

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Our *Wednesdays@First* activities will resume in August. Stay tuned for details!

WORSHIP

July 27

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Missions Moment

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

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

Sermon: When the World Ends, Begin Again

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Anthem: "Inscription of Hope"—Stroope

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given in loving memory of Blanche and Bill Carpenter by their family.

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. The next open dates are August 3 and 31.



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

I was a bit surprised by how much my sermon from a few weeks ago about singing in worship resonated. Pun intended! Many of you have mentioned how it brought up memories of meaningful songs or had you singing your favorite hymn all afternoon.

As we celebrated the arrival of our new Minister of Music and Worship, Laura Ritter, it felt like the perfect time to reflect on why singing together is vital. The Bible mentions singing over 400 times—from Miriam and Moses' song in Exodus to the Psalms' commands ("Sing praise to the Lord!"), and the joyful songs of Zechariah and the angels in the Gospels. Even Jesus sang a hymn with his disciples before the cross, and Paul sang from a prison cell. Singing is an ancient and essential Christian practice!

It's critical we do this together. In our culture, outside of church, where else do adults regularly gather to sing? Group singing has largely disappeared. Yet here we are, every Sunday, lifting our voices as one. The Church, in its communal singing, is being counter-cultural! This shared practice also benefits us. I love it when science affirms what people of faith have known and practiced for millennia.

Research from the University of California, Berkeley, shows that singing helps improve breathing, posture, and muscle tension. Beyond the physical, there are neurological and psychological benefits to communal singing:

- *Pain relief & well-being:* Research shows that people experience a more positive mood after actively singing compared to just listening to music, likely due to the release of positive neurochemicals such as dopamine and serotonin, which helps relieve pain.

- *Cognitive health:* For choir members, learning new songs is a cognitively stimulating experience that enhances memory. Singing also benefits people living with dementia.

- *Immune system support:* Research suggests that music may contribute to a healthy immune system by reducing stress hormones, such as cortisol, and boosting key antibodies.

- *Community & belonging:* Singing significantly improves our sense of happiness and well-being, largely by fostering social connection. A strong social network has substantial health benefits, and communal singing encourages social bonding, offering a powerful way to increase feelings of community and belonging.

So, let's keep singing—to the glory of God, for the strength of our community and for our own well-being! God's people sing!

—Carol McEntyre, Senior Minister

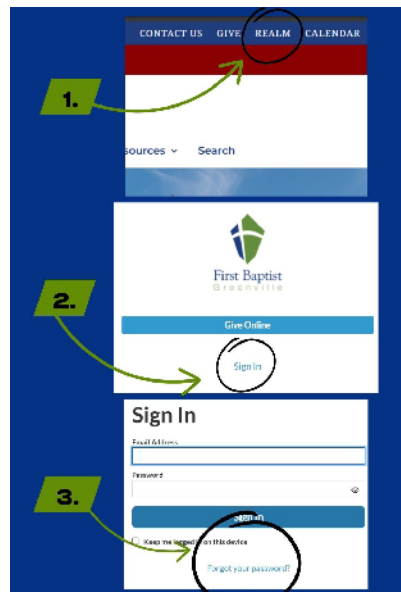
Realm Member Database

You may have already heard — we've transitioned our member database software to **Realm!** This new platform **replaces Engage First and the ChurchLife app** and provides a fresh, user-friendly way to access the church directory and manage online giving.

Eventually, Realm will be used to manage groups such as Sunday School classes, small groups and even committees! As the staff learns how to build these aspects of the program, you can help us by creating your Realm account and consider downloading the Realm Connect app. An email was sent on June 25 with an invitation link. If you don't have that email, no problem!

1. Go to the **church website** and click **Realm** in the upper right corner.
2. Click **Sign In**, then select **Forgot Your Password?**
3. Enter your email address to reset your access.

Simply email contact@firstbaptistgreenville.com if you run into any roadblocks.



A couple of notes:

By default, everyone is opted out of the church directory for privacy considerations. Click on your profile picture and select **Privacy Settings** to customize what other church members can see.

Each user requires their own email address to have a Realm account. If you and your partner share an email address, then only one of you will be able to have an account associated with that email. There are numerous options for a free email address. Ask your favorite teen, college student or young adult to help you!

—Jenna Manning, Director of Church Operations

Lula in July!

Did you know the Lula Whilden Offering is more than just a December tradition?

- During the Candlelight Service in December, 100% of the offering will support “Lula.”
- The Lula Offering is a year-round offering, not just in December!
- Your generous gifts to the Lula Offering will be used by these partners to show love and support for those whom Jesus calls us to care for:
 - The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's (CBF) Offering for Global Missions (<https://cbf.net/global-missions/>)
 - CBF Field Personnel: Jonathan Bailey, Carson and Laura

Foushee, and Tina Boyles Bailey (<https://cbf.net/global-missions/career-field-service/>)

- The Alliance of Baptists' (AOB) Active Hope Partners (<https://allianceofbaptists.org/partners/>)
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina's (CBFSC) Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions (<https://cbfsc.org/missions/>)
- Amani Sasa's ministry to refugee families in Uganda (<https://www.amanisasa.org/>)

Looking for More Ways to Connect?

- Explore our congregation's partners: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/partnerships-and-affiliations/>

- Text “JOIN” to (864) 215-3304 to join First Baptist Greenville's Community Engagement text list.
- To visit our Volunteer Hub or sign up for the Community Engagement e-blast, click here: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/community-engagement/>
- Consider joining the Affiliations Council

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement, and the Affiliations Council, a subcommittee of the Partnerships and Affiliations (PandA) Committee:
Ann Quattlebaum, Matthew Loomis Rehnborg, Kay Hardage, John Smith



The AYMC Is Now an App!

With a vision of always building for the future, the AYMC is excited to introduce a new membership app! This free downloadable app will allow new and current members to manage their memberships, make secure payments, and personalize their experience all from the convenience of their mobile devices. The AYMC app will give members access to up-to-date class schedules, hours of operation, special events, and even provide encouraging

messages to support you on your wellness journey.

The AYMC staff is committed to a seamless transition from our old software to the new Mindbody gym management software that connects to the AYMC app, as well as the highest level of customer service for everyone. Members are not required to have the app but are encouraged to download it and use it at their comfort level. The staff will continue to offer personal check-ins and payments for those who prefer that. Cathy and the entire AYMC staff will be

here to answer questions and provide step-by-step guidance as we move forward. Key fobs will continue to give you access to the fitness center during regular hours of operation, just as they do now.

On Monday, July 28, you will be able to go to the Apple Store or the Play Store, search AYMC, and download the app for free! Once you put in your email and create a password, current members will be able to edit their profile and explore the app. We will be ready to help the next time you stop into the AYMC.

Julie Valentine Center Run2Overcome

The AYMC is proud to host the 17th Annual Julie Valentine Center Run2Overcome on Saturday, August 16, 2025. The area behind the AYMC near the Swamp Rabbit Trail will once again serve as the start and finish line for the Center's largest fundraiser of the year. This event aims to raise \$100,000 in support of the Julie Valentine Center's mission: to provide hope and healing to individuals impacted by child abuse or sexual assault.

The Run2Overcome features a 10K, 5K, Kids Fun Run Dash, and a Virtual Run/Walk (any distance). The 10K kicks off the event at 7:45 a.m.

Julie Valentine Center is a child abuse and sexual assault recovery center offering free, confidential services in Greenville, South Carolina. Services for children and families are provided through the Center's nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center (CAC).

As South Carolina's first Sexual Assault Crisis Center, established in 1974, Julie Valentine Center has long been recognized as a leader in its field. In 2016, the Center made history by hiring the first Sexual Assault/CAC Chaplain, establishing a nationally recognized model for spiritual care for survivors and their families.

For 50 years, the Julie Valentine Center has worked to prevent child abuse and sexual assault, reduce trauma, and restore safety for victims and their loved ones.

Want to Get Involved?

Runners, walkers, sponsors, and volunteers are all encouraged, welcomed, and appreciated!

- To register to run or walk, visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/SC/Greenville/Run2Overcome>

- To volunteer—whether working a water station, cheering along the route, or helping with event logistics—sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0945abae2fa4fc1-runtoovercome#/>



—Cathy Goldfarb, AYMC Director

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

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| <p>7/23 9:00am-2:00pm MidWeek
Missions & More for Youth
12:00 Lunch & Learn, Immigration
(Media Center)</p> <p>7/24 6:00pm College Bible Study
(Location TBA)</p> <p>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 <i>South Pacific</i> at Mill Town Players in
Pelzer</p> <p>7/31 6:00pm College Bible Study
(Location TBA)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>8/7 6:00pm College Bible Study
(Location TBA)</p> <p>8/10 WATCH 10:30am Ninth Sunday
after Pentecost Worship
Service (Sanctuary) with
Proclaimer Carol McEntyre,
including Family Dedication</p> | <p>8/14 9:00am Engaged Aging Hike to
Bad Creek Pump Station</p> <p>8/16 7:45am Julie Valentine Center
Run2Overcome (AYMC)</p> <p>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</p> <p>8/20 <i>Wednesdays@First</i> Activities
Resume</p> <p>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)</p> <p>8/30-9/1 Youth Fall Retreat</p> <p>8/31 WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Stephen Ministry Emphasis</p> <p>9/1 FBG Closed in Observance of Labor Day</p> |
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Revenue Report

7/14/2025 YTD: \$1,324,786

7/31/2024 Actual: \$1,562,546

7/31/2025 Budget: \$1,739,500



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

Introducing



...Alex Lister, who joined FBG during worship on Sunday, June 8. Alex is employed at Furman University and is a member of the Sanctuary Choir.



...Nancy and Steve Cothran, who became members on Sunday, June 8. Steve is returning to FBG after a career as a youth minister.



...David Jones, who joined our church on Sunday, July 6. David is employed at AnMed as a psychiatrist.

Property Committee Update

The Einstein School, now under new management, has decided to conclude its lease with First Baptist. We are grateful for the positive and collaborative relationship we shared during their time with us. As we move forward, the Property Committee will be exploring new leasing opportunities for the space and welcomes any ideas or leads from the congregation.

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.