

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Wednesdays@First activities for this semester have concluded but will resume on August 19.

WORSHIP

May 24

10:30am

Day of Pentecost (Sanctuary)
(Wear red, orange or yellow—the colors of fire!)

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Sermon: Our Comforter

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

Anthem: “Like a River” — arr. Osiek

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Anne Cargill in loving memory of her family: Mabel, Ed, Paula, John and Perrie Cargill and Eleanor C., Roy and Rick Strickland.

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.

May 25

Memorial Day Church office and AYMC closed

May 31

9:30am-10:15am

First session of 9-week Summer Series: Christianity in America

May 31

After Worship
AYMC Open House



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

We have a good problem at First Baptist. So much is happening in the life of our church that it can be challenging to share about it all! As church staff, we continually discuss how to improve our communication so you can stay informed and connected. Over the past year, we have taken several meaningful steps to improve the way we communicate with both our church family and the broader community.

As part of this revitalization effort, many of you have already noticed one exciting development: our beautiful new church website. In today’s digital-first world, a church website is often the very first introduction someone has to our church. A welcoming, clear, and updated online presence helps people learn about who we are and greatly influences whether they decide to visit. Since our previous website had not been updated in 11 years, this improvement was long overdue, and we are grateful for the positive feedback we have already received. We hope you will find it easy to explore and helpful in staying connected. But if you need assistance finding information, please do not hesitate to contact the church office. We recognize that not everyone uses digital communication in the same

way, and we are committed to helping everyone stay informed and engaged.

As we continue to improve communication across First Baptist, we also 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. You will still receive consistent weekly updates through our new Monday “This Week at First” email, along with ministry-specific messages, social media, Realm Connect and our website. These channels will help ensure you do not miss important information, upcoming events, or opportunities to get involved.

We are transitioning *The Branch* to a storytelling format, sharing each month what God is doing in and through the life of First Baptist. While *The Branch* will come less frequently, it will continue to serve as a meaningful and reliable connection point.

We recognize that any change to a familiar rhythm can take some adjustment, especially for those who have faithfully relied on *The Branch* for many years. Our desire is not to communicate less, but to communicate more effectively. This shift allows us to focus our time and energy on timely weekly updates alongside a monthly publication that offers deeper storytelling and reflection.

Summer Celebrations at the AYMC

As some church programs begin to wind down for the summer, we are just getting started at the AYMC. We have some phenomenal “firsts” this summer, and we are truly filled with joyful anticipation!

On Sunday, May 31, the AYMC will host a post-worship **Open House** to celebrate and give thanks for new fitness equipment that will surely be a blessing to many over the next decade. With a delicious sampling of appetizers, beverages and sweet treats provided by Jasmine Kitchen, we invite you to join the AYMC Staff for tours, activities, giveaways, t-shirts and information about all of our summer programs. It is sure to be a wonderful time of fellowship and festivities! You don't want to miss this grand reveal!

Do you have children in kindergarten–5th grade who would love a **Summer Sports Camp** right here at our very own AYMC? You're in luck! We are partnering with First Pres/CSA Rec to host Summer Sports Camps for eight weeks, Monday-Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm. Whether you need a few mornings, a few days, or a few weeks of camp fun, be sure to register soon! This is going to be a fabulous summer for kids at the AYMC!

And while we're talking about kids, we are thrilled to announce the new and improved **Summer Kids Gym** at the AYMC! Every Thursday morning May 28-August 6, 9:00am-11:00am, kids ages 0-5 are the starting lineup! With fun and safe play for the younger kiddos in mind, we will be thrilled to welcome caregivers and their little ones to the AYMC! Our cafe will be open for snacks and drinks, so come enjoy some cool, indoor play time with friends! Church and community friends are welcome to join in the fun!

But why should kids have all the fun at the AYMC this summer? Fear not! **Summer Squads** (which

are basically summer sports camps for grown-ups) are here! As part of the Summer Affinity Groups, we are introducing a small group workout concept that incorporates a strength training program provided for you, with the knowledge that working out is always better with a squad! If you already have a squad in mind (made up of 2-4 committed people), awesome! If you're the brave one stepping out on your own, we can help you join a squad just waiting to cheer on a new teammate! Let's all get stronger this summer!

For more information about any of these summer celebrations, email Cathy at cathy.goldfarb@firstbaptistgreenville.com.

—Cathy Goldfarb, AYMC Director



RISING K5-5TH GRADES Boys & Girls

REGISTER NOW

SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

CSARec AYMC First Baptist Greenville

The AYMC is excited to partner with First Pres/CSA Rec to offer summer sports camps here for rising K5 - 5th grade youth! Whether you're looking for a few mornings, a few weeks, or a whole summer full of fun, reach out for more information!

SPORTS ACTIVITIES
CHARACTER LESSONS
SNACK BREAKS

REGISTRATION PER WEEK: \$150
REGISTRATION PER DAY: \$35

CAMP DATES AVAILABLE:
May 28-August 7
9:00AM - 12:00 PM | Monday - Friday

Camp Director: Caleb McKisic

AYMC at First Baptist Greenville
847 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC (864)-660-2080

CSARec.com info@CSARec.com

Summer Series: Christianity in America

Wondering how to live faithfully as a Christian in our complicated historical moment? This summer's All-Adult Sunday School Series is for you. Many of us inherited one of two frameworks for American history: one, we started out at a low point of slavery and unfreedom and have steadily progressed towards a better country, or two, we were founded as a "City on a Hill" and have steadily regressed from our founding ideals. Both of these frameworks contain truth, but not the whole truth.

This summer's Sunday School series, organized by the Spiritual Formation Committee and taught by church member experts in American history, will explore Christianity in American history in fresh ways. How have the lives and choices of our faith ancestors influenced our modern world? How does our faith compel us to be better citizens? Why does studying history matter for people of faith? We'll tackle some familiar and unfamiliar stories of Christian Americans, exploring together the challenge and encouragement we inherited from past generations and the call to pursue a civic future faithful to God's vision.

All adults are invited to participate in this 9-week series beginning Sunday, May 31. All sessions will be held from 9:30am to 10:15am in the FBG Fellowship Hall. Come early for coffee and to catch up with friends new and old!

Small Things, Great Love

Mother Teresa famously said, "We can do no great things. But we can do small things with great love." I don't know about you, but some of the most significant moments of blessing and encouragement I've ever received came in such small packages, such brief interpersonal interactions, that an outside observer would scarcely notice them, yet they were so meaningful to me that they redirected my path.

Shortly after Cindy and Bernie Showman joined First Baptist, Cindy told me she had organized a card-writing ministry in her former church, was really missing that, and wondered if we had a way for her to provide that kind of ministry here at First Baptist. Her location

had changed, but her sense of calling had not!

So, we began recruiting card writers, and the cards have been going out ever since, reminding our friends who are no longer able to come to church that we "see" them, love them, and pray for them. It is a wonderful ministry!

That's been happening for five years now, and Bernie and Cindy tell me the time has come for them to step down from leading that group. I hated to hear it but understood. They have served us well and deserve a break! Please join me in expressing your gratitude when you see them!

Now we want to give others a turn! We are looking for a person or a few people willing to match



UNTOLD HISTORIES OF
FAITH AND RESISTANCE

CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA

SUNDAYS MAY 31 - JULY 26
9:30AM, FBG FELLOWSHIP HALL



about 30 card recipients with about 20 card writers each month. We'll provide the lists and the supplies. Please give prayerful consideration as to whether this is the right ministry at the right time for you—or for you and a friend—and let me know! If you've ever felt encouraged by the arrival of a providentially-timed card in the mail, you know it can make all the difference!

— Kyle Matthews, Minister of
Pastoral Care

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

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|---|---|
| 5/24 WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) | 6/7 WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) |
| 4:30pm LGBTQ and Friends Community Picnic at Herdklotz Park (Register on Realm Connect) | 6/10 10:00am Holy Rollers Trip to Roper Mountain Science Center |
| 5/25 Church Offices and AYMC Closed in Observance of Memorial Day | 6/12 Habitat for Humanity Duplex Build |
| 5/31 WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) | 6/14 WATCH 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) |
| | 6/18 Church Offices and AYMC Closed in Observance of Juneteenth |

Congratulations

...To Steve and Nancy Cothran on the birth of their grandson, and to John and Jeannette Cothran on the birth of their great-grandson.

Introducing



...Sue Kinzer joined First Baptist Greenville during worship on Sunday, May 10. As a former member and the mother of Kyle Matthews, Minister of Pastoral Care, she is known to many in our congregation. Offer her a warm welcome home!



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THE BRANCH

Vol. LXVII May 18, 2026 No. 20

Revenue Report

Current YTD Actual (thru 05/12/26)
\$995,092

Compare to 5/31 YTD

Prior Year Actual (2025) \$1,100,208

Current Year Budget (2026)
\$1,282,917



Scan here to support the financial needs of First Baptist Greenville.

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.

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.