

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

May 6

Wednesdays@First activities for this semester have concluded and will begin again on August 19. However, there is a stand-alone activity this week. The Engaged Aging Ministry is sponsoring a night of line-dancing. Kyle Juresich will lead a fun evening of dance for the whole congregation. Note that there will be no childcare nor Children's or Youth activities. Dinner is available for \$10 per person, but reservations are a must.

WORSHIP

10:30am

Sixth Sunday of Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-18a

Anthem: "Give Me Jesus" — arr. Fleming

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir; Hollis Williams, 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).



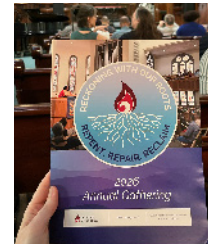
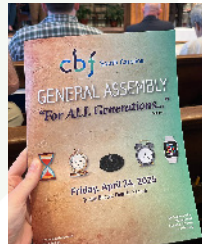
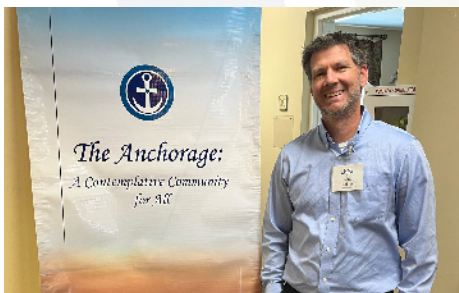
Baptist Life Beyond First Baptist Greenville

"Exactly what kind of Baptist is this church?" Newcomers to First Baptist often ask some version of this question. Our congregation affiliates with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists, two groups that emerged from the Southern Baptist Convention in the late 1980s and early 1990s in response to the SBC's turn to fundamentalism. Our congregation contributes financially to CBF and Alliance to support their community service projects, resource development, and continuing education initiatives. Think of our membership with CBF and Alliance like two Baptist co-ops!

Last month, other First Baptist Greenville members and I had the privilege of representing us at the annual gatherings for the Alliance of Baptists and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina. Each gathering included worship, breakout sessions on ministry topics (I attended sessions on intergenerational discipleship, creative ways to use church buildings, and confronting Islamophobia in the church), business meetings reviewing the budget and committee work of each group, and time for friendship. Both events were fabulous!

Want to learn more about our Baptist affiliates? Attend CBF Global's General Assembly in Jacksonville, FL, this June 17-19! Registration is FREE, and First Baptist Greenville has funds to help church members attend. Call the church for more information.

— Camille Loomis Rehnberg, Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach



My Sabbatical Plans

After four years of ministerial service, each First Baptist Greenville minister is eligible for a four-week sabbatical. I am grateful for the opportunity for some intentional weeks of rest and renewal through prayer and study. I will be out of office on sabbatical from Monday, May 4, through Sunday, May 31.

I'll spend two of the four weeks on prayer retreats at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville, NC, and Mepkin Abbey near Charleston, SC. These personal, semi-silent retreats will be a spiritual stretch for me, but I am eager to see how God will stir my heart in the quiet. I hope to spend more time with Scripture than I am generally able during my normal work week and enjoy a couple of good books and time in nature.

With love, I ask that you consider me to be "asleep" for these weeks, and do not attempt to contact me

by text or cell phone. You are welcome to send me an email or leave a voicemail at my office extension (864) 233-2527 ext.145, and I will return your messages in June. Ben Brock, our Receptionist, will cover a portion of the administrative work for Spiritual Formation and Outreach while I am away. Please call the church office with any questions relating to Sunday School, small groups, new members, affinity groups or pastoral care. Ben and Jenna Manning will make sure your questions get answered!

Please pray that this sabbatical time is restful and spiritually nourishing. I'll miss you this month and look forward to catching up in June!

—Camille Loomis Rehnborg, Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach

What's Next for Caregivers at First Baptist?

When we find ourselves caring for loved ones who need assistance, permanently or temporarily, we just "do what comes next" and often don't realize we have stepped into an increasingly demanding role, one that can become overwhelming if we don't ratchet up our self-care to stay physically and spiritually healthy. Because we are busy, we venture out less, and our needs become "invisible" even to friends who are eager to help.

So, I'm thrilled to report that we doubled participation at last month's Caregiver Respite Luncheon. Those numbers demonstrate greater awareness, more openness to give and receive care, and our church's growing response to a growing need. Thanks to terrific facilitators, we are also learning! Please contact me to get connected to the wisdom and resources that were shared.

What's next? Some things to know:

Caregiver Support Group—There is significant interest in a group that will meet regularly, in person or online, to see and support those in a season of caregiving.

CareYaya—This program, successful at UNC and the College of Charleston, is assessing interest in Greenville. Administrators developed an app enabling caregivers to schedule medical students for caregiving hours; students earn school credit plus about \$17 per hour. If we can supply 3 or 4 families needing 20 or more hours a week, CareYaya will launch here with our USC School of Medicine!

Stephen Ministers are available to provide confidential companionship, spiritual support and an ongoing connection to the church—things easily pushed aside while caregiving.



Apps to the Rescue! New apps have reduced the stress of organizing care so that one text can enable your circle of support to self-organize around you. Caringbridge, Caring Village, Lotsa Helping Hands, Medisafe and the AARP Caregiving app are just a few—great tools for friendship circles and Sunday School classes to stay connected and organize care.

For more information contact: kyle.matthews@firstbaptistgreenville.com, 864-233-2527, ext. 138

—Kyle Matthews, Minister of Pastoral Care

Congratulations, Graduates!

Below are the high school graduates for whom we received pictures.
All graduates will be honored during worship on Sunday, May 17.



ELLA BURNS
SC Governor's School for the
Arts and Humanities



TIGIST CAMPBELL
Wade Hampton High School



VIVIAN COVINGTON-KOLB
Greenville Senior High School



ZAC DAVIS
Wade Hampton High School



CATHARINE EASTERLING
Christ Church Episcopal
High School



ZOEY GALLAGHER-KING
Greenville Technical Charter
High School



MOLLY GILBERT
J.L. Mann High School



LEIRA JOHNSON
Greenville Senior High School



COLLIN JONES
Eastside High School



MATTIE KELLETT
Woodmont High School



BROOKLYN OSBOURNE
Wren High School



HENRY RESTINE
Eastside High School



MAX RICHARDS
Greenville Senior High School



LUKE WHITEHOUSE
J.L. Mann High School



ANNA WOOD
Wade Hampton High School

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 5/6 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)
5:00pm Engaged Aging Line Dancing
- 5/10 **WATCH** 10:30am Mother's Day Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 5/13 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 5/14 9:30am Engaged Aging Hike
- 5/17 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Graduate Recognition



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.

Revenue Report

Current YTD Actual (thru 04/28/26) \$900,561

Compare to 4/30 YTD

Prior Year Actual (2025) 949,540

Current Year Budget (2026) 1,026,333


First Baptist
Greenville
847 Cleveland Street,
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495
(864) 233-2527 www.firstbaptistgreenville.com

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).
Lara Felsman, Editor.

Vol. LXVII May 4, 2026 No. 18



Introducing

...Chris and Alyssa Likens who joined our church on Sunday, April 26. Please give them a warm welcome.

Sympathy

...to Matthew Cobb and family in the death of Jessie Cobb.

...to Terese Carter in the death of her mother and Sarah Dunn in the death of her maternal grandmother.