

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

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

Kick-Off Bake-Off for Missions

MidWeek Classic: *Invited to Remember & Share Your Spiritual Story* (Fellowship Hall) with Carol McEntyre

WORSHIP

August 24

Small Groups Fair

Baptism

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Sermon Series: The Road to Christlike Character: We're All Being Formed—What If It Was on Purpose?

Sermon: You Are What You Love; You Might Not Love What You Think

Scripture: John 1:35-42; Proverbs 4:23

Anthem: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"—Ferguson

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir; Kyle Matthews, Soloist

The flowers in the Sanctuary this Sunday are given by Linda and Eldon Russ in gratitude for and to honor the memories of their parents: M.O. and Ruby Bridges Owens and Jesse and Mildred Watts Russ.

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

Join me for an unforgettable travel-learning experience next summer, June 23–30, as we explore faith, culture, and Christianity through the life and work of Pastor and Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. On behalf of his neighbors and Jesus Christ, Bonhoeffer was a courageous resister of Nazi Germany. His bold witness continues to challenge and inspire Christians around the world today.

This immersive experience, organized by myself and Preston Clegg, Senior Pastor of Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR, will take place in Berlin, Germany. We will have exclusive access to the historic Bonhoeffer family home, and sessions will be held in the Bonhoeffer living room! Theologian and Bonhoeffer scholar Dr. Andrew Root—author of *Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker: A Theological Vision for Discipleship and Life Together*—will guide our learning, offering insight into Bonhoeffer's theology, context and legacy.

This is not just sightseeing—it's spiritual formation on the go! Through Bonhoeffer's witness, we will reflect on faithfulness, courage, and discipleship in the face of

injustice. We will take a deep dive into Bonhoeffer's story through a combination of classroom learning, conversations, and guided tours. We will walk the streets Bonhoeffer walked, explore Berlin landmarks like the Berlin Wall and the German Resistance Museum, and visit congregations that were part of the Confessing Church, which bravely stood against the tide of Nazi ideology.

No advance reading is required for the trip. Whether you have studied Bonhoeffer for years or are hearing his name for the first time, you are welcome to join us. If you've been around First Baptist for a while, you may remember Forum at First, which offered seminary-level classes for our congregation. This opportunity is similar in spirit.

The cost is \$1,998 for a private room or \$1,552 for a double room. This price includes six nights of hotel accommodations, daily breakfast, two group dinners, all tours and admission fees, gratuities during the class, and a Berlin Welcome Pass for unlimited train transportation within the city. (Airfare is not included.) Spaces are limited to just 12 participants per church and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, email me at carol.mcentyre@firstbaptistgreenville.com.

—Carol

MidWeek Classes for Adults August 27-September 10

MidWeek kicks off Wednesday, August 20! Supper is served from 5:00pm until 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Reserve your meal at firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first or call the church office. Supper prices are \$10/adult and \$5/child. Following the kickoff, adults can join one of three course options from 6:00 pm until 7:00pm.

MidWeek Bake-Off | Fellowship Hall

Our first gathering of the fall will feature a bake-off! To enter, bring your signature baked goods to the Fellowship Hall on August 20, between 4:30pm and 5:30pm. Attendees may sample items, cast two complimentary votes, and earn extra votes by donating to missions. Sampling starts at 5:45pm; voting at 6:00pm. After winners are crowned, Carol McEntyre will lead part one of her fall series. For bake-off details and submission guidelines, see *The Branch* from 8/11 or contact me.

MidWeek Classic: *Invited to Remember and Share Your Spiritual Story*

Led by Carol McEntyre | Fellowship Hall

Everyone's story is valuable, and it's in our stories that God speaks to us. This series invites you to reflect on significant moments in your life and shape your spiritual autobiography. While we won't write full narratives, guided exercises will help you explore and make meaning of your journey. As author Frederick Buechner said, when we take time to "listen to our lives," we notice how God has been present all along—in bold, unforgettable ways, and in quiet, hidden moments. Whether you keep these reflections private or choose to share them with others, the purpose is the same: to become more attentive to the story God is telling in your life.

Nurturing Healthy Family Systems

Led by practitioners from Canterbury Counseling Center | Media Center

Explore how to build healthy family communication by examining how families of origin influence the families we create. Topics include communication skills, coping with crisis, and grief. Guest speakers bring experience with adolescents and parents, but the series is open to anyone committed to fostering healthy family communication.

Fall into Fitness

Led by AYMC Personal Trainer Thomas Stroud, AYMC

Looking to start the fall with new habits or build strength? Join this group led by personal trainer Thomas Stroud for an hour of strength training. This group will meet in the AYMC. Bring water and wear comfortable clothes for movement.

—Camille Loomis Rehnborg, Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach

EA Fall Kickoff and Trivia Night

This is a special invitation to all our Engaged Aging crowd to join us Friday, September 5, for an evening of fun and to celebrate with us as we reveal our new fall lineup of events. The evening will begin at 4:30pm 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 5:00pm, 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.

You can register at <http://bit.ly/4mklYvI> or by visiting the Events section in Realm or Realm Connect, on the signup sheet 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!



Habitat for Humanity Juneteenth Build

ONE WORKDAY LEFT!

Several volunteers from First Baptist braved the heat to work on the Habitat Juneteenth Build house last month!

We have just one workday left: Thursday, August 28, from 8:00am until 11:30am. The address is 123 Zora Drive, and the tentative schedule for the day involves

installing shelving and hardware in the newly built house. If you would like to help, you can sign up here: <http://bit.ly/3HjVLy6>.

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement
& Beth Olson, Ministry Assistant to Community Engagement



Yard Sale Committee—Kickoff Lunch & Dates to Remember

One of the busiest and most popular events of the year is the churchwide Yard Sale. Church members and friends from the community converge on our Practice Gym to find furniture, office equipment, appliances, books, exercise equipment, silverware, kitchenware, toys, and other household items.

This past March, the sale brought in more than \$22,000, already used to benefit Neighborhood Partnership and Inasmuch Days—two ministries that support the work of trusted local nonprofits and service days in neighboring communities—as well as help with Trunk or Treat, Christmas, utility bills, wheelchair ramps, and general repairs for nearby families in need.

The sale takes place over two frenetic days in the spring, but

preparation and planning begin in late summer! Whether you are a seasoned Yard Sale veteran or volunteering for the first time, see below for important dates and ways to help.

Kickoff Lunch and 1st Full Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 4, 11:30am in the Parlor. RSVP to Beth at mediacenter@firstbaptistgreenville.com

Dates to Remember

- 8/11–8/28—Relocate storage and pricing spaces to newly available rooms on the Practice Gym level. (Property Committee Update: The Einstein School, now under new management, has concluded its lease with First Baptist. We are grateful for the positive, collaborative relationship we shared. Moving forward, the Property

Committee will explore new leasing opportunities and welcomes ideas or leads from the congregation.)

- 8/27—Yard Sale Steering Team meeting, 4:00pm
- 9/2—Begin receiving donations
- 9/4—Yard Sale Committee Kickoff Lunch
- 9/8—Weekly organizing and pricing begins in new space!

Text “JOIN” to (864) 215-3304 to be added to 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/>

—Matt Rollins, Minister of Community Engagement, and the Yard Sale Committee

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 8/20 *Wednesdays@First* Activities Resume
- 8/21 10:00am-3:00pm Roadrunners to Strawberry Hill
- 8/24 Small Groups Fair, before and after worship (Narthex)
- WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
- 11:30am-5:00pm Merge Retreat
- 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)
- 5:00-7:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group (Parlor)
- 8/27 12:00-1:00pm Community Engagement Lunch & Learn (Media Center)
- Wednesdays@First* Activities
- 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
- 9/3 *Wednesdays@First* Activities
- 9/5 4:30pm Engaged Aging kickoff and Trivia Night, \$5 for meal (Fellowship Hall)
- 9/7 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Acolyte Dedication
- 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)
- 9/10 *Wednesdays@First* Activities
- 9/11 10:00am-3:00pm Engaged Aging Hike-Ashmore Heritage Preserve, Lake Wattacoo
- 9/14 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship in Song Service (Sanctuary) with Kyle Matthews
- 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)
- 9/17 Breathe Week—No *Wednesdays@First* Activities except Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 9/18 10:00am-2:00pm Roadrunners Event
- 9/21 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Guest Proclaimer Edgardo Colón-Emeric, including Communion
- 11:30-1:00pm FBG Kids Sunday Funday Scavenger Hunt
- 4:00-7:00pm Engaged Aging Night at the Saad Farm
- 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)

Wednesdays@First Schedule

Youth@First

4:00-7:00pm Hang Time (AYMC Terrace Level)

Wednesday Night Supper & Prayer Time

5:00-6:00pm (Fellowship Hall)

FBG Kids

5:30-7:00pm Worship Care for Ages 3 & Under (C208, C214)

5:45-7:00pm K4 & K5 Making Space Block & Playtime (B422)

5:45-6:10pm 1st-5th Grade Choir (B423) Gathering Time (Media Center)

6:15-7:00pm Making Space Block (B424)

Adults@First

6:00-7:00pm *Adults@First* (MidWeek Classic & Other Adult Education Offerings)

7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

MidWeek Opportunities for Adults

August 20

5:45pm Bake-Off Sampling for Missions

6:00pm MidWeek Classic: *Invited to Remember and Share Your Spiritual Story* with Carol McEntyre (Fellowship Hall)

August 27 6:00pm

MidWeek Classic: *Invited to Remember and Share Your Spiritual Story* with Carol McEntyre (Fellowship Hall)

Fall into Fitness with AYMC Personal Trainer Thomas Stroud (AYMC)

Nurturing Healthy Family Systems (Media Center) with Canterbury Counseling Center Practitioner Andrea Helm

Wednesday Night Supper Menu



Please make reservations by noon on Monday at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

August 20

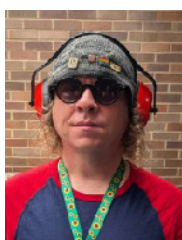
Adult: Lemon Pepper Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Watermelon Salad, Rolls, Peach Cobbler w/Ice Cream

Child: Chicken Fingers, French Fries, Fruit, Cookie

August 27

Adult: Meat Loaf, Mac & Cheese, Peas & Mushrooms, Salad, Fruit, Roll, Dessert

Child: Pigs-in-a-Blanket, Tater Tots, Fruit, Cookie



Introducing

...Jason Whitaker who joined FBG during worship on August 10. Be sure to welcome them!

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Revenue Report

8/12/2025 YTD: \$1,561,748

8/31/2024 Actual: \$1,745,425

8/31/2025 Budget: \$1,988,000



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.