

## WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Wednesday, September 6

Plan now to join us for dinner as *Wednesdays@First* activities have resumed. Please make a reservation by noon on Monday: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>.

There are activities for all ages: nursery through adult. Come to find out where you *belong!*

MidWeek Classic: Surprised by Belonging with Tony Hopkins

Car Maintenance 101 with Todd Ramsey

First Baptist Sings...and YOU Can, Too!  
With Vivian Hamilton

## WORSHIP



**Sunday Worship Service—September 10, 10:30am**  
(Sanctuary)

On Sunday, September 10, Interim Senior Minister Tony Hopkins will serve as proclaimer, bringing the sermon “The God Who Hears” based upon Romans 8:26-27 and Genesis 21:8-10, 14-21. The Sanctuary Choir will sing Ruth Elaine Schram’s arrangement of Charles H. Gabriel’s “His Eye Is on the Sparrow.”

For more information on the music of the service, visit the Organist’s Blog at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/category/organists-blog/>



Pews in front of the baptistry will be reserved for our Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. When available, an American Sign Language interpreter will be at the base of the baptistry.

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.

## Deacon Nominations Due Now

The Deacon Nominating Committee invites all church members to submit names of servant leaders for consideration to serve on the Diaconate. This group of sixteen individuals will begin their three-year term on January 1, 2024. The Deacon Nominating Committee has agreed to consider all nominees based on the Scripture references found in the Rules of Church Order: John 13:1-15 and Romans 12:1-18.

The committee has agreed on the following additional criteria:

- Members with active church participation, dedication, service, and financial support are eligible.
- The committee will work to balance the new slate of deacons to represent the diversity of the congregation.
- Deacon Nominating Committee members and their spouses are not eligible.
- Staff members (full-time or part-time) and their spouses are not eligible.

Please submit nominations to Jenna Manning by **Friday, September 8, 2023**. Nominations should include a brief statement of each nominee’s qualifications and include your contact information. Nominations can be made by written letter or by email to [jenna.manning@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:jenna.manning@firstbaptistgreenville.com).

Members of the Deacon Nominating Committee include: Elaine Barnhill, chair, Mike Fuller, Ann Golden, Carol Ann Good, Wofford Green, chair-elect, Rob Pyett, Oz Rogers, Brian Shelley and Ben Snyder.

September 8, 4:30pm  
Senior Adult Picnic  
Fellowship Hall

September 8, 5:30pm  
Children’s Monthly Fellowship Event  
Scavenger Hunt and Pizza  
AYMC

September 12, 6:00pm  
Grow Your Justice Ministry  
Dinner & Workshop  
Fellowship Hall

# Lula Whilden World Mission Emphasis

COMING IN OCTOBER



During the month of October, First Baptist Greenville will highlight ministries

supported by three of our affiliations: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina (CBFSC) and the Alliance of Baptists (AoB). We will collect a special offering for them named in honor of Lula Whilden.

Lula Whilden was a member of our church in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was the first single woman to be appointed as a missionary by the Southern Baptist Convention. Lula served in China for many years. To discover more of her story, please read Louise Stanford's excellent article at

<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/who-was-lula-whilden>

The organizations who receive our Lula Whilden World Missions Offering support a wide range of ministries, such as environmental justice, homeless and refugee ministries, increased educational opportunities, disaster relief efforts and many other ways of sharing the love of Jesus Christ through the development of relationships with local churches and communities.

While October will be the month that the partners who receive these funds will be highlighted, the opportunity to give to the Lula Whilden World Missions Offering will last through the end of the year. Please give prayerful consideration to supporting these organizations with your financial

gifts by using either the offering envelope in the Sanctuary pews or through online giving at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/give/>

With your generosity, this congregation raised over \$100,000 last fall, and we have set that as a goal for this year, as well. Thank you for your support.

—Nancy Schleppehorst and the Missions & Affiliations Committee



## Focus on Missions: Canned Fruit Collection

First Baptist Greenville has a long history of supporting our neighbors in need by collecting canned fruit for the United Ministries Food Pantry. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who gather fruit donations each month and deliver them to United Ministries on behalf of our congregation.

As we have done each September for several years, we will be collecting canned fruit throughout the month as our September Missions Focus. Fruit is one of the most requested items from the pantry, and pop-tops and fruit cups are preferred. Please help us make a big impact by bringing your canned fruit donations any time during the month to our drop-off locations on campus: Front Desk, Fellowship Hall Lobby, or AYMC Lobby. (Please make sure items have not reached their expiration date.) You may also order and ship directly to the Food Pantry by

shopping from the United Ministries Amazon Wish List (<https://tinyurl.com/UMWL23>)! At the end of the month, our Children on Mission attendees will count all the fruit we have collected and load the cans into trucks to be delivered to United Ministries.

Thank you all for your continued generosity in providing canned fruit for the United Ministries Food Pantry! The pantry—one of many crisis assistance programs offered by United Ministries—uses a client-choice model which allows families to choose the food items that fit their needs. In 2022, the Food Pantry provided food to 1,171 families. For more information about the impact this organization is making in our community, visit [united-ministries.org/crisis-assistance](https://united-ministries.org/crisis-assistance).

—Catherine “Clay” Gilbert  
Missions & Affiliations Committee

# Welcome, Deanna Flanagan



We are pleased to welcome Deanna Flanagan to our church staff! Deanna has been hired as the Finance Office Assistant, and her first day was August 25. She comes to us well qualified to be a valuable part of our accounting department.

In late April this year, two positions in the Finance Office—Contribution Services and Personnel Services—were vacated. These openings presented an opportunity to evaluate those roles and determine if some realignment of job duties was appropriate.

With input from Jenna Manning and Stacey Shinas, members of the Personnel Committee and the Finance Committee spent the summer reviewing these roles and the related processes and internal controls in the accounting department. We determined that the two positions (equal to one and a half full time jobs) could be combined into a

single full-time position. Efficient use of available technology (both within the church and at our payroll provider) help enable this slight reduction in staff. Internal controls and processes have been adjusted accordingly to safeguard church assets. Both the Personnel and the Finance Committees voted to approve this structure change.

There are a few additional job task reassignments that coincide with the accounting department change. Jenna Manning will continue to manage the human resource needs of the church as she has done this summer, and Ryland Brown will now take the lead on calendaring church events.

We are grateful for a church family which supports the ministries of FBG and for leaders who are good stewards of their gifts.

—Freda Lark, Personnel chair  
Ben Waldrop, Personnel chair-elect  
Krista Good, Finance chair  
Jenna Manning, Church Operations Coordinator

## Faith at Home—at Church

Join us at 10:30am on Sunday, September 17, for a morning of worship for all ages led by Traci Smith.

Traci Smith is an ordained minister, mother of three, and author of the bestselling *Faithful Families* series of books. Traci's passion is helping families find times for connection and spiritual nourishment amid the hustle and bustle of daily life. What began as a quest to help her own family has provided valuable insight for thousands of others. Traci believes faith practices should be fun, easy to fit into daily life, and accessible to all. Visit her at [traci-smith.com](http://traci-smith.com).

Traci will lead our church in an experiential and creative worship

service and then participate in a special Faith at Home Fair in our Fellowship Hall. This fair will have ideas for families with children of all ages, birth through seniors in High School.

Faith at Home can be intimidating, and Traci Smith is an expert in this area. We are so excited to learn and be inspired by her ideas and simple approach to creating opportunities to talk about faith in meaningful ways that engage a variety of ages.

A poster for a special service. It features a black and white photo of Traci Smith, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. The text on the poster reads: "Special Service", "Join us for a creative worship led by Traci Smith, author of Faithful Families.", "Sunday, September 17", "10:30 am worship", "Parents and grandparents of children and youth are invited to attend a Faith at Home fair following worship.", and "First Baptist Greenville, 347 Cleveland Street, Greenville SC". There is a small orange circle with "traci smith" written in white on the bottom right of the photo.

Plan to join us after worship for the Faith at Home fair. Food will be provided at a minimal cost.

—Bridget and Mary Carol

**Wednesdays@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)  
**5:30-7:00pm** Children's Hang Time,  
 Children's Choirs &  
*Children@First* (B400 hall)  
**6:00-7:00pm** Youth Bible Study  
 (AYMC Terrace Level)  
**6:00-7:00pm** Adults@First (Music & Prayer  
 Time, MidWeek Classic &  
 Other Adult Education)  
**7:00-8:30pm** Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 (Choir Room)



## Wednesday Night Supper

Please make reservations by noon on Monday at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

### September 6

**Adult:** Salad, Chicken Divan, Rice,  
 Glazed Carrots, Dinner Roll and Dessert  
**Child:** Buttered Pasta, Chessy Bread,  
 Fruit, Cookie

### September 13

**Adult:** Salad, Pork Piccata w/  
 Lemon Caper Sauce, New Potatoes,  
 Asparagus, Dinner Roll and Dessert  
**Child:** Pizza Bread, Fruit, Cookie

## Flower Service

Is this where you belong? Both the Flowers to Friends and the Flower Guild need new members. Sunday morning flowers are taken and put in smaller arrangements to be taken to those in facilities or homebound. They need more arrangers and deliverers. The Flower Guild orders, decorates and maintains the Sanctuary during the Advent/Christmas season. Please reach out to Carol Ann Anderson for Flowers to Friends and Regenia McClain or Kimberly Coates for Flower Guild.

## Friday Morning Bible Study

*Reading John, Encountering Jesus: A Study of the Gospel of John*

September 15-November 17

10:00-11:30am in the AYMC

Facilitated by Michelle McClendon

Cost: \$50 per person

Register by September 11 by emailing Becky Bouton ([beckybouton@gmail.com](mailto:beckybouton@gmail.com)) or Michelle McClendon ([michellemc216@gmail.com](mailto:michellemc216@gmail.com)). A remote option will be available if requested.

The book of John tells the story of Jesus in a unique way and holds some of our favorite stories and scripture texts, many of which have been misread and misunderstood and often misused and misinterpreted. This study will cover the book, using both historical and literary interpretive lenses. We will take a fresh look at this book that is both beloved by many, and remains an enigma to others.

## Upcoming Events

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

- 9/6** *Wednesdays@First* Activities  
 MidWeek Classic: Surprised by Belonging—Tony Hopkins  
 (Fellowship Hall)  
 Car Maintenance 101—Todd Ramsey (Bus Parking Lot—off Faris)  
 First Baptist Sings...and YOU Can, Too!—Vivian Hamilton (Choir Room)  
**9/8** **4:30-6:30pm** Senior Adult Picnic  
 (Fellowship Hall)  
**5:30-7:30pm** Monthly Fellowship Event for Children (grades 1-5): Scavenger Hunt and Pizza  
 (AYMC/Practice Gym)  
**9/10** **WATCH** **10:30am** Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins  
**4:00-5:00pm** Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
**5:00-7:00pm** Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)  
**9/12** **6:00pm** Grow Your Justice Ministry Dinner & Workshop (Fellowship Hall)  
**9/13** **6:30am** Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)  
*Wednesdays@First* Activities  
 (See 9/6 for options for Adults)  
**9/17** **WATCH** **10:30am** Worship Service

## Men's Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group will begin their third decade of study and fellowship together on September 13 at 6:30am on the Terrace Level of the AYMC. All men of the congregation are invited to study the weekly scripture passages in the Revised Common Lectionary. If you have questions or need more information, contact Bert Strange ([bertstrange@yahoo.com](mailto:bertstrange@yahoo.com) or 864-238-4101).

**LIVING GENEROUSLY**

Financial Needs as of 9/2

**\$1,935,096**

Receipts as of 8/29

**\$1,538,687**

**PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES**

Please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, and leave a message by pressing the number "2" for "Pastoral Care Emergencies." One of our staff ministers will return your call, or you may email [pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com)