

## WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

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

## WORSHIP

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Missions Moment

Proclaimer: Bridget Kokolis

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

Sermon: Investing in Hope

Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Anthem: "All Things New" —Elaine Hagenberg

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir  
Will Livingston, Soloist

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

A few weeks ago in worship, I preached on Jeremiah 20, one of five laments found in the book of Jeremiah. Laments are a deeply honest form of prayer that express sorrow, pain, anger, or confusion before God.

The practice of lament has been an essential part of my own faith journey—especially in 2020, when my dad died of COVID. Amid that grief, I was grateful that I had already learned about the practice of lament. For months, I read Psalm 88 every day. With the psalmist, I wondered, "O Lord, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me?"

Although nearly half of the Psalms are laments—and we find laments throughout the book of Jeremiah and even on the lips of Jesus himself ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")—I did not first learn this prayer practice from the Bible.

Instead, I first encountered lament through the work of Ann Weems, a Presbyterian elder and poet. After the tragic murder of her 21-year-old son, Weems poured her grief into writing deeply personal and honest prayers—modern-day psalms of lament. Eventually, she

published fifty of them in a book titled *Psalms of Lament*. Here is one of her heartbreakingly raw and faithful prayers, "Lament Psalm Twenty-Four":

O my God, it is not fair!  
I watch other people  
come and go.  
They walk and talk  
and eat and play.  
They laugh; they travel; they work;  
they marry and give birth,  
but we sit around the table of  
death.  
We do not smile, nor do we live.  
We are suspended in that one  
moment,  
that one moment of death.  
When his life was taken.  
Our lives were forever changed.  
O our God, why aren't you fair to  
us?  
Why were we the ones chosen  
to weep?  
It is not fair, O God!  
Everybody knows we belong to  
you.  
We declared that in the sanctuary.  
Why, O God of mercy,  
do we sit at the table of death?  
Move us, O God of power; move  
us  
to the table of life!  
Give us bread and give us wine  
In the name of your son  
Let us live again!

—Carol McEntyre, Senior Minister



# Happy Birthday!

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

**August 3**  
Rusty Browning

**August 12**  
Betty Morin

**August 16**  
Don Aiesi

**August 28**  
Tom Huskey

**August 6**  
Marion Armstrong

**August 14**  
Pat Howle

**August 24**  
Jane Street

**August 30**  
Judy Ethridge



## Summer Recap 2025

This summer has been jam-packed with fun!

Take a look at just a few highlights from our summer at FBG.





# Music Is FUN-damental!

alleviate stress and improving concentration among other benefits. With anxiety and depression rates as high as they now are, we have a wonderful help for you here at FBG. Come sing in the Sanctuary Choir! Also, bring your children to Children's and Youth Choirs! "I will be glad and full of joy because of you. I will sing praise to your name, O Most High" (Psalm 9:2, NLV).

Sanctuary Choir normally rehearses 7:00-8:30pm on Wednesdays as part of *Wednesdays@First* Activities and sings in Sunday morning worship services (warm up in Choir Room at 10am) along with some additional special services. We currently have childcare for younger preschool children during rehearsal and will work on childcare for older children, if needed. We would like for anyone interested in singing to have access. Rehearsal time is important, but we do understand that life will sometimes get

Studies show that music, particularly singing in a choir, is good for mental health, helping

in the way. If you think you cannot commit to every Wednesday and Sunday, don't let that keep you away. Have a conversation with either of us about your availability before making that decision.

We are having a special fall kickoff on Wednesday, August 6. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm for a light supper with our new Minister of Music. At 6:45pm, we will move to the Choir Room for an abbreviated rehearsal. It will be a great time to "try out" singing with the choir.

Please use this form to let us know that you are coming: <https://forms.gle/dGvnxtajcDmP5NBC9>. This will ensure that we have enough food prepared and the needed childcare available. We will not charge anything for the meal but will have a donation basket to help defray the cost. For more information, contact either of us. We hope to see you on August 6!

—Laura Ritter, Minister of Music  
[laura.ritter@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:laura.ritter@firstbaptistgreenville.com)  
864.233.2527 ext. 124

Kimberly Coates, Music & Worship Ministry Assistant  
[kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com)  
864.233.2527 ext. 128

MUSIC

## Food Collection for First Haitian Wesleyan

Our partner church, First Haitian Wesleyan Church in Fountain Inn, assists their church members and others in the Haitian community in the Upstate who have been affected by job layoffs and other financial hardships. We are helping to replenish their food pantry. First Baptist members of the joint committee between our church and theirs (the First and First Committee) have already delivered two grocery donations.

Please bring donations of the following staples and dry goods to the church Reception Area during the month of August.

- Rice (white or brown)
- Dry beans or canned beans (black, kidney, pinto)
- Pasta and pasta sauce



- Canned tuna or chicken
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Instant oatmeal
- Bread

### Links for Further Reading:

- Fact Sheet: Termination of Temporary Protected Status for Haiti—National Immigration Forum (<https://tinyurl.com/immforfacts>)
- A Budding Partnership with First Haitian Wesleyan | First Baptist Church (<https://tinyurl.com/fbg1hw>)

- Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas)
- Canned fruit (in juice, not syrup if possible)

In addition, the church is always accepting canned fruit for United Ministries and canned pasta for the Mission Backpack program. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Text "JOIN" to (864) 215-3304 to be added to First Baptist Greenville's Community Engagement text list.

Go to <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/community-engagement/> to visit our Volunteer Hub or sign up for the Community Engagement e-blast.

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement,  
Nancy Schlepphorst & the Neighbor Care Council,  
Subcommittee of the Missions Committee

MISSIONS

## Upcoming Events

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

- 7/29 Youth to Carowinds  
 7/31 **6:00pm** College Bible Study (Location TBA)  
 8/3 **9:15am** Coffee with Carol (Chapel Lobby)  
**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)  
 8/6 **6:00-8:30pm** Sanctuary Choir Sup 'n' Sing (Fellowship Hall)  
 8/7 **6:00pm** College Bible Study (Location TBA)  
 8/10 **WATCH 10:30am** Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Family Dedication  
 8/14 **9:00am** Engaged Aging Hike to Bad Creek Pump Station  
 8/16 **7:45am** Julie Valentine Center Run2Overcome (AYMC)  
 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  
 5:00-7:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group  
 8/20 *Wednesdays@First* Activities Resume  
 8/21 **9:00am-3:00pm** Roadrunners to Strawberry Hill  
 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  
 8/31 **WATCH 10:30am** Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Stephen Ministry Emphasis  
 9/1 FBG Closed in Observance of Labor Day

  
 First Baptist  
 Greenville  
 847 Cleveland Street,  
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495  
 (864) 233-2527 [www.firstbaptistgreenville.com](http://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 July 28, 2025 No. 29

### 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.

### Thank You, Ryland Brown!



Ryland Brown has been a steadfast and beloved member of FBG for over ten years and on staff for almost as long. He and his family are moving to Florida, and he has resigned effective August 1. The care and attention he gives everyone in his orbit will be greatly missed!

We'll recognize Ryland in worship on Sunday, August 3. Please join us in wishing him well.

— Jenna Manning,  
 Director of Church Operations

### Congratulations

...to Allie and Peyton Mills on the birth of a daughter, Amelia Joan Mills, born Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Amelia's grandparents in our church are Charles and Lynn Mills.

### Sympathy

...to Jeremy Murphy and family in the death of his uncle

### Introducing



Ellie Joye who joined FBG on Sunday, June 13 during worship. She is a recent college grad who is taking a gap year with intent to apply to law school in the future.

### 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.