

The Branch

First Baptist Greenville

August 2026 | Issue 1



MidWeek Cafe Opens

The MidWeek Cafe is now open at the AYMC every Wednesday from 8:30am–1:30pm, and thanks to a new partnership with Jasmine Kitchen, you'll find a rotating menu of light breakfast and lunch options that changes each week.

Come for the food and stay a while. Check out the AYMC's brand new fitness equipment, sign up for a class or simply enjoy your coffee with a beautiful view of the Swamp Rabbit Trail. It's all part of what the AYMC is here for: nourishment for the whole person, right in the middle of your week.

[Click here for the weekly menu](#)

AUG 9 & 16

SMALL GROUPS FAIR

Explore ways to serve our neighbors and grow in your faith at the Small Groups Fair this August!

[Find out more here](#)

AUG 12

LIVING WITH THE END IN MIND

The kindest gift you can leave your family is clarity about your wishes at the end of life. Bring your questions to this free event and let us help you make your plan!

[Find out more here](#)

AUG 19

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST BEGINS

Wednesdays@First return August 19 with learning and connection for children, youth and adults. Make a meal reservation and read more details in the link below.

[Find out more here](#)

ENGAGED

Serving, connecting and seeking God together



August Missions Collections

Though children (and teachers) may not be ready to admit it, back-to-school time will be here before we know it!

For our July Missions Focus, we are collecting school supplies for Nicholtown Missionary Baptist Church's Love Center, which throws a back-to-school bash each year to help the neighborhood kids get ready for the beginning of the school year.

When you do your back-to-school shopping, consider picking up an extra pack of crayons or colored pencils, an extra water bottle or backpack, etc. Donations may be brought to the Reception Area of the church.

- Clay Gilbert, Missions Committee

Blessing Sunday



Join us for Blessing Sunday on August 9 as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year and ask God's blessing on all students, educators, school staff, administrators, and families.

Together, we'll remember that wherever this year leads, God goes with us.

During worship, we'll also celebrate our third and sixth graders as they receive their Bibles. All are welcome!



[Find out more here](#)



Wednesdays@First Starting

We're back on Wednesday, August 19! Mark your family calendar for food, learning, and fun for all ages this year! Gather for supper at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall, then break into age and interest groups from 6:00-7:00pm.

Love to sing? Stay for Sanctuary Choir (no auditions!) from 7:00pm-8:30pm.

Get weekly menus, sign up for meals, and read more about Wednesdays@First gatherings for children, youth and adults in the link below.

[Find out more here](#)



GROWING

Exploring faith, building community
and enjoying life together



CHILDREN'S BLOCK PARTY | AUG 16

FBG Kids is kicking off another exciting year with our annual Block Party on Sunday, August 16, from 3:00–4:30pm in the AYMC Gym! Children from birth through fifth grade and their grownups are invited for inflatables, TCBY frozen yogurt and a first look at what's ahead in Children's Ministry. Everyone is welcome!

[Find out more here](#)

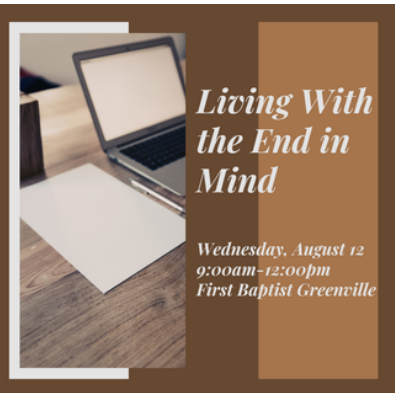


YOUTH BLOCK PARTY | AUG 16

Start the school year with the Youth Family Block Party on Sunday, August 16, from 5:00–7:00pm at the AYMC! Enjoy dinner from Papi's Tacos Truck, complete annual paperwork and sign up for everything ahead this year.

New families and parents of rising 6th graders: join us at 4:00pm.

[Find out more here](#)



*Living With
the End in
Mind*

Wednesday, August 12
9:00am–12:00pm
First Baptist Greenville

LIVING WITH THE END IN MIND | AUG 12

August is Make a Will Month, and we want to help you plan with a longer view and a wider perspective. Join attorney Neil Rabon, Dr. Carol McEntyre and our pastoral staff for guidance on wills, end-of-life planning and preparing with eternity in view. Wednesday, August 12, 9:00am–12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Click on the link below to register.

[Find out more here](#)

SMALL GROUPS FAIR | AUG 9 & 16

Come see the diversity of small groups at FBG at the Small Groups Fair on Sunday, August 9 and 16! Before and after worship, peruse tables outside the Sanctuary full of information about groups to join across church life, including volunteer teams, age-based ministries, musical ensembles, Sunday School classes, Bible studies, interest groups and more!

[Group leaders reserve a table here](#)



ROOTED

Rooted: Stories of faith,
formation and belonging



Pastoral Note

Carol McEntyre, Senior Minister



In June, I spent a week with other First Baptist folks in Berlin learning about the life and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer is well known as a theologian who resisted Hitler and the Nazi regime, ultimately giving his life for that resistance. I have long admired his moral clarity and courage, but being in Berlin gave me a much deeper appreciation for the people and places that shaped him.

Our class met in the Bonhoeffer family home and we visited many of the sites connected to his life, the rise of Nazism, and the German resistance. One detail especially stayed with me: the Bonhoeffer family lost two sons and two sons-in-law because of their involvement in resisting Hitler. Their courage was not the courage of one extraordinary individual. It was the courage of a family!

I also came to see that Bonhoeffer's bravery was sustained by a larger community. He stood alongside the pastors and churches of the Confessing Church, a movement that refused to allow the Nazi regime to control the church's message or dictate who could be part of the church. Hundreds of pastors were arrested, many were imprisoned and some were intentionally sent to the front lines of the war. They lost their lives because they would not compromise the gospel.

One of the gifts of this trip was realizing that Bonhoeffer was never a lone hero. His courage was nurtured by faithful family members, trusted friends, and a community of believers who encouraged one another to do what was right, even at great personal cost.

We often celebrate the image of the lone hero who stands against the world. But more often than not, courage is formed in community.



Pastoral Resident Welcomed

Our ministerial staff is growing! Taylor Long, our new Pastoral Resident, arrives in August and will serve with us for 2-3 years. The Pastoral Residency program at FBG equips a seminary graduate for a sustainable life of vocational ministry in the local church. Residents gain experience in pastoral care, worship leadership, church administration and the daily rhythms of ministry you can't learn in a seminary classroom.

Taylor says, "I am excited to join a congregation who loves God and neighbor wholeheartedly...I love a good cup of coffee, spending time outside and reading. I look forward to exploring my calling with FBG!"

Taylor's first Sunday will be August 2. Send her a note of welcome and find opportunities to get to know Taylor this fall!

[Send Taylor a welcome here](#)