



August

First Baptist Church

Greenville, SC

Engaged Aging Ministry
NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER
SENT TO YOU
EACH MONTH
BY EMAIL

A Word from Michael – An Invitation to Engage

June 17 marked the first anniversary of our Engaged Aging Ministry. We chose the name Engaged Aging because it recognizes the need to creatively and actively seek ways to connect with the richness and diversity of lived experiences surrounding this period of life. We also chose the name because, as a church, we want to be at the forefront of learning, caring, and ministering to and with this expansive life stage. We recognize that the shared ideas and expectations of post-retirement life are rapidly evolving. This is due in part to the growing number of adults who are living longer, advancements in medical technology, and changes in community and family dynamics.

Our Engaged Aging ministry wants to help our congregation navigate these complexities. To borrow a creative turn of phrase I overheard from a recent meeting, we want to “think outside the bus.” Engaged Aging is so much more than just trips we take. Its goal is to be a place where we help members of our congregation engage issues- such as learning to retire well, struggling with identities post career, parenting parents (or being parented by our kids), deciphering the ever-evolving world of technology, recognizing the importance of building community, coping with loss, balancing finances, embracing new adventures, questioning faith which can lead to deepening faith, planning for the future, taking care of ourselves (mind, body, and spirit), and finding ways to focus on the years still yet to live. We do this by creating community, building connection, and caring for one another, through God’s design.

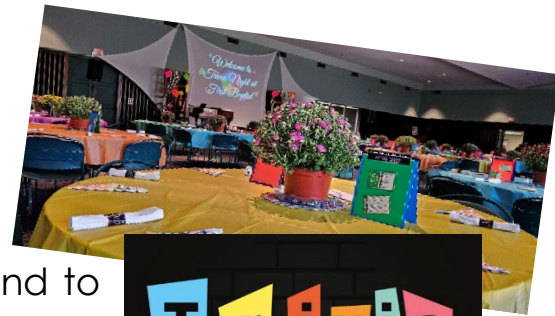
At our Blessing Sunday service in August, First Baptist will introduce the theme for the year, "Invited- God Reached Out, So Do We." The idea is that we have something beautiful to share with our world, and God has asked us to share it. As we live into that theme as a community of faith this year, my hope is that we, as an Engaged Aging ministry, will be mindful of how we can tailor that invitation to bring light and love to those we serve. So, with that, I want to invite you to engage with us this year. The wisdom of Scripture teaches us that we are one body, with many parts, and that each part is important to the life of the whole. You are important. What you have to offer is important. And what we can create together can be transformative.

Grace and Peace,

Michael McEntyre
Michael McEntyre



Engaged Aging Fall Kickoff and Trivia Night – Friday, September 5 at 4:30 pm



You are invited to join us for an evening of fun and to celebrate with us as we reveal our new fall lineup of events at Engaged Aging ministry's Fall Kickoff. The evening will begin at 4:30 pm with a preview of coming attractions as well as a reflection on the first year of our Engaged Aging ministry. A delicious dinner catered by Uptown Catering will be served at 5:00 pm followed by the evening's entertainment. Back by popular demand, our emcee, Rob Pyett, will test our wits once again as we pit table against table for our pub-style trivia challenge. Laughter and prizes are sure to ensue.

This evening of fun is a great chance to hear about many of the ways you can engage this fall. Our goal for the evening is to have at least 150 people join us and to make this possible, we are only charging \$5 for the whole event, including dinner. You can help us reach our goal by inviting a friend (or two) to join your trivia team for the night. We do ask that everyone **register by Wednesday, September 3** to help us make sure we order enough food for the festivities.

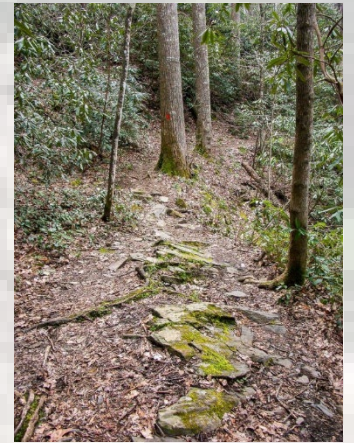
Register online [here](#) or navigate to the link on the church website. You can also sign up at one of the Midweek dinners or call the church office and speak with Michael McEntyre or Jalyn Rutledge, our Ministry Assistant. Don't miss this great evening of fun!

Let's Take a Hike!! Thursday, August 14.

Join our Engaged Aging Hike to Pisgah Forest, NC

- Meet at 9:00 am at FBG if you want to ride the church bus (\$5). The park is approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes from FBG.
- You can also meet the group at 10:45 am at the Davidson River Campground parking lot at Pisgah if you are planning on driving separately. We ask that ALL those planning to hike [RSVP by signing up here online](#) so that we know who is coming and no one gets left behind.
- Be sure to pack your lunch and snacks for the trail.

The North Slope Trail offers a moderate, 4-mile loop trail that travels along the Davidson River before turning to include moderate inclines through the forest. The path is well marked but does have uneven terrain with roots, rocks, and crossovers. While this hike is not as challenging as some of the other hikes we have taken, the scenery is just beautiful. We will eat lunch on the trail and should be back at FBG by 3:00 pm.



Roadrunners Trip to Strawberry Hill- August 21

Roadrunners will make their annual trip to Cooley Farms, Strawberry Hill, for a delicious lunch, fabulous ice cream, and some of the best late season peaches around! We will leave FBG at 10:00 am. Buses will load between the buildings.



There is no cost for the bus, but you will need money for lunch and treats. Following lunch, we will make our way to the roadside stand to shop for some fresh produce, including hand-packed peaches, unloaded fresh from the field every hour! After everyone has had a chance to peruse, we will load back up and plan to return to FBG by 3:00pm. [Register now to join us!](#)



September 21- Night at the Saad Farm (back by popular demand!)

Last year we encouraged those who were curious to know if this “Engaged Aging” ministry was for them, to join us for a night out in Anderson at the Saad Farm. It was a beautiful evening, and I am excited to announce that Greg and Cherron Saad have graciously invited us back once again this year. If you have been thinking about checking out one of the Engaged Aging events, I invite you to join us. There will be opportunities to enjoy community around the tables, yard games, walking trails (or cart tours), fishing ponds, chipping a few golf balls, and more!



Our main dish this year will be pulled pork BBQ with baked beans; guests are asked to bring a side dish to share if possible. This promises to be a fun evening of fellowship, games, food, activities and more. I hope you will make plans now to join us. You can plan to meet us there or meet at the church at 3:00 pm to ride the bus. Please sign up [here](#) for the event and the bus so we make sure we have enough seats.



Date: Sunday, September 21, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm

Friday Lunch & More Returns October 3 (New Price Structure Begins this Fall)



Friday Lunch & More is set to return on October 3 with a “slightly” different event. Magician Marty Shapiro will be joining us to entertain our group with his captivating show of street magic that you won’t want to miss. Lunch & More programming not only offers quality speakers and entertainment along with delicious food but also provides an opportunity for meaningful conversation around a shared meal with people from our congregation as well as from the community.

With the rising costs of food and services, our Lunch & More Committee has recognized the need to increase our prices. In an effort to make this a gradual change, we will begin by setting a price of \$5 for everyone this fall and then evaluating costs and budgets for 2026. This is still a bargain, and we are committed to making this time as affordable as possible. Thank you for your understanding and participation.

Ways to Engage- Connection and Community

Fall Sunday School Classes Resume with Small Groups Fair on August 17 & 24

Our combined summer Sunday School series on the Fruit of the Spirit was a wonderful opportunity to hear from a variety of teachers and converse with members of various Sunday School classes around the tables. Thank you to all who led and participated. As we resume our familiar classes and schedule on August 17. If you are already a part of a Sunday School class, I want to invite you to make it a priority to give your time and energy to your group this fall. This is an important place to find and offer community and care.

When a new member joins the church, we name three pillars of community connection: participating in worship regularly; investing time, talents and resources in the life of the church; and finding community in a small group. There are dozens of groups at FBG, but with so many options, it can be hard to know where to start. If you have not yet found a Sunday School class or small group with which to connect, we invite you to explore FBG's Small Groups Fair on August 17 & 24. Before and after worship, we will have tables set up in the Narthex (outside the Sanctuary), where group representatives will be available to share information and help you connect.

August 20- Midweek Kicks Off on a Sweet Note!

The first MidWeek gathering of the fall will feature a bake-off to benefit missions and here is the best part, everyone gets to help judge! For full details on entering the bake-off, check the Branch or church website for category descriptions as well as rules. The bake-off sampling will begin at 5:45 pm and voting begins at 6:00 pm (don't spoil your dinner :)

Voters will sample items and vote on their favorites in each category. Every attendee will receive two complimentary votes to be awarded to their favorite items, but may "acquire" more votes to award by donating to a missions collection. After votes are counted and the winning bakers are crowned, Senior Minister Carol McEntyre will lead the group in part one of her fall Wednesday series, "Invited to Remember and Share Your Spiritual Story."

As a reminder, MidWeek Supper will be served from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Meal costs beginning August 20 are \$10/adult and \$5/ child (note change from the spring). Visitors always eat for free!



A Note About Our New Realm Member Data Base



You may have already heard—our congregation is transitioning our member database software to a new platform called Realm. This system will replace Engage First and the ChurchLife app and provide 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 committees, and is designed to assist with our future event signups, allowing participants to see the events they have signed up for!

To help you get started with this new program, we will have multiple opportunities to guide you through the process with step-by-step written instructions (as included below) as well as personal training times, such as our upcoming option on Sunday, August 10, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

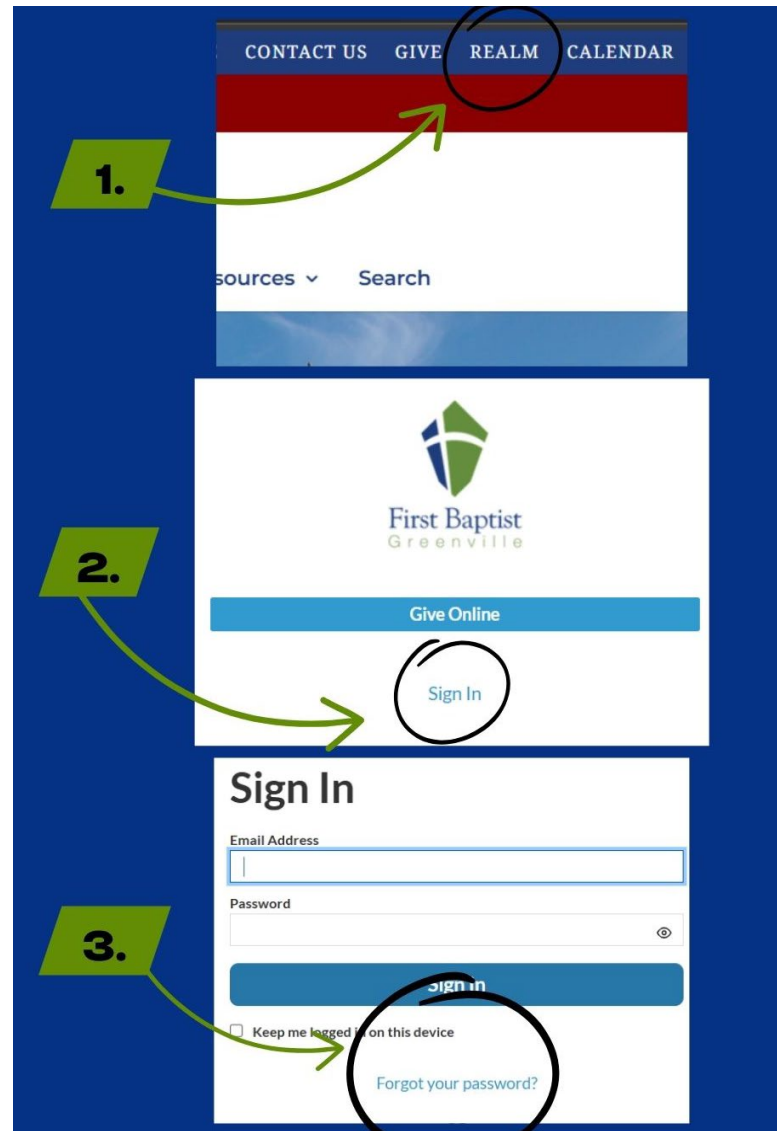
I know that everyone loves change and is excited to have a new app to use (*read with extreme sarcasm :)* Yet we all can agree that staying connected and being able to make sure your information is correct and secure is important. Below is the information to help you create your Realm account on a computer. You can also download the Realm Connect app on both Android and Apple phones.

An email was sent on June 25 with an invitation link to click. If you don't have that email, don't worry, just follow the steps below:

1. Go to the church website and click the word "Realm" in the upper right corner.

2. Click Sign In, then select Forgot Your Password?

3. Enter your email address to reset your access.

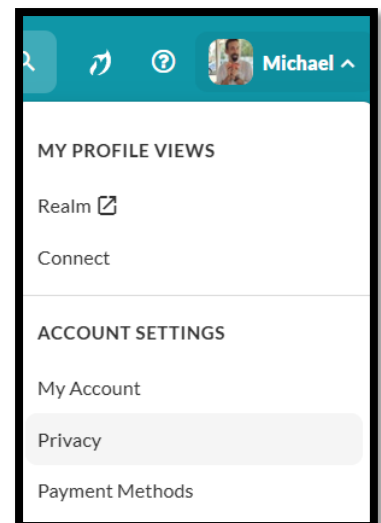


If you run into any roadblocks, you can call the church office for help or email contact@firstbaptistgreenville.com. If you feel more comfortable having someone guide you through the process, make plans to join us on Sunday, August 10 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, or contact the Engaged Aging office.

A couple of notes:

One of the benefits of this new system is that users can customize what information is shared within the church directory. All information you provide will be available to church staff, yet you can customize what information is made public to the church body. You may want your cell phone number to be listed instead of your home phone, or you may not want your physical address listed, but you do want others to see your email address. Whatever the case, Realm lets you decide. It will also let everyone update their own pictures and even upload a current family picture, keeping our records up to date (we will be happy to help show you how to make this happen).

That said, please know that in order to be considerate of your privacy, by default everyone is opted out of the church directory unless you choose to participate. To do this, once you have created an account, you will need to click on your profile picture/name in the top right corner and scroll down to the Privacy option under ACCOUNT SETTINGS. Here you can select who you want to see your data and what data you wish to be public. You can change or update these options at any time.



One potentially problematic requirement of Realm is that each user is required to have their own unique email address to have a Realm account. That means, 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. For both of you to have an account, you will want to create another email address to use. If this applies to you, please contact the church office and we can provide you with some good options to move forward.

On a serious note, I know change is hard and the online world can be difficult to navigate. These changes will be greatly beneficial to our ministries and if this is something that will be helpful to you, we are committed to helping you make it work. Just reach out to me at michael.mcentyre@firstbaptistgreenville.com and we can set up a time to make sure you stay connected and engaged.

More Ways to Engage- Caring for Self and Others

New Opportunities at the AYMC

If you haven't met our new AYMC director, Cathy Goldfarb, you are missing out. Cathy is incredible and has a heart for helping our First Baptist family (especially our Engaged Aging folks) and community embrace a holistic faith that includes taking care of our bodies, as well as our minds and spirits. If you are not aware, the AYMC offers several classes such as Chair Yoga, Senior Exercise, Yoga, and more, to help members of all ages stay healthy. Cathy is also working with our Engaged Aging ministry to create new ways to engage our group.



Many of those in the Engaged Aging community (65+) qualify for a discounted membership to the AYMC of only \$12 a month or \$120 for the whole year. This gives you access to all classes and use of the facility. Soon the AYMC will also have the option of working with a personal trainer for an added fee if that would be a helpful option. Watch for more to come about future opportunities.

Check out the New FBG Volunteer Hub

If you are looking for ways to get involved here at First Baptist, our Community Engagement ministry has put together an innovative Volunteer Hub that can help you match your gifts and talents with our various missions' opportunities. To find out more, click the link below and fill out the form so we can better help you find the right path to engage your gifts.



How it works:

- Complete the survey at [this link](#) and check any areas that interest you
- Look for a follow-up message with more information and next steps.

It's that easy. If you have questions, you can reach out to either Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement or Beth Olson, Ministry Assistant to Community Engagement.

Beyond our Community Engagement opportunities, our Pastoral Care ministry also has a variety of ways to connect with our Member-to-Member Care programs as well as our Stephen Ministry.