



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

October 11, 2026

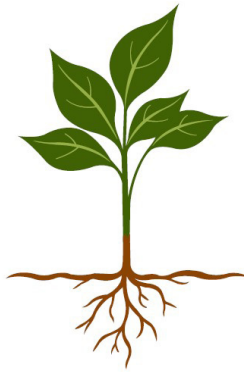


On through the Silent Lands

Painting by Jack Butler Yeats

Yeats imagines the dreamlike landscapes of the north of Ireland in something akin to glass; refraction rather than shadows add any sense of depth or distinction. The shambling man looks down at the valley below, but we don't know what wonders he sees.

- 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



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



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Announcements | Church Events and Updates

BackPack Buddies

In October BackPack Buddies will pack **October 13th** at **6:30 pm**. Our packing location has changed -- we are now packing in the suite behind the Fellowship Hall. Enter through the Fellowship Hall door and walk to the back of the Fellowship Hall into the hallway.

Churchwide Work Day- October 17th

On **October 17th** at **9am**, we will be having our last workday for preparation of TACC activities. We will be moving large and heavy items out of Bldg A and to their new home behind the Fellowship Hall using moving trucks. If you can lift 30-50 lbs with a partner, we need your help. Lunch will be provided. Contact Susan Beck at carygator1@gmail.com for more details.

Pledge Cards for 26-27'

Thank you to everyone who has pledged toward our \$542,000 church budget! So far, 32 giving units have pledged \$267,668—nearly 50% of our goal. If you would like to make or update a pledge, cards are available on the welcome table in the narthex and in the church office.

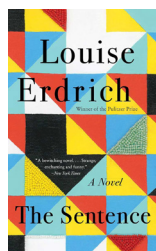
Pastor Appreciation

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Be sure to thank all our pastors for their hard work! Also, in October we celebrate two special anniversaries in the life of GFBC for our pastor, Lauren Hayes. Lauren was originally hired as an Associate Minister 15 years ago on October 2, 2011. She was installed as our Senior Pastor ten years ago on October 23, 2016. We are grateful for Lauren's faithful service, tireless dedication, and strong leadership of our congregation these many years!

Thank You

The Medford family would like to express their sincere gratitude to everyone for their prayers, well wishes, and support for Janice's brother, Richard Adair

October Book Club: The Sentence



Join us **Monday, October 26th** from **5:30-7:30 pm** for a bopok club facilitated by Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks. (Location TBD)

The Sentence by Louise Erdrich is a speculative fiction novel that tells the story of a small independent bookstore in Minneapolis. From November 2019 to November 2020,

the store is haunted by an annoying customer. The journey between All Souls' Days that encapsulates the beginning of covid, the murder of George Floyd, and the 2020 election asks what we owe to the living and the dead, but also to the reader and the book.

RSVP at gfbccary.org/sentence

Community Hour Schedule

These are special, optional offerings for upcoming Community Hours. Small groups and classes will meet as usual.

Oct 11: Sermon Series Talkback with Rev. Hayes

Oct 18: Community Organizing Training with Rev. Spears-Newsome

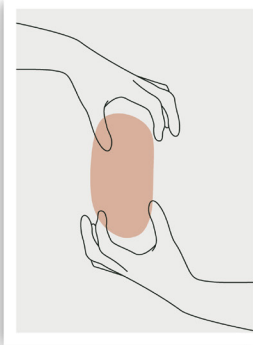
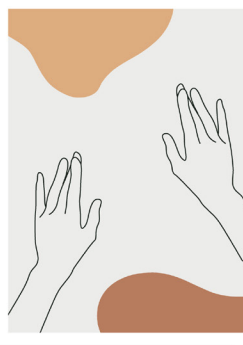
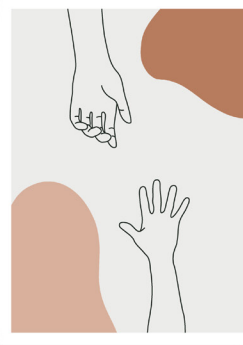
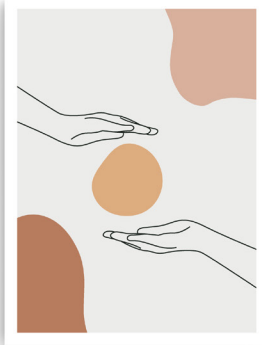
Oct 25: GFBC Jam Session with Rev. Evan Owoc-Edwards (bring your instrument!)

Nov 1: GFBC 101

Bad Faith Documentary Screening

Join us **November 1st** from **2-4pm** to watch and discuss the 2024 documentary *Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy*. This feature-length documentary explores the rise of Christian Nationalism in the United States, revealing the political machinery working to undermine American democracy in pursuit of an authoritarian vision.

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
Susan Beck
Rev. Lauren Hayes (at the death of her grandfather,
Bill Jordan)
Mac Graham
Alex Stacks (Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks's brother)
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 | Twentieth 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** | All Things Bright and Beautiful (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Andy Jarrell

Offertory | Voluntary on ROYAL OAK | Keith Kolander

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** | O Beauty Ever Ancient (pg. 9)

Reading | Psalm 27:1-6 | Nathan Bullock

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 | For the Beauty of the Earth | John Rutter

Sermon | Practice of Beauty | Rev. Hayes

✝ **Hymn** | Beautiful Savior (pg. 10) 

✝ **Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | For the Beauty of the Earth | arr. Joel Raney

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.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Unison



All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

Fine

all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings, He
 2. The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run-ning by, the
 3. The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun, the
 4. He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how

D.C.

made their glow-ing col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.
 sun - set and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
 ripe fruits in the gar - den: He made them ev-ery one.
 great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

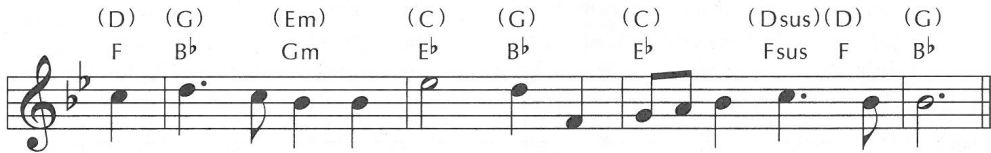
O Beauty Ever Ancient



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau-ty ev - er new,
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,
O beau-ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,
O beau-ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,
O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau-ty ev - er new,



in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

Beautiful Savior



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of all na - tions,

O Thou of God and man the Son; Thee will I cher - ish,
 robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring; Je - sus is fair - er,
 and all the twin - kling, star - ry host; Je - sus shines bright - er,
 Son of God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,

Thee will I hon - or, Thou my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 praise, ad - o - ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Anthem | For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n



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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

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