



Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church September 27, 2026

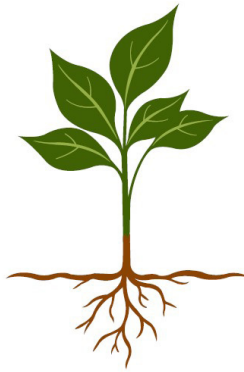


St. Francis Troubadour

Icon by Kelly Latimore

St. Francis of Assisi, who in his Canticle of All Creatures, saw that everything in the world is connected; fire and water, earth and air, sun and moon. Singing of this unity it is said that he picked up two sticks which he found while sauntering in the woods. He did not possess a musical instrument, but with the two sticks, he pretended that he was playing a violin by rubbing them together as if to create a sound, singing and dancing with joy. Francis knew that the world itself is filled with the seeds of God's love. God's Joy.

- Kelly Latimore
(kellylatimoreicons.com)



Spiritual Practices

F O R T R O U B L I N G T I M E S

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



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



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Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Faith Formation Series



Today, September 27th is the final day of Dr. Rev. Stephen Stacks's 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.

September Bookclub, Tomorrow | Kin



Join us **tomorrow, September 28th** from **5:30-7:30pm** for a book club discussion facilitated by Rev. Lauren Hayes. We will meet in the narthex/parlor. Please bring a picnic dinner for yourself and, if you wish, a dessert to share.

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!

Churchwide Business Meeting and Potluck

Join us on **October 4 at 11:00 a.m.** during Community Hour for a churchwide business meeting and potluck. Bring a dish to share, enjoy a meal together, and learn more about what's happening at GFBC.

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.

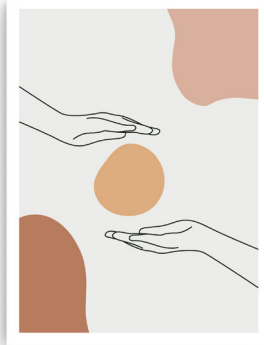
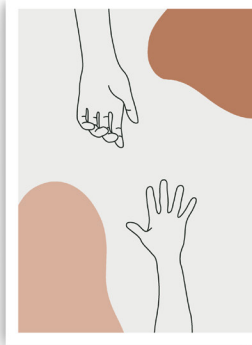
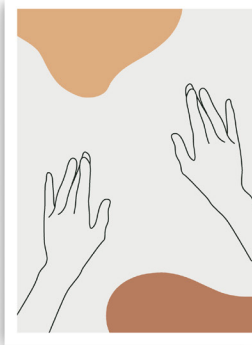
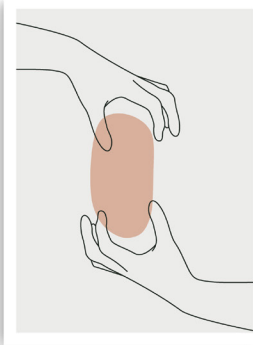
Pledge Cards for 26-27

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 32 giving units who have pledged \$267,668, which is 49% 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.

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

Jo Brooks

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 | Eighteenth 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** | The Play of the Godhead (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Rev. Evan Owoc-Edwards

Offertory | Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee | arr. Hal Hopson

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** | Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom (pg. 9)

Reading | Proverbs 8:22-31 | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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 | Lord of the Dance | arr. Don Hart

Sermon | Practice of Play | Rev. Hayes

✝ **Hymn** | You Are My Vision (pg. 10) 📖

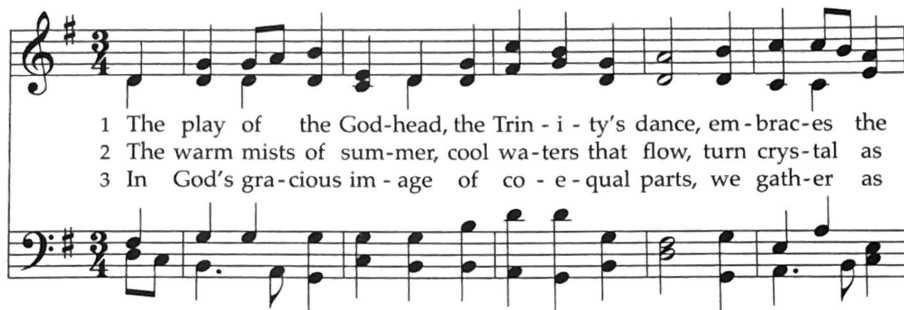
✝ **Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | Be Thou My Vision | arr. Cindy Berry

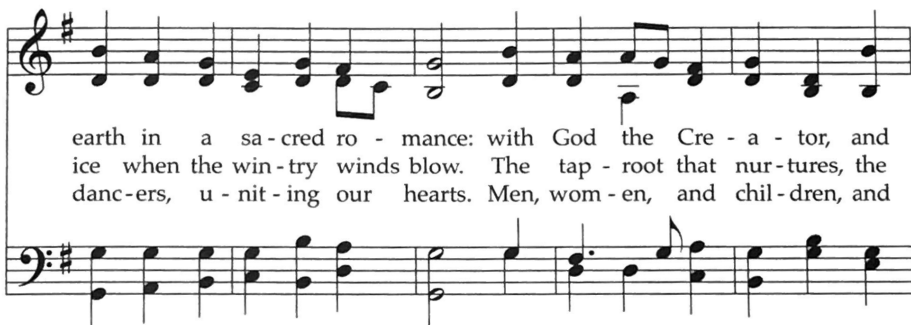
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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.

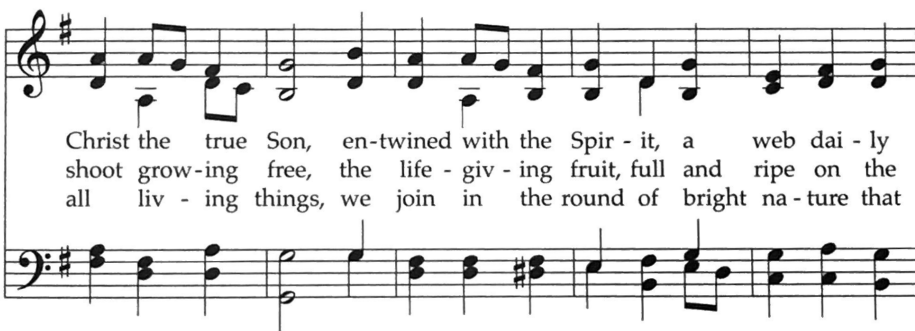
The Play of the Godhead



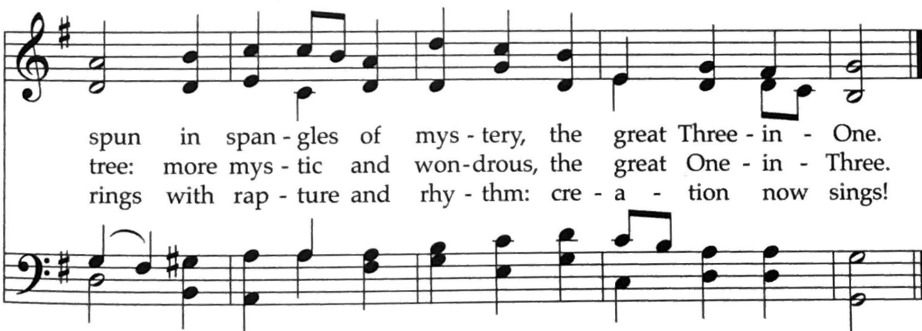
1 The play of the God-head, the Trin - i - ty's dance, em-brac-es the
 2 The warm mists of sum-mer, cool wa-ters that flow, turn crys-tal as
 3 In God's gra-cious im-age of co-e-equal parts, we gath-er as



earth in a sa-cred ro-mance: with God the Cre-a-tor, and
 ice when the win-try winds blow. The tap-root that nur-tures, the
 danc-ers, u-nit-ing our hearts. Men, wom-en, and chil-dren, and



Christ the true Son, en-twined with the Spir-it, a web dai-ly
 shoot grow-ing free, the life-giv-ing fruit, full and ripe on the
 all liv-ing things, we join in the round of bright na-ture that



spun in span-gles of mys-tery, the great Three-in-One.
 tree: more mys-tic and won-drous, the great One-in-Three.
 rings with rap-ture and rhy-thm: cre-a-tion now sings!

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
 mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
 seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -



path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

You Are My Vision

You are my vision, O king of my heart
Nothing else satisfies, only you, Lord
You are my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, your presence, my light

You are my wisdom, you are my true word
I ever with you, and you with me, Lord
You're my great father, and I'm your true son
You dwell inside me, together we're one

You are my battle-shield, sword for the fight
You are my dignity, you're my delight
You're my soul's shelter and you're my high tower
Come, raise me heavenward, O power of my power

I don't want riches or a man's empty praise
You're my inheritance, now and always
You and you only, the first in my heart
High king of heaven, my treasure you are

High king of heaven, when victory's won
May I reach heaven's joy, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Anthem | Lord of the Dance

arr. Don Hart

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me,
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,
They came to me and the dance went on.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame,
The holy people said it was a shame;
They whipped and they stripped, and they hung me high:
And they left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.



Connect

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 gfbccary.org

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Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

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