

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

March 25

Wednesdays@First activities resume this week with a special *Adults@First* activity. 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/>

6:00pm *Adults@First* Opportunity
Sharing Our Stories (Fellowship Hall)

WORSHIP

March 29

Palm Sunday

10:30am

Sermon Series: Rediscovering Jesus

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-13

Sermon: Rediscovering Jesus, Our Lord

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir;
Children's Choir; Will Jordan, Soloist

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). The next open date is 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 or visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2safmpvb>. 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.

Practicing Invitation

CAMILLE LOOMIS REHNBORG
AND MICHAEL MCENTYRE

Thank you to our Sunday School classes who welcomed us for the four-week series based on our churchwide theme, "Invitation: God Reached Out, So Do We." Your willingness to combine classes created lively discussions about how our church participates in God's hospitality and how we can continue to grow in sharing God's love.

We began by asking, "Where do you see God working at FBG, and what makes this a place worth inviting others to?" Classes shared stories of care within our church, service opportunities across Greenville, gratitude for children and youth ministries, and appreciation for a community where people can explore faith and ask questions together. The second week, we explored the deeper meaning of belonging to the Church and God's invitation to participate in the reconciliation ministry of the Gospel. By the third week, our focus turned to a more practical challenge: actually inviting others. Participants named common worries—appearing pushy, navigating the intersection of faith and politics or the risk of disrupting the group. These conversations helped us think about faithful ways forward.

In the final week, classes shared ideas for cultivating hospitality and invitation at FBG. One idea mentioned was to describe what church is like rather than trying to explain every belief. For example, when asked, "What's FBG like?" You could answer:

You'll see all kinds of people and families in worship. The campus can be a bit tricky to navigate, so I will meet you under the steeple entrance. Our worship usually begins with a piece from the organ before the choir enters. One of my favorite parts is when there is a Children's Reflection and all the kids go down front; you never know what will happen. There are also times for prayer, hymns we sing together and places of response before our Senior Minister, Carol McEntyre, preaches (her sermons usually last around 15 minutes).

In just a few sentences, an invitation like this paints a picture of worship and community without needing theological explanations. Practicing invitation is more than just inviting new people to church. Hospitality happens every time we gather. When you see an unfamiliar face, greet them and offer to sit together: "Good morning! Are you new to First Baptist? I'm Camille—would you like to sit with me?" If you recognize someone but can't remember their name, simply ask. Since our campus can be difficult to navigate, be ready to help someone find their way. Walking with a guest to their destination is a simple act of kindness that makes a big difference.

The best invitations are invitations with, not invitations to. Instead of saying, "You should visit my church sometime," offer to go together. Invitation isn't limited to Sunday mornings. Many people first connect with church through friendship and shared activities. Opportunities abound through children's, youth and engaged aging ministries, service groups like Project Host and Mission

Palms and Easter Lilies—Deadline Approaching!



We will place palms in the Sanctuary on Palm Sunday, March 29, and an arrangement of lilies as

both honorary and memorial gifts on Easter Sunday, April 5. All lily gifts will be published in the newsletter. If you are interested in providing an Easter lily gift, please visit Realm Connect and search events for Easter Lilies 2026 or use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2safmpvb> and follow the instructions to submit your

dedications. You may even pay online! If you would prefer, you may still mail the following information and your payment (checks payable to First Baptist Church) to me at church or drop it off in person. Orders and checks (\$30 each) should be received by Wednesday, **March 25**. If you would like to make a gift toward this arrangement, complete the online form or send the following information to my attention at the church (First Baptist Church, Attn: Kimberly Coates, 847 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601), along with your contribution of \$30 per dedication:

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address (if applicable):

Number of Gifts (\$30 each):

In honor of:

In memory of:

Please make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Orders should be received by March 25.

—Kimberly Coates,
Music & Worship Ministry
Assistant

Two by Two: Becoming a Prayer Partner for Our Costa Rica Mission Team

As our high school and college students prepare for their Mission Immersion to Costa Rica this June, we are reminded that meaningful mission work is never done alone. While a team may be the ones who travel, serve and build relationships on the ground, they are supported by an entire community that walks alongside them in prayer, encouragement and love.

One of the most impactful ways our congregation has offered support in years past is through our Prayer Partner ministry. This tradition provides a meaningful opportunity for both participants and church members to connect in a deeply personal way during our time away.

Each member of the mission team is paired with a Prayer Partner from our church family. Prayer Partners commit to praying for their participant each day of the trip, writing a short note for each day *in advance* and giving a *small* care package. These daily letters are given to participants to read throughout the week while in Costa Rica.

Time and again, students and leaders share how powerful it is to open those notes at the end of a long day, to be reminded that someone back home is praying for them by name and walking with them in spirit. Likewise, many Prayer Partners have found that this commitment deepens their connection not only to the participant, but to the mission itself.

I invite you to prayerfully consider volunteering to serve as a Prayer Partner for one of our team members. Together, we can be the hands and feet of Christ in Costa Rica, not only through those who go, but through those who pray.

Please register on Realm Connect using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/CostaRicaPrayerPartner>

—Mary Carol Anderson, Minister of Youth & College

Wednesdays@First Groups for Late Spring

MidWeek resumes March 25 with a special evening of “Sharing Our Stories,” a series where church members of all generations share who and what has shaped their faith. On Wednesday, April 1, we will hold our Maundy Thursday on Wednesday service—an interactive worship experience designed for all ages to encounter the story of the Last Supper and reflect on Christ’s love for humanity. Supper will be served 5:00–6:00pm, with worship beginning at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

April 8, 15 and 22 | New MidWeek Groups for Adults, 6–7pm

MidWeek Classic: When Scripture Hurts: Stories of Abuse and Resilience in Scripture led by Carrie Nettles (Fellowship Hall)

Scripture tells the story of God’s relationship with God’s people, and that story is not always a rosy one. How can we faithfully engage stories of violence and harm in Scripture? Rev. Carrie Nettles, Chaplain for the Julie Valentine Center, will lead three weeks of study and reflection. This series will include discussions of sexual assault and child abuse. We will begin each week with informed consent and encourage self-care throughout the series.

Being Baptist in Democracy Discussion Group led by Andrew Tonks (Media Center)

How do questions of Baptist identity, American citizenship and engagement with our democracy coexist in our contemporary Christian identity? Explore this curriculum published by the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty in a small group setting.

Running with Doug and Pam (AYMC Lobby)

Runners of all speeds are invited to join this casual running group. We’ll meet in the AYMC Lobby and set our course based on the needs of the group. Wear running shoes and weather-appropriate clothes. If the weather is bad, we’ll walk the AYMC walking track. April 8 and 15 will be led by Doug Stout, and April 22 by Pam Davis.

Save the date for our MidWeek Spring Celebration on Wednesday, April 29, our final MidWeek gathering before the summer break. We’ll share a special meal, enjoy games and activities for all ages, and celebrate the start of summer together as a church family.

—Camille Loomis Rehnberg,
Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach

Seasonal Self-Care



Grief Support for Mother’s and Father’s Days

Grief doesn’t care if it’s beautiful outside. In fact, as Easter comes, freighted with family memories, then Mother’s Day, then Father’s Day, springtime can be

difficult for grieving people. Let’s schedule time for self-care that will help you navigate the emotional terrain of the days ahead.

Canterbury Counseling therapist Laura Thien will lead a group of no more than 12 people, gathering April 12, 19, 26, and May 3. We will meet in the Prayer Room by the Chapel and spend a quiet hour sharing our grief and our gratitude in the presence of friends. Please join us!

Caring for Those Who Care

Our annual Caregiver Respite Luncheon is Friday, April 10, so please answer our final appeal to recommend your friends, family members or even yourself as a Caregiver who needs some rest and encouragement. The luncheon will happen in our Fellowship Hall (that is a change from years past!) from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Guests can enjoy a variety of “comfort stations,” educational sessions on patient care and self-care and the companionship of friends in a similar situation.

Guests are certainly welcome! We just need to be sure we have adequate provisions. Please send us your names no later than Monday, April 6.

Register for both events tinyurl.com/CaregiverRespiteLuncheon on Realm Connect, or by calling the church office at 864-233-2527 ext. 103. If you’d like to contribute as a volunteer, donor or by staying with a care-receiver at home so that caregivers can come, please give me a call!

—Kyle Matthews, Minister of Pastoral Care

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 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, including Children's Choir and Will Jordan, Soloist
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, including Brass Quintet
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 Camille Loomis Rehnborg
- 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)

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

6:00pm Sharing Our Stories (Fellowship Hall)

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

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.

Sympathy

...Lee Coates and family in the death of his cousin.

... Jim Alexander and family in the death of Judy Alexander.

Practicing Invitation, continued from p. 1

Backpack, community engagement events and affinity group gatherings. The body of Christ is formed Monday through Saturday as well.

Our staff will continue learning from your feedback and putting your ideas into action this spring. You'll see more opportunities for connection on Sunday mornings, including passing the peace in worship, more name tags and gathering outside after services on warm days.

We love learning from you and are grateful for the ways you embody Christ's hospitality. Keep your hospitality glasses on, practice your invitations and let's see where the Spirit leads! —Camille Loomis Rehnborg and Michael McEntyre


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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. LXVII March 23, 2026 No. 12

Revenue Report

3/17/2026 YTD: \$659,727

3/31/2025 Actual: \$789,365

3/31/2026 Budget: \$769,750



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.