

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

September 3

Supper is served at 5:00pm. Make reservations and view menus here: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

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

Fall into Fitness (AYMC) with Personal Trainer Thomas Stroud

Nurturing Healthy Family Systems (Media Center) with Canterbury Counseling Center Practitioner Briana Dodson

WORSHIP

September 7

Acolyte Dedication

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

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

Sermon: 1,000 Small Choices

Scripture: Luke 6:43-49

Anthem: "More Like You, Lord, May I Be"—Brad Nix

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir

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 dates are September 7 and 21.

September 5
4:30pm

Engaged Aging Kickoff and Trivia Night



Good Grief

KYLE MATTHEWS

Have you noticed that the standard-issue advice people tend to give to grieving people is the same advice they give to adolescents? We say: "It gets better."

With apologies to everyone who ever said that with good intentions, I keep that kind of advice in my "half-truth" file. The struggles of young adults are not necessarily less than those of adolescents, they're just different! Likewise, it does a disservice to grieving people to suggest that their grief will one day "go away." When that doesn't happen, they can feel like "failures at grief," adding guilt to the misery.

Grief, like the love we feel for someone, never goes away completely. At some point, it simply stops being "the only thing" in our lives. In healthy grief, we learn ways to carry it, to incorporate it, to share it, to be wizened and deepened by it.

As personal as pain can be, healing should have a communal dimension, and the church should always be one of the places where that happens. So, as we approach a holiday season that will represent a lot of "firsts" for

grieving families, here are places where you can find companionship for your grief through your church:

- On Thursday night, September 11, our friends at Thomas McAfee Funeral Homes will host their annual grief seminar with Dr. Jill A. Harrington at 6pm at Brookwood Church, 580 Brookwood Point Place, Simpsonville. I'll be joining anyone who wants to share a meal beforehand at 4:45pm at Dino's Family Restaurant, 775 Butler Rd., Mauldin, and then going over and sitting together. The seminar is free to the public.

- At 9:30am the next morning, Friday September 12, we'll meet for coffee in the Fellowship Hall to debrief what we heard the night before and talk about "what helps and what doesn't."

- Friday, November 14, we'll gather in the Parlor for a day-retreat to learn how faith informs grief and to share ideas about how to prepare for the holidays.

Please scan this QR code to sign



up for any of these events. You may also call the church office to sign up over the phone.

In the meantime, Stephen Ministers are available for confidential companionship, counselors can be reached by referral and your ministers' doors remain open. Quiet spaces such

September Fun

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

All in our Engaged Aging community are invited to a fun evening at the Fall Kickoff. The evening begins at 4:30pm with a reveal of the new fall lineup and a reflection on the past year. A delicious dinner catered by Uptown Catering will be served at 5:00pm, followed by the evening's entertainment. Back by popular demand, emcee Rob Pyett will test the group's wits with a pub-style trivia challenge. Laughter and prizes are sure to follow!

This is a great chance to learn ways to engage this fall. Our goal is 150 attendees, and the cost is only \$5, including dinner. Invite a friend (or two) to join your trivia team and register by Wednesday, September 3, to ensure enough food is ordered.

Register at firstbaptistgreenville.com/engagedagingevents/, on the signup sheet at a MidWeek dinner or call the church office to speak with Michael McEntyre or Jalyn Rutledge, our Ministry Assistant. Don't miss this great evening of fun!



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

Join us for a night out at the Saad Farm in Anderson. Greg and Cherron Saad have graciously invited our Engaged Aging community for a return visit. If you've been thinking about checking out one of the Engaged Aging events, I invite you to join us. Enjoy fellowship, yard games, walking trails (or cart tours), fishing ponds, chipping golf balls, and more.

The main dish is pulled pork BBQ with baked beans; guests are asked to bring a side dish if possible. Meet us there or at the church at 3:00pm to ride the bus. The bus will return by 8:00pm. Sign up online for the event and bus to ensure enough seats. Address details will be provided at registration.

—Michael McEntyre, Minister of Engaged Aging

FBG Bake-Off!

We had a blast at our *Wednesdays@First* Bake-Off on August 20! Congratulations to our category winners: Peggy Paul (Cookies & Brownies), Candy Cochran (Pie & Cobbler), Boggs Howard (Cake), and Edith Hardaway (Allergy-Friendly).

—Camille Loomis Rehnberg,
Minister of Spiritual Formation
& Outreach



Youth Ministry Kicks Off a Joyful New School Year

What an incredible start to our Youth Family's school year! Recently, we had the joy of gathering with new and familiar faces as we launched into another exciting season together.

Our Block Party was full of energy as we welcomed many new families and celebrated the return of our youth families. The laughter, conversations and connections reminded us that this ministry is truly a place of belonging for all.

On Sunday, our Merge Retreat brought together our 6th graders and seniors for a meaningful day

of growth and fellowship. Through shared traditions, conversations and plenty of fun, our seniors served as amazing mentors to our newest youth, helping them feel right at home in our Youth Family.

The weekend wrapped up with our first SNL (Sunday Night Live), where more than 60 middle school and high school youth joined us for an evening of games, Bible study and shared a meal. The room was buzzing with excitement, and it was clear that God is already at work in powerful ways among us.

We are energized and hopeful for all that this year will bring. A BIG thank you goes out to our Sunday School teachers, Youth Committee and Parent Volunteers, whose dedication and support made these events possible. We truly could not do this without all of you!

Here's to another year filled with faith, fellowship and growth in our Youth Family.

—Mary Carol Anderson, Minister of Youth & College



Fall into Fitness at the AYMC

Fall is the perfect time of year for a mini-reset, with so many of us getting back into our post-summer church and school year routines. What better time to create some new habits and routines to improve your overall wellness?!

The Activities & Youth Ministry Center (AYMC) is entering the new fall season filled with opportunities for fitness, fellowship, and fun! Here's what's ahead:

- **Personal Training**—We are delighted to welcome Thomas, Trey and Branford to the AYMC team. They will begin scheduling free consultations after Labor Day!
- **New Group Fitness Classes**—This season's lineup includes strength training classes, morning and evening yoga, high-energy cardio classes and mobility work. These classes offer a variety of ways to build strength, flexibility and endurance for every

fitness level. New class schedules will be posted at the AYMC, on Facebook/Instagram and on the website.

- **Expanded Hours**—Beginning September 2, the AYMC will open at 6:00am Monday through Friday.
- **Bring Your Sneakers Sundays & Wednesdays**—The walking track will be open to all First Baptist Greenville members 16+, not just AYMC members, during special times on Sundays and Wednesdays. Come walk the track following worship Sundays 11:30am–12:30pm, and on Wednesdays 4:00–5:00pm before *Wednesdays@First*.
- **Remote Work & Gathering Space**—Beyond fitness, the AYMC offers spaces for remote work, study and fellowship. With summer sports paused for now, the mornings and afternoons are quieter and perfect for reading, working or meeting a friend.

—Cathy Goldfarb, AYMC Director

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 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 to Recraft Greenville & Lunch
- 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)
- 9/24 12:00-1:00pm Community Engagement Lunch & Learn *Wednesdays@First* Activities (new course block begins)
- 9/28 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Jennifer Bashaw and Carol McEntyre and Bell Tower Ringers

Sympathy

...to Becky Bouton in the death of her aunt.

...to Rebecca Feldman in the death of her mother.

Good Grief, continued from p. 1

as the Chapel, the Remembrance Garden, and the Media Center also offer welcoming places for reading, prayer and reflection.

Let's replace unrealistic expectations with time-honored wisdom practices

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 (C302)
5:45-6:10pm 1st-5th Grade Choir (C303)
6:15-7:00pm Making Space Block (C300)

Adults@First
6:00-7:00pm *Adults@First*
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
7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Wednesday Night Supper Menu

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

September 3

Adult: lemon pepper chicken (GF), mashed potatoes (GF), green beans (GF), salad (GF), fruit (GF), roll, dessert

Child: chicken fingers, french fries, fruit, cookie

Friday Morning Bible Study

Join *The Prophetic Heart: It All Comes Down to Love* Bible study led by Michelle McClendon this fall, Fridays 10-11:30am (Sept. 19-Nov. 21) in the AYMC lower level. Cost \$50. Register by Sept. 15 with Michelle (michellemc216@gmail.com) or Becky (beckybouton@gmail.com). This study explores the prophetic vision in Hosea, Amos, Jonah and Micah.

that actually help us live fully with our grief, and let's walk the valley road together!

—Kyle Matthews,
Minister of Pastoral Care

First Baptist Greenville
847 Cleveland Street,
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495
(864) 233-2527 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 September 2, 2025 No. 34

Revenue Report

8/20/2025 YTD: \$1,601,984

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.