

September 8, 2025

## WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

September 10

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

Healthy Family Communication: Communicating through Anxiety or Crisis (Media Center) with Canterbury Counseling Center Practitioner Briana Dodson

## WORSHIP

September 14

**Proclaimer:** Kyle Matthews

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

**Sermon:** Worship in Song

**Service Musicians:** Kyle Matthews, Instrumentalists and Vocal Ensemble

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Wayne Weaver by his daughter. If you would like to provide flowers for one of our future services, email [kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or call 864-233-2527, ext. 128. The next open dates are September 21.

September 11

10:00am-3:00pm

Engaged Aging Hike-Ashmore Heritage Preserve, Lake Wattacoo

September 17

Breathe Week—No *Wednesdays@First* Activities except Sanctuary Choir

September 28

9:15am-11:30am

Jennifer Bashaw in Sunday School and Worship with Carol McEntyre and Bell Tower Ringers



## From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

This week, I am excited to travel to Turkey with a group from First Baptist to sail along the coast, following in the footsteps of Paul. We will be visiting Ephesus and other significant sites from his missionary journeys. While I am away, you are in for a special treat! On Sunday, September 14, Kyle Matthews will be leading an all-music service. Then, on September 21, Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Dean of Duke Divinity School, will preach. You do not want to miss these services!

I will be back on Sunday, September 28, but that Sunday will be special as well. Dr. Jennifer Bashaw, Associate Professor of New Testament and Christian Ministry at Campbell University (Ph.D., Fuller Seminary), will lead Sunday School for youth and adults on the topic: "How to Interpret the Bible for Yourself and Your Family." She will also join us during worship, and the sermon time will take the form of a Q&A between her and me—we are in for a great September at First Baptist.

Finally, if you were here for the first Sunday of "The Road to Christlike Character" sermon series, I discussed how human beings are primarily desiring, not just thinking,

creatures, and our actions flow out of what we truly love rather than what we merely know. I reflected on how Jesus' question in John 1, "What do you want?" calls us to examine the deepest longings of our hearts, as these desires ultimately determine who we become and what we worship. By intentionally orienting our hearts and habits toward Christ through practices such as prayer, worship, and service, we can realign our desires and cultivate a character that reflects God's love.

On Monday morning, I received an email from Ashley Abreu about how the sermon impacted her family. She wrote, "I just wanted to reach out and let you know how last week's sermon touched my 10-year-old's heart. When you spoke, she heard you say that the more we serve as the hands of Jesus, the easier it is to grow up, and naturally be inclined to serve. That really resonated with her empathetic heart. She promptly went home, grabbed her cash, and asked to go to the dollar store to make care packages for the unhoused. Then she went to school and asked her girlfriends to help her make bracelets to sell to raise more cash for bags."

Ashley's daughter not only got the sermon—"the more we serve as the hands of Jesus, the easier it is to grow up inclined to serve" (our habits form our character)—but went home and lived it!

—Carol

# Affinity Groups Continue by Popular Demand

FBG piloted affinity groups this summer and they were a smashing success! An affinity group is a small group of people that share a common interest or an “affinity” in a wide range of hobbies, activities or life stages. This summer, we experimented with arts and crafts, birding, book groups, meet-ups at the dog park and the playground, Mahjong, walking the Swamp Rabbit Trail and Theology on Tap.

Back by popular demand, our fall affinity groups are about to launch. Some groups from the summer will

continue and some are newly formed. Read more about all our groups at: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/affinity-groups/>. Affinity groups for any hobby, topic or activity are welcome! Leaders determine meeting frequency and agenda. Fall leaders commit to organizing their group through December. If you are interested in leading an affinity group, please email me at [camille.loomis@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:camille.loomis@firstbaptistgreenville.com).

—Camille Loomis Rehnborg,  
Minister of Spiritual Formation



## Step Into the Circle of Care

The causes of spiritual malaise can be varied and complex, but a good starting place is to discern whether they come from a lack of fulfillment or—to play with words a bit—“fillment.”

While the Christian life is one of service, we can suffer when our basic human needs are not met. These needs range from grief over a loved one to missing sleep, nutrition or emotional intimacy. We may feel we are “losing our minds” when the truth is that our needs are unmet and our self-worth cup is unfilled. That’s not selfish—it’s being human!

It turns out that one of those primal, universal needs is the need to turn the focus away from ourselves and toward the needs

of others. Self-care, vital as it is, will never fully satisfy because meaning and purpose come from feeling helpful, and connected to others.

Consider two opportunities this fall. On the “fillment” side, you are invited to conversations about grief as the holidays approach. The first is Thursday, September 11, at 6:00pm: a grief seminar with Dr. Jill A. Harrington at Brookwood Church, 580 Brookwood Point Place, Simpsonville (free). Join me at 4:45pm for dinner at Dino’s Family Restaurant, 775 Butler Rd., Mauldin and we’ll go together.

The next morning, Friday, September 12, at 9:30am, we’ll meet for coffee in the Media Center (across from the Fellowship

Hall) to debrief and talk about “what helps and what doesn’t.” For either or both gatherings, I’d love to know if you’re coming! You can RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/j9cr42nr>.

As you discern fulfilling ways to serve, know that our Stephen Ministers are now taking applications for the training of new Stephen Ministers in January. The applications are at the Welcome Center, and questions can be addressed to Pat Booker-Christy, Wofford Green or me. One of our other Pastoral Care teams may also be a good fit. Let’s make sure you’re in the circle of care!

—Kyle Matthews, Minister of  
Pastoral Care



# Asking Good Questions with Dr. Bashaw

Join us for a special Sunday of Faith Formation and education on September 28 led by Dr. Jennifer Bashaw.

Jennifer Garcia Bashaw (Ph.D., Fuller Seminary) is Associate Professor of New Testament and Christian Ministry at Campbell University in North Carolina. She has a passion for teaching the Bible on a lay level and contributes social media content to outlets such as *Baptist News Global* and *The Bible for Normal People*, where she is a nerd-in-residence. Dr. Bashaw is an ordained American Baptist minister who enjoys preaching as well as training and resourcing pastors.

She is the author of *Scapegoats: The Gospel through the Eyes of Victims*, *John for Normal People: A Guide through the Drama and Depth of the Fourth Gospel* and *Serving Up Scripture: Interpreting the Bible for Yourself and Others* (coming January 2026).

Dr. Bashaw will lead Sunday School for youth and adults centered around the topic of “How to Interpret the Bible for Yourself and Your Family.”

Everyone who reads the Bible interprets it, often unconsciously. Learning and practicing key principles of interpretation, however, can empower you to

better understand and to engage more comfortably and responsibly in this process. Dr. Bashaw is going to help us ask good interpretive questions of the Bible so we can engage with it well and teach our children about it in healthy ways.

Following Sunday School, Dr. Bashaw will also lead in worship and help us explore more deeply how to interpret the Bible. We hope you will make plans to join us!

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

## Find Your Next Great Read at FBG!

Coming and going from the sanctuary, you may have noticed a new cart standing in the Narthex or reception area, filled with books for all ages! Pastor Carol recently suggested that some people might like to check out a book *without* walking through multiple hallways, to another building, and down two levels to the Media Center, all while trying to get to Sunday lunch (Okay, maybe I added in a few details there)...and long story short, the Media Center now has an extension on four wheels!

The book cart features a rotating selection of books, including devotionals, biographies, children's books, and more. The books are refreshed at the beginning of every month, so be sure to check for new options! To check out a book, simply write your name and the date on its checkout card and leave the card in the provided basket. When you are finished reading, you can choose to return the book either to the library (yes, down the stairs and across the crosswalk!) or to the church reception desk (right by the cart where you checked it out).

If you have questions, suggestions, or types of books you would like to see on the cart, please reach out to me at [mediacenter@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:mediacenter@firstbaptistgreenville.com). Happy reading!

—Beth Olson, Media Center Director



## Upcoming Events

**WATCH** indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 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  
 3:00pm Organist Charles Tompkins & Violinist Gergory Tompkins in Recital (Sanctuary)  
 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)  
 5:00-7:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group (Parlor)

## Introducing

...Crista Hartman, who joined FBG on August 31 during worship.

...Jerry and Lorraine McAtee who are returning to FBG after being CBF missionaries. They became members again during worship on Sunday, August 31.

...Coleman Bazen who became a member of FBG on June 22. He is employed with Tech Advisory Services and is married to Jalyn Rutledge, who is also a member and the Assistant to Engaged Aging and Pastoral Care here at FBG.

**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 AYM 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 10**  
 Adult: Meatloaf, macaroni and cheese, peas and mushrooms (GF), salad (GF), fruit (GF), roll, dessert  
 Child: Pigs in a blanket, tater tots, fruit, cookie

## Sympathy

...to Frances Ridgell and family in the death of Jim Brickey.

  
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## Revenue Report

8/31/2025 YTD: \$1,653,937

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](mailto:pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com). One of our staff ministers will respond to your message.