

## 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 20

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Missions Moment

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

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

**Sermon:** When Faith Feels Like Fire

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 20:7-13

**Anthem:** "How Can I Keep from Singing?"—Carter

**Service Musicians:** Sanctuary Choir

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Anne Gardner Weaver by her daughter.

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. The next open dates are August 3 and 31.



## From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

I want to take a moment to celebrate the arrival of our new Minister of Music and Worship. Yesterday, July 13, marked Laura Ritter's first Sunday with us!

As a reminder, Laura most recently served as the Director of Music and Worship and Organist at Saint Mark United Methodist Church in Seneca, SC, as well as the Director of the University Choir and Women's Choir at Anderson University. She is also the founder and artistic director of Young Voices of the Foothills—a community choir for children with three locations.

Prior to moving to South Carolina, Laura served as Department Chair and Director of Choral Activities at Walters State Community College in her hometown of Morristown, TN, while also directing music at First United Methodist Church of Jefferson City, TN. She has worked extensively as a music director and accompanist for musical theatre productions with Encore Theatrical Company, Clemson Little Theatre, Centre Stage Greenville, and Clemson University.

Laura earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Choral Music Education from Furman University

and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Illinois. She pursued further graduate work in Organ Performance at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Laura currently sings with the Greenville Chorale and is a member of the Herring Chamber Ensemble. She is a gifted and versatile musician with a wealth of experience spanning church music, academia, musical theatre, and children's choirs.

Laura is married to Greg, a human resources specialist who enjoys golf, singing and attending UTK sports events. They have one son, Cameron, who lives with his wife, Madelyn, in Raleigh, NC.

Thank you again to the Music Minister Search Committee—Beverly Lambert, Greg Crowe, Jane Morlan, Pam Jones, Robert Farrar, and Wesley Smith—for their dedication and hard work throughout this process.

We are thrilled to have Laura join our ministerial team. To officially celebrate her arrival, we will host a welcome reception after worship on Sunday, August 17.

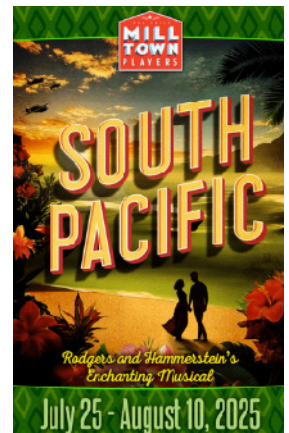
—Carol McEntyre, Senior Minister

## Roadrunners Trip to See Milltown Production of *South Pacific* July 27

Beat the heat this summer and join our Roadrunners for a trip to the theater at the historic Pelzer Auditorium to see Rodgers and Hammerstein's enchanting musical *South Pacific*. The play takes place on an island paradise during the Second World War, as two Americans—a wide-eyed nurse and a promising young lieutenant—discover love and confront their own prejudices. Some of the more well-known numbers include “Bali Ha’i,” “Honey Bun,” and “Some Enchanted Evening.”

Tickets can be purchased at First Baptist or on our website for \$18 and include transportation to the show. For those wishing to ride the church bus, we will leave FBG at 2:00pm and plan to return around 6:30pm. You may also meet us at the theater. All tickets are for floor seating.

—Michael McEntyre, Minister of Engaged Aging



## High School Mission Trip Recap

Twenty-two youth, three college students, and four adults from our FBG Youth Family went to Middlesboro, KY for our High School Mission Trip!

Through *Appalachian Immersion* with FBC Middlesboro, we were invited to experience life in Appalachia with open eyes and open hearts. We spent the week

learning, listening, serving, and growing.

Our group took part in painting and landscaping at White Memorial AME Zion Church. We also spent time with local residents, learned more about Appalachian culture, and celebrated Juneteenth with the community.

The people of Middlesboro welcomed us with warmth and kindness. We've returned home grateful, inspired and changed.

Here are just a few highlights from our time together!

—Mary Carol Anderson, Minister of Youth and College





# The FBG Volunteer Hub

If you're looking for a place to serve in the church or surrounding community, there are plenty of ways to get involved here at First Baptist. You might:

- Hear about serving at the soup kitchen from a friend
- See an interesting small group on a social media post
- Spot a volunteer opportunity in *The Branch* or hear about it during the Service and Fellowship portion of worship

You might even discover an exciting new opportunity to give your time and talents by being “voluntold” by a family member. This method has been proven to be very effective!

Whichever path brings you in, each one is a great way to find

belonging and community through the many ways this congregation serves God, one another and our neighbors.

In addition to these options, I've been wondering what it might look like to also have access to a single interest form that could attempt to cover all the ways to engage with our community through, missions, service and connection. We've discussed this idea in Ministerial Staff meetings, as well as in at least two Missions Committee meetings. There seems to be a consensus: an interest form that helps the congregation easily access and absorb the many opportunities to get involved would be a helpful tool.

Of course, this form won't replace all the other ways to

get connected—it will simply serve as a solid starting point for those looking for an entry into volunteering, as well as for returning volunteers seeking new ways to serve.

How it works:

- Go to <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/community-engagement/>
- Find the “Click here to begin!” link
- Complete the survey and check any areas that interest you
- Look for a follow-up message from me or someone from the church with more information and next steps

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement & Beth Olson, Ministry Assistant to Community Engagement

## Lunch and Learn Series in Development

The key to a successful Lunch and Learn series is to consistently provide two essential ingredients:

1. Lunch
2. Learning

In addition to being too obvious, too simple and hopefully humorous, it is very true! That's why developing a series like this has been a topic of conversation in recent meetings of the Awareness & Dialogue Council, a subcommittee of the Missions Committee. (The other councils are Neighbor Care, Community Engagement, and Justice Ministry.) We've identified intentional opportunities for conversation and sharing between our church and community voices.

The plan is to offer these gatherings once a month, alternating between a community topic (sponsored by the Awareness & Dialogue Council) and advocacy training (sponsored by the Justice Ministry Council).

We'll begin with a conversation around immigration and the role and response of a faith community to this ever-changing landscape.

Help us develop this series into what it needs to be for this congregation.

**Join us in the Media Center on Wednesday, July 23, at noon for good food, warm fellowship, and the chance to explore this timely topic and how it impacts our community—and our missions.**

**Can't make it in person? Join us by Zoom on your lunch break!**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86321413741?pwd=a0mBzt1vK7qcnWOuiHVb9vUJ1AnbK.1>

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement & Gayle Butler, Member of the Missions Committee

## Upcoming Events

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 7/15-18 Children to Camp Prism  | 4:00-7:00pm Youth End-of-Summer Pool Party (Location TBA)   |
| 7/16 9:00am-2:00pm MidWeek Missions & More for Youth  | 8/7 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)   |
| 7/17 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)  | 8/10 <b>WATCH</b> 10:30am Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Family Dedication  |
| 7/20 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)<br>A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit   | 8/14 9:00am Engaged Aging Hike to Bad Creek Pump Station  |
| <b>WATCH</b> 10:30am Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Missions Moment                     | 8/17 Small Group Fair (Narthex)<br>9:00am Youth Blessing Sunday Breakfast (AYMC)  |
| 7/21 Youth to Carowinds   | <b>WATCH</b> 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 |
| 7/23 9:00am-2:00pm MidWeek Missions & More for Youth  | 5:00-7:00pm Youth Family Block Party  |
| 7/24 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)  | 8/20 <i>Wednesdays@First</i> Activities Resume  |
| 7/27 9:15am Adult Summer Sunday School Series (Fellowship Hall)<br>A Fruitful Summer: Fruit of the Spirit   | 8/24 Small Group Fair (Narthex)<br>Merge Retreat  |
| <b>WATCH</b> 10:30am Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Family Dedication                 | <b>WATCH</b> 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre   |
| 3:00pm Roadrunners to <i>South Pacific</i> at Mill Town Players in Pelzer   | 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)  |
| 7/31 6:00pm College Bible Study (Location TBA)  | 8/30-9/1 Youth Fall Retreat   |
| 8/3 <b>WATCH</b> 10:30am Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Bridget Kokolis, including Communion and Missions Moment |   |



### AYMC on Instagram

Want to be the first to know about AYMCMC hours, special events, membership updates, and our brand new AYMCMC app? Follow us on Instagram! You'll enjoy fitness and wellness inspiration as well as photos and videos giving you a peek at all the fun happening at the AYMCMC this summer!

Don't miss out ~ join the fun and follow us at @AYMC\_FBG

#AYMC #fbgreenvillesc

—Cathy Goldfarb, AYMCMC Director

### Sympathy

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

...to Jonathan Painter and family in the death of his sister.

...to Ann Quattlebaum and family in the death of her sister.

...to Sherry Criminger and family in the death of Rusty Criminger.

...to Liz Higdon and family in the death of Jack Higdon.

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### Revenue Report

6/30/2025 YTD: \$ 1,269,736

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