

## WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

March 18

This is a *Breathe* week for *Wednesdays@First* activities with no regularly scheduled activities except Sanctuary Choir rehearsal. If you would like to fellowship around the supper tables in the Fellowship Hall when we gather again on March 25, be sure to make a reservation. Supper lines open at 5:00pm. Make your reservations and view menus here: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

## WORSHIP

March 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:30am

We welcome the American Spiritual Ensemble to provide music during our morning worship service.

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for this or a future worship service, contact Kimberly Coates ([kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com](mailto:kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or 864-233-2527 ext. 128). The next open dates are March 22 and April 26.

If you would like to contribute toward our arrangement of lilies on April 5, Easter Sunday, please visit Realm Connect and find Easter Lilies 2026 in the list of events. Please submit your dedications, memorials and payment by March 25—even though the event has a date of April 5. That is when the arrangement will be in our Sanctuary.



## From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

First Baptist,

I want to celebrate some wonderful news: we ended 2025 with a revenue surplus of \$245,837 over expenses!

Our congregation's giving was very strong, and we met our contribution goal. This speaks to the deep level of commitment we have to our shared life at First Baptist. Included in the above amount is an \$87,000 distribution from the Stogner Tithe Fund, an estate gift from the late Michael Stogner. Michael loved this church and wanted to support First Baptist beyond his lifetime. We are incredibly grateful for his faithful generosity and for the legacy he has left to support God's work in this place. Finally, under the leadership of Cathy Goldfarb, the AYMC had an incredible year and produced strong revenue that helped offset AYMC expenses and contribute to the budget.

A generous congregation giving, the Stogner distribution and strong revenue from AYMC combined to produce this tremendous surplus!

We set a goal of \$100,000 in outside-budget giving for the Lula Whilden Offering for Missions, which supports the mission and ministry of our trusted denominational partners, including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Offering and the Alliance of Baptists. Thanks to a surplus in our 2025 budget, we were able to help fulfill that commitment by contributing an additional \$21,000 to the \$79,000 generously given by the congregation. As a result, we were able to distribute a full \$100,000 to our ministry partners who help us share the love of Christ in South Carolina, across our nation and around the world.

In addition, the surplus allowed us to fund an important campus improvement project that the Property Committee has been working on: the installation of a new cooling tower and over 40 new fan coil units to improve the reliability and efficiency of our building's climate system. The total cost of this project exceeded \$400,000, and we applied the remaining surplus of almost \$225,000 to help cover these needed upgrades. The rest of the funding comes from a contribution from the Day School—almost all the fan coils were in Day School classrooms—and from prior years' General Fund surpluses.

*continued on page 4*

March 29  
10:30am Palm Sunday Worship Service  
(Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre  
11:30am Children's Easter Egg Hunt

April 1  
6:00pm  
Maundy Thursday on Wednesday Service  
(Fellowship Hall)

April 3  
6:00-7:00pm  
Good Friday Worship Service (Chapel)

# Lead a Summer Affinity Group

Summer affinity groups will return this year by popular demand! An affinity group is a small group of people that share a common interest or an “affinity” for a hobby, activity, or share a life stage. This is a great way to connect with new people while doing something you love. Affinity groups are led by church members, so we need your leadership! Do you have a hobby or interest you’d like to share with new friends? Affinity groups can gather around any interest or topic. I’ve already received requests for casual workout groups and a playground meet up group for caregivers and kids, so please speak up if

you would like to lead either of those options. Sign up to be a group leader! Leading a group can be as simple as announcing a time and location for a dog park meet-up group or as involved as designing a book group.

Your idea for a group could be the key to welcoming a new face or helping a church member find their community. If you are interested in leading a group or have a group suggestion, please email me or fill out the survey here: <https://tinyurl.com/FBGaffinity2026>.

— Camille Loomis Rehnborg, Minister of Spiritual

## Deacon Nominating Committee Election

FBG members are requested to submit nominations for the 2026 Deacon Nominating Committee:

- Pam Davis will serve as the 2026 Deacon Nominating Committee Chair.
- In the fall, Deacon Nominating Committee members will contact deacon nominees equal to the number of vacancies on the Diaconate as to their willingness to serve.
- Once the slate of new deacons is complete, it will be submitted to the church for a vote.
- Installation and ordination of new deacons will be in early January.

There are three ways to submit recommendations for the

eight positions on the Deacon Nominating Committee.

-Print and complete the ballot below, sign it and mail it to the church attention Jenna Manning

-Click the CONTACT US button at the top of the website homepage, complete the fields and include your recommendations

-Email Jenna (jenna.manning@firstbaptistgreenville.com) with your recommendations

The deadline for recommendations to be received is Sunday, March 29, 2026.

Because the persons on the committee are ineligible to serve again for two years, do not nominate any of the following:

- Bruce Brown
- Don Carson
- Pam Davis
- Beatriz Dennis
- Dan Dorroh
- Herlane Edwards
- Carmen Feemster
- Matt Good
- Shanda LaForge
- Beverly Lambert
- Jennifer Murphy
- Austin Rabon
- Todd Ramsey
- Bert Taylor
- Sue Ugenti

NOTE: This is NOT a ballot to nominate Deacons, but a ballot to nominate members of the Deacon Nominating Committee. Paper ballots must be signed.

Ballot for members of the Deacon Nominating Committee	
1. _____	5. _____
2. _____	6. _____
3. _____	7. _____
4. _____	8. _____
Signed _____	

# American Spiritual Ensemble in Worship March 22

We are excited to welcome the acclaimed American Spiritual Ensemble as our guests in worship on Sunday, March 22. This vocal group, under the direction of Dr. Everett McCorvey, was founded in 1995. Many of the members have performed on opera stages around the world. Their website states: The mission of the American Spiritual Ensemble is to preserve and continue the tradition of storytelling through the performance and preservation of the American negro spiritual. We are thrilled to have them in Greenville and hope you will come and bring a friend to worship on March 22. They will also be in concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church the previous evening, March 21 at 7:00pm.



—Laura Ritter, Minister of Music

MUSIC

# Youth Ministry Fundraising Week: Thank You, Church Family!

What a wonderful week it was for our FBG Youth Family! Throughout Youth Ministry Fundraising Week, our church family and community came together to play, give generously and support the incredible ministry happening with our youth. From Adults vs. Youth Game Night, to the Envelope Fundraiser, to our White Duck Taco Profit Share, it truly was a week of building community, raising awareness and supporting our Youth Ministry.

Thanks to your generosity and participation, we have raised \$15,139.41 to date.

More than the total, what meant the most was seeing our congregation show up in so many ways, when you played games, ate tacos, grabbed envelopes and supported our youth in worship on Youth Sunday. Watching our fundraising total grow throughout the week was exciting, but what

was even more meaningful for me was the reminder of how deeply our church cares for and believes in our youth.

And the week culminated in something truly special: Youth Sunday.

I am so proud of our youth and their willingness to lead us in worship. They shared their gifts through music, writing, prayers, scripture readings, baptism, preaching, serving communion, and collecting offerings. They led with courage, thoughtfulness and authenticity. Their reflections and prayers carried wisdom about what it means to follow Christ and be Christ's hands and feet in the midst of the real challenges they face in their daily lives.

To our youth: thank you for sharing your voices with us.

To our church family: thank you for showing up. Thank you for

creating a community where our youth know they are welcome in the pulpit, that their faith matters and that they have something to say that people need to hear.

Every dollar given supports the ministry that nurtures faith through retreats, mission experiences, discipleship, and leadership opportunities. Thank you for gathering with us, for supporting our Youth Family so faithfully, and for helping make this week such a joyful success.

—Mary Carol Anderson, Minister of Youth and College

YOUTH

## Upcoming Events

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

- 3/18 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)  
*Breathe Week—No Wednesdays@First Activities*
- 3/22 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with American Spiritual Ensemble  
5:00pm LGBTQ Community Group Potluck (Parlor)
- 3/25 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)  
*Wednesdays@First Activities*
- 3/29 **WATCH** 10:30am Palm Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre  
11:30am Children's Easter Egg Hunt  
No Sunday Night Live for Youth
- 4/1 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)  
6:00pm Maundy Thursday on Wednesday Service (Fellowship Hall)
- 4/3 6:00-7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service (Chapel)
- 4/5 7:00am Sunrise Easter Worship Service (FBG Gardens)  
8:30am Family Garden Worship Service (FBG Labyrinth)  
**WATCH** 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre  
No Sunday Night Live for Youth
- 4/6 First Baptist Closed for Easter Monday
- 4/8 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)  
*Wednesdays@First Activities*
- 4/10 11:00am-2:00pm Caregiver Respite Event (Fellowship Hall)
- 4/12 **WATCH** 10:30am Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Camile Loomis Rehnberg

### Wednesdays@First Schedule (exceptions noted in Upcoming Events)

#### 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

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/>

3/25

**Adults:** Ham, Broccoli Casserole, Roasted Potatoes w/Honey Drizzle, Spinach Salad, Fruit, Roll, Dessert

**Children:** Hot Dogs, Tater Tots, Fruit, Cookie

- 4/15 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)  
*Wednesdays@First Activities*
- 4/17 10:30am-1:30pm Engaged Aging Lunch & More (Fellowship Hall)
- 4/19 **WATCH** 10:30am Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
- 4/22 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)  
*Wednesdays@First Activities*

## Yard Sale Donations

The Yard Sale Committee is accepting donations until April 9 on Thursdays between 10:00am and 2:00pm at the Practice Gym lobby entrance.

  
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### Revenue Report

2/28/2026 YTD: \$511,734

2/28/2025 Actual: \$540,558

2/28/2026 Budget: \$513,167



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.

## From the Senior Minister, continued from p. 1

Because of your giving, we were able to support missions, care for our aging facilities and continue the ministry God has called us to in this place. I am grateful for your commitment to our life together and your willingness to give generously to support the work of the church. Thank you for your generosity and for the many ways you help make ministry at First Baptist beautiful and good.

—Carol