

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Our *Wednesdays@First* activities will resume August 20. Make supper reservations here: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

First Baptist,

Wednesdays@First are back beginning August 20! Wednesday nights offer wonderful opportunities to build relationships and grow spiritually. *Wednesdays@First* begins with dinner at 5:00pm, and we are kicking off the new season with a fun Bake-Off. Bring your best cake and enter it into the competition! We have a block schedule (4 weeks) on Wednesday nights. You can join us for the topics that really interest you. During the first block, I will be teaching a series called *Invited to Remember and Share Your Spiritual Story*. Everyone's story is unique and valuable, and it is in our stories that God speaks to us. This series invites you to reflect on significant moments in your life and begin shaping your spiritual autobiography. While we will not write full narratives, we will engage in guided exercises that help you explore and make meaning of your journey. Life can often feel random, messy, or simply hard. But as author Frederick Buechner wisely said, when we take time to "listen to our lives," we begin to notice how God has been present all along—sometimes in bold, unforgettable ways, and sometimes in quiet,

hidden moments that only make sense in hindsight. Whether you keep these reflections private or choose to share them one day with children, grandchildren, or others walking a similar path, the purpose is the same: to become more attentive to the story God is telling in your life.

Upcoming Highlights at FBG

Blessing Sunday—August 17

Join us for this special worship service as we regather after summer and recommit ourselves to God and the life of the church. This joyful and meaningful day marks the start of a new school year, a new church season and a fresh opportunity to live into our calling.

- Blessings for children, educators and school staff
- Bible presentations for 3rd and 6th graders

Small Groups Fair—August 17 (Before and After Worship)

Looking for a place to connect, grow or serve? Stop by the Small Groups Fair to explore Sunday School classes, volunteer opportunities and faith groups. There's a place for you here!

Reception Honoring Laura Ritter

Join us for a cookie and lemonade reception after worship as we celebrate and welcome our new Minister of Music, Laura Ritter. Let's make her feel at home in the First Baptist family!

—Carol

WORSHIP

August 17

Blessing Sunday

Commission Laura Ritter as Minister of Music

Bible Presentation to 3rd & 6th Graders

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Sermon: Invited

Scripture: Romans 15:7-13; John 4:1-30

Anthems: "Be Thou My Vision"—Pederson

"An Irish Blessing"—Perry

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir; Kyle Matthews, Soloist

The flowers in the Sanctuary this Sunday are given in loving memory of Teresa Gray by her 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.

Back-to-School with Our FBG Youth Family!

As summer winds down and a new school year begins, we're excited to welcome students in 6th–12th grade into a new season of fun, fellowship and faith formation!

We are kicking off on August 17 with the FBG Youth pancake breakfast, Blessing Sunday Worship and our Youth Family Block Party. On August 24, we'll launch Sunday Night Live (SNL) with Bible study, games and small groups. That same weekend, our 6th and 12th Grade Merge Retreat will welcome new members and celebrate leaders.

BLESSING SUNDAY—AUGUST 17

Youth Pancake Breakfast: 9:15am ("The Grove," AYMC)

We will welcome new 6th graders, meet teachers, and enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes!

Blessing Sunday: 10:30am during the Worship Service

Join us in the Youth Pews as we bless students, staff and educators. 6th graders will receive a Youth Family Bible.

FBG YOUTH FAMILY BLOCK PARTY

Youth New Parent Meeting: 4:00pm (Terrace Level, AYMC)

For parents of rising 6th graders and students new to the Youth Family. We will discuss schedules, paperwork, activities, and trips for the year ahead.

Youth Family Block Party: 5:00pm–7:00pm (Terrace Level, AYMC)

Know a 6th–12th grader who might benefit from finding a place to connect? All Youth and their families are invited to our Youth Family Block Party! Papi's Tacos Truck will provide dinner. \$10/person, \$40/family max. No rsvp needed!

WEEKLY FALL SCHEDULE—WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS

Wednesdays@First for Youth: 4:00pm–7:00pm (Terrace Level, AYMC)

Join us on the Terrace Level to do homework, hang out and see friends!

Youth Sunday School, 9:15–10:15am (Terrace Level, AYMC)

Grade-specific spiritual formation for middle and high schoolers.

Sunday Night Live, 5:00–7:00pm—Bible Study & Fellowship Meal (Terrace Level, AYMC)

The heart of our Youth Family week with fellowship, Bible study, and time to have fun together.

—Mary Carol Anderson, Minister of Youth &
College Andrew Tonks, Associate Minister of
Youth & College

Sunday School Resources in the Media Center

As Sunday School classes gear up for the start of the year, you may find yourself faced with a signup sheet... with your name on it... which you wrote there, weeks ago, feeling much farther removed from the responsibility of putting together a lesson! Or perhaps your class is looking for a topic to study or a book to read together this fall.

If either of these scenarios sounds like you, we have resources available to you in the Media Center! Our set of *Feasting on the Word* commentaries offers an option for classes following

the lectionary texts, with four perspectives on each passage, each week of the church year. Other commentaries offer a deep dive into any passage (lectionary or not) that you may be studying. We also have several books available for which the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship offers book club discussion guides, available at <http://bit.ly/4mvRNRV>.

If you are looking for Sunday School ideas, stop by the library and see what we have to offer! Visit <http://bit.ly/46Gbr9b> to

read more about the resources available.

—Beth Olson,
Media Center Director



MidWeek Kicks Off with a Bake-Off on August 20!

Kick off Wednesday night gatherings at FBG on a sweet note! Our first MidWeek of the fall features a bake-off competition. To participate as a baker, bring your signature baked good to the Fellowship Hall on August 20. Voters will sample items and vote on their favorites in each category. Everyone gets two complimentary votes for their favorite items, but you can “acquire” more by donating to our missions collection!

MidWeek Supper will be served 5:00–6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Reserve meals at firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first. Meal costs beginning August 20 are \$10/adult and \$5/child. First-time visitors always eat for free!

The bake-off sampling will begin at 5:45pm and voting begins at 6:00pm. 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.”*

Bake-Off Rules:

- Entries must contain a baked component (i.e. no Jell-O parfaits).
- One entry per person per category
- Entries cannot be completely store-bought, though store-bought components are allowed (i.e. Oreos for an Oreo cheesecake).

Bake-Off Categories:

- Cookies and Brownies
- Cake
- Pie and Cobbler
- Allergy-Friendly (gluten-free, dairy-free or vegan)

To Participate as a Baker:

- Bring your entries to the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, August 20 between 4:30-5:30pm.

- Please label your entry and list common allergens included in the ingredients (i.e. “Chocolate Chip Cookies, contains wheat and dairy).
- Please provide a serving utensil for your entry.

To Participate as a Voter:

- Come ready to eat yummy baked goods on Wednesday, August 20! Samples will begin at 5:45pm and voting begins at 6:00pm.

Are you gifted with event planning? Email Camille to volunteer to help run the bake-off! Contact Camille at camille.loomis@firstbaptistgreenville.com.

—Camille Loomis Rehnborg,
Minister of Spiritual
Formation & Outreach

Finding Hope at the AYMC

Did you know that every time you move your body your muscles are doing much more than just helping you get stronger? They’re also releasing something scientists now call “hope molecules.”

Also known as *myokines*, hope molecules are powerful chemicals released when muscles contract during exercise. They travel through your bloodstream, cross the blood-brain barrier and, once in the brain, work much like natural antidepressants. They improve mood, reduce stress, boost brain function, enhance resilience, and help us feel more energized and mentally clear. Even short bursts of movement can trigger this release and contribute to overall well-being. And the only way our bodies can produce these myokines is through moving our bodies and contracting our muscles.

Movement is indeed medicine, and physical activity is one of God’s built-in tools for healing, connection

and joy. When we move, we open ourselves to the Spirit’s work in our bodies, minds and hearts. Sometimes, that first step onto the walking track can be a step toward healing and hope.

You don’t have to be an athlete to feel the benefits. Gentle movement, done consistently and mindfully, can reset your day, restore your spirit and spread hope throughout your body. Whether you join us for strength training, yoga, or just a peaceful walk overlooking the beauty of the Swamp Rabbit Trail, know that your body is doing something sacred: releasing hope.

Hope is not just an idea. It is something you can choose to create, experience and feel just by moving your body. Consider yourself invited to come on over and find some much needed, well-deserved hope. We would love to have you.

—Cathy Goldfarb, AYMC Director

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 8/14 9:00am Engaged Aging Hike to Bad Creek Pump Station
- 8/17 Small Group Fair (Narthex)
9:00am FBG Kids Breakfast (Nursery Hallway or C300 Hallway)
9:15am Youth Blessing Sunday Breakfast (AYMC)
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
3:00pm-4:30pm FBG Kids Block Party (AYMC)
5:00-7:00pm Youth Family Block Party (AYMC)
- 8/20 *Wednesdays@First* Activities Resume
- 8/21 9:00am-3:00pm Roadrunners to Strawberry Hill
- 8/24 Small Groups Fair (Narthex) Merge Retreat
WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)
5:00-7:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group
- 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


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Small Groups Fair 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

Revenue Report

7/30/2025 YTD: \$1,499,209

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