

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

March 12

Adults@First Opportunity

6:00pm My Neighbor's Voice:

Springfield Baptist (Fellowship Hall)

Make supper reservations at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

WORSHIP

March 16

10:30am in Sanctuary

Second Sunday in Lent

Family Dedication

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Scripture: Luke 5:33-39; Psalm 69:1-10

Sermon Series: Living Lent: Drawing Near to Jesus through Fasting, Confession, Giving and Lament

Sermon: Practicing Our Faith: Fasting

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir; Will Jordan, Soloist

If you would like to provide flowers for this or one of our future services, email kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or call 864-233-2527, ext. 128.



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

I wish all of you could have joined us for the church-wide retreat. I chose the theme *Creation Calls and I Must Go* because I believe the cosmos is a gift, made and sustained by God. I love and delight in the created world; birds, trees, rocks, sticks, daffodils and turtles bring me joy! I find beauty in the tiniest details of creation. I also believe that the more we learn about the world around us, the deeper our appreciation grows for this good and beautiful world God has entrusted to us.

On Saturday, I invited retreat participants to take part in *Choose Your Own Adventure* experiences—hiking, birdwatching, learning about native plants in gardening, and more—all drawn from things I love. In a way, this retreat was more than an invitation into creation; it was an invitation into something personal, sharing with you the places, creatures and moments that bring me joy. I hope they might bring you joy, too.

Since not everyone could attend, I want to share with you “A Liturgy for Birdwatching” from *Every*

Moment Holy by Douglas Kaine McKelvey, which I shared with retreat participants! I invite you to enjoy it now and perhaps pray it the next time you hear or see a sparrow, cardinal, nuthatch or tufted titmouse. May each of these creatures remind you that all of creation declares the glory of God.

—Carol

A Liturgy for Bird-Watching

Our Creator,
King of Land, Sea and Sky,
whose vision encompasses
galaxies,
but whose compassions extend
even

to the common sparrow,
you bid me to consider
your birds and flowers,
rather than to worry about what
I will eat or wear.

You hide food and drink for the jay
and bless him with a mind to find
them.

You clothe even the smallest
hummingbird
with extravagant iridescence.
You are ever mindful of the
ostrich's eggs,
even when her attention is
elsewhere.

Yet the loud voices of my own
needs
and desires so often deafen my
ability

continued on page 2

Palms and Easter Lilies



We are preparing for our Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations. To aid in our celebration,

we will place palms in the Sanctuary on Palm Sunday and an arrangement of lilies as both honorary and memorial gifts on Easter Sunday. All lily gifts will be published in the newsletter. If you are interested in providing an Easter lily gift, please visit <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/easter-lilies/> and follow the instructions to submit your dedications.

You may even pay online! If you would prefer, you may still mail the following information and your payment (checks payable to First Baptist Church) to me at church or drop it off in person. Orders and checks (\$30 each) should be received by Wednesday, **April 9**. If you would like to make a gift toward this arrangement, complete the online form or send the following information to my attention at the church (First Baptist Church, Attn: Kimberly Coates, 847 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601), along with your contribution of \$30 per dedication:

Name

Phone Number

Email Address (if applicable)

Number of Gifts (\$30 each)

In honor of:

In memory of:

Please make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Orders should be received by April 9.

—Kimberly Coates, Music & Worship Ministry Assistant

From the Senior Minister, continued from page 1

to perceive your gracious provision
and
tender care for me.

So quiet me, O Christ.
Quiet the noise in my head and
heart.

As I consider your kindness to
your creatures,
let me also find a deeper trust and
a deeper rest
in your lovingkindness toward me.

As I ponder the myriad forms, the
varied habits and the peculiar
beauties
of the birds you created, O Lord,
shepherd my thoughts
and awaken my perceptions
for all I have disregarded as
scenery.

Open my eyes to your glory
displayed in their particularities
and varieties
Open my ears to your joy
expressed in their calls and songs.

Open my heart to your concern
for their common cries and daily
dramas.

More than merely looking,
may I actually see.
More than merely hearing,
may I truly perceive.

Let me join you in the joy of noting
the great diversity of
crests, wingspans, beak lengths,
nests, habits, colors, patterns,
rituals, voices
and character traits among the
species
I observe.

O Christ, use this practice of
birdwatching
to refine my vision to more fully
see as you see,
to look hard for the unseen and
unpraised,
as you so perfectly modeled for us
when you
admired the widow's secret
sacrifice in the temple,

or stooped to the cries of suffering
outcasts
along the road, or looked up in
love at the desperate tax thief
perched in a tree, for I know my
own blindness extends well
beyond the birds of my yard.

Let this practice incline my heart
to better see as you see, O Lord,
my neighbors,
my family in Christ,
even my enemies.

As I am daily moved by that wild
choir
of praise inadvertently raised
by the bustle of these little beings,
so let my own daily living and
interacting
with others also bring you much
glory.

Amen.

Know a College or Seminary Student in Need of Financial Assistance?

The First Baptist Greenville Scholarship Committee is accepting applications from qualified individuals seeking financial assistance in pursuing an undergrad or seminary degree. This opportunity is not restricted to church members. Friends and loved ones are also welcome and encouraged to apply. These scholarships are made available through the First Baptist Greenville Foundation and funded by the incredible generosity of current and former church members.

Scholarship applications are due to Sarah Dunn by mail or email no later than Sunday, April 13. Applications can be downloaded using the links on the Young Adult page of our website (<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/youngadults/>) or by using the following links:

First Time Scholarship Application: <https://tinyurl.com/fbg-scholar>

Previous Recipient Scholarship Application (renewal): <https://tinyurl.com/fbg-scholar-renew>

For more information on how you can help support these worthy students through the Foundation, please contact Stacey Shinas at stacey.shinas@firstbaptistgreenville.com.

— Sarah Dunn, Scholarship Committee Staff Liaison

Calling ALL Graduates!

On Sunday, May 18, First Baptist Greenville will celebrate and honor the graduating

classes of 2025 – high school, college and graduate school. The day will begin in the AYMC, when graduates and their families are invited to share in a time of breakfast and fellowship with our Youth Family. During worship at 10:30am, graduates will wear their graduation caps and gowns and will be individually recognized and given a special gift from the church. A special luncheon for our high school graduates will follow worship.

We understand that some graduates may not be present for our 10:30am worship on Sunday, May 18. However, we ask that every graduate submit a recent photo of themselves (by Sunday, April 13) so we can recognize them in our church newsletter, *The Branch*, and display pictures of all of our graduates on the bulletin board outside Carol's office.

All graduates who are connected to FBG and are graduating this May, please help us by completing a Graduate Info Form no later than Sunday, April 13! You can find the form by using the link listed below.

Link to Graduate Info Form - <https://forms.gle/psAmpGa7RufknMsCA>

— Sarah Dunn, Youth Ministry Assistant

Church Wide Yard Sale to Benefit Neighborhood Partnership

Saturday, March 15, 10:00am to 1:00pm
in the Practice Gym



Help set up tables
Bring in items
A casual lunch will be provided!



Friday,
March 28
and
Saturday,
March 29

Volunteer for one or more of the following shifts to help make the sale a success!

- Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29
- Friday, March 28, 4:00pm to 8:00pm
- Saturday, March 29, 7:00am to 10:00am
- Saturday, March 29, 10:00am to 1:00pm
- Saturday, March 29, 1:00pm to 3:00pm



Sign Up to Volunteer Here!
<https://tinyurl.com/fbgyardsaleshifts>

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 3/11 9:30am-3:30pm Holy Rollers Visit Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC
- 3/12 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)
Wednesdays@First Activities
6:00pm Sharing Our Stories: My Neighbor's Voice with Springfield Baptist (Fellowship Hall)
- 3/13 9:00am-4:00pm Engaged Aging Hike: Oconee Station, Walhalla Steak House Cafeteria and Cherokee Museum
- 3/14 10:30am-1:00pm Friday Lunch & More (Media Center, Fellowship Hall) with Program, "Two Sons of Atlanta," by Baxter Wynn
- 3/15 10:00am-1:00pm Inasmuch Day—Yard Sale Setup (Practice Gym)
- 3/16 **WATCH** 10:30am Second Sunday in Lent Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Family Dedication and Will Jordan, Soloist
- 3/19 *Breathe Week—No Wednesdays@First Activities except Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal*
- 3/20 9:00am-4:30pm Roadrunners & Church Family Visit Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens
- 3/21 Noon-1:00pm GAPS Group (AYMC Walking Track, Media Center)
- 3/23 **WATCH** 10:30am Third Sunday in Lent Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Kyle Matthews and Bell Tower Ringers
11:30am Lunch for Visitors and New Members (Parlor)
11:30am-1:30pm Children's Sunday Preparation (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:00-7:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group (Parlor)
- 3/26 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)
Wednesdays@First Activities
6:00pm *Adults@First Opportunities*
MidWeek Classic: Math and Meaning in the Bible (Fellowship Hall) with Matt Rollins
Auto 101 (Bus Parking Lot) with Todd Ramsey
Christ-Followers' Response to Gun Violence (Media Center) with Chris Hoover and Kathy Stewart

Wednesdays@First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar

4:00-7:00pm *Youth@First*: Youth Hang Time (AYMC Terrace Level)

5:00-6:00pm Supper and Prayer Time (Fellowship Hall)

Children@First

5:30-7:00pm Childcare for Ages 3 & Under (C208, C214)

5:45-7:00pm K4 & K5 Co-Creator Block & Playtime (B422)

5:45-6:10pm 1st-5th Grades Choir (B423) Gathering Time (Media Center)

6:15-7:00pm Co-Creator Block (B424)

6:00-6:50pm *Adults@First* (MidWeek Classic & Other Adult Education Offerings) (Fellowship Hall)

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/>

March 12

Adult: Beef Stroganoff with Egg Noodles, Broccoli Normandy, Salad, Fruit, Italian Bread, Dessert
Child: Buttered Pasta, Cheese Bread

March 19

This is a *Breathe* Wednesday with no activities other than Sanctuary Choir rehearsal. We'll be back next week!

Sympathy

...to Mason Nettles and family in the death of his grandmother.

...to Scott Whitehouse and family in the death of his father.

Annual Church Yard Sale

To donate items to the Annual Church Yard Sale, contact Matt Rollins at matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com. Regular receiving times are Thursdays, 10am-1:30pm. Please donate by March 13.



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Revenue Report

2/28/2025 YTD: \$541,650

2/28/2024 Actual: \$472,501

2/28/2025 Budget: \$497,000



Scan here to support the financial needs of First Baptist Greenville.

For After Hours Pastoral Care, please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, leave a message by pressing the number "2" for "Pastoral Care"

or email pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com. One of our staff ministers will respond to your message.