

The Branch

First Baptist Greenville

October 2026 | Issue 3



SEPT 27

FAITH FORMATION WEEKEND

How do we help children and teenagers grow a lasting faith? Join us Sunday, September 27, as the Rev. Dr. Andy Jung of the Fuller Youth Institute leads a morning of faith formation and worship.

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

OCT 11

CHURCH PICNIC

The whole community is invited to our annual Church Picnic on Sunday, October 11, from 4:00-7:00pm in the First Baptist Greenville Garden.

Enjoy music, inflatables, yard games and free dessert.

[Click here to sign up for supper](#)

OCT 24-25

COMPASSION FORMATION WEEKEND

Join Rev. Christy S. Edwards for a weekend of sessions on empathy, grief and healthier relationships, offering simple, practical skills to help us respond with compassion to the people in our lives.

[Register for the Grief Seminar](#)

[Register for the Parent Education Seminar](#)

Taylor Long Installed

My Divinity School community has a tradition of calling sacred days “High and Holy” days. My installation was certainly one of these as I received a warm welcome and words of hope and encouragement from our children. I am hopeful and excited about the years ahead!

–Taylor Long, Pastoral Resident



Breathe | Wednesday, September 23

There will be no activities this week.

Wednesdays@First Supper, adult, youth and kids programming will resume on September 30.

GATHERED

Serving, connecting and seeking
God together



October Missions Collections

For our October Missions Focus, we will support Nicholtown Missionary Baptist Church by collecting candy for their Trunk-or-Treat event!

Please bring bags of individually wrapped candy to the church reception area by Wednesday, October 21, so the organizers of the festival will have the candy in time for the event.

–Clay Gilbert, Missions Committee

[Click here for more on October's Missions focus](#)



Lunch & Learn

Come and Learn with Us!

When someone in Greenville needs food, where can they go? Susan Frantz of LiveWell Greenville describes herself as a “food access matchmaker,” bringing together those who need assistance with those who want to help! Join us on Wednesday, September 23, in the Media Center to learn from her about food security efforts in the Greenville area.

LUNCH & LEARN

with LiveWell Greenville



When someone needs food, where can they go? Come find out more over lunch on September 23!

- 📅 Wednesday, September 23
- 🕒 12:00 Noon
- 📍 First Baptist Media Center
- 🍴 Bring Your Own Lunch

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED! COME LEARN WITH US.

[Click here for more on Lunch & Learn](#)

What's New for Fall at the AYMC?

New faces. New classes. New ways to move!

Meet our newest personal trainer, Will Blackwell, specializing in Senior Fitness with early evening and weekend hours for personal training.

Anna Rinaldi, of Senior Exercise fame, is the new instructor for our Strength Squad class, Tuesday/Thursday afternoons at 2:00pm. Strength Squad flows right into Gentle Flow Yoga at 3:00pm, if you'd like to add the many benefits of a yoga practice to complete your workout. Anna is also teaching Tai Chi Yoga at 9:15am on Tuesday/Thursday, which blends both practices with a focus on balance and core strength.

Come on over and discover what's new at the AYMC! Visit the AYMC page on the website for more details on classes, hours and personal training!



[Learn about all the AYMC has to offer!](#)

ANCHORED

a weekend on grief, empathy and finding steady ground together



Rev. Christy S. Edwards Grief and Empathy Weekend

Healing In the Midst of Loss

Grief that is not transformed will be transferred. On Saturday, October 24, we will provide a gentle space to learn from Chaplain Christy S. Edwards how to cope with grief in healthy ways. If you have experienced a loss, this special offering is for you. Please come and bring someone you care about!

While we usually associate grief with death, we experience loss in countless ways, and those other griefs can go unacknowledged because they are harder to name: the loss of childhood in adolescence, a move away from home, the death of a vocational dream, a breakup, an estrangement, a lost sense of purpose. Each unique loss deserves a uniquely attuned response.

As a chaplain in a pediatric hospital, Christy has a special sensitivity to grieving people. On Sunday she will offer "what to say and not say" empathy training during the Sunday School hour, preach in worship, then speak at a luncheon for parents about cultivating healthy grieving and empathy.

Sooner or later, each of us will need this wisdom. Please come and bring a friend!

[Register for the Grief Seminar here](#)

Sunday School | Fellowship Hall Sunday, October 25 | 9:15am

How can we best respond to people in pain?

This class with Christy will equip us with practical empathy skills to immediately incorporate into our daily life, strengthening our personal and professional relationships.

All adults are invited to attend.

Worship Service Proclaimer Sunday, October 25 | 10:30am

"Incarnation as Empathy"

Scripture: John 13:12-17; 31-35

Rev. Christy S. Edwards is a board certified chaplain at a level one pediatric trauma hospital in Kansas City, MO, offering empathic listening and emotional support to children and families in acute trauma and end-of-life. She holds a Master of Divinity from Truett Seminary at Baylor University.

Parent Education Seminar

Sunday, October 25 | 11:30am to 2:00pm

Has your child or teen ever shared something difficult, leaving you unsure how to respond? Or have you shared something hard and felt worse afterward?

It happens to all of us. Join us for Lunch & Workshop where Christy S. Edwards will teach simple, practical empathy skills you can use right away to respond with care and strengthen relationships with children, family and friends.

[Register for the Parent Education Seminar here](#)

ROOTED

Stories of faith, formation and belonging



Pastoral Note

Carol McEntyre, Senior Minister



In the book *Dark Matter*, Jason Dessen is abducted and forced to navigate alternative realities of his life. Each time he approaches a door leading to a new reality, his emotional state influences what he encounters. When he's consumed by fear or anger, on the other side of the door he finds distorted and devastating versions of his life — worlds ravaged by nuclear destruction or pandemic-level illness.

But as Jason begins to understand how his thoughts and emotions shape his experience, he discovers something important. When he focuses on empathy, compassion and love before opening a door, he finds a stable, beautiful version of reality on the other side.

In a similar way, the emotional posture we bring to our relationships, with family, friends and coworkers, influences our encounters and the tenor of our relationships over time.

The good news is empathy and listening aren't fixed traits; they're skills anyone can learn! October 24–25, Christy S. Edwards will be with us for a weekend of relational skill-building!

Christy's a board certified chaplain who works in a pediatric level one trauma hospital in Kansas City, where she walks alongside families in the most difficult moments of life. Out of that experience, she teaches empathy and listening skills, helping people learn what to say, how to be present and how to truly show up for people in our lives, especially those who are suffering.

Colossians 3:12 says, "As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." These aren't just qualities to admire, but postures we're invited to put on and practice in our everyday relationships!

Come learn how to bring greater empathy, compassion and presence into the relationships that matter most.



Church Picnic on October 11

Mark your calendars for the annual Church Picnic! The whole church and community are invited to the fall Church Picnic on Sunday, October 11, from 4:00–7:00pm. As in recent years, the Picnic will be held in the First Baptist Greenville Garden and parking lots near the playgrounds.

We'll enjoy music from Hot as a Pepper, inflatables, yard games for all ages, and free dessert provided by the church. BBQ meals are available for purchase. Bring a chair or blanket to set up in the shade to enjoy music, games and conversation. We're excited to celebrate fall together and enjoy the season! In case of inclement weather, picnic activities will be held in the AYMC.

Meal registration is requested.

[Click here to reserve your meal](#)

