

## WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

May 7

Adults@First Opportunities—6:00pm

MidWeek Classic: A New Understanding of Family and Belonging (Fellowship Hall) with Michael McEntyre

Reading Scripture Out Loud (Parlor) with Camille Loomis Rehnberg and Kyle Juresich

Move with Purpose: Where Do I Start? (AYMC) with Cathy Goldfarb

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

## WORSHIP

May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:30am in Sanctuary

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Sermon: Recognize Abundance

Scripture: John 21:1-14

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir

The flowers in the Sanctuary on May 4 were given in loving memory of Edna and Tom Hartness from their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The flowers in the Sanctuary on May 11 are given in loving memory of Catherine Ann Jeter by her family.

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

May 10, 2:00-5:00pm

Bake & Pray® Workshop with Kendall Vanderslice

Register: [firstbaptistgreenville.com/bakeandpray](http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/bakeandpray)

## First Baptist Summer One-Reads Are Back!

Are you looking for something to read over the summer? Look no further. We have chosen three books for a First Baptist Summer One-Read. Feel free to read one or explore them all. The idea is to read them at your own pace over the summer and then join the conversations in the fall. Hopefully, the books will be thought-provoking, encourage spiritual growth, and foster fruitful discussion. You can order the books independently or purchase a copy at the church.

Eighty years after Dietrich Bonhoeffer's death in a Nazi camp, his powerful message in *Life Together* still resonates. In a world that often prioritizes individualism and self-sufficiency, Bonhoeffer explores the deep need for authentic Christian community—a community not built on personal preference or convenience but on commitment, confession and the daily practice of grace. Bonhoeffer reminds us that real community is not about finding perfect people or crafting the ideal social circle but about embracing the messy, transformative power of life in Christ together. *Life Together* challenges us to see that we are not meant to live in isolation—our yearning for connection and purpose can only be fully realized in relationship with God and one another. We will have a chance to discuss the book in the fall; as

an added bonus, in the summer of 2026, Senior Minister Carol McEntyre will lead a travel-learning experience to Berlin, Germany, to explore theology and Christianity through the lens and story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

*The Road to Character* by David Brooks explores the deeper values that should inform our lives, contrasting what he calls “résumé virtues” (skills that contribute to external success) with “eulogy virtues” (qualities that define our inner character). Drawing on the lives of historical figures such as Dorothy Day, Dwight Eisenhower and others, Brooks reflects on how true character is built through struggle, humility and moral depth. This book invites us to consider what it means to live a good life, one shaped not just by achievement, but by integrity, purpose and self-examination. This fall, Senior Minister Carol McEntyre is planning a Sunday morning preaching series about Christian character—what it is and how it is formed. *The Road to Character* will be a thoughtful complement to the series, helping you reflect on who you want to be and how to grow toward that vision.

In *Jesus and the Disinherited*, acclaimed theologian and spiritual advisor to MLK Jr., Howard Thurman, explores how the gospel

*continued on page 2*



## Caring for Those Who Care

*Rosalynn Carter said, "There are only four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers."*

While caring for a loved one can be a beautiful and rewarding season of life, few of us are prepared, and many are quickly overwhelmed, less by the difficulty of the tasks than by the heavy weight of sole responsibility.

We began having Caregiver Respite events like the one on April 10 when I realized I was doing funerals for caregivers before doing them for care-receivers. Not only are life-spans shortened by the demands of

caregiving, but also quality of life can suffer from the physical demands and the sense of isolation.

What can the church do? First of all, we can be aware. When someone is discharged from a hospital, receives a diagnosis requiring long-term care, or enters a time of convalescence, our next concern should be for that person who will care for them. We can then say, "We see you, and we care!" and listen deeply as a prerequisite for any further support we might try to give.

Many heartfelt thanks to Deb Willingham, Gayle Brown and the rest of our hardworking Caregiver Team for a wonderful event! As we continue to learn how best to "care for those who care" we hope you will join us and support us with your prayers!

—Kyle Matthews, Minister of Pastoral Care

## Calling All Bakers and Bread Lovers!

**THIS Saturday, May 10, 2-5pm**

Do you love to bake your own bread? Do you want to learn to bake, but are intimidated by the process? All are invited to a hands-on retreat about baking as a spiritual practice and to learn the practical skill of creating dough, shaping and baking your own loaf. Kendall Vanderslice, a baker, author and food theologian, brings her Bake & Pray™ workshop to First Baptist this Saturday, May 10! For three hours in the Fellowship Hall, participants will learn how to slow down, get out of our minds and into our bodies, and

bake bread as a form of prayer. Everyone will get their hands doughy and will create two loaves (one baked and one to bake at home). You'll also take home a bowl scraper and new ways to pray. Whether you are a sourdough master or scared of yeast, Bake & Pray™ will open your eyes to God's gift of bread in a new way—you'll never bake or break a loaf the same way again.

Still looking for a Mothers' Day gift? This workshop is the perfect option! Attend with a loved one or register with a group as a friends' day out. Recommended age of

participants is ages 12 and up, though children as young as 4th grade may participate. All children and youth must attend with an adult.

Register today for \$40 for one person or \$60 for a pair. Hurry, registration closes Wednesday, May 7, and is limited to 40 participants! Read more and register at [firstbaptistgreenville.com/bakeandpray](http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/bakeandpray).

—Camille Loomis Rehnberg,  
Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach

## Summer One-Reads, continued from page 1

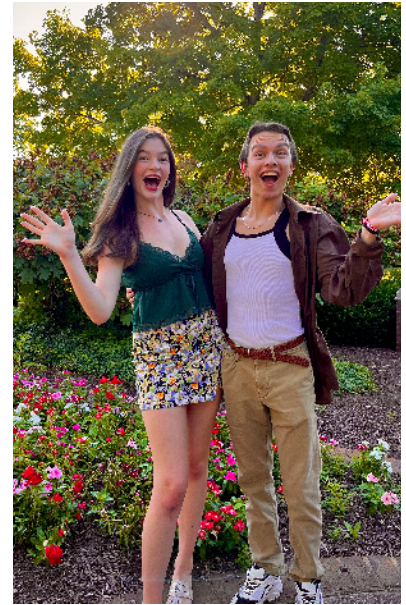
may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised. While Jesus inhabits the pain of the oppressed, Thurman writes, Jesus' example of overwhelming love instructs us all to reach past anger and distrust toward a vision of unity. Thurman's 100-page classic will appeal to anyone eager to see love prevail over hate. Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach Camille Loomis Rehnberg will lead a Wednesday night book discussion on Thurman's book this fall.

# Welcome Back, Zeke and Jordan!

We are excited to welcome back the fabulous YMT duo for this summer: Zeke Barton and Jordan Manning! They have grown up in our church and are active members of the Youth and College Family! We are looking forward to welcoming them back and can't wait for our youth to spend the summer with them! Please see their letter below. —Sarah Dunn, Youth Ministry Assistant

“Hello FBG friends and family! We are so excited to be returning as the Youth Mentoring Team again this summer! Last summer we had an incredible time, and with more experience, we hope to curate another unforgettable summer alongside our Youth Family. We learned about how to manage and create a safe space for our youth last year, and we are eager to continue our work this time around. Since we both grew up in the First Baptist Youth Group, we have both made so many

fond memories through the program. To this day, we still tell stories from trips like Unidiversity, mission trips, and working with local organizations during Mission Possible. Over this coming summer, we hope to create a space in which our Youth Family will have the same opportunity. We are forever grateful for the experiences we had as youth and are so excited to have another opportunity to cultivate amazing experiences for the youth again this summer!”



—Jordan Manning and Zeke Barton, Youth Mentoring Team

YOUTH

## Reflections from Our Community Engagement Intern



This spring semester, from mid-January through the end of April, I have had the privilege of serving as the intern for the Community Engagement Ministry here at First Baptist Greenville. This experience has been incredibly rewarding and formative—not only for my personal and professional growth but, I hope, for Matt and the full-time staff at FBG as well.

During my time here, I worked on several projects, including:

- Restructuring the Community Engagement (CE) committees
- Introducing councils within CE committees to oversee related project groups
- Creating visual graphics to illustrate the structure of the CE ministry
- Streamlining the process for congregation members to get involved in CE
- Developing a new project, The Hygiene Kit Initiative, for future implementation

- Creating clear, accessible tools for councils and committees to view the CE office budget and track spending

What working on all of these projects showed me is that I am really passionate about systems work. To me, systems work means finding ways to restructure, improve, support, or occasionally retire existing structures in order to achieve greater efficiency and impact. Sometimes that meant building on what was already in place, other times it meant introducing new ideas, and sometimes I was taking ideas that Matt already had and finding a way to make them a reality.

It was through this work that I discovered my love for systems thinking, which has since become the guiding focus for my professional pathway. I've also been grateful for the connections I've built with congregation members, church staff, and other partners in ministry.

It has been a pleasure to be the intern here in the Community Engagement Office, and I hope that future interns will find as much meaning and growth in this role as I have.

—Luke McElveen, Community Engagement Intern

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## Upcoming Events

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

5/7 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)

*Wednesdays@First Activities*

6:00pm *Adults@First Opportunities*

MidWeek Classic: A New Understanding of Family and Belonging (Fellowship Hall) with Michael McEntyre

Reading Scripture Out Loud (Parlor) with Camille Loomis Rehnborg and Kyle Juresich

Move with Purpose: Where Do I Start? (AYMC) with Cathy Goldfarb

5/8 8:30am-3:00pm Engaged Aging Hikes: Tallulah Gorge State Park

5/10 2:00-5:00pm Bake & Pray® Workshop with Kendall Vanderslice (Fellowship Hall)

5/11 **WATCH** 10:30am Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including baptism and communion

5/13 10:00am-2:00pm Holy Rollers to Lunch at The Junction of Gowensville

5/14 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level) Final *Wednesdays@First Activities of the Spring*

5:00-7:00pm MidWeek Spring Celebration (AYMC) with Hot Dog/Hamburger Supper (\$5), Inflatables for Children & Youth, Soft Play Area for Toddlers, Music, Pickleball, Games and FBG Trivia—Make \$5 meal reservations at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

## Affinity Groups



Want to deepen your friendships across the congregation? Join a First Baptist summer affinity group—small groups centered on shared interests like arts and crafts, camping, dog park meet-ups, and theology on tap—and fill out the interest survey to learn more!

## FBG Is Hiring!

Visit the church website for more information: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/open-positions-at-fbg/>

## 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 Worship Care 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/>

### May 7

Adult: Stuffed Pork Loin, New Potatoes, Broccoli Normandy, Salad, Fruit, Roll, Dessert

Child: Fish Sticks, Tater Tots

### May 14

Adult: Hamburgers & Hot Dogs (GF), Mac and Cheese, Baked Beans (GF), Buns, Cole Slaw (GF), Fruit (GF)

Child: Hot Dogs, Mac and Cheese

## Shape the Space Where Community Happens



The AYMC is a place to build strength, faith and community! We invite you to share your thoughts and ideas by participating in our survey, whether you are an AYMC member or not. All voices matter as we nurture the ministries of the AYMC.

—Cathy Goldfarb, AYMC Director

## Sympathy

...to Chris & Kendra Plating and family in the death of his father.

...to Beth Olson and family in the death of her grandmother.

**First Baptist Greenville**  
847 Cleveland Street,  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495  
(864) 233-2527 [www.firstbaptistgreenville.com](http://www.firstbaptistgreenville.com)

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## Revenue Report

4/29/2025 YTD: \$911,895

4/30/2024 Actual: \$920,945

4/30/2025 Budget: \$994,000



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](mailto:pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com). One of our staff ministers will respond to your message.