

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

December 22

Wednesdays@First will resume on January 14, 2026. Supper will be served at 5:00pm. Make supper reservations and view menus at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

WORSHIP

January 11

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

10:30am

Deacon Ordination and Installation

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Scripture: John 1:29-34

Sermon: Invited to Know

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by the Diaconate to the glory of God and in honor of FBG Class of 2028 servant leaders being ordained and installed today.

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for a future worship service, contact Kimberly Coates (kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or 864-233-2527 ext. 128).

January 7

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

January 11

5:00-7:00pm

Parent Education Night on Body Safety and Security (Fellowship Hall)

January 28

Noon

Community Engagement Lunch & Learn (Media Center)



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

After 22 years of faithful service, Matt Rollins will transition from First Baptist Greenville to full-time work with Village Engage. As I reflect on his ministry among us, I am struck by the gift Matt has given this congregation: longevity, an increasingly rare contribution in our hyperactive and transient culture.

Since Matt is a math guy, here's another way to think about his ministry: he has spent 44% of his life, or 11/25, investing in First Baptist Greenville! We are a better church because of his time, his faith and his steady commitment. During my tenure, I have especially appreciated Matt's long history with this church and its people; he has been someone I could turn to for historical context and perspective shaped by years of faithful presence.

When Matt told me of his new position with Village Engage, I was surprised but not shocked. Over the last few years, Matt has felt increasingly drawn into the wider community. The gift of that evolving call has been meaningful for First Baptist. He has led us into deeper and more faithful engagement with our city, initiating our involvement in GOAL (Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership) and launching the HOSEA program to help those in danger of eviction. He has helped us, as a congregation, live more fully into Christ's call to love and serve our neighbors. While we will miss Matt greatly, we give thanks for the many ways God has worked through his ministry among us, and we bless him as he begins this new chapter of service. On January 25, we will recognize Matt during worship, and you will have the opportunity to greet him and offer your thanks. Please join me in expressing gratitude for Matt and in praying for him in the days ahead. Keep reading to hear from Matt. —Carol



Dear friends and family of First Baptist Greenville,

In 2003, I applied for the position of Recreation Coordinator at the

church my wife grew up in. Over twenty-two years, seven offices, five positions, and two theology degrees later, I feel as though I grew up here too! Ministering alongside this congregation, figuring out together what it means to be the people of God here at the corner of Cleveland and Faris, has been both an honor and a privilege. In that span, you have

demonstrated to me true generosity, the power of servant leadership, and the gift of space: space to thrive and to mess up, to teach and to learn, and to offer and receive grace.

During this time, especially over the past few years, I have begun to sense a steady call to serve and minister beyond the walls of the church, discerning a holy nudge gently guiding me toward full-time faith-based advocacy and community ministry. While I have certainly embraced this in my current role as Minister of Community Engagement in many meaningful ways, I am excited

TRY January

Happy New Year! I am excited to embark on a new year filled with its unexpected opportunities and possibilities! Years ago, I left behind setting lofty, unsustainable resolutions that made me feel worse by mid-January and instead embraced a “Try January” mindset. With less guilt and more freedom to allow small, consistent changes to slowly change your behavior, a Try January framework may be just what you need this year.

I invite you to carve out some quiet time in 2026, find a cozy space, sip a warm beverage, put on some peaceful music, and quietly consider the following:

- What have I been wanting to TRY for years that I want to make progress toward in 2026?
- What are some positives that could come from giving one or more of these a TRY in January?

- What obstacles have I allowed to get in the way in the past that I am ready to overcome this year?
- How would it feel to TRY even one thing that has long been on my list of “I’ll get to that someday?”
- What small steps am I willing to TRY this January to turn my want into a consistent part of my life?

On the off chance that a few of you have TRYs that include moving your body more and feeling healthier, the AYMC invites everyone, congregation and community, to **TRY January at the AYMC for FREE!**

- If you have been curious about what the AYMC has to offer, this is the perfect risk-free opportunity to try it out for **TWO WEEKS** of FREE workouts and classes.

- **From Monday, January 5 through Sunday, January 18, 2026**, all guests and non-members work out for FREE!
- Just come to the Welcome Desk at the AYMC, create a profile, and all workouts, yoga classes, and strength classes are complimentary!
- Current AYMC Members are encouraged to invite friends whom you think might benefit from trying something new!

This is the perfect time to TRY January together and reset our routines and habits for a brighter 2026! Visit our website to see our January hours. Who knows, you just might **love** how it feels to make the AYMC part of your New Year all year long!

—Cathy Goldfarb, AYMC Director

Enrollment for First Baptist Day School 2026-2027

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year for First Baptist Church members and current students will be held January 12-16, 2026.

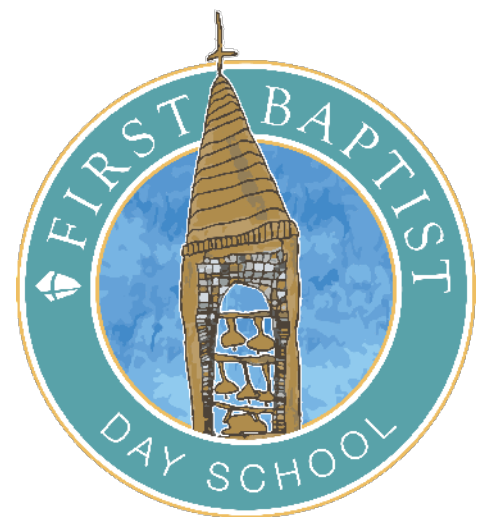
First Baptist Day School, a private preschool founded in 1952, serves 200 children ages eight weeks through five years. Our school year runs from mid-August until mid-May. Our hours are 9:00am-1:00pm with options for early and extended stay. We do not offer a summer program.

The school is licensed by the state of South Carolina. In 1989,

the teaching staff began their study of the Reggio Approach, an educational philosophy which originated in Reggio Emilia, Italy. Integration of our interpretation of this philosophy guides the learning process.

Please contact me at chrissy.martin@firstbaptistgreenville.com prior to January 12, 2026 if you would like to learn more about the Day School or enroll your child.

—Chrissy Martin, First Baptist Day School Director



Join the Children's and Youth Ministries for an Evening of Learning, Connection and Community

Parent Dinner Party with Professional Panel
Sunday, January 11
5:00-7:00pm | Fellowship Hall

Our format is simple and conversational: participants will be seated around tables, and we will begin the evening with brief remarks from each of our professionals. We will host experts from a variety of fields, including social work, healthcare, education, counseling, clinical practice, advocacy, and community leadership. These community voices will offer a broad, supportive foundation for the discussions that will follow.

Building community is a central part of our ministry. As part of the evening, you will enjoy dinner together and engage in meaningful conversation, sharing experiences and practical wisdom with other caregivers of children and youth.

\$15 per person includes a meal. Gluten-free and vegetarian options are available. Childcare will be provided at no charge. Register now at this link: <https://shorturl.at/74JEv>

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

MidWeek Activities Resume January 14

Happy New Year! Regular MidWeek activities for all ages resume January 14. MidWeek Supper is served from 5 until 6pm in the Fellowship Hall (\$10/adult, \$5/child). Call the church office or visit firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first for reservations.

Youth (6th–12th grade) meet in the AYMC Youth Level 3–7pm. FBG Kids Ministry (K4–5th grade) meets 5:45–7pm, and nursery care for ages 0–3 is available 5:30–7pm on the Nursery Hallway.

From 6 to 7pm, adults are invited to gather for several learning and engagement options. Community members and guests are welcomed, and advance registration is not required unless specified by the group leader. The first block runs January 14–February 4, followed by a *Breathe* week on February 11. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal is open to all adults from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the Choir Room—no audition required.

MidWeek Classic: In the Wake of Paul: Insights on Paul's Missionary Journey from a Turkish Pilgrimage

Led by Carol McEntyre, Fellowship Hall

Last fall, a group from First Baptist joined Senior Minister Carol McEntyre on a pilgrimage to Turkey, following Paul's first-century missionary travels along the Mediterranean coast. Join Pastor Carol and fellow pilgrims as they share how the journey reshaped their understanding of Paul's world, culture under empire, and the challenges and possibilities of spreading the gospel.

Becoming Boards: An Intentional Vision for 2026

Led by AYMC Director Cathy Goldfarb, AYMC Lobby

If traditional New Year's resolutions leave you discouraged, this four-week journey offers a grace-filled space to pause, reflect, and move forward with intention. Through journaling, conversation, and creative reflection, participants will design a Becoming Board that illustrates actions and habits supporting who God is calling them to become in 2026.

MidWeek Tech Support

Led by Michael McEntyre, Minister of Engaged Aging, Media Center

The Engaged Aging ministry will offer basic (non-professional) tech support during MidWeek sessions on January 14, 21, and 28. Help will be available for simple issues with phones, tablets, and laptops, as well as Realm app questions. Pre-registration is encouraged via the Realm app, the Engaged Aging website, or by contacting Jalyn Rutledge at the church office (864-233-2527). Please include your name, a brief description of the help you need, and an email address for follow-up.

—Camille Loomis Rehnberg, Minister of Spiritual Formation & Outreach

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 1/5 **Noon-2:00pm** College Pasta Luncheon (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 1/7 *Breathe Week*—No *Wednesdays@First* Activities except Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 1/11 **WATCH 10:30am** Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
- 5:00-7:00pm Parent Education Night on Body Safety and Security (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth Family (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 1/14 **7:00am** Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 2:00pm** Engaged Aging Games and More (Fellowship Hall)
- Wednesdays@First* Activities

Parent Dinner Party January 11

Join us for an evening of learning, connection, and community with other caregivers of children and youth! Enjoy dinner, hear from local experts, and share experiences in a relaxed, conversational setting. We'd love to see you there! Register: <https://shorturl.at/74JEv>

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- 1/18 **WATCH 10:30am** Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
- 1/19 FBG Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 1/25 **WATCH 10:30am** Worship Service Including Communion (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
- 1/28 **Noon** Community Engagement Lunch & Learn (Media Center)
- 1/30-2/1 Youth Winter Retreat
- 2/1 **WATCH 10:30am** Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Camille Loomis Rehnborg
- No Sunday Night Live for Youth

Introducing

...Laurie Jackson who joined alongside her wife, Mellisa Horn on Sunday, December 21. Laurie is a retired



teacher, and Mellisa is a retired band director who now works with Prisma Health.

Matt Rollins, continued from p. 1

that my new role as Director of Faith-Based Initiatives for Village Engage (Mill Village Ministries) will allow me to continue living more fully into that calling of serving the wider community.

My final week in the office will be the week of January 12, and I look forward to celebrating these twenty-two years with all of you in worship on Sunday, January 25.

This will not be goodbye, of course, as we are staying in Greenville, and my new employer is already an established partner of First Baptist—a relationship I look forward to strengthening in the years ahead.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve this congregation and for the support, fellowship, and encouragement you have shown me

throughout these years. It has been a blessing to work within a church family so committed to sharing the love of Christ. You have modeled that love for me more often than you know, and I will carry it with me as I move into this next chapter of ministry.

Peace and grace,
Matt Rollins

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**First Baptist
Greenville**

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Revenue Report

12/30/2025 YTD: \$3,044,284
 12/31/2024 Actual: \$2,964,671
 12/31/2025 Budget: \$2,982,000



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.