

September 15, 2025

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

September 17

This is a *Breathe* week with no regularly scheduled activities except Sanctuary Choir rehearsal. Take a breath, enjoy some family time or recreational time with your favorite hobbies or activities.

Wednesdays@First activities will resume on September 24 with new opportunities for growth—book discussions; conversation around difficult conversations; and painting watercolors. Plan ahead by making your supper reservations and viewing menus here: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

WORSHIP

September 21

Communion

Proclaimer: Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Dean of Duke Divinity School

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir; Dr. Eric Lapin, Clarinet

If you would like to provide flowers for this or one of our future services, email kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or call 864-233-2527, ext. 128. There are open dates in September and October.

September 17

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

September 24

12:00-1:00pm

Community Engagement Lunch & Learn (Media Center)

September 28

9:15am-11:30am

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



Welcoming
Dr. Edgardo
Colón-
Emeric

This coming Sunday, we are privileged to welcome Dr. Edgardo Colón-Emeric as our guest proclaimer in worship. Dr. Colón-Emeric serves as the Dean of Duke Divinity School, where Matthew and I know him best as our Christian Theology professor. Dr. Colón-Emeric is a vibrant preacher with a pastoral heart. You will love him! If you participated in “Forum at First” sessions a few years ago on theology or church history, you have already been influenced by Dr. Colón-Emeric’s teaching, because I used his class syllabi to guide my own lessons on salvation, creation, and how to understand human beings in relationship with God. One of the best parts of his theology class was its interdisciplinary focus; we read theological reflections on everything from physics to poetry and learned from Christian voices across space and time. As a teacher, Dr. Colón-Emeric celebrates the diversity and depth of the body of Christ.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Dr. Colón-Emeric was the first Latino to be ordained as an elder in the North Carolina Conference

of the United Methodist Church and was founding pastor of Cristo Vive UMC in Durham, N.C. He became founding director of the Hispanic House of Studies at Duke Divinity School in 2007 and joined the Divinity School faculty in 2008. He is dedicated to training and encouraging pastors with and without access to formal theological education. Dr. Colón-Emeric’s academic work explores the intersection of Methodist and Catholic theologies, and Wesleyan and Latin American experiences. His teaching covers a broad range of theological areas: systematics, Wesleyan theology, ecumenism, and Latin American theology.

He will continue Carol’s sermon series on Christian character with a sermon on Romans 12:1–5 titled “The Transfiguration of the Christian.” If my experience as Dr. Colón-Emeric’s student is any indication, we can expect a thoughtful and powerful sermon urging God’s people—with kindness—to embrace the transformative work of Christ in us.

May your week be filled with God’s peace and love—see you in worship this Sunday in the Sanctuary at 10:30am or by livestream!

—Camille Loomis Rehnberg,
Minister of Spiritual Formation & Outreach

Meet Ben Brock: The Friendly Face at the Front Desk



Please join me in welcoming Ben Brock to the staff at FBG! Ben is the friendly face and helpful voice you will see and hear when coming to the church.

—Jenna Manning, Director of Church Operations

"Hello! I'm Ben, the new receptionist at First Baptist Greenville. I was born in North Carolina and grew up in the Winston-Salem area. I then moved to Charlotte for ten years before moving to Greenville in the spring of 2022. Prior to coming to First Baptist, I worked at a bank. In my spare time, I enjoy playing the piano and organ, walking, and spending time socializing with friends and neighbors."

—Ben Brock, Reception Desk Ministry Assistant



Many thanks to all who helped make our 2025 Engaged Aging Fall Kickoff and Trivia Night such a fun and festive evening. We had close to 140 people join us around the tables as we enjoyed good food, great company, and some interesting trivia questions that were definitely entertaining. There are lots of great events ahead as our Holy Rollers and Roadrunners kick off their monthly trips and Lunch and More returns Friday, October 3. Don't miss the Night at the Saad Farm coming up on September 21; there is still space available to sign up. So many ways to ENGAGE! We hope to see you soon.

—Michael McEntyre, Minister of Engaged Aging



“Always Room” in Our Youth Family

What an amazing weekend! Our Fall Retreat continues to be one of the most meaningful highlights of the year, and this year was no exception. Together, we launched our new theme, “**Always Room**,” with a weekend filled with worship and fellowship.

Our theme is grounded in Hebrews 10:24–25 (CEB): *“And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.”* These verses remind us that there is **Always Room** for encouragement, community and bold invitations.

During the retreat, we were challenged to return home with

a commitment to hospitality and the encouragement to live with courageous compassion. The call is simple yet bold: to extend invitations, to make space for others, and to embody God’s welcome in all we do.

A powerful moment came in our closing worship, when each youth tied a piece of fabric into a larger creation. Individual pieces of fabric became a banner of hope and beauty; a visual representation of our unity in Christ and a reminder that in God’s kin-dom, there is Always Room. This year’s project will be displayed in our meeting space on the bottom floor of the AYMC, where all guests and Youth Family will see words of invitation, acceptance and welcome. All are invited to come and admire this beautiful project created by our Youth Family!

Highlights of the retreat included recognizing our seniors and welcoming our 6th graders, engaging in creative projects and service, and being led in worship by **Rev. JD McDonald (proclaimer)** and **Sawyer Norman (music)**.

We are deeply grateful to all who prayed, volunteered, led, and supported this retreat. Thank you for investing in the lives of our youth. We are excited to continue this journey together as a Youth Family, living out the truth that with Christ, there is **Always Room**.

—Mary Carol Anderson, Minister of Youth & College

Save the Date—Church Picnic!

Mark your calendars for an afternoon of fun at the annual Church Picnic! The whole church and wider community are invited to the fall Church Picnic on Sunday, October 19, 4:00–7:00pm. Like last year, this year’s Picnic will be held in the FBG Garden and parking lots near the playgrounds.

The Picnic will be free to attend, with meals available for purchase. Attendees will enjoy music from the Brooks Dixon Band, inflatables for children and youth, yard games for all ages, and free dessert provided by the church.

Bring a camp chair or picnic blanket to set up in the shade to enjoy music, yard games and conversation. We’re excited to have some fun together and enjoy the season! In case of inclement weather, picnic activities will be held in the AYMC.

Look for a registration link on Realm and more details in the next few weeks!

—Camille Loomis Rehnborg, Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 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, Bell Tower Ringers and Elementary Children's Choir
- 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)
- 10/1 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level) *Wednesdays@First* Activities
- 10/3 10:30am-1:00pm Engaged Aging Friday Lunch & More (Fellowship Hall)
- 10/5 **WATCH** 10:30am World Communion Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre and the Clemson University Singers, including Communion
- 11:30am FBG Kids Sunday Funday: Denver Downs
- 11:30am Middle School Youth to Denver Downs
- 6:00pm High School Youth to Haunted House
- 10/8 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level) *Wednesdays@First* Activities
- 10/9 1:00-7:00pm Special Engaged Aging Hike and Dinner at Sierra Nevada Brewing Co in Ashville
- 10/12 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Family Dedication

Wednesdays@First Schedule Beginning September 24

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: Summer One Reads—*Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman (Fellowship Hall) with Camille Loomis Rehnborg

How to Have Difficult Conversations (Media Center) with Matt Rollins and JustFaith

Watercolors with Patrick (AYMC) with Patrick Bairefoot

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

Wednesday Night Supper Menu

Wednesday, September 17 is a *Breathe* week with no *Wednesdays@First* activities, except for Sanctuary Choir rehearsal. We will gather again on September 24.

Sympathy

...to Ashley Brock in the death of her brother-in-law.

...to the family of Dave Evans in his death.

Introducing

... Stephaine Stiltner who became a member during worship on Sunday, September 7. She is employed by Spartanburg School One. Be sure to welcome her!

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Revenue Report

9/09/2025 YTD: \$1,763,683

9/30/2024 Actual: \$1,938,298

9/30/2025 Budget: \$2,236,500



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.