

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Our *Wednesdays@First* activities will resume August 20. Keep watching for more information!

WORSHIP

August 10

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Family Dedication

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

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

Sermon: Some Promises Take Time

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-18, 31:31-34

Anthem: "Grace"—Mark Hayes

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir

The flowers in the Sanctuary this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy Pedrick Peace and Bony Hampton Peace Jr. 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 date is August 31.



From the
Senior
Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

August 17 is Blessing Sunday, and we hope you will join us as we regather after summer and recommit ourselves to God and the life of the church. It will be a day of celebration marking the beginning of a new school year, a new church season and a new opportunity to live into our calling as a people invited by God.

We will offer blessings for children, educators and school staff as they prepare for the year ahead. Bibles will also be presented to our third and sixth graders. Together, we will bless the beginning of our fall programming, offering it all to God. As Frederick Buechner once wrote, "In the biblical sense, if you give me your blessing, you irreversibly convey into my life not just something of the beneficial power and vitality of who you are, but something also of the life-giving power of God, in whose name the blessing is given." Christian blessing is not about material gain, but about the sacred transmission of divine love, affirmation and presence. Blessing Sunday reminds us that we do not walk alone—we walk with God and one another.

Theme for the Year: *Invited—God Reached Out, So Do We!*

On August 17, we will also launch our churchwide theme for the year: *Invited: God Reached Out—So Do We!* Rooted in Romans 15:7, "So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!" Our theme calls us to live as people invited by God into relationship, service, joy and wonder. It reminds us that we are not only recipients of God's invitation but also bearers of it. We are called to reach out in love and hospitality, welcoming others into the life and mission of our church.

Small Groups Fair

To help you connect more deeply with the life of our church, we will also be hosting a Small Groups Fair before and after worship on Blessing Sunday. Whether you're looking for a Sunday School class, a place to volunteer, or a group to grow in faith with, this is a great chance to explore what's available and find your place of belonging.

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Join Us This School Year!

Do you know a child or youth (grandkid, neighbor, friend) who would benefit from finding a place to connect at FBG? All are invited and welcome to join us for our Youth and Children's Blessing Sunday and Block Party on Sunday, August 17!

FBG KIDS | BIRTH-5TH GRADE

FBG Kids Breakfast

Sunday | 9:00–9:25 AM | Nursery Hallway or Children's Hallway

Families with Children 3 and under are invited to the Nursery Hallway for breakfast. Come see classrooms and meet the teachers!

Families with Children K4 and older are invited to the Children's Gathering Room. We'll welcome our new K4 friends and share helpful info with families of rising first graders transitioning to worship full-time.

FBG Kids Block Party

Sunday | 3:00–4:30 PM | AYMC Gym

All FBG Kids and their families can drop in during our annual Children's Ministry Block Party! Come explore what's ahead, sign up for events, complete forms, and enjoy time with your church family.

Here's what to expect:

- Soft play area for families with kids ages 3 and under
- Inflatables and activities for older kids
- Free TCBY treats after completing your forms!

FBG YOUTH FAMILY | 6TH -12TH GRADE

FBG Youth Family Blessing Sunday Breakfast

Sunday | 9:15–10:00 AM | AYMC Terrace Level

Check out Youth Sunday School on the Terrace Level! We'll kick off the year, welcome new 6th graders, meet teachers, and enjoy a pancake breakfast together.

New Parent Meeting

Sunday | 4:00–5:00 PM | AYMC

This meeting is for 6th grade parents and new families. Come hear about what to expect this year in FBG Youth Family!

FBG Youth Family Block Party

Sunday | 5:00–7:00 PM | AYMC

Food trucks, inflatables, games, and music—what better way to start the school year?!

We'll share calendars, complete forms, and talk Summer 2026! All youth families are encouraged to attend—and to bring friends who may want to join our FBG Youth Family. All are welcome!

We can't wait to see you as we launch another great year with our FBG Kids and Youth Family ministries!

—Bridget Kokolis, Minister to Children
Mary Carol Anderson, Minister to Youth and College

Get Involved! Small Groups Fair on August 17 & 24

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's hard to know where to start!

Come explore FBG's diverse small groups during the Small Groups Fair on August 17 & 24. Before

and after worship, you're invited to visit tables in the Narthex (outside the Sanctuary), where group representatives will be available to share information and help you connect.

Groups represented include Sunday School classes, student ministries, Engaged Aging groups, interest-based groups, and volunteer teams focused on pastoral care and more.

Want to make sure your group is represented? Contact Griffin Duffey at griffin.duffey@firstbaptistgreenville.com to reserve table space.

—Camille Loomis Rehnberg,
Minister of Spiritual Formation & Outreach

Make Someone Smile

Ok, Class, here's your assignment... *No grumbling!*
Put your hands down, spit out your gum and stop talking! I haven't even told you what it is yet!

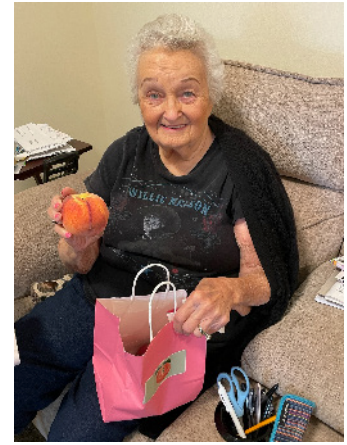
Your assignment this week is to make someone smile. Mean-spirited smiles at someone else's expense will be given an F. Glaring, lascivious or evil-villain grins will get a 0. I will only accept the genuine, unforced smiles of delighted people.

Provided you break no laws, you're on your own as to how you go about it. If you need an example to follow, the Visitation Team has this down to an art form. Their approach was to visit our friends at home and share fresh, local peaches.

No, Susie, the fruit does not qualify as cheating. In fact, I will give extra credit to those who share those simple pleasures that remind us to live joyfully in whatever season we are.

Any questions? Smiles, people. Clear enough? Class dismissed!

—Kyle Matthews, Minister of Pastoral Care



PASTORAL CARE



JustFaith: Take a Gospel-Centered Deep Dive

First Baptist Greenville began offering JustFaith programs almost 15 years ago. Since then, more than 20 groups have explored the roots, causes and solutions to community injustices through the lens of faith and action. I consider JustFaith program participation an essential part of my personal journey and a key resource for developing the skills and insights needed in my role as Minister of Community Engagement.

What does participation in a JustFaith program look like?

- 8 or 9 weeks of 2-hour small group sessions led by co-facilitators
- Meaningful reading in between sessions
- Willingness to share and listen

- Openness to new ways of understanding community problems

Offerings for this fall:

* "The Land Is Not Our Own: Seeking Repair Alongside Indigenous Communities"

- Sponsored by the Justice Ministry Council
- Co-facilitated by Kathy Stewart and Chris Hoover
- Sundays at 3:30pm in the Conference Room, beginning September 21
- <https://justfaith.org/programs/series/indigenous-justice/>
- * "Sacred Land: Food and Farming"
- Sponsored by Sustaining Way and the SAVER Committee
- Facilitated by Camille Hoover

- Day and time TBD by the group
- <https://justfaith.org/programs/series/eco-justice/>

To join one of these cohorts or to get more information, email me at matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com.

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

To visit our Volunteer Hub or to sign up for the Community Engagement ministry e-blasts, go to <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/community-engagement/>

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement

MISSIONS

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

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| <p>8/6 6:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Sup 'n' Sing (Fellowship Hall)</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>8/17 Small Group Fair (Narthex)</p> <p>9:00am FBG Kids Breakfast (Nursery Hallway or Children's Hallway)</p> <p>9:15am Youth Blessing Sunday Breakfast (AYMC)</p> <p>WATCH 10:30am Blessing Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Commissioning of Laura Ritter, Blessing Leaders and Teachers, and Presentation of Bibles to 3rd and 6th Graders</p> <p>3:00pm-4:30pm FBG Kids Block</p> | <p>Party (AYMC)</p> <p>5:00-7:00pm Youth Family Block Party</p> <p>8/20 Wednesdays@First Activities Resume</p> <p>8/21 9:00am-3:00pm Roadrunners to Strawberry Hill</p> <p>8/24 Small Groups Fair (Narthex) Merge Retreat</p> <p>WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre</p> <p>5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)</p> <p>5:00-7:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group</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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Sympathy

...to Sharon Benston in the death of her sister.

Introducing



...Ellie Joye who joined FBG on Sunday, June 15 during worship. She is a recent college grad who is taking a gap year with intent of applying to law school in the future.

From the Senior Minister, continued from p. 1

Reception in Honor of Laura Ritter

After worship, we will gather for a cookie and lemonade reception honoring our new Minister of Music, Laura Ritter. Come meet Laura and help us welcome her into the First Baptist family!

There's so much to celebrate and so many ways to be involved. We hope you will make a special effort to be part of Blessing Sunday. Let us begin this season with open hearts, grateful spirits, and a renewed sense of commitment as we live into God's invitation together.

—Carol

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Revenue Report

7/23/2025 YTD: \$1,427,207

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.

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@](mailto:pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com)

firstbaptistgreenville.com. One of our staff ministers will respond to your message.