

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Our *Wednesdays@First* activities for Spring 2025 have ended. We look forward to gathering again in August. Watch for details later!

WORSHIP

July 6

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Sermon Series: After the World Has Ended: Jeremiah's Call to Resilience

Sermon: The Uncontrollability Problem

Scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-11

Anthem: "Know My Heart" — Harlan;
"Jesus, Full of Grace" — Elsey/Sterling

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir

July 13

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Family Dedication

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Sermon: Singing Our Lives

Scripture: Psalm 149; Colossians 3:16

Anthem: "I Will Sing with the Spirit" — Rutter

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir

If you would like to provide flowers for one of our future services, email kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or call 864-233-2527, ext. 128. Open dates are July 6 and July 13.

Thank You, Fred DeFoor!

First Baptist,

We were truly blessed to have Fred DeFoor step into our interim Minister of Music role with such grace and skill in July 2024. He guided us through the transition and gave us time to thoughtfully search for a new music minister. Now, having faithfully led us through this important season, Fred gets to retire again! His final Sunday as interim will be July 6, as we joyfully prepare to welcome Laura Ritter, our new Minister of Music, on July 13.

From the very beginning, Fred brought a spirit of warmth, joy and collaboration to his work. A moment that stands out came early on: shortly after he agreed to serve, I shared with him my hopes for Advent. I wanted to preach about the songs in Luke's Gospel—the Magnificat, the Benedictus, and others—and hoped the choir could bring them to life. Fred didn't hesitate; he was all in. Thanks to his leadership,

Advent was deeply meaningful to our congregation.

On behalf of the congregation and staff, we offer our heartfelt thanks to Fred for his faithful service. The transition from Vivian's long and faithful ministry to new leadership could have been a challenge, but Fred's steady presence, thoughtful planning, and immense talent have made it seamless. He led with excellence, humility and generosity, helping our Music Ministry remain vibrant and inspiring.

Fred, we are grateful for the gifts you have shared with us during this season of transition. We are especially thankful that your time with us is not ending—you will remain a cherished part of our church family and the Sanctuary Choir. What a gift it is to continue sharing in worship and community with you!

With Gratitude,
Rev. Carol McEntyre, Senior
Minister

A TRIBUTE TO FRED DEFOOR, OUR WONDERFUL INTERIM MINISTER OF MUSIC

Having Fred DeFoor as our Interim Minister of Music has been an extraordinary blessing. Fred brought a steady, confident presence that reassured and inspired us all. With grace and professionalism, he seamlessly maintained the high standards of musicality, never missing a beat in upholding the excellence we've come to expect. Fred gave us more than strong leadership and beautiful music. He brought warmth, humor, and a sense of joy to every rehearsal. He made the process fun while still challenging us musically, keeping us motivated and engaged. Fred never let us lose sight of the deeper purpose of our work: serving the congregation through music ministry. He kept us grounded in the spirit of service, reminding us each week why we sing. Fred's time with us has been marked by grace, talent and heart. We are deeply grateful for his leadership and the care he brought to this interim season. —Danette Patterson, Sanctuary Choir President

Happy Birthday!

Remember these members celebrating birthdays in July who may not always be able to be with us in worship:

July 15

Dan Williamson

July 18

Betty Davis

July 25

Tom Atkinson

July 28

Caryl Arthur

July 17

Joel Lorick

July 20

Patsy Alexander

July 27

Kat Joyner

July 30

Anne Calhoun



Thank You for the Honor of Serving as Your Interim Minister of Music

Dear Friends,

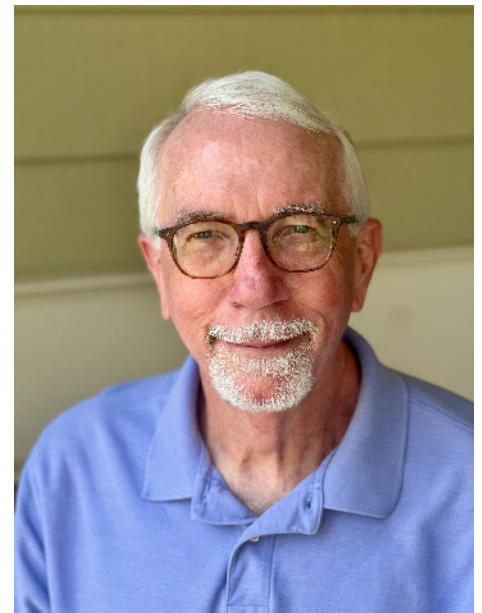
It has been my privilege and joy to serve as your Interim Minister of Music and Worship. I am grateful for so many wonderful personal, worship and music experiences: Fauré's *Requiem* for an American Choral Directors Association event in October; December's Advent and Christmas music; several "no organ" months early this year that led to creative worship opportunities; all-music Sundays in December and in May; Lenten and Easter season music; and more!

Vivian Hamilton and I were fellow music majors at Furman. After I had the privilege of singing here under Vivian's leadership for a year, upon her retirement she recommended me for this position. Carol McEntyre officially invited me, and after having received enthusiastic approval from my wife, Cindy (also a choir member here!), I accepted the offer, and I have been so honored to serve.

From the beginning, I have felt and heard the support and appreciation from church members every Sunday. This congregation has been so faithful to affirm FBG choirs and directors for their worship leadership. Your love for this Music Ministry shows in how you sing, how you affirm and how you respond!

Vivian has certainly been a great encourager this year. The entire church staff has reached out and embraced this retiree. This year has given me the gift of working with Dr. Charles Tompkins, a world-class artist and minister, and it's been a pleasure to serve with him. I have been on the receiving end of the ministry of Kimberly Coates. She is a joy and delight, and a newfound friend. She is also a fountain of knowledge about FBG, its Music Ministry, and a gifted worship planner.

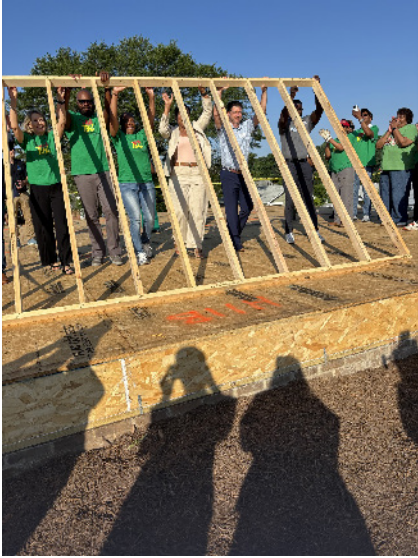
I was thrilled for the chance to lead our Sanctuary Choir. They have lovingly embraced new ideas and new music as we've served



together. What joy, what fun! Now, I am delighted to "pass the baton" to Laura Ritter, our new Minister of Music, as she begins her ministry at FBG. For me, it is now back to the bass section!

—Fred DeFoor, Interim Minister of Music and Worship

Habitat for Humanity Greenville County and Juneteenth GVL



The official kickoff for the build was on June 11, and as a member of the steering committee, I was asked to help with the “wall raising.” That’s me with some of the leadership from Habitat for Humanity, Juneteenth GVL and other local nonprofits.

Are you wondering if you are “qualified” to help on the build site? Don’t worry! **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.** Habitat worksite supervisors are specially trained and capable of putting anyone to effective and safe work at the build, so please consider volunteering for one or both of the shifts available here: <https://forms.gle/kbmPU2vH2qqJkKdv6>

Volunteer Dates:

July 10: Install siding, 8:00 –11:30am

August 28: Shelving and hardware, 8:00am–1:30pm

P.S. I’m signed up for both work days. Hope to see you out there too!

So, now that I have “finished my shift,” it’s your turn!

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement

July Collection—School Supplies for Students in Nicholtown

Though children (and teachers) may not be ready to admit it yet, school will be back in session before we know it, and it’s time to start collecting school supplies! This year we are collecting supplies for our neighbors in Nicholtown. Please help the children be prepared for a new school year by bringing your donations to the Reception Area of the church and placing the supplies in the bins.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| · Book bags | · Facial tissue (travel size) | · Index cards | · Safety scissors |
| · Crayons | · Folders with pockets and prongs | · Notebook paper (wide rule or college rule) | · Spiral notebooks (wide rule or college rule) |
| · Dry erase markers | · Glue sticks or glue | · Number 2 pencils | · Sticky notes |
| · Composition notebooks | · Hand sanitizer (travel size) | · Pencil box | · Water bottles (clear) |
| · Erasers | | · Ruler | |

We are always collecting fruit for United Ministries as well as cans of pasta for our Mission Backpack Ministry. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

—Nancy Schlepphorst, Member of the Missions Committee



Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 7/2 12:00-1:30pm Youth to Lunch at Rocky's Hot Chicken Shack (drop off & pick up at Rocky's)
- 7/4 FBG Closed in Observance of Independence Day
- 7/6 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)
A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit
WATCH 10:30am Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Communion
- 7/7-11 Unidiversity Youth Camp
- 7/10 9:00am Engaged Aging Hike to Jones Gap Falls
- 7/13 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)
A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit
WATCH 10:30am Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Family Dedication
- 7/15-18 Children to Camp Prism
- 7/16 9:00am-2:00pm MidWeek Missions & More for Youth
- 7/17 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)
- 7/20 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)
A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit
WATCH 10:30am Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Missions Moment
- 7/21 Youth to Carowinds
- 7/23 9:00am-2:00pm MidWeek Missions & More for Youth
- 7/24 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)
- 7/27 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)
A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit
WATCH 10:30am Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Family Dedication
- 3:00pm Roadrunners to South Pacific at Mill Town Players in Pelzer
- 7/31 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)
- 8/3 **WATCH** 10:30am Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Bridget Kokolis, including Communion and Missions Moment
- 4:00-7:00pm Youth End-of-Summer Pool Party (Location TBA)
- 8/7 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)
- 8/10 **WATCH** 10:30am Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Bridget Kokolis, including Family Dedication
- 8/14 9:00am Engaged Aging Hike to Bad Creek Pump Station
- 8/17 Small Group Fair (Narthex)
9:00am Youth Blessing Sunday Breakfast (AYMC)
WATCH 10:30am Blessing Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Commissioning of our new Minister of Music, Laura Ritter, Blessing Leaders and Teachers, and Presentation of Bibles to 3rd and 6th Graders
- 5:00-7:00pm Youth Family Block Party
- 8/20 Wednesdays@First Activities Resume
- 8/24 Small Group Fair (Narthex)
Merge Retreat
WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
- 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)
- 8/30-9/1 Youth Fall Retreat

Sympathy

...to Jim Gibbs and family in the death of his mother

...to Joslyn Emmel and family in the death of her sister


First Baptist
Greenville
847 Cleveland Street,
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495
(864) 233-2527 www.firstbaptistgreenville.com

THE BRANCH (USPS No. 597060) is published weekly January thru December (except one week in July and December). Periodicals postage paid at Greenville, SC 29602. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BRANCH, 847 Cleveland Street Greenville, SC 29601. (Phone 864-233-2527). Savannah French, Editor.

Vol. LXVI June 30, 2025 No. 26

Revenue Report

6/24/2025 YTD: \$1,225,815

6/30/2024 Actual: \$1,315,866

6/30/2025 Budget: \$1,491,000



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.