



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

October 18, 2026



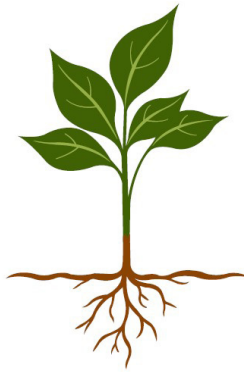
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Dorothy Day with Homeless Christ

Icon by Kelly Latimore (acrylic and gold leaf on wood found in a dumpster)

"I believe some people - lots of people - pray to the witness of their lives through the work they do, the friendships they have, the love they offer people and receive from people. Since when are words the only acceptable form of prayer?"

- Dorothy Day



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)



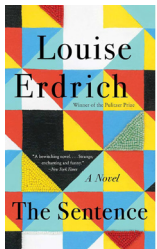
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Announcements | Church Events and Updates

March To the Polls- Today

There will be a March to the Polls for Cary churches **this afternoon at 2pm** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (221 Union St, Cary, NC 27511). St. Paul's is a fellow member of ONE Wake and enthusiastic contributor to the Carr Center project. We're excited to join them on a walk to the Herb Young Community Center to cast our ballots. We hope to see you there

October Book Club: The Sentence



Join us **Monday, October 26th** from **5:30-7:30 pm** for a book 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 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.

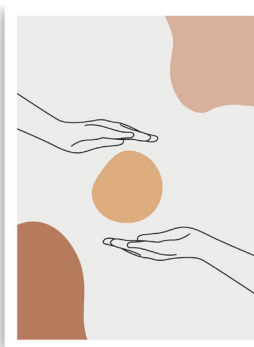
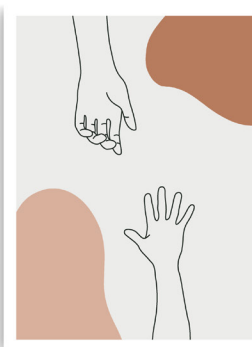
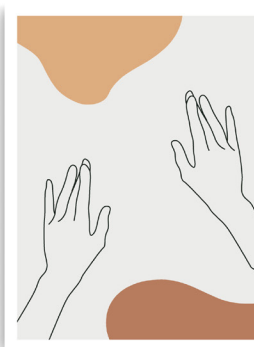
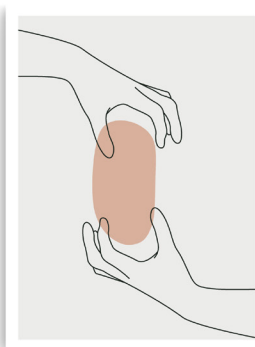
Pastor Appreciation

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.

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
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 | Twenty-First 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 | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Call to Worship & Invocation | Rev. Spears-Newsome

We give thanks for all that God has done!

So we come in collective worship.

We recognize that some are treated better than others.

So we come in collective action.

We see that each of us has needs.

So we come in collective care.

We know that each of us are beloved by God.

So we come in collective love.

✝ **Hymn** | Stir Your Church, O God Our Father (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Natalie Patten

Offertory | Chacone in F Major | Louis Couperin

Prayers of the People 📖

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

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.

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** | The Servant Song (pg. 9)

Reading | Acts 2:43-47 and 4:32-37 | Rev. Amanda Warren

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying | arr. Mark Hayes

Sermon | Practice of Care | Rev. Spears-Newsome

✝ **Hymn** | They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love (pg. 10) 📖

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

Postlude | Touch the Earth Lightly | arr. Albert Mendoza

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.

Stir Your Church, O God Our Father

Unison

1. Stir Your church, O God, our Fa - ther, move through-out its
 2. Make Your church a liv - ing wit - ness to the pow - er
 3. Give to us a so - cial con - science which en - a - bles
 4. Chal - lenge us, O God, our Fa - ther, to the tasks which

life to - day; cul - ti - vate a sense of mis - sion
 of its Lord; send us to the world a - round us
 us to see that all folk are Your cre - a - tion
 must be done for Your church to find ful - fill - ment

in our hearts and minds, we pray. Help us to re -
 with Your Spir - it and Your Word: to the in - ner
 and that they have dig - ni - ty. Let us feel, with
 in the way taught by Your Son. With a - ware - ness

new com - mit - ment to a way of min - is - try which in - ter - prets
 cit - y tur - moil, to af - flu - ent sub - urbs, too — to all those who
 real com - pas - sion, needs of bod - y, mind, and soul; for these needs may
 of our pur - pose, with com - mit - ment to Your call, may we help pre -

for our cul - ture how Your truth can make us free.
 need Your mes - sage send us forth to tell of You.
 we pro - vide them min - is - try which makes them whole.
 pare the time when Christ will reign as Lord of all.

The Servant Song

Unison

1. Will you let me be your ser - vant,
 2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney,
 3. I will hold the Christ - light for you
 4. I will weep when you are weep - ing,
 5. When we sing to God in heav - en,

let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I might
 here to - geth - er on the road; we are here to
 in the night - time of your fear; I will hold my
 when you laugh I'll laugh with you; I will share your
 we shall find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've

have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
 help each oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

They'll Know We Are Christians

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
 And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
 And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
 And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

love. Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

Anthem | Lord, Listen to Your Children

arr. Mark Hayes

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

Something's gonna happen like the world has never known,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray;
A door's gonna swing open, and the walls come a-tumbling down,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

God's gonna take over, God's gonna take control,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray;
God's gonna move the mountain, Gonna make the waters roll,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

You're gonna know it when the Lord stretches out His hand,
and people of the Lord get down to pray;
There's gonna be a brand new song of vict'ry in this land,
when the people of the Lord get down to pray.



Connect

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[gfbccary.org](https://www.gfbccary.org)

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

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

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Hayes, Senior Pastor

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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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