

## WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Wednesdays@First activities for this semester have concluded and will begin again on August 19.

## WORSHIP

May 17

10:30am

Seventh Sunday of Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Family Dedication

Graduate Recognition

Proclaimer: Kyle Matthews

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13

Anthem: "At the Name of Jesus"—Larson

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Helen Horton Hunt and Keeter Horton by their family: Grice, Caitlin, Helen and Hollis Hunt; and Jamie, Annie and Ellie Hunt.

On May 10, the flowers in the Sanctuary were given in loving memory of Kaye McDonald Richard by her husband, Ron Richard; and her children, Ashley Chitwood, Leslie McDonald and Matt McDonald; and their families.

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 dates are June 21 and 28.

## Baptist Life Beyond First Baptist Greenville

Looking for a good summer book that will engage your faith? Pick up one (or more!) of our Summer One-Read books! We've selected three thought-provoking books for the congregation to read over the summer and discuss in the fall. Each book supports the preaching series for the fall or the churchwide theme for next year (more to come on that, though you might make an educated guess based on the books!).

Reading any of the three will deepen your engagement with church life next year. Copies are available for purchase in the Reception Area for \$15 each. You may pay with cash or check or pay online through Realm Connect. Grab your copy before they are sold out! Happy reading!

*Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*  
by Rachel Held Evans

If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? Drawing on the best in biblical scholarship and using her well-honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories and even a short screenplay. Discover alongside Evans that the

Bible is not a static text, but a living, breathing, captivating and confounding book that can equip us and inspire us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world.

*Better Ways to Read the Bible: Transforming a Weapon of Harm into a Tool of Healing*  
by Zach W. Lambert

How can we read the Bible in ways that lead to healing and wholeness? As a pastor for more than ten years, Zach Lambert has seen the Bible used countless times as something far from the "Good Book." He has seen the Bible weaponized to subjugate women, justify racism, bash LGBTQ+ people, cover up abuse and exclude people who speak out against these injustices. In this compassionate guide, Lambert dismantles four common

*continued on page 4*



**Looking for a good book?**

*Summer One Reads*

Pick one (or three!) from our recommended summer one-reads list. We'll discuss all three titles this fall in sermons and MidWeek groups!

INSPIRED  
Rachel Held Evans

better ways to read the bible  
Zach W. Lambert

Water for the Thirsty  
Walter Brueggemann

# Congratulations, Graduates!

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

GRADUATE SCHOOL



**HAMPTON BRYANT**  
William and Mary Law School



**ANNE GARNER**  
Christian Theological Seminary

COLLEGE



**KELSIE BARRINEAU**  
Furman University



**ZEKE BARTON**  
University of South Carolina



**AVERY BRYANT**  
Appalachian State University



**OLIVIA DENNIS**  
University of South Carolina



**LYDIA DORROH**  
Clemson University



**EMMA GOOD**  
University of Georgia



**LIBBY GOOD**  
Loyola University Chicago



**ANN GRAYSON GOOD**  
Gardner-Webb University



**WILLIAM GRAY**  
Clemson University



**TUCKER JONES**  
Spartanburg Community College



**WILL JORDAN**  
Furman University



**WILLIAM KING**  
Furman University



**JANIE MCDONALD**  
Clemson University



**CAROLINE SHELLEY**  
University of Richmond



**KATHERINE WHATLEY**  
University of Mississippi



**CAROLINE WILSON**  
University of South Carolina



**CAMP WYNN**  
Clemson University

# Make Friends this Summer through Affinity Groups!

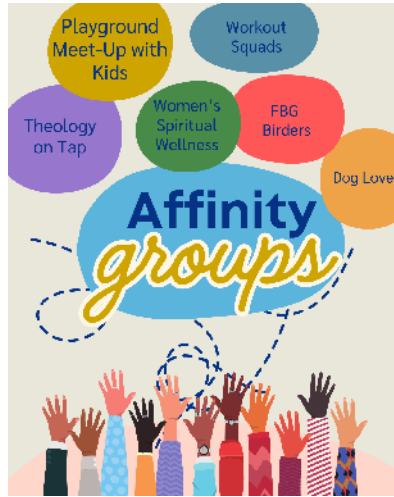
Deepen your friendships across the congregation by having fun and exploring new hobbies in an affinity group! An affinity group is a small group of people that share a common interest or an “affinity” in a wide range of hobbies, activities or life stages. This is a great way to connect with new people while doing something you love. Our 2026 summer groups include:

- AYMC Workout Squads
- Theology on Tap
- Dog Lovers
- Playground Meet-Up with Kids
- Women’s Spiritual Wellness and Self-Care
- FBG Birders

Read group descriptions on the church website at: [firstbaptistgreenville.com/adults/](http://firstbaptistgreenville.com/adults/). Ready to join a

group? See group meeting calendars and chat directly with group participants on Realm Connect. Open your Realm Connect app or log in to Realm Connect on your computer, click Groups > Find Groups > Community & Connection > your chosen affinity group. After clicking on the group you’d like to join, click the “plus” sign in the top-right corner to send a request to the group leader. Come join the fun!

— Camille Loomis Rehnberg, Minister of Spiritual Engagement and Outreach



## Thank You for a Successful Yard Sale!

Thanks to all who gave of their time and energy to make this year’s Yard Sale such a success. The Yard Sale brought in more than \$25,000! When you add that to the proceeds from the Holiday Sale the team piloted last fall, the total jumps to more than \$28,000! We are deeply grateful for the work Pastor Matt Rollins did to help shepherd our congregation through this interim season and ensure the Yard Sale could thrive.

As mentioned on Engaged Aging Sunday, the Yard Sale is a remarkable ministry. The number of volunteers, the hours committed, the scope of the work and the execution of the event are impressive. A heartfelt thank you goes to the Yard Sale Steering Committee for shepherding this undertaking throughout the year, The Committee consists of: Co-Chairs Marie Hall and Kay Hardage, with members Bruce Brown, Ardis Entzminger, Jeff Gilbert, Kay Gilbert, Patsy Gray, Nancy Kirby and Tom Kirby with Beth Olson serving as a Ministry Assistant to the team. In addition to this core team, more than 30 additional volunteers made up the larger Yard Sale Team. Together, they gave countless hours of their time throughout the year to help sort, prep and price every item. Thanks to their care and attention, our Neighborhood Partnership is ready for another year of ministry!

## Upcoming Events

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 5/12 10:00am Holy Rollers Trip to Strawberry Hill                               | 5/20 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level) |
| 5/13 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)            | 5/24 <b>WATCH</b> 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)                |
| 5/14 9:30am Engaged Aging Hike (Bell Park and Saluda Inn)                       | 4:30pm LGBTQ and Friends Community Picnic                            |
| 5/17 <b>WATCH</b> 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Graduate Recognition |  |

## Sympathy

...to Linda Burrell in the death of her mother.

## Exciting Changes Coming for *The Branch*!

We want to share an upcoming change to *The Branch*, our church newsletter.

Beginning June 1, *The Branch* will move from a weekly format to a monthly publication. While *The Branch* will come less frequently, it will continue to serve as a meaningful and reliable connection point. This shift allows us to focus our time and energy on the communication channels that will help more of our church stay informed and connected each week. You will still receive consistent weekly updates, in a new format, our Monday "This Week at First" email, along with ministry-specific messages, social media, Realm, and our website. These channels help ensure you don't miss timely information or opportunities to get involved. We are grateful for the ways *The Branch* has served our church, and we are looking forward to how this new rhythm will strengthen communication and connection across our community.

## Summer One-Reads, continued from p. 1

lenses for reading the Bible that lead to harm, then offers four new lenses that promote healing and wholeness. This book welcomes all Christians to reengage Scripture in life-giving ways.

*Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*  
by Walter Brueggemann

In this new edition that includes a study guide, Walter Brueggemann writes that the Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society. Brueggemann critiques our 24/7 society of consumption, a society in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform and possess. Brueggemann shows readers how keeping the Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important: God, other people and all life. Perfect for groups or self-reflection, *Sabbath as Resistance* offers a transformative vision of the wholeness God intends.



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## THE BRANCH

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### 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



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.