. Help is needed moving the backpack Buddy pantry, tables, chairs, and other items to their new home in the Fellowship Hall suite. These simple tasks are critical for our preparations for the Carr Center. Please join us.

Faith Formation Series



September 13, 20, 27 Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks will lead us in a churchwide Faith Formation series on Zach Lambert's book, *Better Ways to Read the Bible: Transforming a Weapon of Harm into a Tool of Healing*. We'll gather all the adult small groups together

to examine the harmful ways the Bible has been used and how we can put our sacred texts to the work of healing and restoration in our community instead.

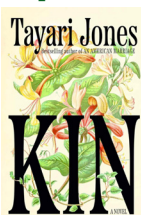
Backpack Buddies

This week's Backpack Buddy packing will be Tuesday, **September 15, 6:30 pm**. Join us in the suite behind the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Contact Marie Maguire if you need more info, mariekathleen001@gmail.com.

Pledge Cards for 26-27

Thank you to everyone who submitted a pledge card on September 6. We are grateful for your financial commitment to Greenwood Forest Baptist Church in this new fiscal year. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, we encourage you to do so during September. Pledge cards are available with the Sunday bulletins in the narthex and near the organ. Return completed cards via the offering plate, to Alex in the office, or by email at accounting@gfbccary.org. As you prayerfully consider your commitment for the coming 12 months, we invite you to increase your current giving by 10% or begin giving at the 10% level each month. We recognize this may be a challenge to your budget and deeply appreciate your faithful support of GFBC ministries.

September Bookclub | Kin

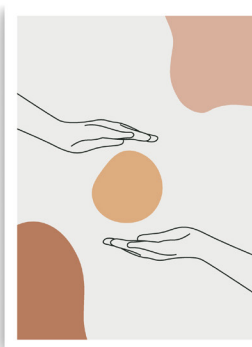
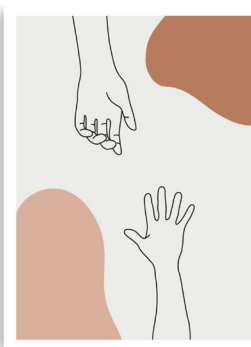
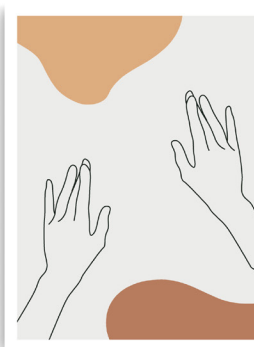
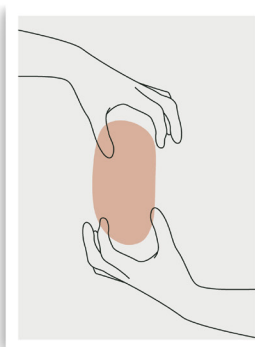


Join us on **Monday, September 28th from 5:30-7:30pm** for a book club discussion facilitated by Rev. Lauren Hayes. *Kin* by Tayari Jones is a compelling novel exploring mothers and daughters, friendship and sisterhood, and the complexities of being a woman in the South. Through its characters and their stories, the

novel considers how race, class, and geography intersect with our individual experiences. *The date listed in first iteration of the Fall 2026 event Booklet is incorrect. The correct date is Monday, September 28th.*

RSVP at gfbccary.org/kin

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
Diana Morde (at the death of her brother-in-law,
Tom Hartnett)
Mary Whitehouse & family at the death of Rick
Hollings (Mary's father)
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 | Sixteenth 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.

Gathering and Passing of the Peace 📖

Chiming

Welcome and Call to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

✝ **Hymn** | Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Diana McGahan

Offertory | Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him! | arr. John F. Wilson

Prayers of the People | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks 📖

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 the Fields of the Lord (pg. 9)

Reading | Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 23:10-12 | Diana McGahan

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

Thanks be to God.

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 invites us and God into our worship. 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.

* = In the Lord's Prayer, you may say any name for God (e.g., Mother/Father/Parent).

The Offertory

During the offertory music, we pass plates across the pews as a way to make our collective offering to God and the wellbeing of this community.

Anthem | I Will Arise | arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Sermon | Practice of Sabbath | Rev. Hayes

✝ **Hymn** | It Is Well with My Soul (pg. 10) 📖

✝ **Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

Postlude

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.

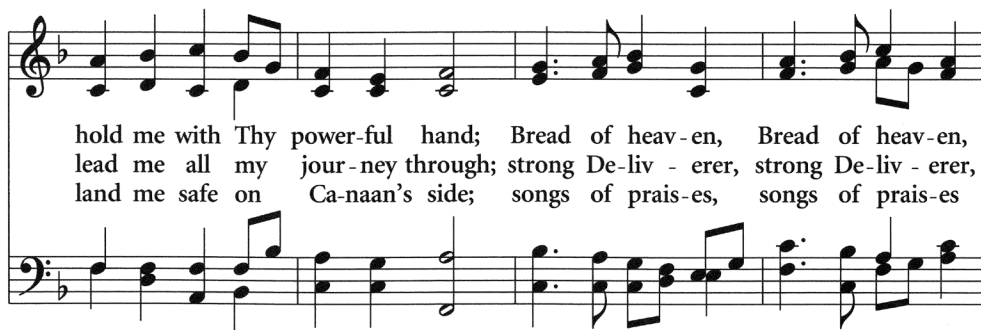
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side: bear me through the swell - ing cur - rent,



hold me with Thy power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 be Thou still my strength and shield, be Thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee.

In the Fields of the Lord

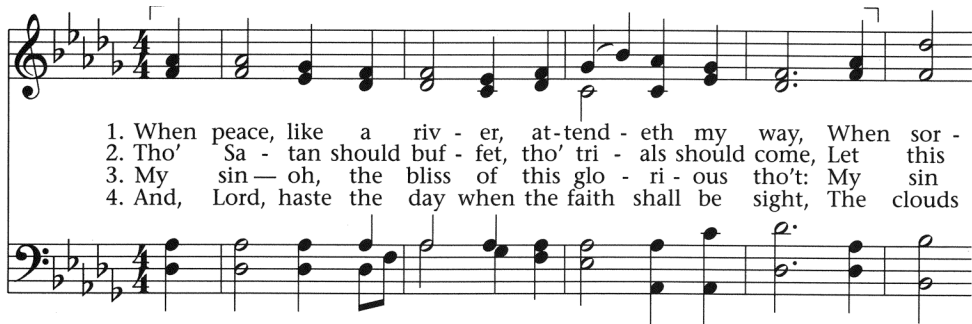
In the fields of the Lord, our work is rest,
She is moving in our hands and feet to bless.
In the fields of the Lord, in the fields of the Lord,
in the fields of the Lord our work is rest.

In the vineyards of the Lord our work is light.
She is tending every leaf and every vine.
In the vineyards of the Lord, in the vineyards of the Lord,
in the vineyards of the Lord our work is light.

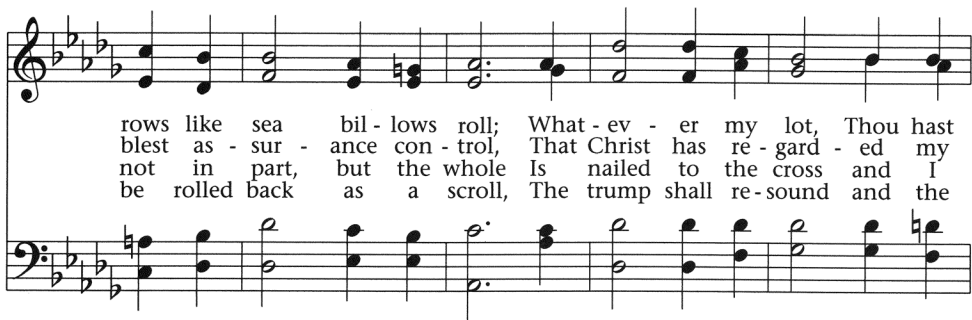
In the garden of the Lord our work is sound,
She is weaving every thorn into a crown.
In the garden of the Lord, in the garden of the Lord,
in the garden of the Lord our work is sound.

At the harvest of the Lord the fields are white,
She will wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye.
At the harvest of the Lord, at the harvest of the Lord,
at the harvest of the Lord the fields are white.

It is Well with My Soul



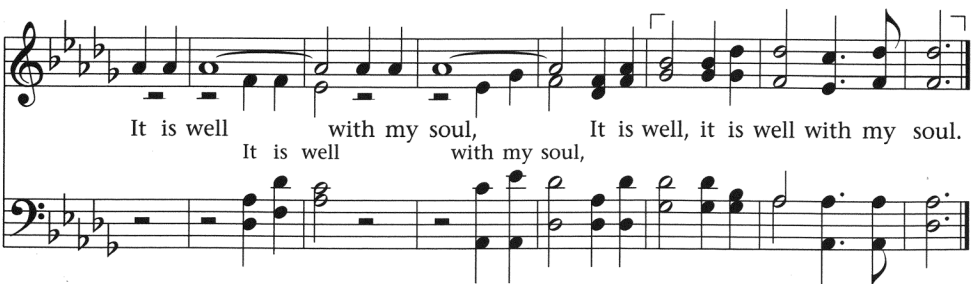
1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, When sor -
 2. Tho' Sa - tan should buf - fet, tho' tri - als should come, Let this
 3. My sin - oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous tho't: My sin
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds



rows like sea bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
 blest as - sur - ance con - trol; That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 not in part, but the whole Is nailed to the cross and I
 be rolled back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend, "E - ven so," it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul,

Anthem | I Will Arise

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in his arms,
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh! There are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of thy redeeming love.

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace,
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.



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

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Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

alex.filby@gfbccary.org

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