

The Branch

First Baptist Greenville

September 2026 | Issue 2



Furman Alumni Singers

On July 26, approximately 200 alumni of the Furman University Singers gathered in our Sanctuary to sing in worship.

The singers spanned six decades of alumni and were conducted by all three living conductors of the prestigious university choral program. Drs. Bingham Vick, Hugh Floyd and Stephen Gusukuma led the group in sacred choral settings that ranged from triumphant celebrations with organ and brass to more meditative settings of familiar spirituals like "Walk with Me" and "Peace Like a River." Thank you, Wesley Smith, for the beautiful photos.

[See more photos here](#)

AUG 19

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST TO BEGIN

Wednesdays@First return August 19 with learning and connection for children, youth and adults. Make a meal reservation and see what's coming for our exciting programs.

[Click here to plan your Wednesday](#)

SEPT 30-OCT 4

YARD SALE/HOLIDAY FAIR

Our Holiday Sale will run from Wednesday, September 30 through Sunday, October 4.

You can help by cleaning out your closets now and dropping off donations on Thursdays, beginning September 10, from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

SEPT 27

REV. DR. ANDY JUNG FULLER YOUTH INSTITUTE

Join First Baptist Greenville for a special morning of faith formation with Rev. Dr. Andy Jung.

[Click here for more about Andy Jung](#)

GATHERED

Serving, connecting and seeking
God together



September Missions Collections

Many of you have enjoyed lunch this summer in the AYMC's Midweek Café, powered by Jasmine Kitchen, an enterprise of Jasmine Road. This September, our Reception Area missions collection will support Jasmine Road.

Remember that we also collect canned fruit for United Ministries and canned pasta for Mission Backpack year-round. Thank you! —Clay Gilbert, Missions Committee

[Click here to see the list of needed items](#)

Engaged Aging Fall Kickoff

Join us for an evening you won't soon forget! Our annual Engaged Aging Fall Kickoff is not only a "must-see" event, but it is also where we reveal our new lineup of Engaging activities for the Fall. The evening will begin at 4:30pm with a preview of coming attractions as well as reflections on our Engaged Aging ministry.



Dinner will begin around 5:00pm, followed by the evening's main event, the Great Game Show Challenge. Tickets are only \$10 for the whole event, including dinner. You can register on Realm Connect, on the sign-up sheet at one of the Wednesdays@First suppers or call the church office and speak with Michael McEntyre or Jalyn Rutledge, our Ministry Assistant.

[Click here to register](#)

Wednesdays@First Supper Reservations

We're making mealtime a little more flexible!
Instead of signing up for an entire series of meals, you can now register for each dinner individually. That means you can join us on the nights that work best for you, invite a friend and easily plan ahead for the meals you don't want to miss.

Think of it as choosing your own dinner adventure!
Want to come every week? Wonderful!

Have a busy week and need to skip a meal? No problem.
Want to bring a friend for a particular dinner? Just add them when you register.

Registering is easy:

1. Find your date.
Click the registration link or find the event in Realm Connect.
2. Register & add guests.
Click Register, choose who's coming and add any guests.
3. Choose your payment option.
Pay online or select Pay In-Person, then click Register.



That's it! You'll receive an email confirmation and your spot is saved.

One dinner, one easy registration and the freedom to choose what works for you. We can't wait to see you around the table!

[Click here for the easy step-by-step guide](#)

GROWING

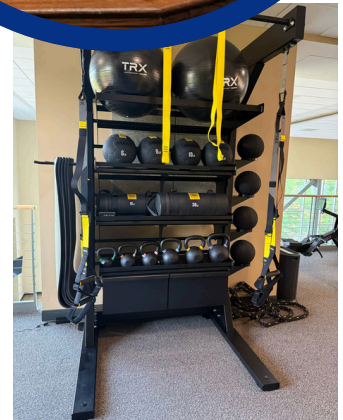
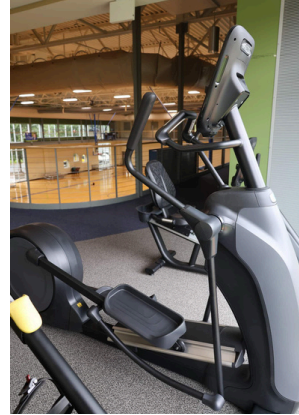
Exploring faith, building community
and enjoying life together



GET FIT THIS FALL

In case you've been enjoying an extended vacation or have just taken the summer to unplug, it has been an exciting summer at the AYMC! With a fitness center full of all brand-new equipment and our MidWeek Cafe with Jasmine Kitchen, the energy is up and the vibes are amazing!

[Click here to see all the AYMC has to offer](#)



YARD SALE HOLIDAY FAIR | SEPT 30-OCT 4

Our Yard Sale Team is gearing up for another great season after raising over \$25,000 for our Neighborhood Partnership Ministries!

Our Holiday Sale will run from Wednesday, September 30, through Sunday, October 4. Walmart already has Christmas decorations out, so why shouldn't we?

This sale focuses on donated decorations for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and more. You can help by cleaning out your closets now and dropping off donations on Thursdays, beginning September 10, from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Holiday items are helpful, but all accepted Yard Sale donations will be taken.



FALL SERMON SERIES

THE BIBLE IS COMPLICATED

Wrestling with Ambiguity,
Violence, Diversity and Grace

FALL SERMON SERIES | AUG 23

The Bible is a beautiful, ancient, diverse, at times violent, and occasionally disturbing book. This fall, we'll wrestle honestly with this book we love, asking hard questions, confronting difficult passages, and discovering how the Bible's complexity can lead to deeper wisdom and a more faithful way of following Jesus.

ANCHORED

Faith that holds through every season



Wednesdays@First Resumes Wednesday, August 19

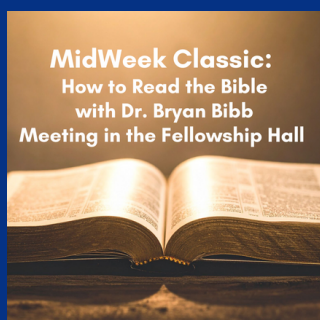
Come one, come all! Gather for supper at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall, then break into age and interest groups from 6:00-7:00pm. Love to sing? Stay for Sanctuary Choir from 7:00-8:30pm.

All activities resume August 19 with special events for all ages, including a music bingo kickoff party for adults.

Three learning groups for adults begin August 26: How to Read the Bible with Dr. Bryan Bibb, an intergenerational gardening project with Mill Village Farms, and "UnFinished Objects (UFOs)," a space to tackle all those nagging life admin tasks. Get weekly supper menus, sign up for meals and read more about gatherings for children, youth and adults on the FBG website.

Check the church calendar for "Breathe Wednesdays," periodic weeks without Wednesdays@First supper or age-based programs (next Breathe week: September 23).

[Click here to read more on this fall's Wednesdays@First](#)



Wednesdays@First Breathe

Check the church calendar for "Breathe Wednesdays," periodic weeks without Wednesdays@First supper or age-based programs (next Breathe week: September 23).

Wednesdays@First Meals

Supper is served weekly from 5:00-6:00pm.

Reservations are needed to help us prepare the right amount of food.

\$10 per adult

\$5 per child (age 10 and under)

First-time visitors receive complimentary meals.

Wednesdays@First Sanctuary Choir

Sanctuary Choir rehearses weekly from 7:00-8:30pm in the Choir Room and welcomes all voices. No audition required. Contact Laura Ritter for more information, or simply attend a Wednesday rehearsal.

[Click here to connect to Laura](#)

Wednesdays@First FBG Kids

[Click here for FBG Kids details](#)

Wednesdays@First Youth

[Click here for Youth details](#)

SHAPED

Faith formation across generations



Rev. Dr. Andy Jung Fuller Youth Institute



How do we help children and teenagers develop a faith that can grow with them? How do we respond to their questions, support them through change and help them discover that church is a community where they are known, loved and able to belong?

These questions are especially important for parents and caregivers; but they also belong to all of us. Parents do not nurture faith alone. Children and youth need grandparents, teachers, mentors, ministers and a congregation willing to walk alongside them.

Join us for a special morning of faith formation and worship on Sunday, September 27, led by the Rev. Dr. Andy Jung, Senior Director of the Fuller Youth Institute. Andy brings more than 20 years of experience in youth ministry and a passion for helping churches better love and care for children and youth so that they can thrive in their faith.

At 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall, Andy will lead a special Sunday School gathering for all adults. Drawing from his work with the Fuller Youth Institute and its newest research, Andy will offer insight into how families and congregations can nurture lasting faith in younger generations. A continental breakfast will be provided.

Andy will then serve as our guest proclaimer during worship at 10:30am. We hope you will join us for this meaningful morning of learning, conversation and worship.

—Bridget Kokolis, Minister of Children and
Mary Carol Anderson, Minister of Youth and College



Pastoral Care Teams

“Pastoral Care” is just our way of describing the work of reciprocally caring for one another well. These are interactions where church membership becomes truly fulfilling, but they most often happen in confidential spaces behind the scenes.

If you’d like to receive support from them or give support through them, please contact Kyle at the link below.

Flowers to Friends: On Monday mornings, volunteers break down the large flower sprays donated for Sunday worship and deliver them to members who need encouragement.

Wednesdays@First Supper Delivery: On Wednesday nights during our fall and spring semesters, this team delivers meals to members recovering from hospitalization or illness.

[Click here to connect to Kyle](#)

ROOTED

Stories of faith, formation and belonging



Pastoral Note

Carol McEntyre, Senior Minister



Last Christmas, while walking through Haywood Mall, I stopped in my tracks when I spotted a kiosk filled with the most beautiful pastries and desserts. They were so stunning that I had to get a closer look.

A few months later, I received an email from Jason Richards, an FBG church member. Jason had gotten to know a young Ukrainian refugee couple, Andrii and Anna Gnatiuk, owners of A&A Croissant, the very bakery I had admired at the mall!

They were looking to expand their business and needed access to a commercial kitchen. Jason wondered if we might consider renting them space in ours.

Since I arrived, one of my goals has been to find more ways to use our facilities to serve our community while also generating rental income to help offset the cost of maintaining our large campus. This seemed like a wonderful mission-aligned opportunity.

Jenna Manning, our Director of Church Operations and the Property Committee explored the idea. Before long everything fell into place. Andrii and Anna are now using our kitchen around 20 hours a week to create the same beautiful desserts that first caught my eye. Isn't it remarkable how God brings people and opportunities together? We are happy to provide the space at about half the going rate for commercial kitchen rentals; what a gift to use the resources God has entrusted to us to help a hardworking refugee family build their business!



Choir Returns

Calling all Songbirds!

"A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song."—Chinese Proverb

It's time for our First Baptist Greenville Sanctuary Choir to begin a "new year" of rehearsals, and we are looking for more folks who like to sing!

Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, August 19, from 7:00-8:30pm in the Choir Room. Then, on August 23, we will have our "Choir Kickoff Lunch" in the Fellowship Hall after morning worship. The lunch is complimentary from the Music Ministry, although donations to defray the cost of the \$10 meal are appreciated.

If you'd like to join our choir or simply find out more about singing at First Baptist Greenville, we invite you to register for the August 23 lunch on Realm Connect. Please register by August 18.

[Register for August 23 lunch here](#)