

## SERVICES TO LEAD US TO EASTER



**Wednesday, April 5, 6:15pm**  
(Fellowship Hall)  
**Holy Wednesday**

Join your faith family as Kyle Matthews concludes his “Unstuck” series with fresh ideas for reconnecting with the Bible. We all get stuck sometimes. In community, let’s gather some insight to help us get “unstuck”—and share some great music, too!

Make reservations for supper (<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>) and fellowship around the tables from 5:00-6:00pm.



**Thursday, April 6, 7:00pm**  
(Parlor)  
**Maundy Thursday Communion Service**

We gather in an Upper Room, obeying Christ’s commandment to serve one another. Like Jesus’ disciples, we sing hymns—led by the Sanctuary Choir—and we share communion. Tony Hopkins will offer a meditation.



**Friday, April 7, Noon & 1:00pm**  
(Chapel), 2:00pm (Labyrinth)  
**Stations of the Cross**

Led by Franklin Lowe, we follow the Way of the Cross, remembering the final acts of Jesus’ life and death. We pray for the concerns of our community and all creation.



**Friday, April 7, 7:00pm** (Sanctuary)  
**Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

We wait at the foot of the cross with Jesus’ faithful followers. As scriptures are read and candles extinguished, we see the light of Christ fade from this world. Kendra Plating will offer a homily.

## EASTER SERVICES

Come to celebrate the resurrection with your church family! Bring flowers to adorn the cross and add your “Alleluias” to our song. All will worship together. This Sunday we will add an interpreter (ASL) for our hearing-impaired community.



**Sunday, April 9, 8:30am**  
(Remembrance Garden Labyrinth)  
**Easter Morning in the Garden Service**

We follow the direction of the female disciples once more, gathering to celebrate the first morning of the new creation.

With guitar and glad tidings, we raise our voices to greet the new day. Franklin Lowe will offer the meditation.



**Sunday, April 9, 10:30am** (Sanctuary)  
**Easter Worship Service**

We proclaim the resurrection of Christ, through festive music by congregation, choir and brass and a flower cross blooming with life. Tony Hopkins will offer the sermon.

If you can’t worship with us in person, visit our church website, [firstbaptistgreenville.com](http://firstbaptistgreenville.com), or our Facebook page to view online.

If you would like to provide flowers for one of our future worship services, contact Kimberly Coates at [kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or 864-233-2527 ext 128.

### Ballot for members of the Deacon Nominating Committee (see page 3 article)

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: This is NOT a ballot to nominate Deacons, but a ballot to nominate members of the Deacon Nominating Committee. Paper ballots must be signed.

# The Bridge: Community for Young Adults

One of the many ways for young adults to get connected here at First Baptist Greenville is through The Bridge: Community for Young Adults. Whether you are a college or grad student, a young professional, a couple, single, or just in your twenty-somethings, we would love to have you join us for fellowship, formation, and fun! Already in 2023, we have enjoyed breakfast-for-dinner to celebrate Mardi Gras, spent time getting to know some of our ministers, and shared a wonderful Mediterranean meal...just like Jesus and his disciples used to do!

Now is a great time to get involved, because we are planning activities, events, and learning opportunities for the spring and summer. We are currently exploring ideas like a Sunday morning field trip to the Triune



Mercy Center, a Holy Hike in a local park, and service projects with some of our church's many community partners. If you're interested in heading up any of these events—or feel more called to help with social media, hosting a fellowship meal, or planning other fun outings—please contact me at [franklin.lowe@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:franklin.lowe@firstbaptistgreenville.com).

The best ways to keep up with The Bridge is by following us @

[firstbaptistbridge](#) on Facebook and Instagram and by signing up for our email list (sign up on the church website or email me, and I can add you!). Every month, we get together for a Sunday Community Lunch, a Tuesday Fellowship Meal, and a few times of Community Formation during the Sunday School hour. Look out for updates on upcoming events!

—Franklin

## Happy Reunions

The most underestimated ministry? That's easy! The ministry of presence is far and away the most essential, most powerful, yet most underestimated of all forms of ministry. Consequently, it's the most neglected.

Too often, I see even friends and family members avoid one another because they "don't know how" to be present or "don't know what to say." As a younger man, I was probably as guilty as anyone in avoiding death beds, hospitals and hospices, rehab and assisted living facilities for that very reason.

Older Me wishes I could tell Younger Me that it's really no different at the end of life as it is at the beginning. No one has to tell an infant or her parents what "presence" is or how to do it, but their need for it is so strong that—if separated for too long—they cry out for it!

Many commentators have pointed out that—amid all the grief and suffering of the pandemic—there were some upsides: people were liberated from exploitive jobs, abusive relationships, or bad habits, and found their way to better ones. But one "pandemic habit" we should resist with all our might is the habit of not being present with those who cannot come to be present with us. During those long months of isolation, we saw ebullient personalities wither like cut flowers.

*It ain't rocket science*, as they say. It's just showing up. All the rest—the rich storytelling, the rejuvenating laughter, the healing connection—all comes only after we first surmount that simple threshold.

Tell me, can you, in all honesty think of a better way to celebrate the resurrection this year?

—Kyle

# Deacon Nominating Committee Election

FBG members are requested to submit nominations for the 2023 Deacon Nominating Committee.

- Elaine Barnhill will serve as the 2023 Deacon Nominating Committee Chair.
- In the fall, Deacon Nominating Committee members will contact deacon nominees equal to the number of vacancies on the Diaconate as to their willingness to serve.
- Once the slate of new deacons is complete, it will be submitted to the church for a vote.
- Installation and ordination of new deacons will be in early January.

There are three ways to submit recommendations for the eight positions on the Deacon Nominating Committee:

- Complete the ballot at the bottom of page 1 and mail it to the church, attention Jenna Manning.
- Click the CONTACT US button at the top of the website homepage, complete the fields and include your recommendations.
- Email your recommendations to Jenna.

The deadline for recommendations to be received is Friday, April 14, 2023.

Because the persons on the committee are ineligible to serve again for two years, do not nominate any of the following:

Elaine Barnhill	Doug Girvin	Sharon Russo
Trevor Barton	Bob Howard	Judy Snyder
Lee Counts	John Jones	Mittie Taylor
Tyrone Edwards	Pam Jones	Reed Wilson
Glenda Ehrmann	Jason Richards	
Emily Fayssoux	David Richardson	

## Upcoming Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Contact: [camille.loomis@firstbaptistgreenville](mailto:camille.loomis@firstbaptistgreenville)

### **New Forum@First Course with Matt Rollins**

#### **“My Top Ten List of Pivotal Moments in Baptist History”**

**Sundays at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall, April 16-May 21**

Beginning April 16, join Matt Rollins for a new Forum course on Baptist history! Matt will explore ten flashpoints across Baptist history which explore the development and legacy of what Baptists believe, how we organize church, and ethical implications of our faith.

### **New MidWeek Fellowship Series with Camille Loomis Rehnberg**

#### **“Back Pew Preachers”**

**Wednesdays at 6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall, April 12-May 10**

There is a preacher and sermon writer in all of us! Beginning April 12, we will embark on a 5-week series meant to peel back the veil of sermon preparation. We will learn

how ministers pick a preaching text, how to interpret the biblical context of a text, and brainstorm ideas of how the text of the week (Gospel stories from John) could be presented in a sermon. If public speaking is not for you, don't fear – this series will be interactive but similar to a typical MidWeek Fellowship lecture.

### **New Discussion Group: *Wearing God* by Lauren F. Winner**

**Wednesdays at 6:15pm in the Media Center, April 12-May 10**

This small group, led by Anna Woodham, will meet for 4-5 weeks on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:00pm in the Media Center. The group will explore Lauren F. Winner's book, *Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God*. Winner asks questions like...What if we imagine what smell means to God? How does our vision of God change if we imagine God as

a laboring mother? Registration not required—bookworms, Bible enthusiasts, and any community members are welcome!

### **Lecture by Amanda Tyler, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee**

#### **“How Christian Nationalism Threatens Democracy and Christianity”**

**Sunday, April 30, at 3pm in the FBG Sanctuary**

Save the date for a special presentation in our Sanctuary by Amanda Tyler of the BJC! Ms. Tyler and the BJC are highly-regarded advocates for the historic Baptist principle of religious liberty for people of all faiths. Tyler was named “Baptist of the Year” by EthicsDaily.com in 2019 for her work leading the Christians Against Christian Nationalism campaign. She also co-hosts the Respecting Religion podcast series, and she serves on the board of the Center for Faith,

## Upcoming Events

**WATCH** indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 4/5 **Wednesdays at First Activities**  
**WATCH 6:15pm** Holy Wednesday  
 MidWeek Fellowship: Unstuck  
 (Fellowship Hall) with Kyle  
 Matthews
- 4/6 **7:00pm** Maundy Thursday Worship  
 Service (Parlor) with Proclaimer  
 Tony Hopkins
- 4/7 **Noon and 1:00pm** (Chapel) and at  
**2:00pm** (Labyrinth) Stations of the  
 Cross with Leader Franklin Lowe  
**WATCH 7:00pm** Good Friday  
 Tenebrae Service (Sanctuary) with  
 Proclaimer Kendra Plating
- 4/8 **10:00am-Noon** Children's Easter  
 Egg Hunt and Picnic (Fellowship  
 Hall, Playgrounds, Labyrinth)
- 4/9 **8:30am** Early Easter in the  
 Garden Worship Service (Labyrinth  
 in Remembrance Garden) with  
 Proclaimer Franklin Lowe  
**WATCH 10:30am** Easter Worship  
 Service (Sanctuary) with  
 Proclaimer Tony Hopkins,  
 Sanctuary Choir and Brass,  
 including Baptism
- 4/10 AYMC and Church Offices Closed  
 for Easter

### Wednesdays at First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar

- 3:00-6:00pm Youth Hang Time  
 (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 5:00-6:00pm Supper Serving Lines Open  
 (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00-7:00pm Preschool and Children's  
 Music and Missions  
 (C300 and B400 halls)
- 6:00-7:00pm Youth Bible Study  
 (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 4/11 **11:00am** Holy Rollers to Lunch at  
 Trotter's Restaurant (Clinton, SC)
- 4/12 **Wednesdays at First Activities**  
**6:15pm** Discussion Group: *Wearing  
 God* (Media Center) with Anna  
 Woodham  
**WATCH 6:15pm** MidWeek  
 Fellowship: Back Pew Preachers  
 (Fellowship Hall) with Camille  
 Loomis Rehnborg
- 4/14 **10:30am** Senior Adult Lunch and  
 More (Fellowship Hall)  
**5:00-7:00pm** 5th-6th Grade Glow  
 in the Dark Party (AYMC)
- 4/16 **WATCH 9:30am** Forum@First: My  
 Top Ten List of Pivotal Moments  
 in Baptist History (Fellowship Hall)  
 with Matt Rollins  
**WATCH 10:30am** Second Sunday of  
 Easter (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer  
 Tony Hopkins and Bell Tower  
 Ringers
- 4:00pm Vocare Rehearsal (Choir  
 Room)
- 5:00pm Sunday Night Live for  
 Youth (AYMC)

## Sympathy

...to Chris Powell and family in the  
 death of his father.

## Wednesday Night Supper

Make your reservations by noon  
 on Monday. Menus and reservation  
 information are available at [https://  
 firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-  
 at-first/](https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/)

**April 5**

**Adult:** Chicken Pot Pie, Broccoli Spears,  
 Mashed Potatoes, Salad, Roll, Dessert

**Child:** Pigs in a Blanket, Fruit, Cookie

**April 12**

**Adult:** Beef Stroganoff with Egg  
 Noodles, Mixes Veggies, Salad, Roll,  
 Dessert

**Child:** Chicken Fingers, Fruit, Cookie

### LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 4/1

\$718,750

Receipts as of 3/28

\$527,434

### Pastoral Care On Call Nights and Weekends

April 3-9

Kyle Matthews

864-551-0829 (m)

April 10-16

Camille Loomis Rehnborg

703-501-6425 (m)

If you are unable to reach this  
 minister at the above number,  
 please call the Church Office,  
 864-233-2527, and leave a mes-  
 sage by pressing the number "2"  
 for "Pastoral Care  
 Emergencies."

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 Kimberly Coates, Editor.

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## Formation, *continued from page 3*

Justice, and Reconciliation. This  
 is a free and non-ticketed event,  
 co-sponsored by FBG and the  
 Anderson Forum for Progressive  
 Theology. Please share the word!

### Spiritual Enrichment Event ("SEE" Retreat) with Claudia Borchart

**Saturday, May 6, 9am-1pm**

Registration forthcoming

Save the date for Saturday, May  
 6, when Claudia Borchart will be  
 at FBG to offer a presentation  
 on pilgrimage sites in Palestine  
 and Israel. Claudia is a long-time  
 friend of our congregation. You  
 may have traveled with her on  
 an FBG pilgrimage to the Holy  
 Land or enjoyed her virtual tours  
 of pilgrimage sites offered as a  
 MidWeek series in 2021. More  
 details to come – you won't want  
 to miss learning from Claudia's  
 exceptional expertise and local  
 knowledge!