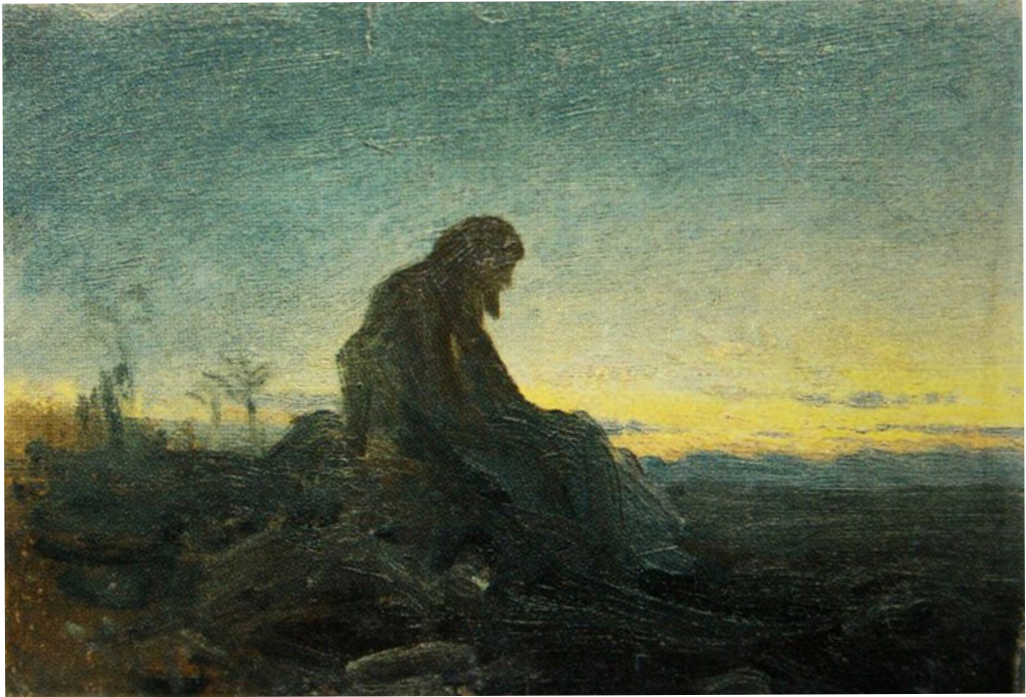




Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

September 20, 2026

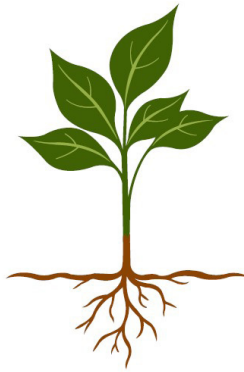


Christ in the Wilderness

Painting by Ivan Nikolaevich Kramskoï

This subject was a frequent one for the artist, focused on both Jesus's struggle and draw to solitude. Here, his face is even obscured to us, his silent wondering elusive. The sun may be setting or rising on a new day in the desert; we do not know whether this is how Jesus begins or ends his day.

- 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.

Contents

- 4 | Announcements
- 5 | Community Notes
- 6 | Order of Worship
- 8 | Songbook

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

Today | Churchwide Workday

Join us **today** from **1-3pm**. We need help 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.

Pledge Cards for 26-27

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a pledge card. We are grateful for your financial commitment during this new fiscal year. We now have 28 giving units who have pledged \$244,420, which is 45% of our annual budget.

If you have not yet submitted a pledge, we encourage you to do so during the month of 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 financial 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. We deeply appreciate your faithful support of GFBC ministries.

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.

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

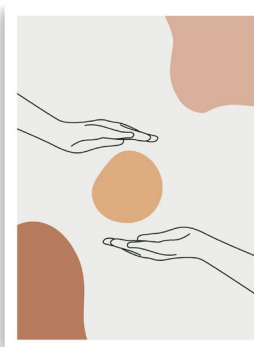
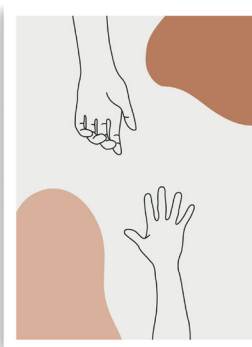
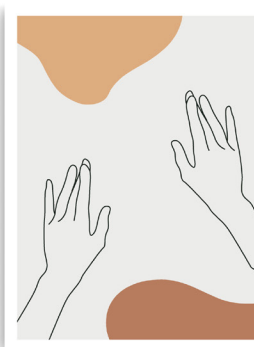
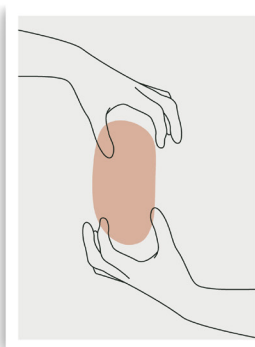
the South. Through its characters and their stories, the novel considers how race, class, and geography intersect with our individual experiences. *The date listed in first iteration of the Fall 2026 event Booklet is incorrect. The correct date is Monday, September 28th.*

RSVP at gfbccary.org/kin

Organ Dedication Concert - October 1 at 7pm

Mark your calendars and plan to join us on the evening of **October 1 at 7pm** for the official celebration of the completion of our pipe organ! You will hear the breadth of what our new instrument can do including instrumental pieces performed by our guest artist Travis Whaley, congregational hymns accompanied by Kelly Grooms (one half of our builder, Grooms & Payne), and choral music by the GFBC Sanctuary Choir. Travis will also be premiering a commissioned piece written for the dedication of our organ. It will be a memorable and joyful night!

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

Janice Medford (at the death of her brother
Richard Adair)

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)

Alex Stacks (Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks's brother)

Kathy and Lee Taylor

Nancy Watson

Cheryl Wright (at the death of her partner, Alice
Price)

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 | Seventeenth 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** | Precious Lord, Take My Hand (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Andy Jarrell

Offertory | Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence | arr. John Carter

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** | Near to the Heart of God (pg. 9)

Reading | Mark 1:35-39 | Andy Jarrell

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 | The 23rd Psalm | Bobby McFerrin

Sermon | Practice of Silence | Rev. Hayes

✝ **Hymn** | Break Every Chain (pg. 10) 📖

✝ **Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | My Faith Has Found a Resting Place | arr. Victor Labenske

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.

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

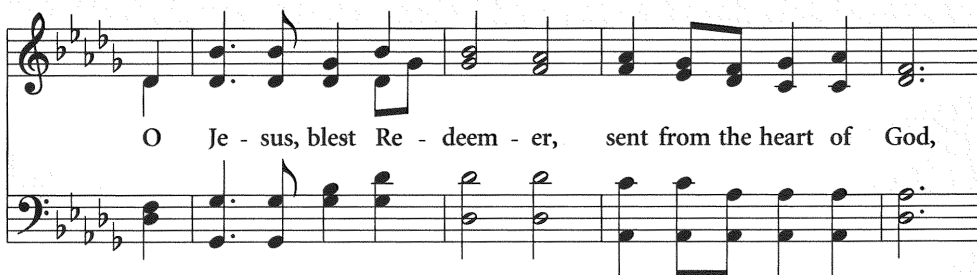
Near to the Heart of God



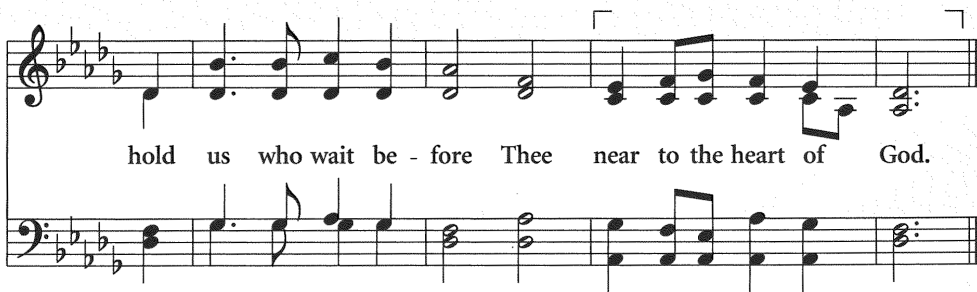
1. There is a place of qui - et rest, near to the heart of God,
 2. There is a place of com - fort sweet, near to the heart of God,
 3. There is a place of full re - lease, near to the heart of God,



a place where sin can - not mo - lest, near to the heart of God.
 a place where we our Sav - ior meet, near to the heart of God.
 a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.



O Je - sus, blest Re - deem - er, sent from the heart of God,



hold us who wait be - fore Thee near to the heart of God.

Break Every Chain

Will Reagan

There is power in the name of Jesus

There is power in the name of Jesus

There is power in the name of Jesus

To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain

All sufficient sacrifice

So freely given, such a price

Bought our redemption

Heaven's gates swing wide

There's a people rising up

There's a people rising up

There's a people rising up

To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain

Anthem | The 23rd Psalm

Bobby McFerrin

Sung by Leanne Glasgow, Helen Bishop, Blair Biser, Stephen Stacks

The Lord is my Shepherd,
I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters,
She will lead.

She restores my soul,
She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said, she won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,
And to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World, without end, Amen.



Connect

110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

919-467-0481

info@gfbccary.org

 gfbccary.org

 [@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

 [@greenwoodforestcary](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Hayes, Senior Pastor

lauren.hayes@gfbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

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

Reprinted hymns come from Celebrating Grace, Glory to God, or the The African American Heritage Hymnal unless otherwise noted. Copyrighted music use covered by CCLI License #1243530, OneLicense #A-721397.